



Ron Hammonds

12:10 Devotions

Copyright 2011©

ISBN: 978-0-9824738-1-8

Published by:

Golden Triangle Church on the Rock

P.O. Box 20719

Beaumont, TX 77720

All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner without written permission from the publisher.

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright© 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

This collection of daily devotions is dedicated to my wife Brenda, a godly woman and my true love. Without her inspiration, I would have nothing to say.

“Because the Teacher was wise, He taught the people everything He knew. He collected proverbs and classified them. Indeed, the Teacher taught the plain truth, and He did so in an interesting way. A wise teacher’s words spur students to action and emphasize important truths. The collected sayings of the wise are like guidance from a shepherd.”
Ecclesiastes 12:9-11(NLT)

For more than 30 years I have studiously developed challenging sermons from God’s Word which are aimed at encouraging others to live a practical life of faith. In addition, I have purposefully encapsulated each sermon’s central truth in a short, well defined, and memorable statement of fact. Many of these statements were originally authored by me after long hours of prayer and consideration. Others were collected from sources either during my studies or from life experiences. In either case, I believe these statements, along with a brief devotional guide, have the potential to unlock a wealth of wisdom and give direction for your daily life.

With the assistance of my faithful co-laborers, who provided both the inspiration and much of the work load, I have gone back through my originally chosen list of principles and revised some, and replaced others to provide 366 of the most impacting principles and included them in this revised edition of the daily devotional. The original manuscripts have already been translated into Arabic, Hindi, Kiswahili, Russian, Nepali, and Thai, and have been printed and distributed to multitudes around the globe. These translations, along with an English version, are also available to be accessed free of charge from the worldwide web at ronhammonds.com. It is my hope that you will be blessed and be a blessing to others as you read and encourage others to read these practical truths from God’s Word and endeavor to put them into daily practice in your life.

If I might add one further word of encouragement, it would be to admonish you to read one chapter in the book of Proverbs each day. (There are 31 chapters coinciding with 31 days in the longest months. On the first day of the month read chapter one, on the tenth day chapter ten, on the 22nd day chapter 22, and so forth. In this way, you will never fail to have a certain place to go from which God can purpose to speak wisdom into your life on a daily basis.) As you read your chapter for the day, choose one principle of wisdom to meditate upon and share its truth with at least one other individual during your daily walk. There is no greater wisdom found elsewhere in the world.

I trust you will enjoy these devotions and I pray God grants you wisdom, knowledge, and peace as you walk according to His Word.

God bless you,
Ron Hammonds

January



To begin ... begin to dream

January 1

The book of Genesis begins with God seeing the world He created in chaos.

We aren't told why God was dissatisfied with what He had, and this was His opportunity to dream of a better day. At some point, we all find ourselves faced with the need to change something about our lives or something in our world. These times create opportunities for us to capitalize on the moment and embrace a new dream, God's dream for our future.

As you survey your life and find areas needing attention, seek the inspiration of God and begin to dream ... imagine what could be instead of what is and remember all things are possible with God.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, inspire me with Your dreams for my life and make me more like You. Help me to remove the limits I have placed on myself and redraw my boundaries to include the potential You created within me. Unleash my imagination and deliver me from all fear.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 126:1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. (KJV)

Job 33:14-16 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then He openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction. (KJV)

A dream is not a plan

January 2

A dream is not a plan. When God observed the world in darkness, in Genesis 1:2, His Spirit hovered over the earth, taking the necessary time to develop a plan.

Our lives are not designed to be refrigerators to preserve the past work of God, but rather incubators to develop the future work of God. This process is better known as meditation. Knowing what we want to change is the first step. Knowing how we want to change it demands a plan. Dream the dreams of God for your life and then begin developing a plan by giving God the time and opportunity to inspire you. Continue taking your dream back to God in prayer and let Him show you the next step.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I want to succeed in Your dream for my life. Build in me a plan and give me each step to take. I choose to give You my thoughts and focus my attention on Your will and Your way.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (NKJV)

Declare the dream

January 3

In Genesis, God dreamed that one day the world would lie in darkness no longer. He considered His options and developed His plan but it did not begin to become a reality until He took His first step and said, “Let there be light.” God declared His dream and announced to the world that things were going to change. When we need change and have received God’s inspired plan, we can begin that change by making our declaration by faith and proclaiming to the world that things are going to be different.

Jesus instructs us to speak to our mountains in faith. Nothing changes just because we have a dream or even if we have a plan to change. God has ordered the universe and commanded it to respond to your declarations of faith. Begin to declare your dream by faith.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, make my tongue Your tool and speak Your will into existence through me. Set a watchman upon my mouth and guard the door of my lips. Use my words to bring forth life to Your will in Jesus’ name.

Scriptures for Today

Job 22:28 You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways. (NKJV)

Psalms 2:7a I will declare the decree. (KJV)

Mark 11:23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. (NKJV)

***Bad decisions, wrong decisions, and
costly mistakes are a part of the process
and not the problem***

January 4

Life is made up of many decisions, some right and some which prove to be wrong and even costly at times. In those times when we make mistakes in judgment, God is nonetheless right there with us. What may seem like a failure to us might just be the opportunity God was looking for to teach us and move us forward in a greater arena of life.

At times, what seems to be a bad decision, a wrong decision, or even a costly mistake might not be the problem you first imagined, but rather a part of the process God will use to mold you, equip you, and better prepare you for your greatest day. We should strive to learn from the mistakes we make and expect God to use them somehow to His benefit.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to see things from Your perspective. Teach me to not be frustrated with things I cannot undo. Give me grace and allow me to learn from mistakes I make so that I may be of better service to You.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

Exodus 1:12a But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. (KJV)

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. (KJV)

We think what we think, feel what we feel, and want what we want because we believe what we believe

January 5

Each of us base what we think, how we feel, and what we want by what we believe. That's all ok if we are believing the right thing. Some, however, are controlled by unreasonable fears, unrealistic expectations, unfounded worries, or unwarranted concerns. Others are doomed by their belief that there is no God.

We think what we think, feel what we feel, and want what we want because we believe what we believe, even when what we believe may not actually be true. There is only one test of truth - God's Word, the Bible. What does God's Word say about you, your life, and your future? Find out and start believing it! Give it enough time and attention and it will change what you think, feel, and want.

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me Your Word. I will hide it in my heart that I might not sin against You. Speak to me in the Scripture and show me Your plan and Your thoughts for my future. Give me the grace to put away all fear and error. I choose to believe Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (KJV)

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer. (KJV)

Mark 12:24 Jesus answered and said to them, "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scripture nor the power of God?" (NKJV)

What we say will be said

January 6

It is important in today's world of technology to watch what we say because we never know who is listening. Whether it's a cell phone accidentally bumped on or an office partition that's not well insulated, people often are made privy to conversations which they were never meant to hear. This, however, should not surprise us.

God's Word is clear: What you say will be said. Unfortunately, all too often the intended meaning is not always transferred when conversations are repeated. This is why it is best to not engage in idle conversations which we would not want others to hear. Perhaps this is why the Psalmist asked God to set a watchman on his mouth and keep the door of his lips. What would you *not* say if you knew for sure everyone was going to hear it?

Prayer for Today

Father, Your Word says that if a man can keep from offending in his words, that his religion is perfect. I know that the tongue is capable of setting fires in relationships and dividing even the best of friends. Help me to curb my tongue and set a watch on my mouth.

Scriptures for Today

Ecclesiastes 10:20 Do not curse the king, even in your thought; Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter. (NKJV)

Luke 12:3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. (NKJV)

Psalms 141:3 Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. (NIV)

What we do will be found out

January 7

The courts and jails are full of people who would not have done what they did if only they had known that everyone was going to find out about it. What could they have been thinking? Even if they would have gotten by in this life they would not have gotten away. Everything is going to be revealed either in this life or at the judgment seat of Christ.

What you do will be found out! It is the truth. The only confidence we can possibly have is to not allow ourselves to do anything which we do not want others to find out about. The Scriptures are plain and their admonitions should serve to keep us on the straight and narrow.

God also openly rewards good deeds done in secret ... what you do will be found out.

Prayer for Today

God, please give me and others dear to me the good sense to not do anything which displeases You or brings shame to Your Name. Help me to remember that I am a Christian and it is my responsibility to act like one, making right and righteous decisions.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 12:2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. (NIV)

Matthew 6:4 Give your gifts in secret, and your father, who knows all secrets, will reward you. (NLT)

Ephesians 6:8 Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do ... (NLT)

What you believe will be tested

January 8

In the parable of the farmer sowing seed in his field, birds come immediately in an attempt to rob the field of its new seed. Later, when explaining the parable to His disciples, Jesus reveals that the seed actually represents the Word of God. The field is the heart of man, while the birds represent Satan. Jesus said, "Satan comes immediately to steal away the Word out of their heart."

Satan is our enemy and he will take every opportunity to test what we believe about God, His goodness, and His love. We see this same process in play when the devil spoke to Eve in the Garden of Eden. There he tested what Eve believed about what she knew God had said. Eve failed the test! What will you do when you are tested?

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, give me the strength to pass each test of life and to hold on to the truths I have learned from Your Word. Do not allow me to be tempted more than I am able to withstand.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (NKJV)

What we compromise to keep, we lose

January 9

Most people have a good character and a fairly decent set of morals. We learn from our childhood that stealing, cheating, lying and such are wrong. Generally our behavior is curbed by our morals and guided by our sense of values. Occasionally we are tempted to compromise our integrity in order to gain some advantage for ourselves.

There is a law of compromise however, it says that what one compromises to keep, they will lose. Interestingly enough, this is also a principle found in God's Word. In order to be a Christian we are admonished to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. We are further told that if on the contrary we seek to preserve our own life then we will only end up losing it. We cannot have what we compromise to obtain ... it has us!

Prayer for Today

O God, give me strength to live my values ... values which I have adopted from Your Word. Help me to be honest in all my dealings and to never sell my integrity for meager, temporary advantage.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 8:34-35 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." (NKJV)

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (NKJV)

***When we are doing only that which we
are able to do, God may be doing
nothing***

January 10

Many times we choose to live within our abilities, afraid to attempt things beyond our capabilities. We forget we serve an all-powerful God who spoke the universe into existence and made the world from things which did not appear. God specializes in the impossible.

Not one of us can do what God has called us to do without His dynamic intervention. From Moses parting the Red Sea to Elijah calling fire from Heaven, from Peter walking on water to Joshua stopping the sun, we all need divine intervention. When we believe God, nothing is impossible.

Prayer for Today

Father God, I need You in every area of my life. Come in and take control. I will work as though it all depends on me and pray like it all depends on You. Take the things I cannot do, and give me the strength to accomplish them anyway. All glory to You.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (NKJV)

Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” (NKJV)

Mark 14:36 And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” (NKJV)

*Destiny neither waits nor depends on
any one person*

January 11

When Esther was faced with the dilemma of going uninvited before the King to intercede for the Jews, she wrestled with her fear. In this story, her cousin and guardian, Mordecai, revealed to her a lasting truth. "If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

Destiny neither waits nor depends on any one person. God has a plan, He will succeed, and we have a chance to participate. If, however, we choose not to participate, God will succeed anyway, only He will use someone else.

Prayer for Today

O God, I do not want to miss the day of my greatest service to You and the blessings for which You have created me. Help me to realize my calling and to stand ready to be used when You call.

Scriptures for Today

Esther 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (NKJV)

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. (NKJV)

***Both Heaven and earth choose
aggressive, decisive, and determined
individuals to lead the defining battles
of life***

January 12

The whole world is looking for a leader, a person who knows where they are going and one who demonstrates that they have what it takes to succeed. Whether we call them bold, courageous, visionary, charismatic, or forceful, people tend to follow strong leaders.

In fact, both Heaven and earth choose aggressive, decisive, and determined individuals to lead the defining battles of life. We tend to put our trust in those whom we think will get the job done without wavering in the face of danger. What is it that you are determined to do?

Prayer for Today

Father, help me not to be weak and faint in the day of adversity. Give me a vision of where You want me to be and grant me the courage to face those obstacles which attempt to defeat me. I am determined to accomplish Your will. Help me to lead others to succeed in Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (NKJV)

Joshua 1:16-18 So they answered Joshua, saying, “All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage.” (NKJV)

Stop wasting resources on high maintenance, no impact activities

January 13

We do a lot of things in life for no other reason than we have just always done them. Some of these routines, traditions, or obligations are nothing more than just that ... habits of life. They produce little or no benefit and are a waste of our time and other resources.

Time is perhaps one of the most precious commodities. Once spent, it can never be replenished. Therefore, we must make our life count. For that we need to know when to stop wasting resources on high maintenance, time consuming, no-benefit activities. Survey your life today, prioritize, and enjoy the life it brings.

Consider ... activity is not always productivity.

Prayer for Today

Oh Father in Heaven, I ask that You would show me Your priorities for my life, my time, and my resources. I do not want to waste any of the precious gifts You have given me. Afford me the grace to stop things I need to and replace them with more fruitful adventures of life.

Scriptures for Today

Titus 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. (NIV)

Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (NKJV)

Follow the voice, not an echo

January 14

Every person deserves a prescription, a personal word from God just for them.

However, many times people hear testimonies from others which sound good and should be applauded, but not followed. There is a difference between a description of how God moved in some other person's life and a prescription detailing how God wants to move in our life. It's the difference between the voice and an echo.

Echoes can and often do come from many places. With time they grow weaker and lack the strength to speak a fresh word of themselves. The voice of God, however, gives direction and adds strength for every situation to which it speaks. Ask God for ears to hear His voice, His prescription for your life.

Prayer for Today

Lord, You said that Your sheep hear Your voice and they follow You ... that the voice of a stranger they will not follow. Help me to have ears to hear Your voice loud and clear. Guide me by the truth of Your Word as I listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to me directly.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. (NKJV)

There is a difference between having a problem and being a problem

January 15

When we as Christians engage in considerations, conversations, or activities which do not represent a Christ-like lifestyle, we have a problem. When we first realize it, it's time we fix it. When we do nothing about a problem we have, we cease at some point to have that problem and that problem begins to have us.

There is a difference between having a problem and being a problem. Sometimes the cure is as simple as accepting personal responsibility for the problem and asking God for help. Listen to your trusted friends and family, they may help you discover a problem which could otherwise be hidden to you.

Prayer for Today

God, help me to see myself through the eyes of my most trusted family and friends. Speak to me and give me the grace to deal with areas of my life where I irritate others, deceive myself, or disappoint You. Help me to never allow myself to remain the problem. Forgive me and give me strength.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -unless indeed you are disqualified. (NKJV)

Luke 6:41-42 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye," when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye. (NKJV)

Decisions require decision makers

January 16

Parents should be firm in their decisions while raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Just because other children are allowed to misbehave or run their own lives at an early age does not mean it's best. Many times children, influenced by their friends, can see caring parents as being dictatorial and unfairly strict.

Adults can also feel unfairly governed from time to time in situations of life. People in authority are often called upon to make unpopular decisions which can limit others. The legitimate voice of a leader can be viewed by those who are negatively affected as dictatorial. However, some situations call for bold decision making from legitimate leaders standing in their place.

Prayer for Today

Oh Father, help me to recognize and teach me to follow the legitimate leaders You have placed in my life. As I do, Lord, give grace to those who find themselves governed by my decisions. Help them to see me doing my best to do my duty. May I always please You, Sir.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (NIV)

Romans 13:1-2 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (NIV)

***Failure will test our commitment,
success tests our character***

January 17

Tough times, difficult seasons, setbacks, tragedies, and failures test our commitments. Many people press through these hard times and experience success in life. However, life offers us a second and often more challenging test.

While failure may test our commitment, success will test our character. What will we do when we succeed in life and end up with extra time on our hands, more money than we need, and greater opportunities than we have before experienced? What will we do when it looks like we don't have to depend on God near as much or quite as often? Will we forget God and go our own way? Can God trust us with success? Prepare yourself and make plans now to pass the character test and stay committed.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to serve You all the days of my life. Give me the stamina and endurance to stay the course and reach my highest for You. When I am successful, I will not forget You, Lord. I will continue to live my commitments to You and stay small in my own eyes.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 8:10-14 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe His commands, His laws and His decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God ... (NIV)

*Some people fail and learn nothing in
the process ... what a tragedy!*

January 18

It's not what we are going through but rather what we are going to which matters most. The situations of life can either frustrate us or educate us ... it's our choice. We cannot always determine what we go through, but we can decide how we are going to go through it.

Decide today that the pressures and problems of life and even your failures will serve to teach you lessons of life so that the same failures will not be repeated in the future. Experience is often the best teacher, even bad experiences. Learn from your mistakes.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, grant me the wisdom to process my failures from Heaven's perspective. Use my life to teach me and others greater lessons for our future. Forgive me where I have failed You and take me to greater days.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 51:9-12 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. (NKJV)

A move of God is not an isolated experience but designed to last a lifetime!

January 19

A true move of God will affect individual lives, families, and communities for decades to come. Local, isolated times of great celebration and/or refreshing, while wonderful in their moment, may not constitute a true move of God. When God moves, things and people change. People begin living a non-petty, God pleasing life.

A move of God is not an isolated experience but designed to last a lifetime. It may take us years to see if we really had a move of God. Rather than riding the waves of life, up one day and down another, living from spiritual experience to spiritual experience, celebration to celebration, party to party, ask God to truly move in your life ... a move that will move you for more than one hour, one day, or one week. Stabilize your everyday Christian life.

Prayer for Today

God, I ask You to move in my life in such a way that changes me and that each day I grow in Your grace and favor. Grant me a stable Christian life. Keep depression, worry, and fear far from me. Let joy be my portion and peace be my reward. Grow me to be more like You. I want to live a greater life for You.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 4:5-6, 16-17 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. (NKJV)

Don't spend your whole life climbing a ladder only to reach the top and realize that it was leaning against the wrong building

January 20

We have heard it said that 'the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing'. What is the main thing? Is it a job, is it wealth, perhaps power, position, or prestige? None of these things can satisfy the longing of the soul. If success really satisfied, then people like Elvis Presley would most likely still be happily alive.

What is the main thing? Finding and pursuing the will and purpose of God for your life. Nothing else will satisfy, either in this life or in the life to come. Peace in our hearts and joy in our homes are results of living a life pleasing to God. Ask God how you can make a living, make a life, and make a difference while keeping your focus on the main thing. What have you got to lose?

Prayer for Today

Lord, I want to live a life that not only pleases You but is satisfying to me. I would like to be successful and be significant to You and Your plan at the same time. Show me what to do. Change my focus where it needs to be changed. Help me see and set my priorities.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (NKJV)

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. (NKJV)

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (NKJV)

*Faith is not denying a problem but
rather its right to continue*

January 21

In Genesis when God saw something which He was not pleased with and wanted to change, He spoke out. God set the standard for what we now understand as 'faith and confession' when He said, "Let there be light!" God did not deny the existence of darkness. In order to positively affect a change, God called those things which were not as though they were, not the other way around.

Christians are admonished in the New Testament to be like God and also "call those things which be not as though they are." We should not deny the mountain of difficulties facing us, but rather, deny it's continued right to stay there by speaking in faith and commanding that mountain to move. "It ain't there" just will not work.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to face my problems and the areas of life which I am not pleased with and want to change. Give me the faith to believe and the strength to declare what I understand is Your will for my life. Give me angels on assignment, attending to my declaration of faith.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light: and there was light." (KJV)

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed-God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did ... (NKJV)

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) (KJV)

*Often the greatest problems one faces
are just tough decisions which demand
to be made*

January 22

You are probably the only person who can do something about those things which bother you most. In life we are called upon to make some tough decisions. Often the greatest problems we face are in areas of life which we know need some attention. Left to themselves, bad things don't usually get better, they just get worse.

Life demands that we take positive steps to bring about change. What is it that needs to change in your life? Where do your greatest problems stem from? What can you do about it? Even if you don't want to, you may need to make some tough decisions. If so, write them down and discuss them with God. He will help you decide.

Prayer for Today

God, I know that You have made me responsible for my life. Give me eyes to see the root of those things which irritate me most and grant me the strength to do something about them if I can. Give me the grace to be firm and decisive while remaining calm, kind, and gentle.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call Heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live ... (NKJV)

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (KJV)

Psalms 18:35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. (NKJV)

*We must start where we are to get where
we're going, use what we have to
achieve what we want, and attempt what
we cannot do to accomplish all we can*

January 23

There is a simple formula of life. God has given us things to work with in order to accomplish His will and purpose for our lives. He further gives us dreams, visions, strong desires, and fond hopes. These are there to inspire us to take what we have, start where we are, and do the very best we can.

It's not always best to wait on everything we need to finish before we begin. Life affords us opportunities which may at times seem impossible, but yet they speak to the dream in our heart. More than just the prospect of making money, the pursuit of a God dream speaks to the longing of the soul. What is your God dream? What are you doing about it now?

Prayer for Today

My trust is in You, God. I know that I cannot depend on my own abilities except where You have given them to me in order that I might accomplish Your will and purpose. Help me to know what to do, when to start, and how to proceed. My future belongs to You.

Scriptures for Today

2 Kings 4:2 So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."(NKJV)

Matthew 14:17 And they say unto Him, "We have here but five loaves, and two fishes." (KJV)

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (KJV)

*We don't have to tear down one thing
to build up another*

January 24

At certain seasons and in certain situations of life, we find ourselves in transition. Transitions move us physically, spiritually, or philosophically from one place to another. Transitions can be tough enough without us causing more problems.

It's ok to be happy about the new thing. We don't have to tear down the old in order to build up the new. Some transitions require no justification. Don't allow your insecurities or those of others around you to slander your former involvements. We can be happy about where we are going without being negative about where we have been.

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me the right and profitable way to make a transition in life. I want to be thankful for all You have done and are continuing to do where You have had me. I am yet excited to embrace all You are going to do and where You are taking me. Help me keep my journey in perspective and pleasing to You.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (NKJV)

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 2:23 Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. (NLT)

If the devil can't make you bad, he will attempt to make you busy

January 25

It is the devil's desire to slow you down, detour you, or if possible, take you out of the race altogether. Deception is such a formidable enemy because it is so deceptive. People can be busy, working for the Lord, going about their lives running from one thing to the next looking really productive, while all along accomplishing nothing of value.

If the devil can't make you bad, he will attempt to make you busy. Being too busy to connect with God, family, Church, and community in a real and meaningful way is just too busy. Survey your life. Are you so busy that you don't have time to enjoy the blessings God has given you? If so, find places to cut back without cutting back on family and God.

Prayer for Today

God, help me survey my time allocation, my priorities, and my productivity. I want to be more than just a candle burning at both ends. Give me a plan to put my life in order and in harmony with Your purposes. Help me, Lord, to enjoy the blessings You give.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 10:39-42 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His Word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (NKJV)

Psalms 46:10a Be still, and know that I am God. (KJV)

*Prayer is not a spice of life we sprinkle
over our plan to give it a God flavor ...
prayer is the key ingredient through
which we find the recipe for our life*

January 26

More than merely finding time to seek God's blessings on our endeavors, prayer is the method of communication we enjoy which opens up a door of relationship with God. Prayer is the channel God uses to send His messages to our hearts and minds. As we pray, God speaks to our spirits and we come away, at times without even realizing, with a renewed sense of direction and answers to our questions.

Prayer is not a spice of life we sprinkle over our plan to give it a God flavor ... prayer is the key ingredient through which we find the recipe for our life. Instead of attempting to get God's blessing on what we are doing, perhaps we should spend the time necessary to find out what He is doing and get ourselves involved in that endeavor.

Prayer for Today

Father I know that You are not without a specific will, purpose, and plan for my life. I ask You to speak to me and clarify that plan. I do not want to treat You like I am the most important or the wisest one in this relationship. Show me Your will. I know it is already blessed.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. (NKJV)

Four tests in life: Number one: The valley test

January 27

Valleys are low places in life. At times we each find ourselves in these low places, tempted to be depressed, to withdraw, to entertain feelings of failure and opportunities to quit. Valleys are not the best places to make some decisions. Our view is limited to those things which immediately surround us and therefore our vision is limited.

Don't be afraid that you will be left in your valley moments. Press through those low feelings and overcome the temptation to abandon your pursuits when feeling low. Remember, God is with you and will help you change what needs changing in your valley.

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me today to stay steady and strong through my valley tests that will come to me during my life. I know that I can trust You and know that You are true to Your character and desire to show Yourself strong on my behalf. Help me also to come alongside others and encourage them as they walk through their valley as well.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 23:4-6 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. (NKJV)

***Four tests in life: Number two: The
mountain top test***

January 28

On the mountains of life, almost touching the stars, with the fresh winds bringing excitement and the valley days behind us, our vision can seem so great. These are the times when we need to be reminded that every new decision we make on this mountain will give us more opportunities to be stretched and can take us forward, back down the mountain in a new direction, and even to a new valley struggle of life.

We come to mountains to be refreshed, to see our past achievements and embrace new challenges. The test of the mountain is this: Will you embrace a new challenge and take the risk of facing another valley or will you quit here?

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to remain fervent and intense in my relationship to You, especially during my mountain top experiences in life. Give me a heart for You at all times. Give me fresh vision and the courage it takes to keep going forward in life.

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 14:10-12 And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. (KJV)

*Four tests in life: Number three: The
test of waiting*

January 29

The farmer plants his seed in the ground and covers it up. Through the following season he tends the soil and nurtures the young plants waiting patiently for the fruit of his labor to appear. Through experience, the farmer has learned to expect nothing less even in the days when he sees no evidence.

This same principle is true in many other areas of life. We sow our time, our prayer, our well-placed efforts, and sometimes we are tempted to feel like all was in vain. This is the test of waiting. As Christians we know that God is not moved by our impatience but rather His timing. Trust the Lord when you have done all you can and wait upon the Lord ... He's always on time.

Prayer for Today

Oh Father, help me when I am in need of patience. Grant me Your special grace to pass the test of patience. I know that You are just and that Your timing is always best. Thank You for being patient with me.

Scriptures for Today

James 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. (NKJV)

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. (KJV)

*Four tests of life: Number four: The
test of finished*

January 30

Things begin and things end. It's the certainty of life. Take for example, a young single man who is engaged to be married. On the day that he makes this new covenant with his bride, his single life will be over. It is a chapter that is finished, and, believe me, there will be a test.

We all face moments in life when things we were once engaged in are now past and no longer demand or deserve our attention. It can come with retirement, replacement, or even the death of a spouse. In these times, it is necessary that we accept the finalities of life, put the past in its proper perspective, embrace the future, and be ready for the tests which will surely come.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to finish my course in life with faith. When one assignment is completed and a new day or new call begins, help me to embrace the unknown with courage knowing that You are with me every step of the way.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:13-14 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the Heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (NLT)

Isaiah 43:18-19 But forget all that-it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? (NLT)

*We are often limited by our
unwillingness to relinquish control*

January 31

Many people in the United States have been raised with an attitude of independence. They often find it difficult to submit to and support someone else's idea or opinion. Even greater is the challenge they feel when asked to become a part of something they cannot control. From joining the military to participating in organized community efforts, many people have to be in charge before they will be involved.

This also presents a special challenge to some with respect to their commitment to Christ. They readily embrace Him as Savior but reluctantly so as Lord. However, there is no room on the throne of your life for more than one person. Is it you or is it Him? Yield control to Christ and let His Word be your guide and guard. Sometimes we must trust that we have heard from God, while at other times we must trust that others have heard from God.

Prayer for Today

Father God, I ask You to help me relinquish control of my life and turn my decisions over to Jesus, my Lord and my Savior. Teach me Your way and I will follow.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (KJV)

John 14:15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments. (KJV)

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (NKJV)

Genesis 22:7-8 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. (NKJV)

February



The Christian's enemies can defeat them, not by conquest but by consent

February 1

Edmund Burke, a famous English philosopher said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Likewise, Paul encouraged believers that "we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us." Both quotes emphasize that God has already enabled each of us to live as a conqueror in this life through Jesus Christ. In every believer resides the Spirit of the living God who eagerly seeks to counsel us each step of our way. Our greatest threat resides not in the devil's attack but in our own neglect of the gifts and resources Father God has made readily available to us.

Today, take Paul's advice to Timothy and kindle afresh the gift of God in your life, stirring yourself up to do His will. Awaken your soul and spirit to the tremendous benefit God has given you through His Spirit and His Word. God has a great plan for your life. Work with Him to bring it to pass.

Prayer for Today

Father, I thank You for providing me with everything I need to triumph through Christ in this world. Today, I choose to do my part to please and obey You, not giving the enemy any opportunity to defeat me. Help me honor You today in all that I do and say.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 2:14a Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 2:11 ... so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes. (NLT)

*Our future depends on what we do
today*

February 2

Early on in life, simple math taught us that $1+1=2$ and $2+2=4$. At a young age, we readily accepted this fact and added it to our growing body of academic knowledge. The Bible teaches that each of us is the sum total of all the decisions we have made in our lives up to this point. We reflect the things we have thought, the words we have said, and the choices we have made. Since we cannot go back and remove any of our decisions, we must instead go forward, adding new choices to our life that will forever affect us.

If you are not as pleased as you would like to be about the sum total of your life today, consider changing what you are adding to yourself. The writer of Hebrews challenges us saying, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” God will counsel you today as to what you should choose, directing you about the things to approve and disapprove. He will advise you in the way you should go. Listen for His guidance concerning your life as He directs you into His best. Each day offers opportunities for a new beginning.

Prayer for Today

God, today I choose to follow You and to honor You in all that I do, say, and think. Help me to make the right choices. I know my future depends on it.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 30:19 Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on Heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! (NLT)

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye. (NKJV)

Maturity is the understanding that even though it may affect you, it may not always be about you

February 3

Take a baby for example. They believe it's all about them. They cry when they are hungry, sleepy, in pain, or they need their diaper changed and they demonstrate no real care or responsibility for others. All they care about is their personal satisfaction and immediate comfort. With many Christians it can be the same.

As we mature, we should begin to see life and its many situations from a different perspective. Paul and Silas were thrown in prison for preaching the Gospel. It was terrible, dark, wet, stinky, and gloomy. It would have been easy to give up. Sure, prison affected Paul, but he realized that it might not be all about him. They decided to praise God in their difficulty. God responded and shook the earth, opened the prison doors, and many believed and were saved, including the jailer and his whole family. Sometimes things affect us when it's not about us.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to face life with a mature vision. Help me to see a little farther down the road of life. I know that those who serve You will suffer persecution and even though that may affect me, I will not let it be all about me. I commit to be selfless. Your will be done and not mine.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 16:25-26 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 8:9a For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor. (KJV)

*Our attitudes of life are shaped either
by past experiences or future
expectations*

February 4

Why do you think what you think about life? Why do you feel like you feel about your family? Why do you want what you want today? Are you happy, sad, excited, afraid, emotionless, or passionate about your day? Are you angry, worried, frustrated, irritated, aggravated, or short tempered? Is there a smile on your face, a bounce in your step, joy in your heart, and peace in your home? What are you expecting your day to be like today?

We all approach each day with an attitude and expectancy for that day. Our attitudes of life are based upon our past experiences or future expectations. Examine yourself and question your attitude. Where did it originate and is it an attitude with which God is pleased? If not, change today.

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for giving me the time and encouragement to examine my attitude and replace those things which offend You and keep me back from experiencing Your joy, Your peace, and Your hope for my day. Make me more like You.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things. (NKJV)

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (KJV)

*Three tests of followership: obedience,
submission, loyalty*

February 5

God makes no leaders ... He makes followers ... followers make leaders. It's important we understand the three tests a follower will face on his journey to becoming qualified to lead.

First, a follower must obey. People normally only obey those whom they want to obey or are forced to obey. The second test involves submission. Submission demands we yield our strength and support to those leading us when we do not have to, and would not naturally want to, obey. Finally, a follower must be loyal. Loyalty is the show of support for the leader's decision and is the shining crown and greatest reflection of a person's character. Loyalty is demonstrated by what a person says and how a person acts when following requires submission.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to be a great follower. Forgive me for my past disobedience to those in authority over me, my lack of submission to those I have disagreed with, and my disloyal conduct displayed in my attitude and response when having to submit. I thank You for Your grace and power to help me be a follower and a blessing to the leaders in my life.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 13:7, 17 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the Word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (NKJV)

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as manpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God. (KJV)

It takes courage to keep going

February 6

The Bible details so many stories of men and women who found themselves in difficult and even embarrassing situations. From David, whose men wished to stone him, to Esther as she faced the possibility of execution, each story gives reason for people to stop going forward in life. However, the heroes of the Bible and, indeed, heroes of faith today must continue their journey despite their fears and failures.

It takes courage to keep going after hurtful, embarrassing, or compromising events. Nonetheless, we must find the strength to keep going despite the circumstances. Take courage, my friend, your greatest day is yet ahead.

Prayer for Today

God, I need courage to go on today. Help me to see past this moment in my life and allow You to heal my heart and my emotions. Use me, also, to help others to go on and be a witness of Your faithfulness and love.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 27:13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. (NKJV)

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (NIV)

*It's not what you are going through,
but how you go through it*

February 7

If there is one thing Christians need, it is a fresh revelation concerning the fact that our actions and responses preach louder than our words. The world around us is desperate to see the power of God. They need to see faith, courage, strength, and love in us as we face our personal adversities in life. While our attention and focus may be on our current problem, rest assured that the attention of others is on us. This is one reason why it is not *what* we are going through, but *how* we are going through it that counts.

Someone else is also watching our response and that is God Himself. He desires that we be conformed to the image of His Son, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross. Does our character, when in the heat of a battle, reflect that of Christ? Do we stay steady and obedient to God's will and way or do we compromise our stand? Focus on what God can do in you and through you instead of only seeing what is happening to you.

Prayer for Today

Faithful Father, I want to reflect Christ to those around me. Help me today and every day to remember that what really counts is how I demonstrate what I believe through what I do as I face the challenges that life brings.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. (NIV)

Full vessels are at their greatest day

February 8

One of the major principles of God's Word is the law of reaping and sowing.

In order to reap, we must sow. In other words, we must pour out what we have in order to reproduce and gain reward. God gave each of us talents that He expects us to freely give to help enhance and advance His Kingdom. We are filled up only to be poured out and re-filled again. If we never empty ourselves then perhaps we are living in our greatest day.

Don't be a full vessel sitting on a shelf and gathering dust. Very actively pour yourself out upon willing hearts and hurting souls. Then trust God to fill you again.

Prayer for Today

God, I am a vessel today ready to pour out what You have given me. I trust that as I pour out You will refresh and enlarge me to receive more anointing only to be given again. I will be faithful with what You give me.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (NIV)

2 Kings 4:3-4 Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors-empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." (NKJV)

*There is no lasting future on planet
Earth*

February 9

Solomon's wisdom reveals the difference between a wise and a foolish man. He says that a wise man will look far down the road and prepare himself for the future, while a fool will live everyday in a blind pursuit of that day's benefit. Not planning for the future, Solomon said, would result in the fool being punished.

The greatest example of this is eternity. Where will you spend eternity and how much reward will you be given in Heaven? Spend some time considering these questions and prepare for Heaven because there is no lasting future on planet Earth.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to invest in eternal things. Help me to realize there is no future on planet Earth. I know I will reap what I sow and therefore, I pledge to sow eternal seeds of kindness, goodness, peace, and joy. Father, I trust You and I look forward to my eternal reward.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.
(KJV)

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.
(NLT)

***What you think can change your mind,
what you believe can change your
heart, but only what you do can change
your life and your world***

February 10

I have heard it said that there are two types of people: those who read history and those who make history. That's the difference between people who think about doing great things, people who believe they are great, and those who do great things. Thinking about suffering humanity might make you want to do something to help. Believing that you possess some wisdom or ability to address the need might give you passion for a particular plan. However, unless you actually do something to address the problem: feed a hungry person, give water to the thirsty, preach the Gospel to the poor, heal the sick, or set a captive free, you have really done nothing to help.

Develop a passion and get a plan, but don't let it end there. Put feet to your faith and become actively engaged in a work only your hands can do.

Prayer for Today

Father, grant me Your passion for a lost and hurting world, show me Your plan and how I can be involved, and then Lord, put me into Your harvest field as a laborer. I want to work for You.

Scriptures for Today

James 1:23-27 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJV)

Life is predictable

February 11

Life is a journey and as with any journey, the road we travel should not be chosen by random or reaction. Since every road leads somewhere predictable, it is reasonable that we examine the path of our life so we will not be surprised when we arrive at our final destination. A person who follows a path of lying, cheating, stealing, or compromise should not be confused when they end up without friends, a job, or in jail ... that's just where that road leads.

In the same regard, at any time in life, a person can change the road on which they are walking and turn their lives around. Let God's Word illuminate the road today for your life and live confident in your final destination.

Prayer for Today

God, I thank You for being with me on my journey no matter which path I choose. However, I pray that You would turn me from my own way and lead me on Your way for my life. Show me Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 119:105 Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. (KJV)

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (KJV)

Psalms 27:11 Teach me Thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. (KJV)

Life is a choice

February 12

In the Belief-Choice Faith Based Model of counseling and therapy, the first element is to ensure we believe what God's Word says and not what God's enemies say about us and our situations of life. Whether talking about anger management, addictive behaviors, or rebellious attitudes and actions, what we believe will determine how we think, how we feel, and what we want.

However, life is a choice and even if we believe the truth of God's Word, we must still choose to do His Word. Faith without corresponding action is useless and believing without choosing to obey God's Word means nothing.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, Help me to know Your Word, to believe Your Word, and then choose to do Your Word. No longer will I make excuses for not obeying Your commands. Thank You for Your forgiveness.

Scriptures for Today

James 2:18-20, 26 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (NKJV)

*You may need a break from, before you
have a break down, on your way to a
break through*

February 13

Sometimes the most godly thing you can do is rest. Imagine you are a world class athlete about to enter the most important competition of your career. This event will take every ounce of physical, mental, emotional energy and focus that you have. If you do not get the proper amount of rest, how do you think you will perform?

The Barbarian (World Class weight lifter) used to say, “There is no such thing as over training; only lack of sleep, lack of a good diet, and lack of will.” Many Christians today have a healthy diet of the Word of God and they have an incredible will to do the work of God, but this life is wearing them down. God does not give us more than we can handle. Maybe we need to slow down by placing rest as a priority of life. Success is when opportunity meets preparation. Prepare yourself, even when it means taking a break.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to take time to rest. I know You are going to need me in the future and I want to be ready. Help me to create a strategy that would keep me in the game for many years to come. I want to make the greatest difference I can make for Your Kingdom, my family, and my future.

Scriptures for Today

Exodus 23:12 Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed. (NKJV)

Matthew 11:28-29 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (KJV)

God calls greatness out of obscurity

February 14

Just like the little shepherd boy named David, who was alone tending a few sheep on the backside of the desert and who later became king of all Israel, God is preparing people in obscurity. God seems to like surprising people with sudden skilled usefulness.

Right now God is preparing those He will someday use, perhaps you are His next choice. Give yourself to His preparation, become great in your ordinary everyday life and don't despise the day of small beginnings. God is busy building His Kingdom and His future kings.

Prayer for Today

God, I know that You are always carefully thinking about me and how I can best serve Your Kingdom causes. Prepare me, oh Lord, so that I will be ready in the day of battle. Give me the wisdom to not be frustrated but to get educated and motivated for the greater days of my life.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 49:2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me. (NKJV)

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (KJV)

Psalms 138:8 The LORD will perfect that which concerns me: Thy mercy, O LORD, endureth forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands. (KJV)

*Left to themselves, bad things do not
get better, they get worse*

February 15

Like the vehicle that needs repair or a home that needs cleaning, our lives do not get better, cleaner, or more productive on their own ... it takes work. Putting it off until a more convenient time accomplishes nothing. They won't fix themselves.

Left to themselves, bad things do not get better, they get worse. This is why we must pay attention to those things which need work and make the effort to fix them. Whether attitudes, actions, thoughts, or feelings, we should examine ourselves and then force ourselves to affect the changes we know are necessary. Begin the process today.

Prayer for Today

Father, Your Word says that today is the day of salvation and now is the acceptable time. Show me those things that need my attention in my life and give me the grace and strength to do something about them today. Guide me, step by step, day by day, to become more pleasing and useful in Your hands.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (NKJV)

Love is work ... and we must do our first works to get back our first love

February 16

It is often said that “What you did to get it is what you have to do to keep it!” I believe this is true. From marriage to business, what it takes to get it is what it will take to keep it.

Love is work ... and we must do our first works to get back our first love. This applies to how we feel about our salvation, our Church, our family, and our God. When things seem to be a bit dull or something seems lacking - look first to yourself: Have you been spending the quality time investing in these areas as you have before? If not, no wonder something is missing. Get back to the basics and start enjoying life again.

Prayer for Today

Lord, show me the areas of my life wherein I need to spend more quality time. Refresh me and revive me, oh God. Make my love like an ever springing fountain which brings joy and refreshing to my soul and to the souls of all I meet. Revive me, oh God.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. (NKJV)

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (KJV)

*Christianity is a belief that demands
action*

February 17

Once I was told that the word “believe” is the opposite of the word belie. Belie means to not live up to what you claim. I was told that the word “believe” was made up of two common words: be and live. Thus the basic meaning of the word would seem to indicate that a believer would be a person who lived what they be ... a be-liver.

If this is true, a Christian believer would be a person who embodied not only the faith but also the acts of Christ. Christianity is a belief that demands action. Are you acting like a Christian?

Prayer for Today

God, I know You love me and that Your love for me is not based on works but on grace. However, I do want to please You in everything I do. I pray, Sir, that You would gently guide me to see where I am not acting like a Christian and help me to curb my thoughts and actions and bring them into harmony with Your will.

Scriptures for Today

2 Peter 2:2 Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of them, Christ and His true way will be slandered. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (NKJV)

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father. (NLT)

*Only God can measure a finished
product*

February 18

Don't be so hard on yourself. If it's bad, God is certainly not finished yet. Imagine what it would look like if any product was halted in an unfinished state, part way through the production process, and judged on the scale with a finished work. No doubt there would be evident failures. Only the creator knows when the creation is completed.

Only God can measure a finished product. Don't worry, God is not finished with you yet and He loves you too much to leave you the way you are right now. He is still working on you!

Prayer for Today

Teach me, oh God, to not be frustrated with the process of life. I know that You are cleverly and wisely working in me to will and to do of Your good pleasure. I trust that You will make all things beautiful in their time. Here is my life, Lord ... make something from it, if You will.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. (KJV)

Psalms 138:8 The LORD will work out his plans for my life-for Your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for You made me. (NLT)

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (KJV)

*Today may be your opportunity to get
to know some of the greatest people
you have never met before*

February 19

Daily we pass people on the street, in the market, at school, or at work ... people we have never met or taken the time to get to know. Many of these people have the potential to be some of the best friends a person could ever have. Every one of them has a story, a hope, a dream, a concern, and a passion they are willing to share with others.

Today may be your opportunity to get to know some of the greatest people you have never met before. Why not take a chance and invest some time in making a new friend today. People often love to talk about themselves and, if you care, they will share. Take the initiative, be attentive, listen, and make meaningful responses. In days to come you will be glad you did.

Prayer for Today

Lord God, I pray that You would help me to build good and godly relationships that last a lifetime. Inspire me today and lead me to the right people. Give me those whom I can influence and those who will influence me to godliness.

Scriptures for Today

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. (KJV)

Proverbs 17:17a A friend loves at all times. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (NKJV)

We are either coming from our greatest day, at our greatest day, or headed to our greatest day ... and the truth is, it's our choice

February 20

Much of life is a matter of perspective. It seems that the first half of a person's life is spent seeking success while the last half is spent pursuing significance. While we often hunger to achieve a certain level of success and recognition, we can be left empty, even with our accomplishments.

I would not want to spend all of my life climbing a ladder only to realize when I got to the top that it was leaning against the wrong building. God has a plan and it includes you. He is working on each of us right now to make something greater out of us than we have experienced thus far. Be confident that a greater day is yet ahead. In fact, when we draw our last breath on planet Earth, we can boldly proclaim that our greatest day is yet ahead. It's a choice!

Prayer for Today

Father, I am not finished yet. I want to be great in Your Kingdom and make my life count. Give me dreams and visions beyond my current situation. Take me to my greatest day.

Scriptures for Today

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days I will pour out My Spirit.
(KJV)

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
(NKJV)

While a contract often protects my good at others' expense, a covenant promises the other party's good at my expense

February 21

Many people approach relationships with a contract in mind. Contracts are understandably necessary in many business relationships. However, there is no place for contract in personal relationships. Take marriage for example, prenuptials have become almost commonplace in today's society. A prenuptial agreement is nothing more than a contract strategically designed to protect each party from the other. Rules, rights, and responsibilities are spelled out with penalties prescribed for any infraction.

God designed marriage, as well as other important relationships, to be birthed and maintained through covenant. Covenant is not a 50/50 relationship ... it is 100%-100% relationship. Each person is 100% responsible to do their part without respect to the actions of the other person in the relationship. Covenant is what God offered Abraham and what Jesus offers us today. Respect your covenant relationships ... God does.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to be a covenant partner with You in making spiritual relationships which will last for eternity. Teach me about covenant and place the right people in my life. Give me the grace to value my relationships above what they can provide for me.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. (KJV)

1 Samuel 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (KJV)

*Sometimes God requires we gain
victory in the situation before we gain
victory over the situation*

February 22

Jesus told His disciples that as long as they were in this world they would encounter tribulation, but to be of good cheer because He had overcome this world. Overcoming in the face of tribulation, testing, trials, and temptations is a two step process. First, there is victory we can experience in our moment, even before we are delivered from the pressures of the situation. This victory does not depend on our circumstances changing but us changing in our circumstances. This victory strengthens our faith. Victory in our situation is but a prelude to gaining victory over our situation and seeing our circumstances change to our favor.

Sometimes God requires we gain victory *in* the situation before we gain victory *over* the situation. Get a strong mental attitude about having God on your side. If God is for you, who can successfully be against you?

Prayer for Today

God, I know that You will never leave me nor forsake me. My life, my joy, my future, and my success are not dependent on the circumstances of life. I believe that with You all things are possible. Give me the grace to see Your finished work in me, even before I see things change.

Scriptures for Today

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (NKJV)

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. (KJV)

Romans 8:31b If God be for us, who can be against us? (KJV)

Visionaries live in the future

February 23

Don't let life limit your vision. In Psalms 78, verse 41 David speaks of the children of Israel limiting God and His ability to help them. It says that they tempted God, and they turned back, and they limited the Holy One of Israel. How can man limit God? By limiting our vision to what we see instead of what God sees.

We should embrace God's reality as our reality. This is often accomplished when we embrace the vision God has for us instead of allowing our present situations and limitations of life to dictate. Ask God to inspire you beyond your moment with His vision for your future and take the limits off God.

Prayer for Today

God, I ask You to inspire me with Your vision for my future. Show me my life as You see it and unfold Your dream through me. I choose to take the limits off and let You be my guide.

Scriptures for Today

Job 33:14-15 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds. (NKJV)

Habakkuk 2:2 Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it." (NKJV)

Thy Kingdom come

February 24

The Kingdom of God does not come with observation, is not a tangible place, but rather is within you. This Kingdom of God produces righteousness, peace, and joy, and exists wherever Jesus is Lord. It is our duty to bring our life under the sovereign reign of God for wherever He rules, there the Kingdom of God is established.

The Scriptures tell us not to be overly concerned with what we will eat, what we will drink, or the clothes we wear. Rather, we are to seek as a first priority, the Kingdom of God and right standing with Him and then everything we need will be added to our life through His supply. Follow the example of Jesus when you pray and say, “Thy Kingdom Come and Thy will be done.”

Prayer and Scriptures for Today

Matthew 6:9-15 Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (NIV)

Do not despise small beginnings

February 25

God has designed it so that each seed contains the potential to reproduce itself, supplying seeds for generations to come. If given the opportunity, placed in fertile soil, in the right season, watered and cultivated properly, this seed has the capacity to fulfill its greatest destiny and become much more than it may first appear.

Allow yourself the same privilege. There is much more to your calling, future, and impact than you may be consciously aware. Give God some credit. He has a plan and He has chosen you as His seed for a great future.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I cannot see the end from the beginning as You are able. However, show me Your way and grant me Your grace to sow my life as a seed in this generation's work for a harvest in generations to come. I will not despise the day of small beginnings.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 13:18-19 Then He said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." (NKJV)

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." (KJV)

*You will never do any better than
God's will for your life*

February 26

While many people are seeking to excel in some arena of life, be it academically, economically, socially, or in some other self appointed pursuits, God has already placed greatness and excellence within each one of His children. What works for one person may not always work for another and “get rich quick” schemes lead most people who follow them into ruin. All the while, the only road to complete success and total fulfillment is to find and follow the will and purpose of God for your life.

Stop pursuing success by going your own way and doing your own thing. You will never be wiser than God or happier than simply being in His will.

Prayer for Today

Show me Your way father God and reveal Your path for my life. Let my life not be the result of mere human knowledge or calculation but rather an unfolding script which only You can write and I can follow.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. (NKJV)

James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” (NKJV)

We continue to trust people not for the promises they make, but rather the promises they keep

February 27

Talk is cheap, especially for those who attach no lasting commitment to the things they promise. Take, for example, the man and woman standing before a preacher, judge, or Justice of the Peace, reciting wedding vows which include “I promise to love, honor, and cherish . . . in sickness and in health, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, as long as we both shall live.” Perhaps there are some who either did not listen to the words they vowed or maybe never intended to keep that promise in the first place. However, the majority of couples who get married say these words with all intentions that the marriage will last a lifetime. Nonetheless, the divorce rate in America for first time marriages has risen to nearly 51%. People who were once trusted are no longer trusted because they did not keep their promise to the other. There are many other examples of people making empty and idle promises which they fail to keep.

We continue to trust people, not for the promises they make, but rather for the promises they keep. Are you a promise keeper or only a promise maker . . . can you be trusted?

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord Jesus, help me to set a watchman upon my mouth and guard my sayings that I might not speak empty words or make idle commitments. I want to be more like You, trustworthy and committed to all I say.

Scriptures for Today

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (NKJV)

Psalms 89:34 My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. (NKJV)

Matthew 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. (NKJV)

*Success is more than a one step
process*

February 28

When God wanted to create His perfect world, His first step began when He said, "Let there be light." Over the next seven days of creation, He continued taking step after step until He had successfully achieved His desired results. Throughout our lives we, too, are challenged to achieve our goals by designing and embracing the steps necessary for success. Whether building a house, taking a journey, or raising a family, a successful endeavor is completed step by predictable step.

Success is more than a one step process and success most often belongs to those who are willing to embrace and endure that process. What steps will it take in your life for you to be successful?

Prayer for Today

Lord help me to not be discouraged in the process of life. Show me Your way and give me achievable steps I can take to be successful in Your eyes. Help me to be patient and give me the grace to endure the journey.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 37:23-24 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and He delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with His hand. (KJV)

Psalms 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide. (KJV)

2 Samuel 22:37 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip. (KJV)

God moves through people to people

February 29

In Acts the ninth chapter, Saul of Tarsus was on his way to Damascus to continue his persecution of Christians. A great light blinded him and he heard a voice from Heaven. This voice identified himself as Jesus and instructed Saul to go into the city and await instructions from another person, later identified as Ananias. In Acts chapter ten, a man named Cornelius was visited by an angel and instructed to send for a man named Peter, who would tell him how to be saved.

In these cases and others, it was not the Heavenly voice that taught these men the way of Christ, but rather this privilege and indeed the responsibility for witness and discipleship was given to other men. You see, God reaches *through people to people*. Let God reach someone through you today.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, thank You for giving me the privilege of telling others about You. Today I pray that You would put someone in my path whom I can instruct on Your behalf. Give me the words, the willingness, and the confidence to be a witness.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 9:6, 17 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (NKJV)

Acts 10:5-7 Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do. And when the angel who spoke to him had departed ... (NKJV)

March



*The future is your greatest day and
your enemy's worst nightmare*

March 1

We are either coming from our greatest day, presently at our greatest day, or on our way to our greatest day, and the truth is - it's our choice. The Christian is blessed with the knowledge that even at the point of death; our greatest day is yet ahead.

Keep in mind that God will not allow our enemies to triumph over us. He has a plan which includes our victory over death, hell, and the grave. This victorious plan also includes your current circumstances and situations of life. Your future holds your greatest days and your enemy's worst nightmare.

Prayer for Today

My trust is in You, Lord. The race is neither to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but You, Oh Lord, set up one and put down another as it pleases You. Give me victory in every challenge and make me tower over my enemies by Your Word and Your Spirit.

Scriptures for Today

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (KJV)

2 Thessalonians 1:6 Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you. (NKJV)

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (NKJV)

Love which is love demands expression

March 2

“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son”... love demands expression and love is most often expressed through the act of giving. Jesus said if you love me, you will obey my commandments. Later, He asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Upon Peter’s affirmation, Jesus responded by encouraging Peter to do something to take action and demonstrate that love by feeding His sheep.

The apostle John said, if anyone possesses this world’s goods and sees a neighbor in need and is not moved with compassion to take his goods and meet his neighbor’s needs then how could anyone imagine that the love of God was present in this person’s life? You see, love which is love demands expression.

Prayer for Today

God, I love You and it is my desire to show You my love by what I do for You and others in Your Name. Give me the freedom to express my love in vast measures that I might be Your hand extended in the earth.

Scriptures for Today

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)

1 John 3:17 But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (NKJV)

John 14:15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments. (KJV)

Luke 6:32 But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. (NKJV)

*Always be ready for a fresh word from
God*

March 3

One day, God clearly spoke to Abraham and told him to take a journey and sacrifice his son Isaac on Mt. Moriah. Abraham immediately obeyed the word of God and journeyed three days before climbing the mountain and building his altar to God. There Abraham bound his son and prepared him as a sacrifice to be killed in obedience to God's clear word. When Abraham raised his knife to slay his son, the Angel of the Lord spoke and said, "Do not harm the child."

Which of these two words was the word of God? Both of them! If Abraham would not have obeyed either of these words, it would have been disastrous. Like Abraham, we must obey the word of God and always be ready for a fresh word as well. Sometimes, we go down the road to get to the end of the road and at other times, God sends us down a road to get to the fork in the road.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I choose to accept Your Word as final authority for my life. Speak to me and confirm Your Word to me. Also, Father, should You desire, speak to me a fresh Word for my life. I will keep my heart open and my ears in tune to Your voice.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 22:11-14 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from Heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (NKJV)

*Safety, security, and strength are in the
depth and width, not in the height*

March 4

Have you ever stacked blocks up high, one on top of the other, until they become unstable and, ultimately, the slightest bump causes them to fall? This is a picture of someone whose only goal is to reach higher and higher in their personal pursuits. It's likened to a tree that grows fast and tall, reaching toward the Heavens, soaking up the sun, often outgrowing and overshadowing others around them, without expending the time and energies necessary to push its roots deep down into the soil and spread its support in a broad manner to hold itself secure. The slightest wind can cause that tree to fall.

Decide now that you will spend the reasonable amount of time to, first, go deeper in Christ and broader in the things of God, before you climb too high and lose your balance, become unstable, and inevitably collapse.

Prayer for Today

God, may I walk this day, not in my own knowledge and ability, but in the grace and power of Your gifts that reside in me. Today I ask You to strengthen the foundation of my faith that I may overcome my fears and be a strong pillar in Your Kingdom.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 8:11-14 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. (NKJV)

Why a person goes to Church most likely determines where they go to Church

March 5

Have you ever taken inventory as to why you go to Church? Do you go to Church to be filled and thrilled? Do you go for social or spiritual reasons and connections? Do you go to make friends and have fellowship with other believers? Do you go because you particularly like the pastor and his message or because you like the facilities or service structure? The list of reasons why you go to your Church could continue.

Why you go to Church often determines where you go to Church. Ask God if your reasons are sufficient, and, if not, before you change Churches, work on changing your reasons for going in the first place ...you may find out that you are right where God wants you to be, but for different reasons than you first imagined.

Prayer for Today

Thank You, Lord, for making me part of the body of Christ and setting me into a good local Church. Make my needs and desires what You want them to be so that I may join with others of like vision and make a difference in this world.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 4:16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. (NKJV)

Isaiah 55:1-3 Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink, even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk, it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David. (NLT)

Right and good are often in conflict

March 6

In the beginning everything was right and everything was good, but before we get through the third chapter of Genesis, right and good come into conflict. The devil tempted Eve to choose something which was good for her but not right in the eyes of God. This subtle conversation caused Eve to question if whether or not God's Word was *always* right.

When we are tempted to diminish God's Word by considering alternatives, we are left to make decisions for ourselves based only upon what we think or feel is good for us or others, without a commitment to live according to what God says is right. Rather than question God's Word, question your motives and make your decisions based upon what is right and let God work all things together for the good.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, teach me to know what is right in Your eyes and to make my decisions according to Your Word. Help me to not be deceived into thinking in terms of only what is good for me. Today I will choose what is right, in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (NKJV)

*Sitting in Church won't make you a
Christian any more than sitting in a
garage will make you a car*

March 7

Only eternity will determine how many people sitting in the pews of all the Churches of the world actually possessed and acted on the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. One of the greatest deceits the enemy has perpetrated on many is the feeling that if they just go to Church that is enough to enter Heaven. The truth is, only God knows the hidden condition of our heart and it's our heart (not where or if we go to Church) that determines our eternity.

In actuality, the Church is universal and eternal. We become a member of the "Church" only by accepting and receiving Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. Are you really a Christian or merely playing the part? Ask Jesus into your life today and He will record your name in the Lamb's Book of Life!

Prayer for Today

Father, I desire to be a real Christian. I ask You to forgive my sins and come into my life. Lead me into the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. I do believe, my heart is changed, and I am a Christian!

Scriptures for Today

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the Church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (NKJV)

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (KJV)

*Reading a recipe does not equal
baking a cake*

March 8

We can have many good intentions in life, even list them on a “to do” list, but they mean nothing and accomplish nothing until we put action to them. In our Christian walk, we have been given the recipe for salvation and living a godly life. Just reading about it won't get your spiritual supper cooked. We are expected to receive and then do what God's Word says in order to reap the promises of God. When you know what to do according to God's Word, you have no one but yourself to blame if you don't respond with obedience because it is your obedience that will initiate the miracle you need.

Be encouraged to do a little work by mixing your faith with God's Word today and watch your life rise higher, taste richer, and become more meaningful than ever before.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for Your wonderful Word. It is the recipe to a prosperous, happy, and healthy life in You. Help me today to not only read it but do it to Your glory!

Scriptures for Today

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. (KJV)

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. (NKJV)

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (KJV)

The difference between a calling and a burden

March 9

A calling is an invitation to come and be prepared for a lifetime of service in a particular facet of ministry. Many are called but few are chosen. The reason many are called but only a few are chosen is because unfortunately only a few spend the time and energy necessary to get prepared. A calling is meant to last a lifetime. However, a burden can be the result of God needing something done and, without anyone else available, He chooses you to bear that burden. Burdens, unlike callings, are often lifted with time or when the task is completed. One problem is that many times we may not know whether we are receiving a calling (which requires intense preparation) or if we have been given a burden (which usually demands immediate ministry attention) unless and until we ask God. Find out for sure if it is a calling or a God-given burden before making a lifetime commitment.

Prayer for Today

God, help me to continue to identify new burdens in my life and to work in the calling You have for my life. I want to die doing what You called me to do. Make me the best I can be at what You called me to do. Give me the burdens You wish me to bear and let me serve Your Kingdom forever.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen. (KJV)

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble. (NKJV)

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (KJV)

*One word from God changes
everything*

March 10

Genesis 22 tells the story of God testing Abraham. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on the Mount of Moriah. Abraham proceeded to obey God. When Abraham arrived at the Mount, he prepared an altar, bound his thirty-something year old son, Isaac, and raised the knife to slay him. Suddenly Abraham heard a voice from Heaven saying, “Do no harm to your son.” The story continues to reveal God’s pleasure in seeing Abraham pass this test.

We should always obey and always be ready to hear a fresh word from God because one word from God changes everything.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, today I will open my heart to hear Your counsel and I will be quick to obey Your Word. Speak to me in a fresh way that I might know Your will for my life. Guide me with a Word from Heaven in Jesus’ name.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 22:2 Then He said, “Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” (NKJV)

Genesis 22:12 And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me.” (NKJV)

To keep the truth to one's self is not a lie

March 11

King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20, Isaiah 39)

made a grave mistake by showing his Babylonian visitors all the treasures in his house. He showed them the silver, the gold, the spices, the ointment, all of his armor, and every precious thing. The prophet Isaiah rebuked King Hezekiah for this unwise act. Because Hezekiah had dared to reveal everything to his enemies, he would now, by the Word of the Lord, be destined to eventually lose it all.

Jesus said in Matthew 7 that we should not cast our pearls before swine, since they will not appreciate them but rather trample upon them and even turn and come against us. Be watchful with whom you share your precious things. Protect what God has given you from being misused, abused, or used as evidence and or opportunity against you.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, teach me to be discreet with what I share and with whom I share it. Help me to not be trapped in a foolish snare by opening my mouth and telling everything I know to those who seek my destruction. Make me wise, Sir. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 13:3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. (NKJV)

John 8:6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. (NKJV)

Proverbs 26:4-5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. (NKJV)

The Church is not a refrigerator to preserve the memory of what God did but rather an incubator bringing birth to what God wants to do

March 12

We are told there are two basic types of people ... those who read history and those who make it. This may also be true about the Church. The Word of God gives us truth, principle, and pattern which we are to use to advance and enhance the Kingdom of God. If all the Church ever accomplished was to teach people what God did and never inspired believers to get involved in what God wants to do, the Church would be ineffective.

Christianity is more than simply learning about God and what He wanted to do in the past. It is also about knowing Him personally and getting involved in what He wants to do today. We must preserve the Word of God but we must also serve it.

Prayer for Today

God, I thank You for creating me to make history. I want to be an active participant in Your plan for my life. Please give me the strength, abilities, and passion to advance and enhance Your Kingdom. Thank You for my future.

Scriptures for Today

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (KJV)

Romans 4:23-24 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. (NKJV)

James 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? (NKJV)

*Cease to be a supply and you will cease
to be in demand*

March 13

It is the nature of people to want what they want and to do whatever it takes to get what they want, from food to finances, from relationships to recreation. People pursue a course of life which they feel will best satisfy those desires. When something ceases to satisfy, it is man's nature to devalue and eventually withdraw pursuit.

We live in a world of supply and demand, the greater the supply, the greater the demand. Cease to be a supply and you will cease to be in demand ... increase supply and you will see an increase in demand. If you want to be valued, become valuable both to God and man.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to know my part in Your plan and motivate me to be a supply to You and to others. Teach me how I might increase my value in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (NKJV)

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (NKJV)

*A hard saying is only something you
are not presently doing*

March 14

One day Jesus was speaking to a group of people and He told them that in order to follow Him they would have to become much more like Him, and deny themselves. Some in the group spoke up and declared that Jesus was demanding too much from His followers. At His unrelenting response, some in the group left off following Jesus, declaring that it was just too hard.

What is too hard about following Jesus? Whatever you are unwilling to submit to ... It could be tithing, witnessing, submitting to God's chosen authority, forgiving, or loving your enemies. A hard saying is only something you are not presently doing. Others in the group that day identified with Jesus' demands and declared what He said to be their bread of life. Which is it for you, a hard saying or the bread of life?

Prayer for Today

Father, I believe Your Word is greater than my circumstances, my feelings, and my will. I choose to accept Your Word as an easy solution to the difficulties of life. I make a quality decision to embrace those things You want me to do which I have not been doing. Help me, Lord, to not run with the crowd but to accept Your Word as my daily bread.

Scriptures for Today

John 6:60-61, 66-68 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?" From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (NKJV)

If it is really You Jesus, then ask me to do something I cannot possibly do without a miracle from You

March 15

If all you're accomplishing in life is only what you are capable of doing then perhaps God is not doing very much in your life. In Matthew 14, Peter asked Jesus, "If it is really You ... command me ..." to do something that I am incapable of doing on my own. The next moment we see Peter walking on water.

God is looking for ordinary people who will allow him to move through their lives, beyond their capabilities, to do extraordinary things. Stir up your faith and don't be surprised when God leads you to move beyond your abilities. He who calls you will sustain you, and He who points will provide.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to be great in my ordinary, living my life in Your daily provision, exercising my gifts and talents to fulfill Your will. However, Father, I also want to experience the miraculous, things beyond my own abilities, which can only be accomplished by my faith and Your Grace. I give You my life. Move through me.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (NKJV)

Daniel 11:32b ... but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. (KJV)

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul. (KJV)

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (NKJV)

Your problem does not signal the failure of God's promise

March 16

When people experience problems, tragedies, disappointments, or other difficulties, it is common to look for someone to blame and, at times, people mistakenly blame God. Life is an adventure which is often unpredictable and seldom unfolds without some challenges. Jesus said that in this life we would experience tribulations, testing, and trials, but that we should be encouraged, knowing that He has made a way for us to overcome them all. The Psalmist reflected that the righteous would experience many afflictions but none through which the Lord would not provide deliverance.

The difficulties you face are not indications of God's absence in your life but rather assurances that He will certainly be moved to change your trial into triumph. Be encouraged ... your problem does not signal the failure of God's promises. Keep praying and keep trusting His word.

Prayer for Today

My Father, I need Your help to see through the difficulties life presents. Keep me steady as I hold onto Your unfailing promises. I know that You will never leave me nor forsake me. Therefore, I boldly proclaim, "The Lord is my helper, why should I be afraid?"

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 27:13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. (NKJV)

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. (NKJV)

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (NKJV)

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (NKJV)

Great rains begin with small clouds

March 17

1 Kings 18:44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand." And he said, "Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not." And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the Heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Great works of God begin in the lives of His people in very small and often insignificant ways. Mighty oak trees have their origin in the small frail seeds of the acorn. What is God beginning in your life today? In God's time, He will begin His greatest work in your life through some small thing ... it may begin today.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You that You are completing the good work You started in me. I am available for You to mold and make me into the image of Your dear Son. Please give me Your purpose for my life and help me to respect the small blessings You give me today.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 13:31-32 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." (NKJV)

Luke 17:6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (NKJV)

*A change in attitude can produce a
change in altitude*

March 18

We often hear “attitude is everything.”

What is for sure is that a change in attitude can change our life. Attitude is one of the things in our life that we can control. Our attitudes are usually formed by what we hear, see, and experience. We then develop thoughts from these things. Thoughts are powerful. What we think about has a major impact on the kind of person we are and what we say and do. Our attitude affects all the important areas of our life: our family, Church, work, and other people.

If I identify attitudes in me that need change, there is hope. The best way to change a bad attitude is to make Jesus Christ the Lord of my life and renew that commitment daily. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”(2 Corinthians 5:17) With my commitment to a better attitude, I can move mountains. Whether my attitude is negative, positive, or somewhere in between, with willingness on my part, God has the ability to transform my life and cause it to soar to new heights of success and fulfillment.

Prayer for Today

God, I was made in Your image and I am given a free will to choose what occupies my mind. I choose to look and see things from Your perspective and to submit my life to Your will.

Scripture for Today

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

Just because things are bad does not mean we cannot make them worse

March 19

St. Thomas Aquinas said, “Act. Never react.” This advice is good counsel and worth our consideration. Life offers us many opportunities to react negatively to the pressures, situations, and circumstances presented to us. No matter how bad it is right now, believe me, you can make it worse.

Do not allow yourself the luxury of reacting from the flesh or you may just take a temporary situation and create a permanent problem. Mountains can become mole hills if we would only learn to act appropriately in the face of our troubles. It’s not what you’re going through that matters most, but how you go through it. Set your course to come out of your problem and not to go deeper.

Prayer for Today

Jesus, I proclaim You today as my source of victory. I am an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and my testimony. When trouble comes, Your grace and Your mercy will sustain me. I listen for Your voice to give me the wisdom to keep me from making difficult situations worse.

Scriptures for Today

2 Timothy 3:11 Persecution, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. (KJV)

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (KJV)

*The story of your life is not finished,
but will be written by the choices you
make for your future*

March 20

Life should be a script that only God can write, a story unfolding through the years with every choice beginning a new chapter. Our life's story does not end with the last and worst mistake we made. Peter's life did not end with him denying Christ, nor was David's destiny to be remembered as a murderer of his close friend.

Each day God gives us opportunities to choose His will for our life. One day others will tell the story of your life based upon where you end up, not where you began. Start making right choices today and seek God's grace to outlive, outlast, and outdistance your last poor choice. The story of your life is not finished, but will be written by the choices you make for your future.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to use the past as a learning experience. Lord, I ask for Your grace that I may make quality preparations and decisions for my future and the future of my loved ones. Unfold Your will for my life, chapter by chapter and choice by choice.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (KJV)

Life is more than a moment

March 21

When Jesus was arrested and taken to trial, Peter followed and observed the proceedings from a distance. Mark records Peter having denied knowing the Lord three separate times, the last accompanied with cursing during that evening. Each of these moments were no doubt personal failures in Peter's life. However, Peter's life was anything but a failure.

Life is greater than any single moment, any failure, any success, any tragedy, and any triumph-life is greater than any single moment ... but one moment can change everything! Although single moments may not define our life, they can serve to help us discover our needs and determine our course.

Be merciful to yourself and to others and do not fall prey to the temptation of judging a whole life by any single moment.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father in Heaven, give me Your perspective so that I might be merciful and kind to those who face difficult and disappointing times in life. Give me Your grace and help me to forgive others as You forgive me. Teach me to recover from my failures and discard my fears in Jesus' name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 14:71 Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" (NKJV)

Psalms 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight - That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. He who sows mercy will receive mercy. (NKJV)

God has no grandchildren

March 22

God has designed His family to be made up of men, women, boys, and girls, of all ages, nations, tribes, languages, each one His child with Him as Father to all. Every person is born again into this relationship for themselves. God has no grandchildren, only children. The fact that your mother is a child of God guarantees you no automatic relationship with Him. Every person must be born again.

It is for this reason that we must be constant in our witness so that others may come to know our Father as their Father. I have searched the Word looking for any hope that a person who does not know Jesus as personal Lord and Savior could still be welcomed into Heaven ... I have found none. You must be born again.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, teach me more about the relationship I have with You as my Father. Grant me the passion I need to lead others to You. Place me in Your family as it pleases You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (NKJV)

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. (NKJV)

*Some people settle for far less than
God's best for them and their best for
God because they do not have a vision
beyond their current adventure*

March 23

“We’ve heard about you. We know that God is with you, and that you will win.” That is what Rahab told her two visitors that day. She knew that these two were scouts, sent by a powerful invading force that no one had been able to resist. She also knew the reason for their victory was that God was on their side. Rahab’s life, her city, was about to change forever. What would she do? She offered her help to the Israelites, and asked them to remember her and her family during the invasion. Because Rahab had a vision beyond her current situation, her adventures had only just begun.

Life is dynamic, always changing, sometimes good, sometimes bad. Change is a normal part of our journey. Like Rahab, we need to have a vision beyond our current situation. This begins as we offer ourselves to God and get in step with His plan for our life. Change is coming and we don’t have to fear it when we are joined to God’s plan.

Prayer for Today

Father, I know I can trust You with my future. Please show me how to prepare for the next adventure You have for me, and show me how to join my life to Your work. Please give me a vision beyond my current adventure.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 11:31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute did not die with all the others in her city who refused to obey God, for she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (NLT)

Proverbs 23:17-18 Don’t envy sinners, but always continue to fear the Lord. For surely you have a future ahead of you; your hope will not be disappointed. (NLT)

*God may not give to you what He
cannot give through you*

March 24

The Dead Sea in Israel is a fascinating place. It sits at the lowest place on Earth not covered by water. The reason it is called the *Dead* Sea is because its high mineral content waters disallow life to exist. It is amazing to stand on the shore of this great and beautiful body of water and realize that there are no fish, no marine life, and even no birds drinking from its pool. The concentration of minerals is so thick and the waters so dense that one can float on the surface without effort.

This body of water is dead for one reason and one reason only: the fresh life-filled waters which flow from the Jordan River and its many fresh water spring tributaries have no outlet beyond. What flows to the Dead Sea cannot flow through the Dead Sea. Therefore, the Dead Sea, always taking in and never giving out, is very rich in mineral deposits but very dead. Don't be a Dead Sea.

Prayer for Today

Father, please make my heart like Yours. Show me how to be a giver and not just a taker. Increase in me the desire to use what You give me to invest in other lives.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 25:29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. (NKJV)

Proverbs 11:24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. (NKJV)

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. (NKJV)

*God will never fail us in helping us to
not fail Him*

March 25

God will never fail us in helping us to not fail Him, providing that is our goal. Just like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying in His hour of need, so are we often found seeking God's help in our times of temptation and trouble. Jesus prayed to be exempted from the cross and the pain He was chosen to experience. However, His three prayers each concluded with an overriding petition, "Not My will, but Thine be done."

God is an ever present help in time of trouble and He will never leave us nor will He forsake us. He has said that we might boldly say, "The Lord is my Helper, of whom shall I be afraid?" Therefore, stand upon the truth of God's Word and confidently acknowledge the fact that God will never fail to help you not fail Him.

Prayer for Today

Lord I want to please You in all I do. When troubles, tests, and temptations of life press upon me, hear my cry, and deliver me from my enemies so that I may never fail You. This is my desire, oh Lord, that Your will, not my will, be done.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 119:32 If you will help me, I will run to follow Your commands.
(NLT)

Psalms 27:13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. (NKJV)

Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (NKJV)

Sin knows no boundaries

March 26

The story of Balaam in Numbers 22 through 31 reveals the progression of sin. Left to itself, sin does not get better but worse. According to the New Testament, Balaam's sin began as only an error on his part. Unchecked, unchallenged, and unchanged, Balaam continued to ignore the conviction and gave place in his life for sin to germinate and grow.

Sin finally took complete control of Balaam's life and, in the end, cost him his ministry and his life. Sin knows no boundaries. We cannot afford to allow sin to have any place in our lives. Not in our thoughts, not in our plans, and not in our actions. Sin will consume everything we give it and many things we don't.

Prayer for Today

God, Jesus died on the cross of Calvary to take away my sin. I thank You for the forgiveness You have afforded me through His shed blood. It is my pledge to not allow sin to take any root or produce any fruit in my life. I will check myself, challenge myself, and change as needed. Help me, oh God.

Scriptures for Today

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. (NKJV)

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. (NKJV)

James 1:15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (NKJV)

Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, keep you longer than you expected to stay, and cost you more than you were willing to pay

March 27

The story of Balaam continues in the book of Numbers and shows Balaam getting deeper and deeper into sin. At first he only entertained the thought of sin. However, the sin grew in Balaam's life to the point where it was no longer just a mistake, no longer just an error. Now it had become a way of life. Balaam's greed finally got the best of him.

Left unchecked, unchallenged, and unchanged, sin will consume a person step by step. Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, keep you longer than you expected to stay, and cost you more than you were willing to pay. We cannot excuse sin by saying, "That's just the way I am." Mistakes or errors left to themselves will become ways of life, and ways of life are harder to challenge and change than simple, one-time mistakes.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me not to make light of my sin or to ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit to check, challenge, and change the way I am. Give me the foresight and the strength to keep myself from sin. Thank You, Father.

Scriptures for Today

2 Peter 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. (NKJV)

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 6:18a Flee sexual immorality ... (NKJV)

*We do not perish in our sin alone ...
we take others with us*

March 28

The final chapter of Balaam's story reveals a man who is so deep in sin that he has deceived even himself. Although he would not curse the Israelites for fear of God's wrath, he did, however, teach others how to defeat the children of God. According to Revelation 2:14, Balaam's sin, which began as an error and became a way of life, finally was embraced as a doctrine. Balaam taught others how to place a stumbling block before the children of Israel.

When sin is allowed its full course in a person's life, they will begin to affect others to follow them to the pits of hell. Check yourself, challenge yourself, and change your ways today. Give the devil no place, lest he get an advantage over you.

Prayer for Today

My father, forgive me for entertaining sin and allowing it to have any place in my life. I pray that You would deliver those I may have evilly influenced with the effects of my sin. May others who listen and follow me only follow me as I follow You. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there, those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. (NKJV)

Joshua 22:20 Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man perished not alone in his iniquity. (KJV)

*Life is a test, pass it ...after all, it is an
open book test*

March 29

Answers to the most difficult temptations and trials of life are covered in God's Holy Word. Many times we feel we are being tested by the circumstances and situations we face. Life can be tough at times, and some of us simply are not good test takers.

However, there is good news! Not only is each test an open book test to which we are given answers in the Bible, but we are also encouraged to ask questions and get extra help from our teachers and from the many others who have already taken the same test. So, don't despair if you don't pass a test this time, you will get a chance to take it again.

Prayer for Today

Father, I realize from Your Word that You do not tempt or test Your children with evil. I know that You are not the author of the evil which comes my way. You are the answer to all of my problems. Teach me Your Word and give me the chance to help others in their tests of life as well. Thank You for the Bible.

Scriptures for Today

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NKJV)

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. (KJV)

*Perhaps the greatest number of people
you will ever impact for Jesus are
people whom you have never even met
yet*

March 30

There are more people whom we don't know than there are people whom we have already met. This in itself should help us keep the perspective that there is always more potential in our future prospects than in our past accomplishments.

Without regard to how many people we may have witnessed to thus far, we can get excited to know that the greatest numbers of people we will ever impact for Jesus are people whom we have never even met yet ... perhaps people who are not even born yet. People need the Lord and people are waiting to hear - so many new people! Meet someone new today.

Prayer for Today

I want to be a soul winner for You, God. Make me a fisher of men and show me the fields of harvest which are ripened and prepared for me. Help me keep my perspective and realize that so many people still have not yet heard about Jesus.

Scriptures for Today

John 4:35 Do you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the harvest?" Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (NKJV)

Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (NKJV)

Luke 10:2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)

Where we draw the line with God is where He will raise up someone else

March 31

God has a plan and He will succeed.

Although He prefers not to, He can do it without our help. He has a plan. He will succeed and we have an opportunity to participate. However, like the generation of Israel which came out of Egypt, even though they would not follow God's plan and conquer the Promised Land, He did not abandon His plan ... He just found someone else who would follow Him.

Esther was told by Mordecai that if she did not go beyond her fears and do what God had called her to do, that God would raise up someone else to do it, but she and her family would lose out. Don't draw lines in the sand with God and think it carries much weight with Him. Where we draw the line with God is where He will raise up someone else to go on further, and usually they go on without us!

Prayer for Today

I thank You, God, for including me in Your plan. I want to do all Your will for my life. Whatever the task, whatever the cost, I will fully follow You.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (NKJV)

Numbers 14:24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. (NKJV)

April



*A calling is an invitation to come and
be prepared for use*

April 1

How many of us would get in an airplane and take off with someone who just decided they had a desire and a “call” to be a pilot but had never submitted to the proper training? Likewise, how many of us would jump onto an operating table and let someone perform surgery on us who just felt “called” to be a surgeon? The answer is: Not one of us! Even from the natural standpoint we would know better than to entrust matters of life and death to those who were unwilling to properly prepare.

The same is true from the spiritual standpoint. When we come to Christ and submit our lives to Him, we can expect to receive strong desires that direct our place of service within the body of Christ. Our personal “calling” is an invitation to take advantage of the time and opportunity God is giving us to get prepared for our greatest days of service. Many are called but few are chosen. Perhaps this is due to the fact that only a few are prepared in the day of God’s need. Commit yourself to a local Church and start preparing today.

Prayer for Today

Father, I thank You that I am indeed called by You. Help me to submit my “calling” to You and the local Church, that I might be properly and patiently prepared as I march toward my greatest season of service.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen. (KJV)

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble. (NKJV)

***Don't allow a broken heart to give you
a broken hope***

April 2

In life we can encounter disappointments and loss that can lead us to a place of grief and despair. We describe this as a broken heart. When all around us seems dismal, we tend to focus on what's causing us pain and forget the bigger picture – God loves us, and He is still in control. In Mark, chapter 9, a broken-hearted father approached Jesus. His son had been tormented by evil spirits for years. “Anything is possible if a person believes,” Jesus said. “I do believe,” the father said. “But help my unbelief!” This man had just enough hope left to ask Jesus for help.

If you are carrying a heavy burden today, don't allow a broken heart to give you a broken hope. Ask God to give you a vision of a better day ahead. Now, walk toward that better day, trusting He will give you strength and courage in the journey. There is hope for every broken heart.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I know You see what I'm going through today. I believe You love me and have a plan for my life. Help me to trust You more, and to see beyond my painful moment. Thank You for being my source of hope and peace.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 39:7 And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You. (NLT)

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (NKJV)

*Don't speak up if you're not going to
show up*

April 3

Jesus told a story once about a father who had two sons. The father asked them to come and work with him on a particular day. One said he would, and the other said he would not. The one who refused, later changed his mind and came to work for his father. The one who agreed never showed up. Jesus asked, "Which was the better son?"

God, like the father in the story, wants us to be good children, and He is after our heart, not just our attendance. Help is not help until something positive is done. Our Heavenly Father is waiting for His children to join Him in working for the harvest, to share our lives with Him, and receive the reward He wants to share with us. Don't speak up if you're not going to show up.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to be a good child. I want to know You and have a good relationship with You. What is important to You, is also important to me. Please show me what I can do today to make You a happy Father.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 40:8 I take joy in doing Your will, my God, for Your law is written on my heart. (NLT)

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "All those who love Me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and live with them." (NLT)

John 17:3 And this is the way to have eternal life – to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the One You sent to earth. (NLT)

Spend your spiritual capital

April 4

Some who work understand and take advantage of opportunities to invest for retirement. They work hard, save a little each week and build up capital to be used at a later time. There's a similar concept in the Kingdom of Heaven. When we live life like God wants us to, we gain wisdom, favor, and credibility. This is our spiritual capital. Many times we gain more spiritual capital than we spend and we save the unspent to be used in the future.

You can spend your spiritual capital by influencing others to serve the Lord or to grant you favors, which would be to the Kingdom's benefit. God grants us more spiritual capital than we need for ourselves. Invest some to benefit others. Spend your spiritual capital on Earth. You will not need it in Heaven.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to be a good investor! Please, by Your Holy Spirit, show me how I can make the most of every opportunity You give me. Help me to know when and how much to invest in others. All I have is Yours.

Scriptures for Today

John 9:4 All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the One who sent Me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. (NLT)

Ephesians 5:16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. (NLT)

It's not who gets to the top first that counts

April 5

In our very competitive society, we often put the emphasis of success on getting to the top first. As a result, many corporate executives have sacrificed their integrity on the altar of ambition. They have missed the important truth that *how* the race is run is actually more important than the race itself. When we finish may not be as important as finishing with our character still intact. Many who make it to the top end up falling because their journey upward was laced with shortcuts and unethical decisions that cost them more than they calculated.

How about you? Has your pride and misguided ambition got you speeding toward the top using the fuel of deceit? Take an inventory of your personal race and pave your way with courage, integrity, persistence, and endurance. Spend time helping someone else make it as well. Take deliberate steps and make godly choices so that when you reach the top you can remain there.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me today to pay attention to how I am running my race. I will not believe the false notion that getting there first means I am the best. Please help me to guide my life in every area, according to Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 19:30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (KJV)

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

True growth will stretch your resources

April 6

One thing is certain in life - in order to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, or relationally with others, we will have to be willing to pay the price. Just like the physical body will starve from lack of good nutrition, so it is in every other area of life. We cannot grow or progress in life without first understanding that we must spend something we have to obtain something we desire.

Over the course of our lives, some of the resources we may be required to spend might be our money, our time, or our love in a very unselfish manner. It could even involve giving away our pride and forgiving someone who has hurt us. True growth will make its demands on your means. Be ready to be stretched as God begins to use you more.

Prayer for Today

Oh God, help me to be willing to stretch and use my resources in order to grow in life. Give me wisdom, discernment, and especially a strong yearning to reach ever upward to the next level in You.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (NKJV)

2 Samuel 24:24 Then the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. (NKJV)

*Our life should be a script that only
God can write*

April 7

When once we give our lives to Christ, He covers all our sins. Old things are passed away and all things become new. Our potential becomes far more than we can imagine or comprehend. Our life in God's hands is destined to be filled with wonderful surprises, often rewards, and bounding achievements mixed with many challenges which will give us every opportunity to grow.

What may seem like a surprise to us is often a plan to God. However, our life should be a script that only God can write and He authors no failures. So, put your life in God's hands and do not despair when things you did not expect, do not deserve, and cannot imagine come your way. Trust God and keep living the script He is writing for your victory. He is in control.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You so much for clearing away all the past debris of my life. It offers me a new day, a new chance, a new hope, and a new future. I lovingly desire You to write the pages of my life, both now and for eternity.

Scriptures for Today

I Corinthians 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. (NKJV)

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. (NKJV)

Mark 11:22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God." (NKJV)

***Keep your head in the game, your
heart in the game, and your hands in
the game***

April 8

To win any game or accomplish any great feat in life, we must give it our undivided attention and concentration. Half-hearted attempts and divided interests will yield nothing but halfway results. As the saying goes, anything worth doing is worth doing right. Doing something right involves the winning combination of mind, heart, and action.

As God's creation, we work best by utilizing every part of our triune being (body, soul, spirit) in harmony to its fullest degree, toward our goals and calling. Keeping our head, heart, and hands in the game will secure our success. Are you giving your "all" to your present calling and future dreams?

Prayer for Today

Father, help me today to use all of me to serve all of You. Help me to know that anything I desire to be successful at will require engaging my head, my heart, and my hands. Teach me Your way, oh Lord.

Scriptures for Today

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 11:18 Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (NKJV)

2 Samuel 6:14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. (NKJV)

*Never fully trust a man who does not
walk with a limp*

April 9

When following a leader, seeking counsel, or submitting to an instructor or educator, we should be as interested in their life experiences as much as their educational qualifications. Lessons learned in the classroom of life often make one a true expert and worthy of being followed.

In our walk with Christ, we will have seasons of hearing the Word, but also times of trial and tribulation. These times put the Word we have learned into action. Faith will be tested to offer practical experience for each student of God's Word. Tests become testimonies as we apply what we have learned to life's situations. Often, struggles and resulting battle scars serve to provide credibility, strength, and many times, the brokenness we need to fully mold our life. These battle scars become our badges of victory.

Prayer for Today

Thank You, Lord, for the opportunity to know You through the trials and tribulations of life. May my life shine with testimony to Your goodness and faithfulness.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. (NKJV)

Genesis 32:25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

*Jesus saves us from an eternity in hell
and the hell of this life*

April 10

With one sweeping decision for Christ we embrace an eternity with Him. However, it is His desire to not only save us from an eternity in hell but also to save us from the hell of this life. We must be born again and afterward, each one of us should learn to live that born again experience by applying His word to our daily walk.

What about you? Are you allowing the power of the Word of God to transform your life in the present as well as the future? Do you seek and then submit to the living Word of God as your final authority, even if it seems hard? Don't just miss spending eternity in hell but miss the hell of this life through obeying God's Word!

Prayer for Today

Thank You, Lord, for my eternal home. I thank You, also, for giving me the daily prescription from Your Word which will save me from every trouble, trial, and temptation of this life. Help me to trust and obey everyday so that I may have the peace in this life and in the life to come.

Scriptures for Today

1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (NKJV)

Mark 10:29-30 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions-and in the age to come, eternal life." (NKJV)

All devils are liars, but not all liars are devils

April 11

The devil is a liar. The Bible says he is the father of lies. He is the beginning and the end of lies. The greatest power that the devil uses is deception. His whole existence is based on trying to make us believe a lie, that our life can be good without Jesus. He uses people, circumstances, situations, and our desire to protect ourselves as the catalyst to promote this lie.

One of the devil's greatest weaknesses is that he has underestimated you. He thinks you are going to give in easily. But there is a greater Spirit within us. We may not be perfect, but our direction is perfection. You might sin and speak words of subtle deception, aimed at manipulating what the listener believes, or you may just tell a bold lie. This does not make you the devil, but it makes you act like Him. Stop lying and ask God to forgive you. Speak the truth in love, or say nothing at all.

Prayer for Today

Father, please remind me to always tell the truth. Help me to trust You to take care of me instead of me having to protect myself with lies or deception. I am committed to You and I will not believe the deception of the enemy that my life can be good without Jesus.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. (KJV)

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (NKJV)

*Distinguish between your Sauls and
Goliaths*

April 12

David had two real enemies in his life and he treated these enemies differently.

One enemy, King Saul, chased him for years trying to kill him and destroy his anointed future. Then, there are the Goliaths of our life who taunt us and challenge us. What makes these enemies different? King Saul, although dangerous to David, was someone whom God had put in David's life and David was under Saul's authority. Only God could change this. David was forbidden to raise his own hand against his authority. Goliath, however, was not in any position other than as an enemy to David. It was David's right and responsibility to stand up against Goliath and orchestrate his defeat.

Of the types of adversaries in your life, who are the King Sauls that God must deal with and who are the Goliaths that you must deal with and stand against?

Prayer for Today

Father, I love You. Please help me to have the self-discipline to respect and trust the leadership of my life. Even if they try to remove me, don't let me take matters into my own hands. Lord, help me to destroy the Goliaths of my life that taunt and curse me, Your people, and You. Thank You for Your strength to overcome.

Scriptures for Today

1 Samuel 24:6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." (NKJV)

1 Samuel 17:46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! (NLT)

Go in peace, don't go in pieces

April 13

God gives us every opportunity to call upon Him and come to Him no matter the situation we face or the

circumstances of our life. When we call upon God, He will hear us, He will answer us, and He will show us great and mighty things which we did not know before. He has the answer to all of our problems and to every frustration we face in life. Just calling upon and coming into His presence with our petition and our praise guarantees us audience with Him. In His presence there is fullness of joy. However, we cannot always remain in our prayer closet soaking up His love, His comfort, and His grace. There comes a time when we must go forth and face the situations of life.

In these times, it is God's hope that you go in peace, not in pieces. Let the peace of God that you find in prayer, walk with you through life's daily chores.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for peace in all my circumstances. I look to You to show me Your plans for my life. Help me make the most of every opportunity as I walk in Your peace.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Philippians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (KJV)

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (KJV)

God is pro life, but He allows choice

April 14

Did you know the choices you made yesterday have already affected your life and future? You are living today the decisions that you made yesterday. Wow, what a concept! I can change my tomorrows? Yes! God wants us to have the greatest life possible, but that life must be walked in His way and not our way, in His choices and not our choices.

When we choose to make decisions based on our circumstances or what might make us comfortable, then God's best for our life may not be realized. Try not to make convenient decisions, but convicted decisions that add character to your life rather than confusion. God is pro life ... He is *for* your life ... but He allows us our choice.

Prayer for Today

God, please help me to make quality decisions today that mold my tomorrows into the destiny You have designed for me. I want to be more like You. Make me into the image of Your dear Son. I choose life!

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (NKJV)

Isaiah 7:14-15 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. (NKJV)

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (KJV)

*The Church is made up of goers,
stayers, prayers, and payers ... where
are you called to serve?*

April 15

It takes everyone being in their place and doing their part for even a ball game to be successful, how much more then, the war between the forces of God and Satan over the souls of mankind? The Church is not only the Family of God, the Body and the Bride of Christ, but it is also the Army of God in the earth.

The Church is a group of called out and called together Christians, each one with a duty and a responsibility to make our efforts successful. We are made up of those who will go and tell, those who will stay by the stuff, those who will pray for the cause, and those who will finance the campaign. Which has God called you to do? Take your place ... let's go, let's fight, let's win!

Prayer for Today

God, I commit to do my part for Your Kingdom and the cause of Christ. Show me what I am called for, prepare me and use me, oh Lord. I am Yours to command.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

*Who is right is not as important as
what is right*

April 16

At times, when we are in a debate with another person, our arguments are motivated by self interest. Generally, our thoughts and statements are based on what's best for us and designed to help us prove our point. Every person is right in their own eyes. However, not every person is right. To broaden your perspective, try this exercise. Next time you are in a difference of agreement with someone, ask that person to temporarily switch positions with you. You argue their point and let them argue yours.

This exercise can be both threatening and educational. For those who are secure enough to attempt pursuit of the best decision, stating opposing perspectives can become a valuable source of gaining insight and solving problems. Struggle is often a necessary step to unity.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to consider others' opinions to have as much potential as mine. Give me the grace to respect those who differ with me and the skill to reach the best conclusion for everyone involved. Show me Your truth through my eyes and the eyes of others.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (KJV)

Acts 11:17 And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift He gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to argue? (NLT)

Galatians 2:11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. (NIV)

*Congregations who are not evangelistic
often become cannibalistic*

April 17

The only marching orders God ever gave the Church were to go into all the world preaching the Good News, making disciples. Jesus stated that He came only to seek and to save the lost and that He would gladly leave the 99 sheep that are saved and safely on their way to a Heavenly eternity to go out in search of one who was lost. It is clear that we are called to be evangelistic soul-winners, witnesses of the glorious Gospel of Christ Jesus. Those who abandon this basic responsibility may actually have forfeited their right to be called a Church.

Many Churches become divided and split over petty problems and simple carnal concerns such as the color of the carpet, the choice of songs, or who gets the lead role in a Christmas play. In the meantime, souls are lost and dying, and on their way to hell, while the Church argues, biting and devouring one another. Gossip and strife have no place in the house of God. Don't be a busy-body.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I pray that You would give me and others I am in fellowship with the good sense not to argue among ourselves over things which do not matter and will not result in souls being born again into Your Kingdom. I will choose to walk a higher path of responsibility.

Scriptures for Today

1 Timothy 5:13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. (NKJV)

2 Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. (NKJV)

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. (KJV)

Conquering life happens one day at a time

April 18

Champions are not born, they are developed over a period of time. They have clearly defined goals. They know what they want to achieve in life. Most Olympic gold medalists began to think of winning this prestigious athletic event several years before they ever qualified to participate.

Have you ever dreamed of being the best ... the best husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, or the best child of God you could possibly be? It all starts with a desire. Then you must take each day and design a strategic plan to become great. Training is what separates the victorious from the mediocre. You see, conquering life happens one day at a time. You will never become a champion in life until you learn to win on a daily basis.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to have a future vision with a daily strategy. Help me to focus on tomorrow without sacrificing today. Remind me to do the little things so that You will trust me with the larger things. I need Your help to be the best I can be.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. (NKJV)

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. (NKJV)

Don't forget to pack a lunch

April 19

Today, Jesus lifts up His eyes and He is seeing a large crowd coming toward Him. He is asking us where we are going to get the Bread of Life for such a large crowd. Jesus already knows the answer to His question. However, He is expecting you to give the Bread of Life to the multitudes. If you know the story of Mark 6, the disciples did not know what to do. They were unprepared for their day and did not consider the simple necessity of packing a lunch.

Little is much in the hand of the Lord, and the simple things we can offer Him everyday can make such a big difference. One young man took time to prepare for himself that day. As a result, Jesus took His personal preparation and multiplied it to meet the needs of thousands who were unprepared. Don't forget to pack a lunch. Take time every morning to get a word from God and carry it with you where you go.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You that I am a person of discipline. I am excited about preparing for my future. I will begin today to plan so that I will be ready when You call on me. Use the little I have to feed the multitudes. I am available.

Scriptures for Today

John 6:5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (NKJV)

John 6:9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? (KJV)

Embrace a Kingdom culture

April 20

The whole world, every nation, and indeed, many communities are populated by groups of people from various cultures, tribes, and traditions. Each one enjoys a heritage and history shaped by their ancestors, who handed down customs and courtesies particular to each group. Our culture often dictates what is right and wrong, what is acceptable and unacceptable, and provides a platform of commonality for us to establish rules of life, so that we might live safe and secure with others within our community.

Not only does our culture join us to people, but it also divides us from those who do not embrace our common beliefs and manners of life. Something acceptable in one culture may be offensive in another. It is for this reason, that we as believers in Christ and members of the Church must embrace a Kingdom of God culture above that of our birth. We must strive to put off our old man and clothe our self as a new creation, a citizen of Heaven, and a child of God. Embrace a Kingdom culture.

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me Your way as I strive to embrace the customs and tradition of Your Kingdom above those of my own. Help me to change where I need changing in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven. (KJV)

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. (NKJV)

*We cannot legislate a relationship with
God*

April 21

God is a God of vision beyond our imagination, beyond our legislation, and often beyond our ability to manage His plan through the efforts of well meaning, yet bureaucratic, administration. Destiny is not determined by a show of hands and the orchestrations of God's plans are far beyond man's abilities. His ways are past finding out. For this reason, each individual, every family, and all matters belonging to the Church deserve to be Spirit led, not guided by a simple democratic process.

God is not unreasonable. However, He is far superior to and not limited by man's greatest wisdom. It matters not who number two is when number one is God. It is unlimited the good a person or a Church can do when they don't care who gets the credit for it.

Prayer for Today

God, lead me by the spirit and give me the grace and confidence I need to follow those You have put in leadership over me. I will support and be loyal to the ones You choose. Lead them by Your Spirit as well.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (KJV)

Numbers 16:3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?" (NKJV)

*Life will frustrate you, educate you, or
motivate you - the choice is yours*

April 22

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Whenever Joseph was sold into slavery and had to live less than what he had dreamed, he kept a good attitude and patiently waited for God to deliver him. When all looked hopeless and he probably felt forgotten in the king's prison, God continued to work things out for Joseph and the greater good. The devil's plan is to take the circumstances of your life and use them to destroy you and your destiny. God takes the circumstances of your life and determines them for a future and a hope.

When we are going through the difficulties of life, we must predetermine that the devil means it for evil, but God will turn it around for good. Don't let life frustrate you. Life is too short to be frustrated all the time. Instead, let life educate and motivate you toward a focus that really matters ...the hope of God.

Prayer for Today

Father, I ask You in the Name of Jesus to help me push through the storms of life. I will be victorious with Your help and I will conquer these difficulties. For I know You have a greater plan for my life and You will turn my adversity into one of life's lessons. Thank You, Sir. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. (NKJV)

Exodus 1:12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. (KJV)

***Never allow what works on you to work
in you or it will work through you.
Instead, let God's Word work in you
about what works on you and God will
work through you.***

April 23

Life is working on you right now. From the time you wake up in the morning until the time you go to bed at night, this world's system is attempting to conquer you. If we are not vigilant, those pressures which work on us will get into our minds, dominate our thoughts, and control our feelings. Whatever works on us wants to work in us so that it can eventually work through us and affect other people.

We must let the Word of God work in us concerning what works on us, and then the Creator of the universe can work through us. Keep in mind that, without a steady diet of the Word of God, the world's philosophy can take root and gain victory in your life.

Prayer for Today

Father, I am thankful that You are changing my perspective everyday to line up with Your Word, Your will, and Your way. I am the clay and You are the Potter. As Your Word goes in me, let it work on me, so You can work through me. May Your will be done in my life. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (NKJV)

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials. (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. (NKJV)

*The worst thing about being deceived is
that you don't know it*

April 24

You know how it feels when you are wrong ... it feels bad, doesn't it? Well just because you don't feel that way, does not always mean you're not wrong. How can that be? Because we often don't have that bad feeling until after we find out that what we believed, said, or did, which we thought was right, actually turned out to be wrong. Seldom will people blatantly hold onto their beliefs and pursuits after they find out that they are wrong. Why then is there so much error in the lives of good-hearted, well meaning Christians?

Because ... *The worst thing about being deceived is that you don't know it.*

Even Eve, had she known she was deceived, would certainly not have eaten of that forbidden fruit. How can we ensure that we are not deceived? Do what Eve did not do ... stick to the Word of God!

Where has the devil been trying to trick you? Identify and attack ...

Prayer for Today

Oh Lord, today I will open my heart and my mind to Your Word. Teach me Your principles and reveal Your will to me. I choose to submit myself to the truth, oh Lord, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (NKJV)

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (NKJV)

The seat of authority is final say

April 25

“Because I said so, that’s why.”

These are probably familiar words for all of us. As children, how many times did we hear that response from our parents? Early in life we began to learn about authority and permission. Through the years, we have become accustomed to many kinds of authority – teachers, employers, government, etc. Along the way we can either listen to these types of authority or choose our own way. Eventually, though, everyone has to submit to authority, either by choice or compulsion.

One of the keys to a successful and fulfilling life is to understand that the seat of authority is final say. The Bible tells us that God has established authority on the earth as well as in Heaven. So ultimately, we are either obeying or disobeying God when we follow the rules and guidelines of those in authority over us. By being good employees, good citizens, and good examples we are actually honoring God and being good children to our Heavenly Father.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to be a good, obedient child of Yours. I know that life is not all about me, but You. Please remind me that all authority ultimately comes from You. Please show me how I can work with authority today to build success into my future.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 19:21 You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.
(NLT)

Romans 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.
(NKJV)

***What you will not give up nor do
without will control your life***

April 26

There were two men in the Bible who refused to give up something they possessed. One was the young rich ruler in Matthew 19 who was very wealthy and refused to give his goods to the poor at the command of Jesus. He kept his money, but he lost his opportunity to follow Jesus. The other person was the Apostle Peter, also in Matthew 19. Peter said that he and the other disciples had forsaken everything to follow Jesus. What is the difference in these two men? Not much actually.

Both of these men refused to lose something they highly valued. The young rich ruler valued his riches above anything else, while Peter valued a relationship with Jesus more than life itself. What one will not give up nor do without will control your life.

Prayer for Today

You know my heart, Lord. Please show me how to order the priorities of my life. Help me to make my priorities the same as Yours. I want to be an example of a life in order that others can confidently follow.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (NKJV)

Matthew 19:27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” (KJV)

*Add to your negative purity, positive
purity*

April 27

Many people think that being a Christian means you can't do anything fun. This concept can be called *negative purity* – “Because I'm a Christian, I can't do fun things like I used to...” Not doing bad things is certainly one valuable means to maintain purity. However, there is more to a relationship with Jesus than merely *not* doing bad things.

Jesus told us that He offers a different way of living – a life that is truly fulfilling. The way to a truly happy life is to find out what we *can* do that pleases Him and then do it. This is adding positive purity (doing something for God) to our negative purity (not doing things that might displease Him). Psalms 1 tells us that a person who thinks on how to live in a way that pleases God ends up with a productive fulfilling life.

Prayer for Today

God, I know that You want me to live a happy and fulfilled life. Please, Sir, show me the things I *can* do to accomplish that purpose. Teach me how I can please You today and how to be an example for others to follow.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. (NKJV)

*Instead of staring up the steps we must
step up the stairs*

April 28

Sometimes the task at hand seems insurmountable. I imagine David may have had some of those thoughts when he stood in front of Goliath, the giant. Noah probably felt that way, too, when God told him to build a huge boat that would take over 100 years to complete. Joseph had to stay focused on his dream for over 25 years before it was fulfilled.

How does a person defeat the overwhelming enemies of life? How do you overcome debt, put a failing marriage back together, or win the battle of drug addiction? It's simple. Instead of staring up the steps we must step up the stairs ... one step at a time. Ask God to give you the next step then don't just stand there ... take it!

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You that I am an overcomer. I will defeat the giants of my life one step at a time. You have created me to win and have dominion. I thank You that I rule and reign in life through Jesus Christ. Today I will take the next step.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way. (KJV)

Psalms 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. (KJV)

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. (NKJV)

*It is unlimited the good a man can do if
he does not care who gets the credit*

April 29

There are many motivations why a person chooses to do what they choose to do. Unfortunately, it is a rare quality to find a person who will give their time, their talent, or their resources to accomplish some benefit for another person without ensuring that they, in some way, receive the credit for the good that was done. Many times this limits the amount of good that could be accomplished since there is only room at the top for one person's name.

It is unlimited the amount of good a person can accomplish or contribute to if only they would not care who received the credit. Consider yourself. What motivates you to spend your resources, give your time, or exercise your talent in an attempt to help someone else? Are you significantly involved in any endeavor from which you derive no credit in return? If not, then why not?

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I do not want to be the kind of person who is selfishly motivated by personal gain or some other return. Speak to me and tell me what You would have me involved in and I will obey You without expectation of reward.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 6:1-5 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in Heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. (NKJV)

*Don't plow with an ox and an ass
yoked together*

April 30

The Bible compares young ministers and the things they afford the work of God to oxen. These animals speak of dependability, strength, and consistency. They are often comfortable and content with doing the same thing over and over again, without complaint and are creatures of habit and routine. Asses, on the other hand, are wild by nature and unable to be disciplined with any success. Their breath is toxic and their bite infectious. Rather than work as a team, they often either push their partners or balk to their masters and refuse contentment.

Left yoked together for long periods, asses will injure an ox and ultimately destroy his capacity and will to continue working. Perhaps, we should be ever conscious with whom we yoke others together in ministry. "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together."

Prayer for Today

God, give me wisdom when I am called upon to work with others or assign others to specific tasks. Help me to not hurt one person attempting to help another, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 22:10 You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. (NKJV)

Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox. (NKJV)

Job 39:5 Who hath sent out the wild ass free? Or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass? (KJV)

May



*What price are you willing to pay to see
the Gospel go forward?*

May 1

Long ago in a land far away, the richest and most powerful king of the universe felt in His heart a desire to spread the good news of His love for mankind. He decided to send His most precious possession, His son. He knew it would be dangerous, but His desire to reach mankind was overwhelming. It cost God His Son to save your soul.

Several years ago my son and I were smuggling Bibles into China. The night before we were to depart to carry out our mission, I had a dream that my son went on his assignment and did not return. As a result of the dream, I told my son he could not go. My son told me that he had also had a dream. In his dream he knew if he did everything I told him to do, then he would be safe. After telling me the dream, my son embraced me, and boldly but gently, whispered through tears, “Dad, what price would you pay to see the Gospel go forward?” Then he boarded the train and began his journey.

Prayer for Today

Father, I know that You love me and that You have a plan for my life. Please give me the strength to rise above my fears and to do Your will, no matter the cost. I count it a privilege to be called into Your service. Therefore, I will deny myself, take up my cross, and follow You.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s. (KJV)

Evangelism is a race against time

May 2

Sinners are born every day and we each have but one lifetime to fulfill God's will and purpose for our life. Before we can ever reach that proverbial last house on the road, we must first reach every other house on the planet. Evangelization of the whole world can only be accomplished in one generation. It cannot carry over to the next.

God has no grandchildren. He only has children and every person has an allotted number of days in which to get saved, grow up in Christ, and become productive laborers in the harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God. This is your day, this is your time, this is your life. Evangelism is a race against time.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, give me compassion for the lost and help me to focus my life on Your will for my generation. Teach me to become a fisher of men and give me the wisdom to win souls for Your Kingdom's sake.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NKJV)

*You cannot walk another person's
road and expect to be yourself*

May 3

You are the perfect person and the only person that God created to be you. No one else has a chance of doing what you were designed to do better than you could do it. You are unique and perfectly fit to complete the task for which God has designed for you. God knew you before you were ever formed in your mother's womb and He created you for purpose. Although God does not make our choices, He nonetheless works with whatever situations we give Him to create capacity within us so that we might be fully capable of reaching our greatest potential and become the best "us" for Him.

You cannot walk another person's path and ever expect to be yourself. Don't follow the crowd and don't try to become or to impress someone else. The best you will ever be is to be the best you. And you are the perfect and only candidate for that job ... let God perfect you.

Prayer for Today

Oh Lord, show me how I can take what You have given me and use my best for Your glory. You know my strengths and my weaknesses. Cover me, lead me, and help me to reach my greatest potential. I give You my whole life.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 138:8 The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands. (KJV)

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Philippians 2:13 For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. (NKJV)

Every road leads somewhere

May 4

We choose the roads we travel for an obvious reason ... the road of choice will take us where we wish to go. Every road leads somewhere. Destinations are most often predictable, especially if we have a map or have been given directions by others who know the road. Seldom can we complain when we arrive at a predictable destination on our journey. Roads of life are no different. God's Word provides us a map and His ministers often give direction to let us know what lies along the road we have chosen.

Where are you headed? Are you on the road which will bring you to successful relationships, a strong marriage and family, a better future? If not, there is but one choice ... repent.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for creating a specific destination for my life. Teach me to follow the map and directions You provide. Help me to consider every choice and its destination. Help me, as well, to provide godly guidance for others.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 16:17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. (KJV)

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished. (NKJV)

Isaiah 55:9 For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (KJV)

*It's not what you're going through but
what you're going to...*

May 5

Every road leads somewhere. On our journey from where we are to where we want to be, we are often forced to go **through** something we may not enjoy in order to get **to** something we will enjoy. In these moments, we need to remind ourselves that it is not what we are going through but what we are going to that matters most.

For example, one may wish to become highly educated with an end result of becoming a medical doctor. If this is their destination and a road they may choose to travel, on the road to becoming a doctor they must go through seasons of training, years of education, and, no doubt, many moments tired, weary, and perhaps even frustrated. However, if one is unwilling to go through something they may *not* enjoy in order to get to something they *will* enjoy, they may *never* enjoy life at all.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, open the eyes of my understanding so that I may know the hope of my calling in You. I want to focus on what I am going to and not where I am at the moment. Please help me to trust and hope in You that I might experience full joy and peace right now. Thank You!

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law. (NKJV)

*You will never be able to lead someone
whom you are unwilling to lose*

May 6

The Kingdom of God is designed to operate much like what we observe in our militaries. There are superiors and there are subordinates, rules, regulations, and a definite sense of duty. The military has a basic structure which demands that each individual show up and do what they are told. Some days they are told to be in charge and in other situations they find themselves told to follow others who are in charge ... both are valid and necessary for every task to be accomplished.

Insecure leaders who are unwilling to give direct orders for fear their followers will not obey are actually not leading at all. These leaders are following popular opinion or perhaps louder voices, which allow every person to do what is right in their own eyes. This is not the Kingdom way. When called upon to lead, be gracious, kind, and take counsel ... but lead by your own conviction, remembering you will never be able to lead those whom you are unwilling to lose. Leadership makes its demands not only in our military but also in every other structured part of life. From our families to the workplace, and from marriage to ministry, God ordains leaders.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to be a leader like Jesus; someone who is so confident in what You have called me to do. I will not be swayed by the threat of losing someone. I need Your strength and wisdom to graciously communicate my direction. Please help me to be kind, considerate, take counsel and be firm when called upon to lead. Also, give me grace in the times when You position me to follow.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 15:37-41 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches. (NKJV)

If a thing begins wrong, it cannot be made right simply by a lapse of time

May 7

If a builder builds a house and the foundation is weak, then eventually the whole house will come crumbling down. If the leadership of a certain political party is corrupt, then time only makes it worse. Bad things left to themselves do not get better, they get worse.

Some new Churches are started by people who have been the cause of a split in their former congregation. If these works are planted with seeds of rebellion, then no matter what course the Church takes in its future, it will continue to have problems and experience division as a fruit of that root. The only hopeful remedy would be to seek forgiveness from God, who can change a leopard's spots and create new from the old. The principles of our daily life are no different: if a thing begins wrong, it cannot be made right simply by a lapse of time.

Prayer for Today

Father, reveal to me the things I have started wrong. I want to repent and put You at the root of all that I do. I know You can help me start over. Forgive me where I have failed You and create in me a new and living way.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 3:10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (NKJV)

Matthew 6:22-23 The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (NKJV)

*A river will never rise above the level of
its source*

May 8

Water flows downhill. This principle is a law of God which reveals a truth that covers not only the natural world but also the spiritual. We all choose our source of life, power, and success. Some people choose money while other people choose mentors. Both of these particular choices can be beneficial and are often a necessary contribution to our success. However, neither of them qualify for a source.

A river can never rise above the level of its source and neither can a person. You will forever be limited by the limitations of your source. Why build a life limited by what money, power, or position can do for you. Take the limits off by choosing God as your one true source and allow others to contribute as God wills.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You that I have a source inside of me that I will not quench. Thank You for the Holy Spirit that is growing in me every day. Show me what to change in my life so I will not hinder the source. Let Your river flow inside of me and pour out of me.

Scriptures for Today

John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." (NAS)

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. (NKJV)

Stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, but sit down to be appreciated

May 9

This is the advice a young girl was given by her grandfather in hopes that it would prepare her to live a life pleasing to God and favored by man. The principles from God's Word are simple and yet profound. We must take a stand so that others might clearly see our passion and our conviction in life. We must also speak up to be heard, especially by those who are in need of firm direction. Our voice can be a beacon of light to those in darkness and a source of encouragement to hurting souls.

We should stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, but sit down to be appreciated. Both Heaven and earth resist the prideful and the arrogant. Therefore, we should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that we might be exalted only by Him in His good time.

Prayer for Today

Father, please give me courage to stand up when You direct me. Give me the words to make a difference and the wisdom, seasoned with humility, to be quiet at the right times. I want to be sensitive to the situations in which You have placed me so that I might be Your vessel to bless others.

Scripture for Today

Proverbs 17:27 He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. (NKJV)

*You are writing the story that others
will one day tell about you*

May 10

Every person's life becomes a story.

Like the Apostle Peter, you too will be forever known by what others remember about you. Bad decisions, wrong decisions, and even costly mistakes should be viewed as a process of life and not allowed to stop us from correcting our mistakes and writing a new chapter for our future. Peter's life story did not end with him denying Christ nor did King David's life story end with him ordering the murder of a friend.

Just as with many other Bible characters and heroes of the past, your life does not have to end with your last worst decision. Give your future to God today. Let the past be the past and begin writing a new chapter in life.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for giving me a vision and focus for my future. I want my life to be a script which only You could write. Grant me the grace to be a reflection of Your will and take me to my greatest day.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth. (KJV)

Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. (NKJV)

It's a sad truth but, at times, getting rid of the person will get rid of the problem

May 11

Have you ever been on a sports team and had one player make mistake after mistake that, if they didn't change, it could eventually cost you the championship? Then a new player comes in to do their job and everything seems to go a lot smoother. Is there someone in your office that is continually causing trouble? Is there someone in your life that always has a problem every time you talk to them? Are you that person?

Jonah 1:12 *And he said unto them, "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you."* At least Jonah realized he was the cause of the trouble. Make a change today. Throw the old you overboard and start fresh. It is a brand new day with endless opportunities. It's a sad truth, but at times getting rid of the person will get rid of the problem

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to be the solution and not the problem. Help me be the answer and not the question. I am a part of something great. Make me great for Your purpose, in my relationship with You, in my family, and at my job.

Scriptures for Today

1 Samuel 12:14 If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God. (NKJV)

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh. (NKJV)

*To share wisdom without humility and
grace can breed resentment ... even
when you are right*

May 12

People who seem to be right most of the time are not always respected, appreciated, or even liked. Sometimes, this is due to the lack of humility and grace with which the information is communicated. We tend to resist people who appear to be arrogant or mean as well as those who tend to make others feel inferior simply because they did not have the right answer.

As we lead others to Christ and through life it is important that we not appear haughty or develop a superiority complex. God Himself shares His wisdom with us so that we might humbly and gracefully, without offense, share it with others. Be bold and be confident but don't be rude.

Prayer for Today

Father, I ask You today for a spirit of humility, with boldness and confidence. Help me to treat others as I want to be treated. Let the law of kindness be on my tongue as I show others Your way and may my ears also be open to Your counsel through others.

Scriptures for Today

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble. (NKJV)

Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. (NKJV)

*One should be tested in the secret
places of life before being exalted in
the public places of life*

May 13

The Bible says that as we are faithful in the little things, then God will give us bigger things to manage. However, sometimes it feels like we are not making progress. Joseph understood this principle and continued to be faithful, even when it looked like God had forgotten him. His journey to his greatest day took him through a pit and a prison before he came to the palace. It was in the pit and the prison that Joseph was tested in the secret places of his life before he was exalted in the public arena of life.

Remember that sometimes we must give up in order to go up and what we often are challenged to give up are our attitudes and paradigms of life that will hold us back from God's best. Never complain about those challenges of life that push you closer to God.

Prayer for Today

Father, please help me to be faithful in the little tasks You give me. Remind me to read my Bible, pray consistently, worship You daily, and share my faith. I will be consistent, without regard to the circumstances of my life. Remove from me those things which hinder my race.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 25:21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." (NAS)

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

God is not stuck in your past

May 14

Did you know that God does not even remember your past? Not only your sins and short comings, but He chooses not to recall the inadequacies of your past as well ... the places of your life that you think add or take away from your self-value, the honors you have missed out on, the promotion you failed to receive, and the times you've failed a test in life.

God is more interested in your future than your past. There is a reason why the windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror. Focus on your future with God and leave the past behind. God's plan for your life is yet ahead and He is not stuck in your past.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for my past. Help me to learn from all my experiences. I will evaluate my mistakes based on my future with You. I know the plans You have for me, plans for a future and a hope, a hope for a better tomorrow. I thank You in advance for my great future!

Scriptures for Today

Micah 7:19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. (KJV)

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. (NAS)

*Everything you want may cost you
everything you have*

May 15

The Bible tells a story about a man who found the entrance to a producing mine hidden in a field. He was so excited that he sold all he owned and bought the land. That's how much the treasure was worth to him. Jesus said that's how much being a Christian should mean to us (Matthew 13:44). But why? Let's find that answer through another question...

What do you think of a person whom the Creator of the universe, Who could have anything He wanted, paid the highest price imaginable hoping that He might begin a relationship with that person? That person would seem to be a special treasure ... and you are. Just like the man in Jesus' story, God gave the best that He had – gave *all* that He had – for the opportunity to “mine” a relationship with you. Because God loves you that much, you should love and treasure Him, too. What price would you pay to begin a relationship with God?

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for loving me so much. What can I do to say “thank You” for all that You've done for me? Please reveal Your love to me, and show me my value in Your eyes. I am humbled by and grateful for Your love for me.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 12:34 Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be. (NLT)

1 John 4:19 We love Him, because He first loved us. (KJV)

What do you think of a person whom the Creator of the universe, Who could have anything He wanted, paid the highest price imaginable hoping that

He might be able to obtain a relationship with that person?

May 16

The value of an object is often determined by what a person is willing to pay for that object. God so loved mankind that He gave His only Son on the cross of Calvary for the chance to begin a relationship with you. He purchased the opportunity He desired to make every person His child.

When we pass people on the street, in the marketplace, or in social settings, we should consider the value of each one as equal to the Son of God in our Father's eyes and we should further treat one another as God has treated us. For the sake of Christ Jesus we should treat every person regardless of race, gender, national origin, or economic status just like God treats us.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I need Your help to see all of mankind as those whom You have given the life of Your son to reach. Help me to embrace them as You do and be willing to make them a part of my spiritual family as a brother or sister in Christ. Forgive me where I have looked down on others and cleanse my way. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (KJV)

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (NKJV)

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (NKJV)

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." (KJV)

***To not submit a great matter to counsel
in fear that godly counsel would be
against it is to act a fool and partner
with deception***

May 17

“Plausible deniability” describes a situation in which someone actively avoids gaining certain knowledge of facts they suspect to exist because it benefits them to “not know.” In legal matters, lawyers may use this tactic to get around ethics violations. In politics, officials may use this to avoid being connected to some operation they support, and in your house a child may use it to get out of trouble they brought on themselves – “But I didn’t *know!*”

The truth of the matter is that we usually *do* know when something we’re thinking about or planning is wrong before we even do it. God’s Word tells us that the Holy Spirit points out sin, and that He guides His children in all truth (John 15:8,13). To not submit a great matter to counsel in fear that godly counsel would be against it is to act a fool and partner with deception. That is a hair’s breadth away from saying “I know this is wrong, but I’m doing it anyway.” And *that* is a dangerous place to be.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to please You, Sir. Sometimes it’s a real struggle to reconcile my plans with what I think You want. Please speak clearly to me and change my heart so that I want what You want. Please continue to build Your character in me, and show me how to partner with You and give me good and godly counselors.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. (NKJV)

John 3:20-21 They (sinners) hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness. They stay away from the light for fear their sins will be exposed and they will be punished. But those who do what is right come to the light gladly, so everyone can see that they are doing what God wants. (NLT)

At times, God demands we attempt the impossible

May 18

The Word of God is filled with people who were challenged to attempt the impossible. One such story involves a leper called Naaman. He was challenged by the prophet Elisha to dip himself seven times in the Jordan River to rid himself of leprosy and thus be healed by God. Naaman had many questions as this approach seemed not only impractical but also impossible. However, Naaman was encouraged by his friends to attempt the impossible just because the prophet of God spoke. As a result of Naaman's obedience, he was completely healed.

We, too, must at times respond to the challenges of life by attempting the impossible just because we have received a Word from God.

Prayer for Today

Father God, speak to me and lead me on Your journey for my life. Give me the grace to know Your voice and the encouragement I need to attempt even the impossible at Your bidding. Also, Father, help me to encourage others to trust You more in their circumstances and believe You beyond their own abilities.

Scriptures for Today

2 Kings 5:13-14 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. (NKJV)

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (NKJV)

Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." (NKJV)

***Your personal security and well being
may not have been God's primary
focus when He said, "Go and make
disciples."***

May 19

Many Christians around the world have been exposed to an "American Dream Theology." The "American Dream Theology" interprets scripture to suggest that all believers are endowed by their Savior with certain inalienable rights, among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The scriptures, however, conversely describe a "Kingdom Theology" as one which demands we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus.

Although God is certainly interested and involved in your health and well-being, it may not be His primary objective when considering that people are still lost, dying, and going to hell. We must, therefore, determine the will of God for our lives on a greater basis than how it may personally affect us and our dreams of success.

Prayer for Today

Lord, this is Your world, not mine. Sometimes I forget that life is not all about me. Please change my heart so that I want the things that You want, so that I am moved by what moves You. I know there are "hungry people" in other places. Show me how I can do my part to share with them.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (NKJV)

Psalms 46:10b I will be lifted up among the nations, I will be honoured through all the earth. (BBE)

Matthew 6:10 May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done here on earth, just as it is in Heaven. (NLT)

*The Word of God tells us both what
God has done and what He will do*

May 20

If all we do is read the Bible, then all we can see is what God has already done. The Bible, viewed only as history, reveals where God has been in the past, what He has done in the past, and how He did it. However, the Bible is more than history ... it is a living testament, not only of what God did, but also of what He will do. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Begin reading the Word of God to learn both what God did and what He wants to do. What does God want to do? The same things He has done.

God wants people to hear the Gospel, bring healing to the brokenhearted, set the captives free, restore sight to the blind, to liberate those who have been beat down, and to proclaim the great day of the Lord, and He wants to do it through you.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to know You. I want to be where You are, and I want to join You in what You're doing. Will You please reveal Yourself to me, and show me how I can know You better today than I did yesterday? Please give me eyes that see You, ears that hear You, hands that hold onto You, and feet that follow You.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. (KJV)

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD. (NKJV)

*Do not mistake discontentment for
direction*

May 21

Far too many people make bad decisions in critical moments because they find themselves unhappy with what they have, where they are, or with what they are doing. Just because you are dissatisfied with your job, your spouse, your family, or your Church is no indication that it is time to discard them in search of another. Discontentment does often signal a need for change but the change discontented people most often need is a change in their own attitude and their own gratitude.

The “greener grass” mentality has been proven to be a false hope and an empty promise. Most likely, whatever you get will end up looking just like what you’ve got after you get it unless and until you change. Do not mistake discontentment for direction. Just ask Abraham and Sarah how it worked for them in the matter of Hagar ...

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, teach me Your way. Search my heart so that I might know Your course for my life. I refuse to be moved out of Your will by unhappiness or discontentment. Satisfy my soul with Your Word and guide my feet along the path of righteousness. As I seek first Your Kingdom, increase me with greater blessing and abundant joy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 16

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. (KJV)

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. (KJV)

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (NKJV)

*The treasure is the attraction but the
field is the possession*

May 22

Matthew records a parable describing the Kingdom of Heaven. It's like a man who discovered a treasure hidden in a field and then went out immediately and sold everything he had to purchase the field. Notice that he did not purchase the treasure but rather the field. The treasure was the attraction but the field was the possession.

Imagine the person who takes a job, accepts a position, marries another or begins a family based on the attraction without realizing that the treasure comes with a field which must be worked. It's no different with diamonds or gold, there's treasure hidden in the fields of your life. You may have married the attraction but you are joined to a field. If you still want the treasure, you must continue to work the field and remember, what you do to get something is what you must continue to do in order to keep it.

Prayer for Today

Dear Jesus, I recommit myself to working the fields in which You have placed me. Help me to make them productive so that they might yield the treasure which first attracted me. Give me strength and give me Your perspective so that I may not become disillusioned with the work which lies before me. Furthermore Lord, give others the grace it takes for them to continue working in my life so that I may not be a disappointment to them. I ask these things in Your name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (NKJV)

God did not give His extra Son, but His only Son

May 23

In Old Testament times, the sins of God's people could be forgiven if a price was paid. The blood of an animal had to be shed, and this sacrificial ceremony needed to be performed over and over again. God desired to provide a better way for His people and for them to be eternally forgiven. This, He said, could not be done with the blood of bulls and goats. It took the blood of His own Son and now we are secure forever.

God did not give His extra Son, but His only Son. It cost God His best; there was no other way. Since God didn't spare His best for us, we should give our best to Him.

Prayer for Today

Father, I accept Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for my sins. I trust that His blood provides a permanent covenant between us. Thank You for giving Your best, Your only Son. Thank You for new life in Christ. Help me live every day with respect to the price You paid for my salvation.

Scriptures for Today

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (NLT)

I Corinthians 6:19-20b Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. (NLT)

*It cost Mary her firstborn child for God
to save the world*

May 24

When God does things, He often involves people. Along with His plan for our life come opportunities for us to participate. We know and believe that salvation through Jesus is free to us, only because others already paid the price.

Since the day Jesus left us with the Great Commission, missionaries, preachers, and evangelists have given up careers, the comforts of home, and even their own lives to bring the Gospel to the nations. Moses had a tough job to do when God freed the Israelites from Egypt. Esther had a dangerous role to play when God saved the Jews from certain death. It cost Mary her firstborn child for God to save the world. What will it cost you to allow God to carry out His plan through your life? Are you willing to say “yes”, not my will but Thine be done?

Prayer for Today

Father, I realize that You paid the price for me, and my life belongs to You. Thank You for having a good plan for my life. Please make my thoughts agreeable with Your thoughts and show me my role in Your big plan. Help me to be obedient. I know that I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me.” (NLT)

Luke 1:38 Mary responded, ‘I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever He wants. May everything you have said come true.’ And then the angel left. (NLT)

*God has a reputation that's hard to
shake*

May 25

God has a reputation for being a good God, a loving God, a God that is gentle and kind, trustworthy and true. Yet God also has a history of being firm against His enemies, serious about sin, and determined to win every battle. In other words, God can be trusted to be God ... the God He has always been and always will be. He has a reputation that is hard to shake.

The prophet Malachi declared, "I am the Lord God, I do not change." We can trust that God will continue to be what we have always seen Him to be. He who loves you and gave His son for you will never leave you or forsake you. God is good.

Prayer for Today

Lord, God of Heaven, You are great and awesome. You faithfully keep Your promises to everyone who loves You and obeys Your commands. Please remember the promises You made. You said that our sin would separate us from You, but You also said that no matter how far we strayed, if we confessed our sins and obeyed You, You would forgive us and restore us to a right relationship with You.

Scriptures for Today

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (NKJV)

Psalms 89:34 My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. (NKJV)

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (NKJV)

*What you do while you are waiting on
God can determine how long you wait*

May 26

David knew what it meant to wait on God. He was anointed to be king at sixteen, but didn't become king until he was thirty. It could seem that God isn't answering our prayers or doesn't understand the urgency of our situation. That kind of thinking implies that God isn't in control. The fact is that God often uses waiting to refresh us, renew us, and prepare us for our greatest day. We can make good use in our times of waiting by deepening and strengthening our relationship with God and our preparedness to accomplish His will.

What you do while you are waiting can determine how long you wait. Be productive. Do something positive while you have time.

Prayer for Today

I will wait for You, God, for You are always worth the wait. Thank You for keeping me in perfect peace as my mind is focused on You. The desire of my soul is in Your will. You are my rock and my salvation, my expectations are from You. I will continue to learn patience and righteousness until You reveal Your perfect purpose to me in all things.

Scripture for Today

Psalms 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. And He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD. (NAS)

*Sometimes the Promised Land is not
what was promised yet*

May 27

The children of Israel were told by Moses that God was taking them from bondage in Egypt to a land of milk and honey. They were told this Promised Land of Canaan would be a place where they would eat bread without scarceness, drink from wells which they did not dig, they would lack for no good thing, and have rest from all of their enemies. However, upon entering the Promised Land they found that it was not what was promised yet.

The land of Canaan was potentially all that Moses had declared, but at present, it was filled with enemies that had to be conquered through battles that must be fought. As they participated with God, what God had promised He fully performed. However, He did not do it without their help. If what God has promised you is not what He promised yet, keep working with Him and He will perform His promise.

Prayer for Today

Father, I submit to Your plan for my life and pledge to work with You to make Your dreams come true. Show me, Lord, how to persevere and be persistent as I press into Your promise for my life. Thank You Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. (NKJV)

Romans 4:21 ...and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (NKJV)

*What we do with what we have
determines what more we get*

May 28

Christ's parable of the talents makes us aware that our blessings and abilities are gifts from God and as such come with an obligation to serve. This is called stewardship and does not only pertain to money but also to our talents, time, and other resources. Stewardship is our caretaking of the gifts God entrusts to us. God will seldom give to you what He cannot give through you.

The parables of the talents, the good steward, and being faithful in what belongs to another all point to the reality that God expects us to be faithful and wise stewards and to use our blessings to become a blessing to others. What do you have that God can use to enhance and advance His Kingdom in the Earth? What you do with what you have will determine what more you get to work with.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, thank You for trusting me with resources which both bless me and enable me to be a blessing to others. As I am faithful, increase me Sir, so that I may do more for You.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 19:17 And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities." (NKJV)

Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. (NKJV)

*God makes no leaders, only servants ...
servants make leaders*

May 29

Imagine spending your whole life climbing a ladder, only to realize at the very end that it was leaning against the wrong building. We are told that many people spend the first half of their life seeking success and the last half seeking significance. Most people want to be great in someone's eyes ... whose eyes will you be great in? While the whole world is looking for leaders, God is looking for servants.

If you want to be great in God's Kingdom, you must become a servant of all. For whoever will be chief among you must become a servant of all. Jesus came to serve, not to be served. You could do no better.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for giving us Jesus as a perfect example. Help me to become a servant to all those I love and those You give me opportunity to love. I want to lead people by serving them.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (NKJV)

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Mark 10:44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (NKJV)

***Irresponsible honesty hurts others,
even when it's the truth***

May 30

Have you been gaining weight? Maybe it's the clothes. You look fat. Well ... it's the truth.

We are constantly offered opportunities to say things that are hurtful, offensive, or mean when there is no benefit beyond the irresponsible expression of a thought. Usually, people who are too outspoken with their opinions hurt others and in defense, hide behind the statement, "Well it's the truth." Just because something is the truth does not give you the right to say it without consideration of its impact on others. The Bible forbids us to hurt others with our words or to be offensive in our speech where there is no Kingdom benefit.

Prayer for Today

God, I submit my thoughts and the words of my mouth to Your keeping. I ask You to guard my mouth and my tongue that I might bring blessings with my conversation and not trouble for the hearer of my words. Thank You Father.

Scriptures for Today

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. (KJV)

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (NKJV)

Psalms 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. (NKJV)

*No one of us can do everything, but
each one of us can do something*

May 31

God has given the Church an enormous responsibility - to make disciples of every nation. This involves preaching, healing, teaching, giving, administering, building, and many other tasks. If we had to fulfill this task as individuals, we might as well give up without trying. It would be impossible. But God calls us as members of His body where some of us can do one task and some can do another.

We cannot do everything, but each one of us can do something. The key to success in the body of Christ is unity, everyone doing something and doing it in harmony. Together we can serve Him more fully than we can alone. It is a human tendency to overestimate what we can do alone and underestimate what we can do together. As the body of Christ, we can achieve more functioning together than we would dream possible merely working by ourselves. Join your life and strength to others to get the job done.

Prayer for Today

Lord, remind me that I am a part of the Body of Christ on this earth. Help me to connect to those around me in a meaningful manner. Thank You for bringing people into my life. Let me be a blessing to all those I serve. Thank You Sir, Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. (KJV)

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. (KJV)

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

June



***One bad step by one good man can
cause one serious problem***

June 1

In the year 1912, the world's greatest cruise ship left the docks of Liverpool, England and set sail on her maiden voyage. Her destination was America and her name was the *Titanic*. The *Titanic* was built by very good craftsmen and at the helm of her maiden voyage was a well experienced captain. Even though iceberg warnings had been issued, the order to proceed through icy waters at an unwise rate of speed was given. In just a few hours this one careless decision by one good man caused one serious problem. The ship hit an iceberg and the rest is history.

God has designed our life and placed us at the helm. Many decisions are required on a daily basis. It is imperative that we guide our life by the Word of God so that we may continue our journey, without causing our self or others serious problems by careless decisions.

Prayer for Today

Help me Lord, to take time to consider my actions and decisions in life. Reveal Your Word to me and let it always be my custom to seek Your counsel in regard to the decisions I make.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
(NKJV)

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delighteth in his way. (KJV)

It may be that you are right and others wrong, however, if those whom God has placed in your life, who love you and serve God alongside you have concerns, there is reason to be cautious

June 2

Sometimes in life we may have desires and may be anxious to make decisions that we really feel are right for us. When making decisions, particularly life changing decisions, we should examine ourselves thoroughly and seek the counsel of both God's Word and the people He has put into our lives.

Many times our own judgment can be clouded or short sighted while others may see consequences we have not considered. No one can be your Holy Spirit, yet you still cannot afford to ignore good counsel from caring people. If you are afraid to hear what others in your life have to say about your impending decision ... wonder why.

Prayer for Today

God, thank You for Your divine leadership and guidance and also for the divine relationships in my life. Give me wisdom and a listening ear to hear You and follow Your plan for my life.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 11:14 Where no wise guidance is, the people falleth; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety. (ASV)

Exodus 18:19-20 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. (NKJV)

*Great things done for God and things
done great for God historically demand
sacrifice*

June 3

God did not give His extra Son but His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Not only did God give His only Son, but Mary gave her firstborn. It costs both Heaven and Earth to do great things for God and to do things for God in a great way. Every purpose and each progress requires paying the price and making provision. That someone could be you.

Great things done for God and things done great for God historically demand sacrifice. Don't withdraw your support or fail to follow through with Kingdom adventures simply because they demand more time, energy, or effort than you first imagined. If you do not complete the task at hand ... who will? Don't quit on God.

Prayer for Today

Father, grant me the courage today to count the cost and pay the price to do great things for You. Renew my faith as I read the Word, remembering the saints of old, the sacrifices they made, but most of all, the reward that followed their faithfulness! I want to be important to You and Your Kingdom.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 10:37-39 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. (NKJV)

Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (NKJV)

*Sometimes the greatest sacrifice we
can offer to God is the question we
have for which we have no answer ...
perhaps this is great faith!*

June 4

Tragedy, heartache, failure, death, betrayal ... there are so many things in life for which there are no satisfactory answers. Perhaps our greatest opportunity to have faith are times when there seems to be no reason and yet we know God is in control.

Job sought for answers during the course of his affliction. He suffered great financial and personal loss. In the end, God made it clear that He alone is sovereign. Although He may give us an answer, He owes us no explanation. This loving, caring God we serve has an eternal perspective to which we cannot imagine nor debate. Trust in God even when life makes no sense.

Prayer for Today

God, help me today to fully trust in You. Without regard to the situation, trial, or tragedies of this world, I choose to believe that You love me, will never leave or forsake me, and that You have a good plan for my future. My confidence is in You alone.

Scriptures for Today

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him; but I will maintain mine own ways before him. (KJV)

Psalms 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. (KJV)

*Our minds create the world we live in
and determine how we live in the world
we are in!*

June 5

What we think about who we are and what we can do either limits us or takes the limits off our life. Each of us creates the world we live in and fill that world with our thoughts. Perhaps this is one reason why the Bible has so much to say about our thought life. In fact, Proverbs 23:7 says, “As a man thinks in his heart so is he...”

What do you think about yourself? What world have you created? How are you approaching and living life? Are you a victor or a victim? Do you imagine yourself succeeding or failing? Do you think God loves and has a plan for your life or do you feel He has forgotten you? The battle for who you are and how you will live begins and ends in your mind. Fill your mind with God’s Word and let Him control your thinking.

Prayer for Today

Father, I choose to fill my mind with Your Word and live life from Heaven’s perspective. I cast down vain imaginations and thoughts of myself and others which run contrary to Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things. (NKJV)

***God does not first seek our permission
before He upsets our plans***

June 6

Life is a journey, a script that only God can write and an adventure beyond this world. God is both the author and the finisher of our life and He sees the end from the beginning. Our life is God's plan and He orchestrates all things to work according to His will and purpose. We may ponder our path but it is the Lord who directs our steps.

What may seem like a surprise to you is a plan to God and God does not first have to seek our permission before he upsets our plans. Life demands we make decisions and God demands we lay those decisions in His hand and trust Him to change what needs changing and fulfill His will, not ours.

Prayer for Today

Father, guide me today and help me to take the road You have designed for me. Help me to realize that I am probably more in Your will than I realize. I want to follow You and Your plan for Your destination is best.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. (NKJV)

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. (NKJV)

The army of God is not intended to preserve where God has been and what God has done, but rather to pursue where God wants to go and what God wants to do

June 7

Those called to His army must understand that we are to *engage and advance* this Gospel until the whole world has heard. We cannot become satisfied with what God has already done but must press ever forward to accomplish all He wants to do. The Church, God's army, is not a refrigerator but rather an incubator.

Sinners are being born every day and generations pass from this earth having lived their chance to hear the Good News and make Jesus their Lord. It is not enough that one generation has heard ... every generation must hear. And we must therefore press on ever vigilant and ever determined to accomplish God's will while we yet have time.

Prayer for Today

Father, give me the grace and the stamina to work in Your fields as long as I have life. Help me to teach others the value of pressing on with the Great Commission until the whole world hears.

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. (KJV)

Philippians 3:13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. (NLT)

*One day the choices you make in life
will become your final testimony*

June 8

Your life's story is like a book you are constantly writing, page after page, written about each decision and every action of life. In fact, even your thoughts are being recorded for eternity's final review. Our eternal life is secured by the decision you make to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is by His blood and His blood alone that we are saved.

However, each person will receive eternal rewards, beyond salvation, based upon their decisions and works done while in this life. At any time we are free to close a chapter in life and begin writing a new story which will one day be told as our final testimony. David did it; Peter did it; Zacchaeus did it; Ruth did it; Rahab did it; Paul did it ... and so can you!

Prayer for Today

Father, the choices I make today will affect the future. Since the short time I have on Earth is the only chance I get to impact eternity, please help me to make wise choices. Help me to have a Kingdom perspective when I set the priorities of my life. With Your grace, I begin today.

Scriptures for Today

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (NKJV)

Life is more than an open door

June 9

Opportunities abound in life and offer many directions which we could easily choose. However, just because we have an opportunity to take a job in another city or purchase something new does not always mean it is the will of God. Neither is it always the will of God to go through a door of life just because it is open and inviting. Life is more than an open door.

Our decisions should be based on leadership which agrees with the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and counsel from friends, family, or others whom God has placed in our life. Make sure that you are not living life accepting every open door of opportunity as the Divine will of God.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, teach me to know Your Word, to be led by Your Spirit and to receive the voice of godly counsel so that I may be found doing Your will and not my own. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (KJV)

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (KJV)

*It's not about what you have ... it's
what you do with what you have that
makes a difference*

June 10

I have heard it said that people seldom care what you know until they know that you care. It's the same when people look at what you have. Until you are willing to do something that truly benefits others with what you have, what you have will make no real difference to anyone but you.

God told Abraham that He would bless Him and would make Him a blessing. It would have mattered very little if Abraham were to have been accepted and blessed by God and decided to keep that blessing for himself. Rather he took Isaac by an act of faith, offered him to God as a symbol of what God would one day do with Jesus, His Son. What Abraham did with what God gave him and what we do with what He gives us is all that makes the difference.

Prayer for Today

Father, just like the little boy with the fish and loaves, I want to take what I have, offer it to You and make a difference. Help me to not be selfish and to bless others with the blessings You give me.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (NKJV)

John 6:11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and passed them out to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate until they were full. (NLT)

*God has a plan and He will succeed
and you have a chance to participate*

June 11

Once again, the Bible tells us that God knows the end from the beginning. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the author and the finisher of our faith. Only God, who knows all things which have been, which presently are, and which shall ever be could orchestrate lives, manage situations, create circumstances, and fulfill dreams as He works all things together to accomplish His will.

Not one Bible character of old or one single person living today need fear their future or the final outcome if they only put their faith in God and His Son Jesus, the Messiah. God has a plan. He will succeed and you have a chance to participate.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for loving me! You didn't let anything stop You from giving me eternal life, and I'm so grateful for that! Please don't let me stop You from giving others the same gift. I want what You want, Sir – for everyone to know You. Please, show me how You are using even the hard times in my life to draw others to You.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 46:10 Be silent, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. (NKJV)

*The problem with a dollar is that it
only spends one time*

June 12

God's Word speaks to us about our personal finances. In fact, Jesus had more to say about money than He did about Heaven and hell, combined. It is the plan of God that you have things. However, He does not want things having you. When God blesses us, we become stewards of those blessings and as such we are expected to manage our money with godly wisdom and Biblical principle.

Many times the reason you cannot buy what you want is because you bought what you wanted. It is important that we manage our money with God's purposes in mind and not just our own. The problem with a dollar, even when it is given to us by God, is that it only spends one time. Spend your money wisely.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for providing all my needs! I know everything I have belongs to You. Please show me where I can make wiser choices in where I spend my dollar. I know You will take care of me and bless me for my obedience. Please take what I give and use it to make an eternal difference.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 6:19-20b Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in Heaven... (NLT)

Ephesians 5:15-16 So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. (NLT)

*Could it be that God placed you right
where you are to serve a greater
purpose than you think?*

June 13

Esther was scared, and rightfully so. She had gone – literally – from the poorhouse to the palace, because of God’s favor on her life. Esther was a captive in a foreign country, and when word went out that the king was looking for a new bride, she was selected as a candidate. Eventually, she was chosen to be the new queen. What a dream come true! She seemed destined to be there. Then, just when life seemed so good, disaster struck. A plot to kill her whole race was set in motion, and only the king could stop it. As his queen, she could ask for his help. But the law of the land declared that if she came unannounced before the king, she could be killed, unless he granted her favor.

Esther was scared, and didn’t know what to do. She asked her uncle for advice. He knew that God had a plan for his people, and that Esther’s new role as queen was God’s doing. He told her that her destiny (as queen) was an opportunity to participate in God’s plan. Have you questioned your role in life? Could it be that God placed you right where you are to serve a greater purpose than you think? Ask Him to reveal to you how your destiny is an opportunity to participate in His plan.

Prayer for Today

Father, I know You have a plan – not just for the whole world, but for me, too. Please show me my role, and give me the courage to carry it out. Your ways are perfect – thank You for being such a great Father.

Scripture for Today

Esther 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this? (NKJV)

***The WHY is less important when the
WHO is God***

June 14

Throughout the Bible many people were told by God to do certain things which seemed, in that moment, to make no sense. For example, Namaan the leper, was told to dip in the Jordan River seven times; Ezekiel was told to shave his head; The widow was told to send her sons and borrow empty pots from her neighbors; Jesus made mud and smeared it on a blind man's eyes, telling him to go and wash; Paul and Silas began to sing while in prison at midnight ... all of these things made no sense and yet they all were apart of God's miracle plan for their life.

The *why* is less important when we know the *who* is God. Don't limit God to earthly wisdom, human logic, or your own understanding. Let God be God.

Prayer for Today

Lord, there are some things I may not understand and, at times, perhaps I will not know why You have me say what I say or do what I do, however, I pledge to always obey You and follow Your word.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 78:41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel. (NKJV)

Matthew 13:58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you. (NLT)

*It's pointless to have a purpose with no
plan*

June 15

Dreams and visions are the language of the Spirit and as such God inspires each person with greatness beyond their current moment. However, the inspiration of God is not all it will take to accomplish His purpose for your life. In order for us to be successful, we must be diligent to not only hear what God wants done but also be diligent to know how He wants us to accomplish His will before we do it.

Noah heard God tell him to build a boat. However, without God's instruction on boat building, followed by Noah's hard work for more than one hundred years, the Ark would never have existed. God told Moses to build a tabernacle and then gave him detailed instructions on every facet of the project. It then took Moses and the children of Israel many months to complete God's plan. Be diligent to know God's will and to get God's plan. Then work to see it come to pass.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to fulfill Your purpose for my life. Give me Your plans and grant me the strength to work and see Your will come to pass.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty. (NKJV)

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. (NKJV)

Matthew 9:38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (NKJV)

*Why settle for being captain when you
are destined to be king*

June 16

There was a point in David's life when he was captain of all the armies of Israel. He was very successful in this role, so successful in fact that ballads were written of his victories declaring no one else could match his acclaim. David was surrounded by faithful men, who followed him without question and supported his every decision. David could have imagined himself to be in his greatest day, enjoying his success, and looking forward to retiring with fame. However, God had called him to something greater than this.

Destiny demands that we forget those things which are behind and press forward to those things which are yet before, that we might achieve our highest calling of God through Christ Jesus. Perhaps you are at some level of present success and yet God has inspired you to greater things. There may be a cost to stepping out in faith, but what will it cost if you don't?

Prayer for Today

Dear God, help me to not settle for less than my greatest offering to You. Give me the grace to reach my highest calling and experience my greatest potential in service to Your Kingdom.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. (KJV)

***The generation that sees Jesus return
will be a Church that has prepared for
His return***

June 17

Since the time of Christ, Christians have been looking for His return. Every generation of believers for the last 2000 years has hoped they would see Him in their lifetime. What has Jesus been hoping? He is hoping that each generation would advance His Kingdom by making disciples of all nations and proclaiming His Gospel throughout every nation of the world.

Your generation has a job to do and as yet it remains unfinished. Jesus will not return until the work is complete. The generation that sees Jesus' return will be the generation that has prepared for His return. What can you do today?

Prayer for Today

Father, Give our generation a passion for reaching the world with the news of Christ. Give us an urgency, and help us to not miss any opportunity to spread the Gospel.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (NLT)

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband. (NLT)

Revelation 22:20b "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! (NLT)

*It may only take courage or charisma
to get it, but it will definitely take
character to keep it*

June 18

You can do anything you put your mind to... whatever your goal is, it can be reached if you have enough guts and gusto to go for it. But by the time many people get where they want to be in life, they start to let their priorities slip; They're tempted to allow unimportant things to distract them from the path; Sometimes they even begin to let their integrity and morals decline.

King Saul witnessed this in his own life. His kingship didn't last because he failed to be faithful and obedient to God's commands. Whatever you're pursuing in life – remember it may only take courage or charisma to get it, but it will definitely take character to keep it. Allow God to perform a character check in your life today.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I want Your character to be evident in my life. Help me to be faithful in even the smallest things; and when I achieve my goals, help me to remain humble and obedient to Your commands. Please show me areas of my life that need adjusting. Thank You, Father, for Your mercy and grace.

Scriptures for Today

1 Samuel 13:13-14 “How foolish!” Samuel exclaimed. “You have disobeyed the command of the LORD your God. Had you obeyed, the LORD would have established your Kingdom over Israel forever. “But now your dynasty must end, for the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart. The LORD has already chosen him to be king over his people, for you have not obeyed the LORD's command.” (NLT)

1 Samuel 15:26b Since you have rejected the LORD's command, he has rejected you from being the king of Israel. (NLT)

*Poverty is a state of mind not a
condition of life*

June 19

Living within the confines of a poverty mentality will cost you everything you have: your joy, your peace, your goodness, and your eternal rewards. A poverty mentality can stem either from a root of selfishness, laziness, or a lack of faith. It can also come from generational curses which are passed down through our family, our culture, or conditions of life. God, however, has no poverty mentality.

The description of Heaven is one which includes streets of gold, gates of pearl, and ornaments of precious stones. God's will for His children is an abundant life mentality, trusting their Heavenly Father that He will supply all their needs, according to His riches not according to their needs. A person's wealth is not determined by the abundance of things he possesses. Break that spirit of poverty and begin participating in God's plan for your life.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to see myself as You see me and change me to become like You need me to be. Break any spirit of poverty off my life and set me free in Jesus' name!

Scriptures for Today

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
(NKJV)

Proverbs 10:15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty. (KJV)

Proverbs 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread. (NKJV)

Poverty is a state of mind; Poor is a condition of life ... both are subject to change

June 20

I have known people and books have been written about people who own much and yet have very little. Their greedy and fear-filled lives hold them captive to living a miserly existence, hoarding everything they can, never enjoying what they have or using it to any benefit at all. With all their accumulated wealth, these people die rich but yet in poverty. You see, poverty is a state of mind.

I have also known people who were poor and had very little of this world's goods to their name. Yet, in some cases these poor possessed much more than money could ever buy. Love, joy, peace, patience are fruits of the Spirit, not fruits of wealth. However, neither those in poverty nor the poor are destined to remain as they are. Change is available for all mankind and change can begin in your life today. Trust God with what you have and He will give you more. Begin today by sowing your seeds for a future harvest.

Prayer for Today

Father, I choose to trust You with what I have. Help me to study Your Word and find Your path to prosperity and give me wisdom to help others along the way.

Scriptures for Today

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (NKJV)

Luke 19:8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." (NKJV)

Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given. (NKJV)

It is a brave thing to set out in search of your enemies. However, courage is what you need when you find them.

June 21

More than likely you've heard the story of David and Goliath countless times. A young shepherd boy nobly decided he would stand up against the Philistine giant who threatened the army of Israel. When David volunteered to fight Goliath, no one believed he was able. Many brave men had pursued their Philistine enemies to this point, but when it came to the fight, none had the courage.

Courage is not the absence of fear. It is what brave men do in the face of fear. David's bravery was more than mere talk. In the face of this giant, David declared his faith and won the battle. Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world. Don't let your enemies turn on you and face you down. Be courageous and engage them by faith.

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You, for Your Word says You will never leave me or forsake me. You tell us not to fear; help me to obey Your Word, fill me with courage and faith that You will never let me down. Thank You for being my rock and my fortress.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 121:1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills-From whence comes my help? (KJV)

Isaiah 12:2 See, God has come to save me. I will trust in Him and not be afraid. The LORD GOD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (NLT)

Romans 8:31b If God is for us, who can ever be against us? (NLT)

Romans 8:37b ...overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. (NLT)

*Timing is critical and is often
determined by things beyond our
control*

June 22

One theme that Jesus often used to explain the Christian experience was agriculture. He spoke in concepts of sowing seeds, bearing fruit, and reaping a harvest. There's a mystery wrapped up in planting seeds and seeing them grow. The timing of planting and the balance of sunlight and water have to be right to produce a harvest. We can keep working, have the right tools ready, and know what to look for, but the miracle of the seed bearing fruit is ultimately out of our hands.

Timing is critical, and timing is often determined by things beyond our control. The farmer can't predict or control when the sun will shine or the rain will fall, but he can keep working and be ready when harvest comes. In much the same way, our job is not to understand God's timing, but to be ready when the time comes. Remember, you don't have to understand how God's Kingdom works to be a worker in it.

Prayer for Today

Lord, there are so many things beyond my control, but I trust Your perfect timing in everything that goes on in my life. Help me to work hard and be faithful in my responsibilities because I know You will follow through with a bountiful harvest.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 4:26-29 Jesus also said, "Here is another illustration of what the Kingdom of God is like: A farmer planted seeds in a field, and then he went on with his other activities. As the days went by, the seeds sprouted and grew without the farmer's help, because the earth produces crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle." (NLT)

2 Timothy 4:2 ...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (NAS)

1 Peter 3:15 ...you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. (NLT)

*The birth of a new future will put an
end to the old past*

June 23

The quality of our future for a certainty is predicated on the plans and decisions we make today. Sometimes we are driven by our convictions but our values are wrong. The Apostle Paul, when he was known as Saul, was a threat to the early Church. On the road to Damascus he had a life changing encounter with God. In just days God took him from a slaughtering, threat-breathing zealot against God and His people to a Holy Spirit filled preacher. Acts, the ninth chapter, says that straightway Paul preached Christ, that He is the Son of the living God.

The birth of a new future will put an end to the old past. Paul's goal was to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to be all Christ had in mind for him. Paul said "this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching for those things which are before." This is a good example for all of us to follow. Don't dwell in the past. Instead, grow in the knowledge of God by concentrating on your relationship with Him now. Know that you are forgiven, and then move to a life of faith and obedience. Look forward to a more meaningful life because of your hope in Christ.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for Your saving grace. By the blood of Christ I am free from my past. I commit to You today to know You more, be more like You, and to live my life according to Your will.

Scripture for Today

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)

*Seldom will a person die for something
they are unwilling to live for*

June 24

John the Baptist said that he baptized in water but when Messiah came He would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. In Luke 24, Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high. Acts 1:8 continued by saying that everyone who received this Holy Spirit power would be given the ability to be a witness. The word witness in Acts 1:8 means to be a martyr.

Martyrdom is not relegated to dying only but, in this context, it is also understood to mean living your life abandoned to anything else but God's will. As the Apostle Paul said "to live is Christ, to die is gain." Many believers imagine themselves willing to die for Christ. However, seldom will a person die for something they are unwilling to live for.

Prayer for Today

Father, I give You my life. I choose to live my life abandoned to Your cause and be a witness for You in every circumstance of life. Give me Your grace Sir, in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (NKJV)

Colossians 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (NKJV)

If there is nothing in your world which you would give your life for, then sadly you are the most important thing you know

June 25

To everything we attach some value and often make purchases or trades in efforts to obtain something we value more than the price we are paying. The law of exchange makes it seem unreasonable that we would purposefully pay more for something than it's worth or that we would give our best for something less. God gave His Son in exchange for your life and He thinks He got the best deal!

The scriptures tell us Jesus laid down His life for you so you ought to lay your life down for others. Greater love has no one than this that a man would lay down his life for his friends. If there is nothing in your world which you would give your life for, then sadly you are the most important thing you know.

Prayer for Today

Thank You Father for the life You have allowed me to live in this world. Thank You for saving me and for the value You place on my life. Teach me to value others, if not from my own perspective, then certainly from Yours. Show me how I can daily give portions of my life to accomplish Your will.

Scriptures for Today

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (NKJV)

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (NKJV)

Where we begin the journey is not as important as where we end

June 26

Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute who ended up becoming a princess of Judah and the mother of Boaz. Ruth was a barren Moabite widow and beggar who ended up marrying Boaz and becoming the mother of Obed. Leah was an unwanted bride and unloved wife of Jacob who ended up becoming the mother of Judah. All of these women, along with several others, did not begin life well and although they encountered many difficulties along the way, ended up in the list among the great great grandmothers of Jesus.

Where we begin the journey is not as important as where we end. Perhaps at this point in your life you are experiencing less than you imagined life would be or should be. Maybe circumstances or situations beyond your control have seemingly locked you in to a life less than you desire. Do not despair, God has not forgotten you and He has a plan to take you to your greatest day. Trust in Him and let Him be your guide.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father, please grant me the wisdom and grace to endure the process of life, knowing it will lead me through these days and to Your best in my future.

Scriptures for Today

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

***Trust me, when God says you are
wrong, you are wrong***

June 27

Most of the time when people think they are wrong, they will change their mind because everyone likes to be right. We tend to justify what we think, what we want, and what we feel in light of the circumstances and situations we face and many times may see ourselves as right when viewed from our perspective. For example, if someone has hurt you deeply, betrayed you, or maliciously slandered you, you might feel justified in not forgiving that person. Even though you know God's Word tells you to forgive. The same thing happens with other directives from God's Word: commands such as submit, obey, love, don't lie, and many others. Without regard as to what you may feel or why you may feel that way, when God says you are wrong, you are wrong ... and it's wrong to disobey God.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I surrender myself to You and to Your mercy. Reveal to me any areas in my life that are wrong before You. I confess my sins. Cover them with Your blood and cause my hands and my heart to be pure in Your holiness.

Scripture for Today

Psalms 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. Then I will go unto the altar of God; unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, oh God my God. (KJV)

*Calling is the opportunity God gives us,
while grace is the ability He lends us to
seize that opportunity*

June 28

God had heard the cries of His people held captive in Egypt, and He had a plan for their deliverance. In His way and perfect timing, He enlisted Moses to make the journey to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to free the children of Israel. This story is full of miraculous incidents – from the plagues to the parting of the Red Sea. God could have single-handedly freed His people from the grip of Pharaoh, but He chose to let a mere man play an important part in the process. God had a plan; Moses had an opportunity to participate.

But Moses was at first unsure, and insecure, and God had to assure him that He would give him everything he needed to carry out the mission. Calling is the opportunity God gives us, while grace is the ability He lends us to seize that opportunity. Has God given you an opportunity you are insecure about? You can be sure that He will also supply the grace it takes to complete the task!

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for involving us in Your plans. Please remind me that You're always with me, and as I am faithful, You give me the abilities I need to succeed. Truly, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Scriptures for Today

Exodus 4:11-12 “Who makes mouths?” the Lord asked him. “Who makes people so they can speak or not speak ... Is it not I, the Lord? Now go, and do as I have told you. I will help you speak well, and I will tell you what to say.” (NLT)

Philippians 4:13 For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need. (NLT)

*We are either building bridges,
erecting barriers, or establishing
battlegrounds with others*

June 29

Sooner or later as we travel down life's road we will encounter an impasse in our relationship with others. It could be a spouse that suddenly decided to go a different direction, a friend that cut over into our space, or a work partner that stopped short of their promises. Let's not overlook the fact that we may have taken a wrong turn ourselves somewhere along the way.

What do we do at such a time in life? We should examine that relationship and situation in the light of God's Word. As we follow His roadmap, we will clearly see the beacon of forgiveness guiding us, mercy calling us, and grace supporting us. Remember, in every situation we are either building bridges, erecting barriers, or establishing battlegrounds with others ... it's often our choice.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me today to follow Your plan and way in everything, including my relationships with others. Forgive me where I may have taken a wrong turn and give me the grace and strength to offer that same forgiveness to others as I travel through life today.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (NKJV)

The cost is not always reflected in the price

June 30

I have an acquaintance who owns a home and a small olive grove on the Mount of Olives, just above the Garden of Gethsemane. This grove has been in his family for many years and he loves to share its beauty with pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. Each year he takes a portion of the olives he harvests and has them pressed. He then adds a local fragrance, bottles the mixture, and sells these small capsules of anointing oil to tourists. If you ask him the price of the oil, he will say \$10. However, to find the true cost one would rather need to ask the olive or even, perhaps, those many generations who gave their lives protecting and preserving that grove of olives. Many times the price does not reflect the true cost. The price we pay for salvation is nothing ... it is a free gift. However, the price in no way reflects the cost.

Prayer for Today

My Father, thank You for both paying the price and bearing the cost. Help me to truly value the contributions others make to my life and to be thankful for the blessings which cost so many so much. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

1 Peter 2:24 Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed. (NKJV)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (NKJV)

July



*It is not the law that we bind ourselves
and others to – but the Spirit*

July 1

The letter of the law condemns, criticizes, rejects, and kills but the Spirit of the law embraces, restores, encourages, and gives life. Law demands judgment while mercy frees us from the penalties and punishment of the law. When we judge ourselves and others by the letter of the law we often become harsh and set ourselves up to think and act as though we are policemen, judge, jury, jailer, or executioner. The law divides.

The Spirit of God is a spirit of mercy and we as God's children do not bind ourselves to the letter of the law but rather to God's intent ... and God never intended to divide Himself from His children or His children from one another. Be merciful.

Prayer for Today

Father forgive me where I have been critical, harsh, judgmental, or condemning toward others and even toward myself. Show me Your mercy and teach me to be merciful toward others and myself as well. Help me to understand the Spirit of the law and not just the letter.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (NKJV)

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (NKJV)

*Unwillingness to change seals who we
are*

July 2

Just because we have access to God's mercy does not mean that we shouldn't be willing to change where needed. A life unchallenged by God's Word is a life uncorrected and a life uncorrected is a life unchanged. Examine your life against the Word of God and, even though you know God will forgive you, don't be unwilling to change.

Remember, unchecked and unchallenged is unchanged and unwillingness to change seals who we are. Do not count yourself to have arrived at perfection yet. Be like clay in the hand of the Master Potter and don't be reluctant to change. Be merciful to yourself but be willing to change.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, give me wisdom to examine myself and to see the places in my life where I need to become more like You. I am willing to change my thoughts, change my words, change my actions to please You. Today, I will become more like Jesus.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-unless indeed you are disqualified. (NKJV)

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. (NKJV)

*Prayer that reaches the heart of God
comes from the heart of man*

July 3

The Bible teaches that prayer is basically directed to God for something and not to others, through others, or always against something. Prayer is normally directed to God in the name of Jesus and in agreement with God's known Word, understood ways, or revealed will. Misdirected prayers are often unanswered as revealed in James 4:3.

When we pray, our focus should be on God hearing our prayer and not on other people hearing our prayer. In other words, we should not use prayer time to preach, encourage, or instruct others as though we held a captive audience in this Holy moment. Prayer which reaches the heart of God comes from the heart of man.

Prayer for Today

Lord God, teach me to pray effectively in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

John 16:23-24 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (NKJV)

James 4:2-3 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (NKJV)

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (NKJV)

*Independence Day is whatever day you
decide to be free*

July 4

Each year the United States of America celebrates Independence Day on July the fourth in celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The date we choose to celebrate in no way reflects the end of the Revolutionary War or the withdrawal of the British troops from our nation's soil. That did not happen until 1790 when the last of Great Britain's occupying forces finally left New York City. The date we choose to celebrate marks one event and one event alone, our declaration of freedom.

Independence Day is whatever day you choose to be free and freedom begins with a declaration. Make your declaration today and refuse to be held captive any longer. Sin, sickness, worry, poverty, and defeat have no lasting claim on your life. The tyranny of oppression can be broken by your declaration as you begin a new day of freedom. Your troubles may not end immediately but you will be fighting from a new position of freedom and independence. Begin your march right now.

Prayer for Today

God, I declare my freedom from sin, sickness, worry, poverty, defeat, anxiety, oppression, fear, terror, turmoil, and every desire of the devil over my life right now in the Name of Jesus. I belong to the King of Kings and to the Lord of Lords, Jesus is His name, and I refuse to be held captive, judged, criticized or controlled by any other. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Today, I set my face like flint (Isaiah 50:7) and I know that I shall not be ashamed for the Lord is with me and if the Lord be for me who can be against me? I am free in Jesus' name. So be it.

Scriptures for Today

Job 22:28 You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways. (NKJV)

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (NKJV)

Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (NKJV)

***Overcorrection is nothing more than
an immature response in our
attempt to change***

July 5

Have you ever witnessed a child in their first attempt to steer a vehicle? It seems very difficult for them to stay in the roadway and out of the ditches. As the vehicle begins to stray, often just before disaster, they drastically change their course, causing them to head straight for another disaster. It seems their focus is on avoiding a wreck instead of staying on a safe path. Course correction after course correction creates weaving from one extreme to another. This is a common response called overcorrection.

Over reaction will often cause us to avert one problem only to find ourselves causing another. When change is needed, it's best to make the smallest corrections first, giving heed to what direction that correction will ultimately take you.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, give me the wisdom and foresight to make the changes necessary to my course of life without causing other problems along the way. Help me to focus farther down the road than just my moment. Thank You, Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (NKJV)

Proverbs 11:29 He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart. (NKJV)

*It is when we learn to follow that we
better qualify ourselves to lead*

July 6

In almost every situation of life, leaders arise. Leaders are often discovered because of their contributions made to the effort while following the leadership of others. The season of following in our lives is designed by God to give us time and opportunity to learn. Whether a little boy following his father or a little girl her mother, both are learning to become parents and spouses, productive members of the community. If they fail in learning to follow, it is likely to be more difficult for them to lead in the future.

It's the same way in other disciplines of life. Those desiring to learn a trade first become helpers, apprentices to skilled workers. As they are supervised and follow their leader's instruction, they better qualify themselves to become leaders. Christianity and Kingdom ministries are no different. Learn to follow and better qualify yourself to lead when God gives you the chance.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, help me to glean all I need in my season of learning to follow. Give me the grace to be content as I learn from others and grow toward standing in my highest calling in days to come.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the Word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. (NKJV)

Hebrews 6:12 That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (NKJV)

***Being against something does not
equal being for anything***

July 7

Galatians 5 lists both the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh. One of the works of the flesh is called jealousy. A simple understanding of this work of the flesh brings us to realize that jealousy can motivate us to, “seek to excel at the expense of another.” This is basically the art of putting someone else down so that you might appear better or needlessly tearing down one thing to boastfully build up another.

Life is filled with people who seem to be more interested in those things which they are *against* than toward those things which they are *for*. Being against one thing does not equal being for the other. Tearing down one thing does not equal building up another. Putting down one does not equal lifting up another. Make sure that you are not living life more interested and articulate concerning those things which you are against than you are toward those things which you support. Being against something does not equal being for anything.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, today I pledge to speak that which is good so that I might edify others, build them up, and encourage them. Set a watchman upon my lips and keep the door of my mouth so that nothing crooked comes forth to defile this temple. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (NKJV)

John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. (NKJV)

What would you do for God if you weren't afraid?

July 8

The children of Israel were told that God was taking them from their bondage in Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey which He had promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was evident that God was with them as they began their journey and performed miracles for them all along the way to that Promised Land. God parted the Red Sea and caused fresh bread to come down from Heaven for them each morning during their travels.

However, when it came time to advance and engage those obstacles which stood in their way, the Israelites failed to go forward out of fear. Fear stopped the blessings of God in that day and it will also stop God's blessings in our day. What would you do for God if you weren't afraid?

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I choose to be strong, bold, and courageous and to not be fretful or dismayed when faced with obstacles to doing Your will. Grant me the grace to go forward under the pressures of life and not allow fear to stop me. I know You will be with me.

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 1:6-9 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (NKJV)

*God thinks in the realm of what others
think of as impossibilities*

July 9

I understand that according to the physical laws of aerodynamics that it is impossible for the bumblebee to fly. The reason is that the limited amount of lift created by the bumblebee's wings cannot achieve or sustain the weight of the bumblebee's body. There simply is not enough lift or thrust to overcome gravity and drag. Therefore, the bumblebee cannot fly ... yet it does! How?

God created the bumblebee to fly and that's the only reason it does. Just as God created the bumblebee to fly, He created you to break the bonds of earthly limitations and to achieve the impossible just because He said you could. With only one Word from God, one divinely inspired thought, one touch from the Holy Spirit, you can break the impossible barriers that hold other men captive. Begin to think like God thinks by filling your mind with His Word and watch impossibilities become realities.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to think like You think and see things from Your perspective instead of being limited by the circumstances, situations, or limitations of this life. I believe in You and therefore all things are possible unto me.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." (NKJV)

Mark 10:27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." (NKJV)

Mark 14:36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." (NKJV)

*To be led by the Spirit can be as simple
as refusing to be led by any other
source*

July 10

Man was created a triune being: spirit, soul, and body. The original sin in the garden brought to birth a fourth element known as the flesh. The flesh is the driving force of fallen man's base nature. Man without God's influence is carnal and filled with fleshly appetites. Once born again, the Spirit of God in man wrestles with the flesh for control of our life. The soul of man is driven by wisdom, knowledge, emotion, and determination, while the body responds to the simple creature comforts commonly known to man. Every person will respond to some voice. It will be either the voice of the flesh, the voice of the soul, the voice of the body, or the voice of the Spirit. If a person can determine which voice is speaking, they can refuse any voice that is not the voice of the Spirit.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, help me to determine the voice in my life which is in agreement with Your Word, Your will, Your way. Teach me to distinguish between the voices which would take me farther from You and the voice of the Spirit.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (KJV)

Galatians 5:16-18 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (NKJV)

Failure is not defeat

July 11

The Believer's life is a struggle which the Bible teaches from the platform of victory. The person who is right with God will suffer many problems which are common to man, but the Lord will deliver him out of them all. In fact, the more a child of God is afflicted, the more he will multiply and grow. A righteous man may fall seven times but he will always rise again because it is the Lord who always gives us the victory and who always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus. No weapon that is formed can prosper against you and every tongue that rises to judge you will be condemned because this is a portion of your inheritance through Jesus Christ. Your steps are ordered of the Lord so that even if you were to fall you would not be completely cast down because of the Lord who will uphold you with His right arm so that none of your steps will slide. Failure is not defeat.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, bring back to my remembrance all the words which You have spoken to me and give me confidence to know You will never leave me and never forsake me so that I may boldly say, "If God is for me, who could be against me?"

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 37:23-26 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed. (NKJV)

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. (KJV)

*The old may be the new you have been
searching for*

July 12

When God says that there is nothing new under the sun, He did not mean that we would not gain revelation or make discoveries above what we know now and basically learn or do some things new to us. Rather, God meant that there is nothing new to Him nor will there ever be. The Bible tells us that God knows the end from the beginning, that He is the author and finisher of our faith, the first and the last, the old and the new. God even crucified His son before the foundation of the world.

Anytime a person hears some new idea, receives a personal revelation, or discovers a new way, they must test these new things against the established Word, will, and ways of God. Many people are led astray by new approaches to God which promise much and offer exciting adventures but end up being empty and hollow because they are not God. Don't overlook the simple truths and the long established principles of the Gospel in search of some new thing that you hope will satisfy your fascination.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, establish my heart on the simple foundation of Your Word. Help me not to be led astray by false doctrine or new approaches to salvation. Your way is my way, oh Lord ... teach me Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 1:9 That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. (NKJV)

Acts 17:21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. (NKJV)

Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (NKJV)

*God works with what we have when we
give it to Him*

July 13

2 Kings 4 begins with a story about a widow who was in trouble. It seems her husband had recently died, leaving her with two sons and a mountain of debt. After she had done everything she could to satisfy her creditors, they made final threat to place her sons into their service as indentured slaves until the whole of the debt was settled. Very distraught, this woman came to Elisha, the prophet of God. Upon hearing her story, the prophet asked her one simple question, “What do you have?” The woman’s reply was honest and from her heart, however, it was not the truth. She said, “I have nothing.” Indeed, as we read further, she did have nothing except a little oil, perhaps a cup full, in a clay jar. The prophet instructed this widow to let God have a chance and work with the little she had. When she gave God a chance with what she had, she received her miracle and her problems were solved. You can do the same. Give God a chance with what you have. Place it in His hands and believe for a miracle.

Prayer for Today

God, I know that all things are possible through You and that even I can do all things through Jesus who gives me strength. Take the little I have, I offer it to You, use it as You will and increase me today.

Scriptures for Today

2 Kings 4:1-2, 7 A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves.” So Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” And she said, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil.” Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest.” (NKJV)

Sometimes the greatest challenge we face is how to get complex people to accept the simple message we carry

July 14

Have you ever met someone so intelligent that simple things confused them, perhaps someone so good with numbers but, yet, unable to coordinate their clothing or interact socially? Life is filled with people who have different problems, perhaps one of the most challenging problems some people face is their difficulty to accept simple solutions to what they see as complex problems.

The Apostle Paul faced this challenge as he witnessed to various people groups in his day. In order to be successful, he discovered that he must find common ground with and learn to speak the life language of his listeners. Putting himself into their shoes first, offered him greater opportunity to deliver the simple message of Jesus to the complex cultures of his day. We can learn from his example.

Prayer for Today

Father, give me the grace to speak the language of my listeners so that I may be more effective in sharing the message of the Gospel of Christ to a world lost in darkness. Help me to listen before I speak and to attempt to understand others before trying to be understood myself.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. (NKJV)

*Your future is not determined by your
past but by your God*

July 15

Rahab was a prostitute who lived in Jericho approximately fifteen hundred years before Christ. She was a business woman who had worked to build her reputation and was well known in the city. All that she knew was connected to her past and it appeared that her future would just be more of the same. Living and working in a well established business with a long and prosperous history often exercises control over our lives, limiting our options and dictating our future. However, this was not so with Rahab. Rahab's life changed when she placed her future in God's hands instead of continuing to follow the same course of life she had always known.

It is the same with you. Your past cannot dictate or limit your future even when it seems like you have no options and your past is all you know ... God may have different plans. I challenge you to put your future in God's hands. Give Him an opportunity to change what needs changing and redirect your life to please His plan. It may require some bold new changes on your part, but never fear, God will be with you every step of the way.

Prayer for Today

Father God, if there is anything standing in my way, and limiting me from being all I can be for You, remove it I pray. I give the rest of my life to You. Change me, mold me, fill me, and use me. I am Yours.

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 2:1 Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there. (NKJV)

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. (NKJV)

What would you be willing to wager on a game that has already been played?

July 16

Imagine receiving a copy of tomorrow's newspaper and finding who won the World Series. Suppose you were the only one who knew for certain what the outcome would be so far in advance. What would you do? Perhaps like many, you too would take this extraordinary opportunity to make a wager and bet everything you had, everything you could get, and perhaps everything you could borrow on that sure outcome. It might also be prudent to contact your family and close friends to let them in on this opportunity of a lifetime. Why not spread the Good News?

This situation actually exists today and you have an opportunity to take advantage of knowing beforehand who wins the game. The Bible is a certified copy of tomorrow's news and guess what ... Jesus wins! What are you willing to wager on this game that has already been played?

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I believe that You have a plan, that You will succeed, and that I have a chance to participate. Give me the power to be a witness concerning the Word of the truth and the victory which is in Christ.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 4:3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (NKJV)

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (NKJV)

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." (KJV)

*One moment of favor is worth a
thousand days of labor*

July 17

Suppose God wanted to bless you beyond your wildest imagination. If He desired, He could cause you to find a ticket and win the lottery, or perhaps speak to someone in a dream to promote you. Throughout the scriptures we find God suddenly positioning people for their greatest day and often at a time when they least expect it. Such was the case with Joseph being taken from prison to Pharaoh, who then made him ruler over all the land. A similar thing happened to Daniel, who suddenly found himself in favor with the kings of the Empire.

In the New Testament, Jesus suddenly blessed Peter with an extraordinarily huge catch of fish, continuing the theme that one moment of God's favor is worth a thousand days of our own labor. Begin to believe in, trust in, and rely upon the favor of God to promote you and meet your needs.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, You have set Your favor upon me and given me every earthly and spiritual blessing in abundance. Open necessary doors for me and bring me into my greatest place to serve Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 75:6-7 For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. (NKJV)

Proverbs 3:3-4 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD. (NKJV)

*At times we are required to fully let go
of one thing before we can fully take
hold of another*

July 18

As a little boy, I went to a circus and found myself intrigued with the trapeze artists swinging high above the ground from one cross bar to another. I watched as they did their tricks, turning flips, rotating in mid air, catching one another with clasped hands, only to be gracefully released to the stationary platforms at each end. Through the years I have long thought about the principles of life I gleaned while reflecting on those performers. Their success required that they fully let go of one thing in order to fully take a firm grip on another. Much of life operates by the same principle. Holding on or half holding on to the past, even with all its benefits, can at times leave us unable to fully take firm hold on the future God is offering us. It can be difficult to let go of some past experiences, however, it is often more difficult to drag those experiences with you through life, allowing them to ill affect your progress. So, if you find it hard to let go, ask God for help and get fully engaged again in life.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, please help me to put my past in its proper perspective and to let go of those things which are hindering me from moving on in my life and Your will. Thank you, Sir, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 43:18-19 Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. (NKJV)

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

*We are often unwilling to hear what we
are unwilling to do*

July 19

Many times people come to me in hopes that I can help them solve some problem of life. Others often seek my advice to help with their job, finances, marriage, and other relationships of life. On rare occasions, I find that some people have already made up their minds as to what platform of counsel they will and will not entertain. I find very little success when faced with someone who has already closed the door to effective remedies simply because they don't want to do it. We are often unwilling to hear what we are unwilling to do.

Ask yourself the question: "Am I closed minded to God's Word or to godly counsel no matter its demand?" What remedy are you unwilling to hear? I counsel you, do not refuse your only hope of help ... hear the Word of the Lord and repent.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, open up my mind to Your Word, will, and way. Challenge me with godly counsel so that I may choose you in all I do.

Scriptures for Today

John 6:60, 66 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (NKJV)

Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (NKJV)

*Just because it's over doesn't mean it
wasn't good*

July 20

Have you ever seen parents struggling to reason with a crying child who is out of control and pitching a fit because it's time to leave the amusement park at closing time? Even though they have been there all day long riding the rides, eating the cotton candy, buying the balloons, and seeing the shows, and even though the family has spent lots of money and had loads of fun, the child refuses to let it end on a good note. The parents often say things like, "There's nothing we can do, the park is closing," or "We can come back another day," or "If you don't quit crying, I'm never bringing you back," or "If I had known you were going to act like this, I would never have brought you in the first place." All of these statements are said in efforts to keep the day from becoming a waste.

The facts are things begin and things end. When things come to their end, they should be remembered for the good and the fun and the benefit they were, instead of making a complete tragedy out of the whole thing by refusing to acknowledge it's over. Just because it's over doesn't mean it wasn't good. Resolve yourself to remember that it was a good ride while you look forward to the next adventure which surely looms on the horizon.

Prayer for Today

My Father in heaven, You see the end from the beginning and all moments joined together to complete the picture we call eternity. Give me the grace and the wisdom to see from the greater perspective as things begin and things end without my control. Keep Your guiding hand upon my life and prepare me for my next great adventure, in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Joshua 1:1-2 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them-the children of Israel. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything there is a season ... (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 7:8 The end of a thing is better than its beginning. (NKJV)

Most often the first step is yours to take

July 21

It is finished! On Calvary's cross, God purchased the rights to make every spiritual and earthly blessing and benefit available to you. God extended His grace to all mankind and by that grace made provision for our every need. If Jesus paid for it on the cross with the stripes on His back being rejected by this world, then it is yours. Basically, all that can be done by God has already been done. It's your turn now.

Just like the widow in 1 Kings 17 who had already been commanded by God to sustain the prophet Elijah, God's will and provision was in place and in order to access that provision she had to take the first step. "Make me a cake first," was Elijah's counsel, "and God will be your continual supply." Perhaps your salvation requires you to take the first step now.

Prayer for Today

God, I choose to not sit around just waiting on You to come to my rescue. I realize that You have already rescued me in Christ and now it's my turn to take advantage of Your provision. Show me my first step.

Scriptures for Today

1 Kings 17:13-16 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'" So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah. (NKJV)

Who in hell are you?

July 22

We must know Jesus and not just know about Him. Our personal relationship with Jesus causes us to be a reflection of His Glory and, therefore, makes us the light of the world. Scripture declares that we shine like lights in the midst of darkness. Not only do the people of this world see our light and glorify God but, also, the spirits in this world can readily determine our righteous estate and the reality of our relationship with Jesus.

Case in point: the account in Acts 19 where seven men, sons of the chief of the priests, who heard Paul preaching Jesus, decided they would cast out an evil spirit from a man they cornered. The evil spirit answered them saying, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Knowing about Jesus does not equal knowing Him and if you don’t know Him, others know. So, who in hell are you?

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I want to know You and Your Son in such a depth that my light shines before men and evil spirits tremble in my presence. Therefore, I repent of my sin and am cleansed from all unrighteousness and receive Your power to be a demonstration of the Gospel.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 19:15-16 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. (NKJV)

*Don't say no to eternal life for
someone else*

July 23

Imagine that your mother or brother or some close friend was visiting your home while you were out running errands. Suppose a car pulled up in front of your house and some well dressed attorneys approached your door with some great news ... you have been named in the will of a very wealthy man, who has died and left you billions of dollars. Consider how you would feel and the lasting effect it would make if someone at your house were to think that you would not be interested in such good news and therefore decided not to tell you about your inheritance. You might go for weeks, months, years, or perhaps a lifetime and may never find out on your own. This seems unimaginable, yet it happens every day when people withhold the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, deciding not to tell others about their inheritance, thinking for some reason, that they would not be interested. Never say no to eternal life for someone else.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, I want to be a bearer of Good News to people all over the world. Give me the vision to believe that no one wants to refuse the Good News of their inheritance. I will never say no to salvation for someone else. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 9:16-17 Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect. (NLT)

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.(NKJV)

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (NKJV)

*It's dangerous to measure other
people's dreams by your own
ignorance*

July 24

It concerns me to realize that every opinion we have is based on nothing more than the limited amount of information we possess on that subject at that particular time. There is no way that we can know everything about everything. When we judge other people's dreams, achievements, accomplishments, abilities, wisdom, work, or worth we do so from a very limited perspective. Unless we already know everything, we are a candidate to learn something and often what we may learn is that our opinion was not as correct as we may have imagined. This is one reason why first impressions can be so misleading. I have often said that we should be patient enough to hang around long enough to be impressed at least once, depressed at least once, and then for an additional period of time before deciding whether or not we have found a true friend. Don't be too quick to judge.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, forgive me for judging others and limiting them only to what I currently believe about them. Give me the grace to be patient and allow Your Holy Spirit to reveal Heaven's perspective in Your good time.

Scriptures for Today

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment. (NKJV)

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. (NKJV)

Matthew 7:1-2 Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. (NKJV)

Pray the promise, not the problem

July 25

Instead of telling your God how big your problems are, consider telling your problems how big your God is. For many people, prayer time equals complaint time. They always go to prayer with a list of grievances they have against life, difficulties in relationships, or shortages in income. They spend their time telling God all about their problems instead of taking His Word and giving voice to their faith in prayer.

The book of Numbers, chapters thirteen and fourteen, tells the story of twelve men who all saw the same thing and gave voice to their perspectives. Ten of those men talked only about the problem while two, Joshua and Caleb, spoke the promises. In the end, God declared that what he had heard each of them say is how their life would unfold. What do you see, promises or problems?

Prayer for Today

Father, I do not want to be like those who murmured and complained in their wilderness experience. They never entered in to the peace You promised. Rather, Lord, remind me to lift my voice of prayer with faith and confidence that Your promises will come to pass in my life.

Scriptures for Today

Numbers 14:28 Say to them, “As I live,” says the LORD, “just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you.” (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 10:10 ... nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (NKJV)

Numbers 11:1 Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. (NKJV)

Meanings are not in words, they are in people. Don't let terminology get you crossways with truth.

July 26

Words are imprecise vehicles of communication. If I were to say the color *green*, you could not from that one statement determine exactly what color I was attempting to describe. Do you imagine the green of grass in the spring or the dull green of a military uniform? Who can know which one I am referring to or if it might even be a third shade which you would not consider green at all? Understanding what people mean takes more than merely hearing their words. Sometimes people say “I love you” or “I hate you” when they really don't mean it because meanings are not in words but in people. In order to understand the words we must understand the individual. For this reason, it is important that we have a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus so that we might know Him in the fellowship of the Spirit in order to gain a better understanding of His Word.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to know You in Word and in Spirit. Reveal Yourself to me and give me a greater understanding of the intent, and not just the letter of Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NKJV)

Philippians 3:10 That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. (KJV)

*We aren't impressed with how much
our child's teacher knows but rather
how much our child learns*

July 27

First grade teachers aren't stupid. It is not that first grade teachers do not know advanced mathematics; rather it is that they hopefully have the good sense not to attempt to teach advanced mathematics to first graders. We expect teachers to know more than our children, however, we do not expect our children to leave their classrooms armed only with the knowledge that their teacher is awesome and knows so much more than they do. We expect our children to be taught more than this ... so does God. God expects his teachers and preachers to know more than His newborn children. He, too, is disappointed when all that His children learned is that some preacher or Sunday School teacher is awesome and knows more than they do. Consider today what others are learning from you. Is it what they need or is it what you need?

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I want to be a life changer, not building my own reputation, but rather, building Your Kingdom in the lives of those who listen to me. Give me wisdom, oh Lord, to teach Your Word in such a way that others might be able to understand it and grow thereby. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 14:19 Yet in the Church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some. (NKJV)

Signs are for unbelievers

July 28

We put up signs such as ‘Keep off the Grass’, ‘Do Not Enter’, or ‘Danger’ in order to inform people who simply may not know. Signs are also used to remind people of things they should or should not do. When the Apostle Paul told the Church in Corinth that tongues are a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not, he was encouraging believers of his day to not be ashamed about being filled with the Holy Spirit. Neither should we.

There are many changes which should come to our lives once we are born again and become living examples of God’s Word. These changes set us apart from others who may not yet know Jesus and even those who do know Him but need to be reminded of the relationship to which they have committed. Unbelievers will be affected as you live your life for Jesus as salt and light to a lost and hurting world.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I choose to not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of the testimony I have in You. Thank You for changing my life and helping me to live as a witness to Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 14:22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. (NKJV)

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (NKJV)

Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. (NKJV)

*Not everyone who agrees with you is
your friend*

July 29

Many crimes are committed by more than one individual who are in agreement as to the benefits of their actions. Seldom do people imagine themselves getting caught and being forced to pay by serving time in jail. However, the jails and prisons in almost every country are filled to capacity and overflowing with men and women who thought they had a good idea and many of them found someone to agree with them and even assist them in their crime. Just because someone agrees with you does not make what you are considering right nor does it mean they are your friend. Friends don't let friends make such mistakes without a challenge. Truth is not determined by a show of hands. Don't accept the false sense of security which comes from surrounding yourself with people who only agree with you. Seek godly counsel and take your concerns to God's Word.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, give me true friends who will speak Your Word to me in my hour of need. Help me also to be the kind of friend to others who does not agree with what is wrong but risks being responsibly honest with those who ask.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. (KJV)

Romans 3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written, "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged." (NKJV)

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (NKJV)

There is no problem so big that you cannot out live it, out last it, or out distance it

July 30

There is no problem so big that you cannot out live it, out last it, or out distance it if only you will get on the right road and stay on that road until you get to where you want to be. Bad decisions, wrong decisions, and costly mistakes are a part of the process and not the problem. The story of your life has not been fully written yet and every day we have a chance to begin a new chapter ... it's only a decision.

I challenge you right now to decide you are going to have a new day. Put the past behind you along with your failures and your successes. Ask God to give you a fresh vision for your future and take the necessary steps to move yourself closer to your destiny each day.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, show me the right road today and give me a fresh vision for my future. Take me from where I am to my greatest day so that I can accomplish all Your will. I let go of my yesterdays and take the next step into Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (NKJV)

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

*Your success may be the direct result
of whether or not you can endure the
process*

July 31

Life is a process and often a journey with unexpected terms, and success in life is more than a one step process. Bible character after Bible character become our heroes of faith by not allowing disappointments to permanently derail them from their pursuits. Time and again, David faced hardship on his journey to the throne. Joseph also encountered many difficulties between his father's house and the palace. This is the way of life.

David declared that the righteous may fall seven times and yet he would rise again. Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord will deliver them out of them all. These scriptures speak to us the benefit of having constant faith in accomplishing God's will. Life is a process, more than a one step process, and your success may be the direct result of whether or not you can endure the process.

Prayer for Today

Father, I am determined to put my hand to Your work and not grow weary or faint because of adversities and/or disappointment. Give me the strength to stand my ground and accomplish Your will, no matter the cost.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. (KJV)

Proverbs 24:10 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small. (NKJV)

Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. (NKJV)

August



*Jesus left His throne in glory for you;
How hard is it for you to leave your
throne for Him?*

August 1

The New Testament tells us about a man of high status who could not fully follow Jesus because he loved his money too much. You can read this story for yourself in Luke 18. Jesus summed up the encounter by sharing how hard it is for rich people to give control of their wealth to another, even God.

It's not only money people struggle with in efforts to stay in control. Often times people find it difficult to yield their opinions, cease their pursuits, give up in some struggle, even when they find themselves running contrary to God's Word and will. Submission to the Lordship of Jesus demands that we put Him on the throne of our life. Jesus left His throne in glory for you; How hard is it for you to leave your throne for Him?

Prayer for Today

Lord, You gave Your Son Jesus for me. It is nothing for me to yield control of my life to You. I know You have a good plan for me. Help me to discern areas of my life where I still want to be in control. You alone are God!

Scriptures for Today

Mark 8:35-36 If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life. And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? (NLT)

*Everyone is a candidate
to learn something*

August 2

Exactly how deep is the deepest point in the Pacific Ocean in millimeters? Or, can you tell me how far the North Star is from Earth to the nearest kilometer? If you do not know these things then it would stand to reason that you do not as yet know everything and, I submit to you, that if you do not know everything then you are a candidate to learn something.

It might surprise you to realize that there are other people, some younger, some older, some more and some less intelligent, some richer, some poorer, some educated, and others illiterate, who know things that you don't know. Never allow yourself to become so high minded or prideful that you think you cannot learn from others. Humble yourself, become a good listener, and value others no matter how smart you think you are. Everyone is a candidate to learn something!

Prayer for Today

God, help me to deal with my pride and arrogance. I do not want to be high minded or to lift myself up above others and become a respecter of persons. Today I choose to walk with humility and open up my heart and mind to learn from many teachers and from the many situations I encounter in life. Use today, Lord, to teach me something new.

Scriptures for Today

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. (NKJV)

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. (KJV)

*Decisions made in anger are seldom
profitable to anyone*

August 3

Our prison system is filled with individuals who allowed the passion of a moment to push them to a decision which was ultimately unprofitable for anyone. Marriages have been dissolved because foolish and hurtful words were spoken and decisions were made in unbridled anger. Individuals have suddenly quit their jobs in frustration and anger without considering the long term impact of their decision. Even in the Church world, divinely appointed destinies have been forfeited due to decisions made in angry moments.

However, anger is not always the problem. Rather, the problem is often what we decide to say or do in an angry moment. The Bible tells us to be angry and sin not. Neither are we to allow the sun to go down while we are still angry. Ask God to help you deal with frustrating situations and don't make decisions based on your anger.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to manage my anger today by convicting me to step back and reflect on the situation before I speak or act in anger. I know that if I allow my spirit to be controlled by Your Spirit, I will bring about positive change in every area of my life.

Scriptures for Today

James 1:20 For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry, and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools. (NKJV)

*Authority should only be given to
people who are responsible*

August 4

Everyone wants to influence others and many people would like to find themselves in a place of authority so that they could make decisions based on their opinions and have things done their way. It's basic human nature to believe that most often what we think is right and that our opinion should matter. However, it is not as easy to find people who are willing to be responsible to do the work, make things happen, or accept the blame for things that go wrong. Many people want the authority but not as many are willing to accept the responsibility.

When God looks for someone to whom He can delegate his Kingdom authority, He looks for a person who is willing to accept Kingdom responsibility, a person who takes personal responsibility for enhancing and advancing the Kingdom of God by living and teaching the Word of God to their proverbial Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the utter most parts of the world. What do you want? More authority or more responsibility? Authority should only be given to responsible people.

Prayer for Today

Father, make me more responsible for Your Kingdom work. Help me to be a greater witness and give me authority commensurate with my responsibility.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan. (NKJV)

Matthew 7:29 For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. (KJV)

Matthew 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, "Go," and he goes; and to another, "Come," and he comes; and to my servant, "Do this," and he does it. (NKJV)

We do what we do, and we get what we get, because we choose what we choose

August 5

We think what we think, we feel what we feel, and we want what we want because we believe what we believe. However, we do what we do and we get what we get because we choose what we choose. If a person can change what they believe to line up with God's Word and then choose to speak and act on God's Word then it will change what they think, what they feel, what they want, what they do, and ultimately what they get in life. Because when you believe what God's Word says and do what God's Word requires then you get what God's Word promises. Decide today that you are going to believe God's Word above your experiences and the circumstances of your life. Furthermore, make a commitment to live your life according to God's Word, making your choices line up with His will. As you do these things, you will find your life changing little by little until you become a reflection and a demonstration of the Kingdom of God in this world.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me today to embrace Your Word as truth. May it change my life in everything I say and do. I choose Your will.

Scriptures for Today

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (NKJV)

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (NKJV)

Acts 20:32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NKJV)

Every trial is a potential testimony

August 6

Genesis 30 records the birth of Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob. By the time we reach the 50th chapter and the end of the book of Genesis, the life of Joseph has been detailed and taken up nearly one third of the whole book of Genesis. Joseph is certainly the most prolific character in God's book of beginnings. His story is one of great and continual trials. When Joseph was 17 years old, he spoke about his dream. However, when Joseph died at 110 years old, his dream spoke about him. It was through many hardships, difficulties, and disappointments that Joseph built his testimony as a man who trusted God and refused to let life get him down. Joseph learned to bloom where he was planted and that his current trial was not punishment for his past but rather positioning for his future. He saw each trial as a potential testimony.

How do you see your current circumstance? Embrace the reality that every testimony was at one time a trial. Trust God and don't let life get you down. Realize that what you are going through is not punishment for your past but positioning for your future. Let God work in you concerning those things which are working on you and turn this trial into a testimony of God's goodness.

Prayer for Today

Dear Jesus, help me to see the current situations of life as opportunities instead of problems. Strengthen me through each adversity so that I may gain victory in my situation as well as victory over my situation. Create a testimony in my life to Your goodness and Your grace. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (NKJV)

Genesis 50:24-26 And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt. (NKJV)

***There is a place in your breakthrough
where the devil can no longer bring
you back***

August 7

Attempting to change your life can seem at first a difficult task, almost impossible for some, to accomplish. Life change seems especially hard for people who are bound by addictions or addictive behavioral patterns. The typical experience is to take three steps forward and two steps back again. It seems that every attempt of recovery is met with temptation after temptation to fail, slip back into old behavior patterns and sin again. Many people get depressed on the road to their life change and quit trying. They feel that they just cannot do it. They are wrong. There is a place in your breakthrough where the devil can no longer bring you back. Get yourself on the right road of recovery according to the Word of God and stay on that road. There is no problem that you cannot outlive, outlast, or out distance by doing God's will. If you fall, get up, brush yourself off and try again ... you will succeed.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to realize that failure is not defeat and that You are not withholding success from me. Keep the devil from tempting me beyond my capacity to resist and help me recover from every fall in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Exodus 14:13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever." (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)

*Your success is most often due to
others ... so be kind*

August 8

I pastor a Church, a very large and very successful Church in the eyes of many people. We have trained and placed missionaries, built Churches, staffed orphanages, funded medical clinics, supplied feeding centers, and currently have representatives around the world. The sun never sets on the work that is done through the efforts of the ministry God has entrusted to me. However, the successes are not mine. Although we give all glory to God, none of these things would have been done if others had not bought into the vision, committed their resources and put their hands to the work. There are greater men with more potential than me struggling to make their ministries survive and, yet, mine is flourishing. Why? Is it because of God's grace? In some ways perhaps, but more ways than this I am drawn to understand that our successes are most often dependent on other people who contribute their time, talent, and resources, purchasing our products, or singing our songs. Therefore, be kind to others.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, help me not to think more highly of myself than I ought to think but to realize that You have placed me on a team with many others who also work for the same goals. Teach me to appreciate my team members and to be kind to those who support the things I believe in. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 12:21- 22 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. (NKJV)

*There is more potential in our future
prospects than in our past
accomplishments*

August 9

When Joseph was a young boy, as the book of Genesis records, he obtained the favor of his father and for that received a special and very colorful garment. This coat of many colors was a sign to his brothers and to others he met of his special status as the good and most favored son. Later Joseph finds himself as a slave in a foreign country. Again, he presented himself well and acted in such a manner that he was promoted to be the chief steward. Subsequent to that promotion, Joseph was wrongly accused and placed in prison. While there, he once again participated in his new day adventure by closing the door on his past and working with what God had given him to do presently. Soon Joseph became the head trustee. It seems that no matter what dilemma life offered Joseph, he was able to work hard, and better position himself for his future. In fact, Joseph ended up becoming the ruler of the Egyptian Empire. How did Joseph succeed in every season of life? He understood the principle that there is more potential in our future prospects than in our past accomplishments. Decide to bloom where you are planted.

Prayer for Today

Father, I thank You for all that You have allowed me to accomplish in the past. However I look forward to the potential I have today. I choose to participate in my future and bloom where I am planted.

Scriptures for Today

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

Isaiah 43:18-19 Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. (NKJV)

The voice of the soul is a great ally as long as you are believing right

August 10

The soul is the seat of the mind, will, and emotions. The mind is quick to offer reasonable and logical arguments to support a person's belief system. The pattern of the mind is to look for things which validate our beliefs and support those beliefs by offering arguments and other pressures in an attempt to affect a decision. This is why the voice of the soul is such a great ally if we are believing what is right. However, if we are believing something wrong, the soul will continue to support our error by attempting to protect us from going outside of what we believe. We think what we think, feel what we feel, and want what we want because we believe what we believe. For this reason, it is imperative that we not trust our own reasons, experiences, or feelings which run contrary to the Word of God. Examine yourself by God's Word instead of interpreting God's will by how you feel.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father, help me to distinguish the voices which speak to me and not to accept every feeling as Your will. I choose to examine my thoughts and actions by Your Word. Teach me what I should believe.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. (NKJV)

Noblesse Oblige

August 11

In French, noblesse oblige means, literally, nobility obliges, or the “noble obligation.” It is generally used to confer that with wealth, power, and prestige come responsibilities.

You have the royal blood of a King flowing through your veins. You are an heir to the throne of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. You have been chosen by God to rule and reign in life as kings and priests before God. Along with this noble station of life, to which you have been born again, comes a certain obligation. You are now responsible for the enhancement and the advancement of the Kingdom you possess ... rise and meet the challenge!

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for including me in Your royal family. Teach me to understand my obligations and give me the grace to fulfill them responsibly.

Scriptures for Today

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (NKJV)

Galatians 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (NKJV)

Revelation 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth. (NKJV)

*A diamond is nothing but an old piece
of coal that made good under pressure*

August 12

The Bible tells us that our current afflictions are only temporary pressures which God can use to work for us and not against us. Even the fires of adversity can be used by God to purify us, temper us, and bring us to molten moments. In these heated times of great pressure we become more moldable in God's hands and when the seasons of fire and pressure are over, we are left more in the image of God, more pure and of greater value than before.

When you face adversities and pressures of life, don't allow them to move you to despair. Rather, realize that a diamond is nothing more than an old piece of coal that made good under pressure. Continue moving forward through every season of life, despite the challenges. Endure hardships and pressures of life as a good soldier and allow God time and opportunity to work His miracle in your life.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to keep my focus on the finished product instead of the often grueling processes of life. Create greater capacity in me and make me more valuable to do Your will.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. (NKJV)

*The devil most often speaks to you,
through you*

August 13

There are many voices which speak to us offering arguments and opinions in efforts to help us make decisions which are favorable to the source of that voice. One voice which can be difficult to discern at times, is the voice of our adversary, the devil. The Apostle Peter encourages the Christian to be sober and vigilant because your adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion, seeking those whom he may devour...resist him steadfast in the faith. Most often the toughest battles are the battles of the mind, competing thoughts which wrestle one against another, speaking to us through our experiences, reasons, logic, emotions, and desires. Many times the devil masquerades as the voice of reason, coming to you through your thoughts. Learn to recognize the voice of the enemy and do not follow him.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, teach me to discern between Your voice and the voice of my enemy. Enable me to conquer.

Scriptures for Today

John 10:3-5 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. (NKJV)

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (KJV)

***God's purpose for your life is your
greatest potential***

August 14

A river will never rise above its source and neither will a person ever do better than to fulfill God's will and purpose for their life. Without respect to how gifted and talented a person may be, their past achievements or personal goals, their potential will never exceed God's chosen path for their life.

Decide today to find the will and purpose of God for your life and settle for nothing less. Don't muddle through life or stoop to become something the world calls great, while falling short of achieving God's best for your life. Make it your daily prayer to declare, "Not my will but Thine be done."

Prayer for Today

Teach me to do Your will; for You are my God: Your Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Amen (Psalms 143:10)

Scriptures for Today

Acts 13:22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (NKJV)

Hebrews 10:7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come-In the volume of the book it is written of Me-To do Your will, O God." (NKJV)

Psalms 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart. (NKJV)

*When sharing the Gospel,
remember it is the Good News*

August 15

We are told that some people see the glass half full while others see the glass half empty. There are both negatives and positives to almost every element of life. Fortunately, we each get to choose our approach to the truth and we decide from what perspective we will share the truth with others. Have you ever met someone who seemed to have a condemning spirit? They continue to challenge people from a negative perspective, in attempts to get them to not do wrong. While at the same time, others who possess a grace-filled attitude tend to encourage people from a more positive perspective, soliciting them to do what is right. Remember when sharing the Gospel with others that the Word “Gospel” means good news. Perhaps you may find more success by telling someone the benefits of living for God instead of only sharing what will happen if they don’t .

Prayer for Today

Oh Lord, fill me with grace and mercy, understanding and forgiveness, hope and help for all those souls whom I encounter. May I share the Good News with them instead of the bad news. Help me to point them to Heaven and not hell. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 2:1-4 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (NKJV)

The future will tell the truth

August 16

There are many claims the Bible makes concerning the Kingdom of God and our future. Some claims seem too good to be true. Claims such as, “If you abide in Me and My will abides in you, ask what you will and it shall be done.” No matter how great the promises of God, they are all accessed by the same means ... our faith. One day we will all stand before God and our eyes will be opened to understand that His Word is true and that we always had full access to what His Word promised, if we had only trusted Him and acted in faith. The future will tell the truth, however, the truth could be experienced today by your faith. Have faith in God’s Word. Don’t be the last one to believe it.

Prayer for Today

God, I choose to put my trust in Your Word as full and final authority in all matters of life. I declare that Your Word is true and I will live my life by faith.

Scriptures for Today

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)

John 14:12-13 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (NKJV)

Mark 11:22-24 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” (NKJV)

*True love belongs to those who are
willing to risk their heart on their
future*

August 17

God loved you so much that He gave His only Son to purchase the chance that you might love Him back. God did not give His extra Son but rather His only Son and the Bible tells us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly. All of this was done with no guarantees that anyone would notice, appreciate it, or accept the offer to become a part of God's family. Now that's true love.

God demonstrated His love toward us when He risked His heart on the hope of a future with you. Don't break God's heart. Love Him because He first loved you and don't be afraid to be like God. True love may also require that you risk giving your heart to others first before they fully demonstrate their love to you in return.

Prayer for Today

I want to thank You, Lord, for loving me and for giving Your Son to save me from my sins and purchasing my freedom. I love You and for the rest of eternity I want to be close to You and become more and more like You in everything I do. Give me the grace to love others with the true love of Your Spirit.

Scriptures for Today

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (NKJV)

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NKJV)

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us. (KJV)

***When your yesterdays become so big
that they cast a shadow on your
tomorrows, then your future is
overshadowed by your past***

August 18

The choices you continually make over your lifetime serve to create an expectation of how you will choose to process life in your future. The pattern of life we set for ourselves by thought, word, and deed shows others who we are and serves to give them justified expectation of our future. Therefore, we must examine the patterns of our life and not allow ourselves to continue making the same mistakes over and over again. We must be conscious when we have set a negative tone for ourselves and cast ourselves in an image we do not want to be known for. Other people know you, judge you, and create expectations for you based upon how they have observed you in life's situations thus far. When your yesterdays become so big that they cast a shadow on your tomorrows, then your future is overshadowed by your past and no one expects that you will ever change...surprise them! Believe me when I tell you that what others think about you does make a difference. It's not just their problem, it can quickly become yours.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I do not want to be known as someone who is lazy, undependable, harsh, critical, selfish, or cruel. Rather, I desire to have a good reputation so that others might see Your love, Your faithfulness, and Your grace in my life. Help me examine myself and change where I must so that others will expect Jesus in me.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (KJV)

*Membership matters: the group you
join will affect your destiny*

August 19

Groups are always seeking new members and embracing new leaders. In the past, I have observed wonderful and well-meaning people who are armed with a desire to make a difference accept membership or leadership roles in groups without first fully understanding the goals of the group. These groups exist in Churches, workplaces, and other community ventures. Some groups have productive goals and others counterproductive. Such was the case in Moses' day as he led the children of Israel from Egypt across the wilderness to the Promise Land. Along the way, Moses encountered four identifiable groups which are still soliciting members today. There was the 'Let's Go Over Group' (Joshua and Caleb), the 'Let's Take Over Group' (Korah, Dathan, and Abiram), the 'I've Been Over Group' (ten dissenting spies), and the 'It's Over Group' (the generation of Israel who died in the wilderness). Before you join a group or agree to promote their views, make sure that group is submitted to the legitimate leader and the overall goals that leader has espoused.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, help me to never sow discord or be divisive by myself or in association with others or to be a part of a rebellious act against the legitimate leaders and the common order You have established in my Church, my workplace, or my community. Give me the grace to discern the true motives and any hidden agendas of those who may solicit my involvement. I want to be more like You.

Scriptures for Today

Numbers 14:28-30 Say to them, "As I live," says the LORD, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in." (NKJV)

*Don't risk the move of God to placate
people*

August 20

Truth is seldom determined by a show of hands and when we attempt to please everyone we often end up pleasing no one. It is for this reason that God's Word holds the pattern of divine appointments to positions of primary importance. It is God who sets up one in a position of leadership and puts down another. In fact, the Apostle Paul states in the book of Romans, chapter 13, that there is no authority other than that authority which is allowed to be in authority by God. If God has so chosen to speak through people to people then how could we ever risk compromising the direction God has given His leaders. However, many people water down God's guidance in order to please people and make everyone feel a part. Never risk the move of God to placate people. Be bold, be strong, be kind, but be courageous and when God has spoken, don't compromise to please people.

Prayer for Today

Father, give me the strength, the courage, and the commitment to have firm resolve not to compromise Your Word or attempt to get my leaders to water down Your Word to them in order to please me or others. Help me to be kind but fully committed to do Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. (NKJV)

Galatians 1:15-16 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood. (NKJV)

Acts 13:22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (NKJV)

“It ain’t dark,” won’t work

August 21

The very first lesson God teaches us about Him comes from Genesis 1. He says that He created the Heavens and the earth and, at some point, he saw that what He had created was not acceptable. The earth was void, without form, and darkness covered the face of the deep. In efforts to take what He had and make it what He wanted it to be, He first considered His course and then He spoke, “Let there be light!” and it was so. God is teaching us the power of a positive confession when we get a plan and speak in faith. Notice that God did not deny that a problem existed, nor did He curse the problem or complain about it. “It ain’t dark!” just would not have worked.

If you are faced with something in your life that is unacceptable, do not deny its existence, but rather deny its right to continue that way by taking positive steps. Be like God: Get a plan and begin speaking what you want by the eye of your faith and it will be so.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, teach me Your ways and grant me the wisdom to plan my life according to Your will so that I may prophesy my future by the dream in my heart.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 11:22-24 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:20-21 A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. (NKJV)

Hebrews 6:12 That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (NKJV)

*A hard heart won't allow a healing
word to touch a hurting place*

August 22

When people get hurt, they sometimes become calloused and allow that hurt to make their hearts hard and impenetrable. If left un-ministered to these hurting places do not heal properly and end up being more sensitive than before. However, for every hurt that man has, God has a healing word. His word is an ointment that will bring relief if only that word can reach the hurting place.

Only you can break up the fallow ground of your heart and allow God's healing Word to touch your hurting place. It may be that God is sending one of His servants a scripture or perhaps a song your way, carrying His healing word to meet your need. Don't let your hardness of heart stop a healing word from touching your hurting place.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, today I choose to open my heart to Your Word even in places where I have been hurt. I will no longer protect myself at the expense of missing Your best in my life. Let Your healing Word touch my hurting places and renew my life again.

Scriptures for Today

Mark 16:14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table, and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. (NKJV)

Hosea 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness on you. (NKJV)

Unchecked and unchallenged is often unchanged: check, challenge, change!

August 23

One of the best ways for us to continue changing where we need to change is for us to challenge ourselves and set goals to modify our thoughts and/or behavior and bring our life in line with God's Word. However, many times we do not challenge ourselves to change because we are not readily aware of the areas in which we need to change. For this reason, the Bible tells us to examine ourselves and see for ourselves if we are living in the faith. If we examine ourselves and judge ourselves accurately, the Bible says we will not come under any other judgment. To often, unchecked lives remain unchallenged and therefore remain unchanged. Check yourself ... challenge yourself ... and change yourself to live the Word and will of God.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, speak to me and show me where I need to change. I will challenge myself in those areas to develop better habits of life and become more like You.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed you are disqualified. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJV)

*The truth is willing to be as painful as
it has to be in order to remain the truth*

August 24

All of us have been tempted to lie when telling the truth meant hurting a friend. But even if we change the truth a little to make it less offensive, then it isn't the truth anymore.

Imagine building a house without applying the standards of "true" measurement. If you allowed an inch off here, a less-than-square measurement there, the end result could be disastrous.

At times the truth can be difficult to accept and Jesus knew this better than anyone else. Yet, he told His closest companions they had to give up their own selfish desires in order to follow Him. It was not a popular message, but a powerful one. Only the truth has the power necessary to secure a person's life. Anything less is empty. You can be cleansed by the truth ... the Word of God is truth.

Prayer for Today

Lord, even when the truth hurts, help me listen and be willing to change. Also, Lord, give me the grace to be responsibly honest with others so that they may benefit from the truth as well.

Scriptures for Today

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth. (KJV)

Mark 8:34 "...If any of you wants to be my follower," Jesus told them, "you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me." (NLT)

John 8:32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (NLT)

In the Old Testament, when God wanted a job done, a child was born. In the New Testament, when God wanted a job done, a Church was born.

August 25

Throughout the Old Testament, the will and work of God was accomplished mainly through individuals, born in due time and called with purpose. These men and women of God represented God's voice to a lost and hurting people who could not hear from God for themselves. Therefore each time a job needed doing, a child was born. Such was the case with Moses, Samson, Esther, and Jesus.

The Old Testament covers approximately 4000 years of history through scores of generations with one purpose ... to take God's creation from the Garden of Eden to Messiah. The New Testament covers only one generation in its span of time of ministry. Its purpose is to equip every believer to reach their world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every generation. This is done through the ministry of the Church. In the Old Testament, when God wanted a job done, a child was born. In the New Testament, when God wanted a job done, a Church was born. Get involved in the Church.

Prayer for Today

Father, I pray for the Church and for my place in Your Kingdom work. Set me into the body of believers as it pleases You and join me together with others to serve Your cause in this generation. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ-from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

*To make no decision is often a decision
to do nothing*

August 26

Sometimes in life we may face problems we had rather not confront. In these moments of life, we often choose to do nothing, to procrastinate, hoping the problem would solve itself or just go away. Seldom is that a reality. Bad things left to themselves do not often get better but rather grow worse. God usually requires that we participate in conflict resolution. However, there is good news!

We can meet every mountain with the faith that God is with us and for us, not against us. He has an answer for every problem we face and is willing to partner with us, if we will only advance and engage our enemies. Sometimes the toughest problems we face are only decisions which demand to be made, and you are the only one who can do anything about some things.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me today to face every situation with prayer and faith that You know the answers and will guide me to success. I give my fears to You.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel. (NKJV)

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. (NKJV)

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (NKJV)

If it's chronic it may be demonic

August 27

Have you ever had a problem that just would not go away, a problem that no matter what you did, no remedy seemed sufficient? The Apostle Paul faced such a problem in 2 Corinthians 1. He called it a thorn in his flesh, a messenger of Satan, sent to buffet him. The word “buffet” means to knock down over and over again, so that each time the Apostle Paul felt he had victory, this enemy would return and knock him down again. It became so tiring that the Apostle Paul cried out to God for help. The answer God gave continues to give us hope today. God told the Apostle Paul that His grace was sufficient. If you find yourself with a problem that just won't go away, it too may have its root in the demonic realm, a messenger of Satan, sent to discourage you in an attempt to make you give up and give in. Don't be defeated! Cry out to God and you will find that God's grace is sufficient for you as well.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I pray that you would remove all temptations, pressures, and problems from my life which desire to cause my defeat. However, those which You allow for the seasons of Your will, I pray that You would give me the grace to endure and through my weakness find Your strength, in Jesus' name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NKJV)

*Man's greatest journeys
begin with desire*

August 28

What do you want? What is it that your heart desires? So many people are living, working, and ministering in situations for which they have no desire. Some people hate their jobs, are dissatisfied with their primary relationships, or discontent with their life pursuits while all along, God is willing to birth desire in their heart for His will, His purpose, His plan for their life. God never intended for you to live your life wishing you could do it differently. He has a plan, He has a purpose, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Seek Him today. Call upon Him while He may be found. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart and remember life's greatest journeys begin with desire.

Prayer for Today

Father, I commit my way to You. Cause my thoughts to be established and place Your desires for my life into my heart and my mind. As I delight myself in You, fulfill my hope so that I may be happy in life and in service to You.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. (NKJV)

Mark 8:34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (NKJV)

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. (KJV)

God is a God of order ... life requires a plan

August 29

When God created the Heavens and the earth and filled the earth with plants and animals, He was following an orderly progression, a plan, to sustain life, the life of His children, and the world to come. God is a God of order. DNA is not a result of coincidence or chaotic repetition; it is by the divine order of God that life exists. Life requires a plan, both to be born and to be lived to its fullest. Do you have a plan for your life? Is your plan God's plan?

Life without order is chaos, much like life without a plan. Today, God is willing to give you a vision of your future and show you the next step to take toward that future. If you will call upon Him, He will answer you and He will show you great and mighty things which are to come. Determine to know God's plan for your life.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I pray that You would bring order to my steps and show me the way I should walk and the destiny I should embrace. I know You have a plan for my life. I ask You to reveal it to me so that I may take my next step with confidence.

Scriptures for Today

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order. (KJV)

Psalms 119:133 Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me. (NKJV)

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and He delighteth in his way. (KJV)

*There is a battle in the mind,
for the mind*

August 30

In 2 Corinthians 10, the scriptures encourage us to use our spiritual weapons of warfare which are mighty through God and able to pull down strongholds. Continuing the verses, we are instructed where to aim our spiritual weapons of warfare. In this case, we are not told to fight against the devil, against demons of darkness or other outside enemies of our soul. Rather the aim for these spiritual weapons is our mind. God would have us target our imaginations, our base of knowledge and experience, as well as our thought life. We are told to cast down every imagination and any other thing that opposes the knowledge of God and to bring into captivity every thought to agree with Christ. There is a battle raging and our duty is to train the spiritual weapons of our warfare against those things which would take our mind away from God. Speak to yourself ... win this war ... on the greatest spiritual battlefield of all time, your mind.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, strengthen my mind to resist thinking the thoughts of Your enemies. Place a helmet of salvation upon me so that I might gird up the loins of my mind and not allow our enemies to establish a stronghold. Teach me Your truth and I will cast down every other imagination. This is my responsibility. Help me to do it.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (NKJV)

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

*Winning souls will add to the Kingdom
while making disciples
will multiply the Kingdom*

August 31

There is an understandable difference in an old saying, “Give a man a fish and feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and feed him for life.” It is similar to the truth we see in the difference between the principles of addition and multiplication. If we add two numbers together, we get far less than if we were to multiply those numbers by one another. Perhaps this is the reason why God instructs believers to go into all the world and make disciples. Once a disciple is made that disciple will continue to produce fruit himself by making other disciples and therefore the Kingdom will grow exponentially and be assured of a continuing future. Every believer should be a soul winner but winning souls is just the beginning. We are further responsible to teach each new convert how to be a soul winner himself. Commit to the great commission and participate in God’s plan for Kingdom expansion. Make disciples as you teach others how to do for others what you did for them.

Prayer for Today

Father, may I continue to be wise and win souls for Your Kingdom cause. However, Lord, encourage me to not let my impact stop there. Give me the grace to train up disciples who will continue the work of Your Kingdom in their generation until Jesus comes again.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen. (NKJV)

September



*It should be our hope that our works
outlive our earthly struggles*

September 1

The men of God we read about in the Old Testament lived for a very long time. Moses, for instance, was 120 years old when he died. Abraham was 175 and Noah lived to be 950 years old! It seems they had plenty of time to learn from their mistakes and leave a legacy of living life God's way. But no matter how many extra years they had, the Bible tells us human life is very short when compared with eternity.

We have a small amount of time to do something that matters for the Kingdom of God. Even the godly men struggled. Jesus was no stranger to how tough life on earth can be. Whatever the obstacles we have to overcome, it should be our hope that our works outlive our earthly struggles. What can you do today that will contribute to God's eternal "big picture?"

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me realize my time is limited, and every moment matters. I want to live a life that is pleasing to You; show me what steps I need to take. Thank You for caring about even the small details of my life.

Scriptures for Today

James 4:14 How do you know what will happen tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog – it's here for a little while, then it's gone. (NLT)

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (NKJV)

There is more evidence in the Word of God supporting the casting of lots than the raising of hands

September 2

The human nature of fallen man is to desire some measure of control or to have a vote in determining the matters which involve them. However, throughout the Word, God establishes authority and chooses whom He will to lead us in life. Scriptures show that any time God connects more than any one person to a single endeavor, He always chooses someone to be in charge. This holds true for the family, for the slave and his master, for the marriage, the government, and the Church. Truth and God's will are seldom, if ever, determined by a show of hands. It seems that every time the children of Israel picked their own leaders or determined their own way, it ended in disaster. Perhaps this is why God set up the system of casting lots, which is little more than a role of the dice, after much prayer and consecration of our lives to God. Without a clear word from God, the next best thing, in many instances, would be to trust in a fleece more than the popular vote. We do not forsake the encouragement of godly counselors, but only one can lead and His name is Jesus. Put him in your driver's seat.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father, show me Your way and guide my life by Your Holy Spirit. I trust in You more than the multitudes. Grant me counselors of Your choosing and guide my life by divine intervention.

Scriptures for Today

Judges 6:40 And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground. (NKJV)

Acts 1:26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles. (NKJV)

Joshua 18:10 Then Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions. (NKJV)

Jonah 1:7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. (NKJV)

*All Jesus ever wanted was to be
accepted*

September 3

Jesus left His position with the Father in Heaven and came to the earth, born of a virgin, as the Son of God and Son of man, Messiah to the Jews and Savior of the world. He lived a sinless life and died an atoning death, willingly offering Himself as a sacrifice for all sins forever. He came to earth to destroy the works of the devil and to reconcile the world unto His Father God. He loved the sinner, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and gave hope to the poor. He was undeservedly arrested, falsely accused, wrongfully convicted, cruelly punished, and unjustly sentenced to die on a Roman cross in Jerusalem. He could have called ten thousand angels but he died alone for you and me.

All He ever asked for was to be heard and all He ever wanted was to be accepted.

Accept Him right now.

Prayer for Today

Jesus, I accept You right now as the Son of God who took away my sins. I ask You to come into my heart and sit upon the throne of my life. Be my Lord and save my soul. I give my life to You and I will serve You faithfully all my days. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (NKJV)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

Romans 10:13 For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (NKJV)

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (NKJV)

To obey is better than sacrifice

September 4

There is a principle we understand from God's Word which tells us that we can never fully regain by sacrifice what we lose from disobedience. This is not only true for man but also for God. Even though God sacrificed His Son to save the souls of all men ... not all men will be saved. God will lose some souls through man's disobedience that will not be recovered even through the sacrifice of the spotless lamb, Jesus the Messiah. Both the prophets Samuel and Isaiah spoke this truth clearly. Isaiah asked the question, "Why are you sacrificing? Is it not because you have sinned?" He went on to say that God hated sacrifices and counted them as a stench in his nostrils because they only remind Him of man's sin. The remedy, Isaiah said, was to stop doing evil and to learn to do the will of God.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father, thank You for making the sacrifice of Your Son for my sin and accepting His payment for my soul. Now help me to require no further sacrifice as I cease to do evil and learn to do well.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 1:11 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats." (NKJV)

Isaiah 1:19-20 "If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword," For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (NKJV)

1 Samuel 15:22-23 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king." (NKJV)

*God has people on both sides
of many issues*

September 5

During World War II, it is reported that some German soldiers who were committed Christians had their Bibles with them on the hills overlooking Normandy beach while the US forces, many of whom were also Bible-carrying Christians, were storming those beaches under the heavy German artillery. I have even heard personal accounts that in one case a German officer, upon seeing the invasion forces, asked his soldiers to kneel, bow their heads, and pray the Lord's prayer once more before taking their positions. Sometimes it's hard to imagine that God could have people on both sides of such issues who are sincerely praying for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done while standing in faith that their side is right. Perhaps this is one reason God encourages us to love our enemies and feed them when they are hungry, bless them when we feel persecuted, and never take personal glory in our victories but rather let all vengeance be His and His alone. Are there any issues within your community or nation which may have Believers on both sides?

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to have compassion on others even when they may not believe like I do or see things from my perspective. Teach me to treat others the same way I want to be treated, in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 14:1-7 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. (NKJV)

*If you want to be like Jesus, you will
have to go to Church*

September 6

The Church is the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, and the family of God in the earth. Ephesians tells us that Jesus died for the Church, His body and His bride. It is God's will that each believer becomes a functioning part of a local family of Believers. However, many people do not imagine they have time to make such a commitment. Instead of being married and in covenant with the Bride of Christ, they act as though they are only dating the girlfriend of Jesus. They may not realize just how much He loves the Church and how committed He is to her. In the Old Testament, God raised His children to attend Church by commanding them to make sacrifices, attend feasts, and bring their tithes and offerings. Jesus also had a habit of attending Church. This is where He went to school, learned to read, preached His first sermon, and spent His customary Sabbaths. Furthermore, the picture of Heaven and its activities of worshiping the Lamb of God is nothing less than a picture of a Church service. If you go to Heaven, you will go to Church! Please God and commit your life to a local Church.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to thank You for the family You created for us in this world. I pledge myself to be a part of my local Church in the place where You set me. Make me productive and give me every grace, in Jesus' name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV)

Luke 4:16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. (NKJV)

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, " If I will not open for you the windows of Heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it." (NKJV)

First grade teachers aren't stupid

September 7

It is not that first grade teachers don't know calculus; rather it's that they have the good sense not to attempt to teach calculus to first graders. The greatest gap between student and teacher exists in that proverbial first grade experience. From then on, the gap narrows until one day the teacher realizes that his pupil has exceeded him in knowledge, wisdom, or skill. However, no matter how high a person may climb up a ladder of life, in the end, they are no more secure than their foundation.

For this reason, we must never despair of laying a good foundation in the lives of those we influence for Kingdom purpose. Do not forsake the time which is well spent learning the simple and basic principles of Christianity.

Prayer for Today

Oh Lord, teach me to be satisfied with the simplicity of Your Word and to not leave my first love. Help me to lay the foundation of my life upon the rock which is Christ.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (NKJV)

One thing you will regret when you get to Heaven is that you didn't go sooner

September 8

The Bible indicates that God created Heaven so wonderfully that we cannot even imagine how good it really is going to be. Try to imagine how awesome it is ... golden streets, no pain, no tears, no sin, and no defeat. You never get tired or hungry, the temperature is perfect. Everything there is perfect. Can you imagine? No, you can't. God said it would be better than you can imagine.

Trust me, 100 percent of everyone who has gone before us is doing better than we are, and if you gave them a choice to return after they arrived through the pearly gates, they would want to stay there. When you take your last breath on planet earth you can confidently say your greatest day is still ahead.

Prayer for Today

Thank You, God, for such a wonderful future. I'm excited about eternity. Father, Your Word tells me to keep busy with Kingdom expansion until You come. I commit to do all I can to build Your empire on planet earth. Show me how to be a better worker. I pray that I can leave a legacy that we can talk about in Heaven.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (NKJV)

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you. (NKJV)

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (NKJV)

*We don't work to get finished but to do
a good job*

September 9

We should not consider a job done until it is done well. Because it is not our goal to just get finished but rather to do our best. Many times the pressure to get finished overshadows the process so that we lose sight of the quality of our product. This holds true not only to administrative and manufacturing processes, for example, but also to the spiritual aspects of our life. The spiritual dynamics of prayer, praise, Bible study, and devotional readings can, at times, become routine and even monotonous as we find ourselves rushing through to get finished so that we can mark that one off of our list and get on to the next endeavor. Encourage yourself today to pay attention to the work at hand and finish one thing well before moving on to the next. You will find yourself more satisfied, more productive, and left with more time in the end.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, Help me to pay attention to the things I am involved with, especially spiritual things. I commit to give You my mind and not just my time. Help me to complete the work You have given me to do, having run my race and finished my course well.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (KJV)

Deuteronomy 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (NKJV)

Forgiveness is a right, restoration is a responsibility

September 10

When Jesus gave His life on the cross of Calvary, He purchased us from sin and we were given access to forgiveness. Forgiveness, if you will, is a right. Even when we disappoint others, they are commanded to forgive us. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that if we confess our sins to God, He is faithful to forgive us of our sins, thereby promising forgiveness to those who ask. When we forgive someone, which is their right, it means that we no longer desire to see them punished for their offense. We cease to pursue retribution, recompense, or otherwise retaliate for that offense. Forgiveness is a right. However, restoration is a responsibility. You may forgive someone or be forgiven by someone without the relationship being fully restored. Restoration most often requires the offending party repent and make some honest attempt at restitution. Examine your relationships. Have you been forgiven? Have you been restored? What can you do about it?

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, give me the grace and power to forgive others when they offend me and help me to take every step necessary to be restored to others when I bring an offense and stand in need of forgiveness myself. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (KJV)

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (NKJV)

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! (KJV)

*Keep it simple, say it often, make it
burn*

September 11

The key to being a successful messenger is to keep the message simple, repeat it often, and make sure it is communicated with passion. We are called to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a believable and embraceable manner. When we tell someone about the Gospel of Jesus Christ or share a principle of life from God's Word, the person we tell should be able to repeat what we say to others. Therefore, it is essential that we pay close attention to those things God gives us to say and package them in such a way that they reach their mark, accomplish God's goals, and achieve the greatest results. This means we must pay attention to the truths we hold so dear and present them in such a way so that those who hear can recall and repeat these truths to others.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, please help me to be a more effective communicator of the Gospel and as I mature to understand that the impact of the message is as important as the message itself. Help me to speak in such a way that my listeners will receive what I say and carry the message to others.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (KJV)

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

All God ever wanted to be was a Father

September 12

God could have revealed Himself to mankind in any fashion He chose. God could have presented Himself as the sun, the wind, lightning, a great beast, a bull, or a dragon, but He chose none of these. When God considered His image and what kind of relationship He wanted with mankind, He chose to cast Himself in the image of a father.

All God ever wanted to be was a Father and when it's all said and done, the only thing that God will have left from all His hard work is family ... family matters!

God is only after one thing, He wants a relationship with you. And, God was willing to sacrifice His only Son solely for the chance that you might know His love and let Him rescue you. All God ever wanted to be was a Father, your Father. Why not treat Him like He longs to be treated?

Prayer for Today

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 6:18 I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty. (NKJV)

Psalms 82:6 I said, "You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High." (NKJV)

*It costs you nothing to give God
everything*

September 13

Job was a very blessed and prosperous man. He had sons, daughters, cattle, lands, servants, and possessions unlike any other in His day. Job also possessed a personal integrity and a righteous heart when it came to his dealings with both God and man. Job had everything but yet he had nothing which the Lord had not given him.

The story of Job details a man who had everything and lost everything. In all Job's accounts, although he did not understand the reasons, he nonetheless held to the right perspective of life. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked shall I return ... the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

This profound statement elevates the truth to a higher perspective than most men will ever be called upon to face. If it be true in Job's case, how much more in ours. It costs us nothing to give God everything, for everything we have came first from Him and nothing is lost when placed back in His hands. Have you given your all to Him? You might as well, it's His anyway.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I have nothing and I want nothing but what You lend to me. Teach me to be a good steward over the blessings You give and help me to treat them like they belong to You. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 14:22, 23 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of Heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'" (NKJV)

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (NKJV)

Mark 12:17 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him. (NKJV)

*Resistance is futile ... you will be
absorbed into the collective*

September 14

God has a plan, He will succeed, and, at present, you have a chance to participate. However, participation in God's plan for all mankind is a matter of choice for each believer. God wants the whole world to hear the Good News and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. He wants you to go and tell others about His plan for their life, but what about God's plan for your life? It is God's determined will to work in you and to work on you in hopes He can work through you, but even if you never choose to be a witness for Christ, God is committed to working on you anyway. God will not stop working in the life of every Believer until each one is perfected and made into the image of his dear Son, Jesus. God is determined even if it takes Him all of eternity! Why not work with Him since your resistance is futile and only prolongs the process?

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, show me how I can work with You as You work in me and on me to better work through me. I will not resist the power of the Holy Spirit which is transforming me.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (NKJV)

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJV)

***Bad won't be better just because good
shuts up***

September 15

In the days of the kings, there was a prophet named Micaiah who had a reputation for speaking the truth, even when the truth was uncomfortable to hear (1 Kings 22). This reputation brought him into disfavor with King Ahab, who felt that Micaiah did not like him. Once, the king inquired of the prophet concerning a battle the king wanted to pursue. The prophet Micaiah was warned by the king's court to speak only blessing and encouragement to the king. The prophet Micaiah sarcastically told the king to go forward with the battle and be blessed. The king could tell that he was not sincere. Following the king's stern rebuke, Micaiah spoke prophetically concerning the great loss which was to come. This so angered the king that he imprisoned the prophet. However, no amount of prison can change the truth and bad will not get better just because good shuts up. Seek the truth and speak the truth, for nothing else will do.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, teach me and guide me to be responsibly honest and speak the truth in love. Give me keen spiritual ears that I might discern what is right and let me not be guided by deception in Jesus' name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:15 But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ. (NKJV)

Esther 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (NKJV)

Lead with a vision

September 16

At some point in life, every person finds themselves in a position of leadership, sitting in the driver's seat, determining which way to turn. This is true, even if you are only leading yourself through life. Before any person can make the best decision as to the direction they need to turn, they must first know where they are going. Leadership makes many demands on an individual, none of which is greater than having confidence in the direction they are leading. For this reason, it is imperative that we know two aspects of life: First, we must know where we are on the map of life and secondly, where we need to be. At any moment, no matter the difficulty, the stress, or the pressures we face, we can stop and draw a line from wherever we are straight to God and this will give us clear direction. Go no further without having confidence that your next step will take you closer to God's plan for your life. Lead with a vision!

Prayer for Today

Father, I pray that You would give me Your vision for my life and make it plain so that I might have firm direction and not wander the pathways of this world. Help me to lead myself and others straight to Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law. (NKJV)

Acts 16:9-10 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. (NKJV)

Habakkuk 2:2 Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it." (NKJV)

*Never under-estimate the power of a
positive approach to life*

September 17

There is an old saying that says, “No matter whether you think you can or think you can’t, you’re probably right.” Life just works this way. Why? Because God has ordered life to respond to you, the way you think, the way you talk, and what you believe. Throughout my lifetime, I have noticed that people who are generally optimistic seem to have a greater advantage over those who are pessimists. Pessimism often breeds depression and insecurities. While people borrow trouble and imagine the worst, they are left living in fear, worried and anxious about many things which never happen. On the other hand, those who have a more optimistic approach to life seem to have joy, peace, and patience, even in the midst of trouble. What do you believe? What is your confession and how do you process life?

Prayer for Today

Lord, I will do my best to think the best, believe the best, and speak the best for my future and others. Help me, in Jesus’ name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. (NKJV)

Proverbs 6:2 You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. (NKJV)

You can begin your history today

September 18

Before the Apostle Paul had his conversion experience on the Damascus Road, he was well known for being a persecutor of those who believed that Jesus was Messiah. That day changed his life and he began a new history. Each one of us has the same opportunity to begin a new chapter of life at any point we choose. With each decision we make, we are writing the story that others will one day tell about us. Begin a new adventure today by considering how you want history to remember you. Make choices which confirm the character and the quality of life you desire and with each decision add a page to the history of your life.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I choose to build my reputation around Your Word. Help me to make each decision consistent with the character traits of a believer in Jesus. When I fail, please forgive me, lift me up, and allow me to begin afresh. I choose to forget the old and embrace the new as I press toward the mark of the high calling You have for me in Christ.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. (KJV)

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. (NKJV)

Isaiah 43:18-19 Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. (NKJV)

Every testimony was at one time a trial

September 19

If you read through the eleventh chapter of Hebrews you find the stories of so many people of faith. Each person has a testimony of how they, “through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens and women received their dead raised to life again.” These all obtained a good testimony in the face of great trial. When in the midst of difficulty these chose to continue trusting God and moving forward by faith, they were able to turn their trials into testimonies.

Every testimony was at one time a trial. From the heroes who are discovered in battle to the success stories of businessmen and families alike, success is more than a one step process and success most often belongs to those who are willing and able to endure that process through faith. What trial are you facing today? Turn this trial into a testimony by trusting God, persevering through faith and enduring to the end. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he spoke of his dream but when he was forty years old, his dream spoke of him.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, give me the grace to endure and the strength to persevere and the courage to not quit as I pursue faith in the midst of my trial. Turn each one into a testimony to the saving and keeping power of your word.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 24:13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (NKJV)

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (NKJV)

What is a Christian?

September 20

How do you know if someone is a Christian? Is it because they follow the faith, custom, and doctrine of an organized Church, be it Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Assembly of God, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, or some inter denominational group? Perhaps some people's claim to Christianity stems from ancestral inheritance, culture, custom, tradition, or ethnic heritage. However, the truth is that "Christian" means to be Christ-like, to be a follower of Jesus. The Bible says that Believers were first called Christians in Antioch, many years after the death of Jesus and the birth of the first Church. There seems here to be a pattern that demands our attention. Before being labeled a Christian, people were first recognized as being Believers in Jesus as Messiah, the anointed Christ. It is still that way today and will be forever. A Christian is not a Christian because they are born into a Christian family, adopt some culture or custom, follow some tradition, or join some Church. In order for one to be a follower of Jesus, they must first become a Believer. This requires a personal and sincere conviction which then demands a profession of our faith that we belong to Him. Are you a Christian?

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is Your Son and my Savior. I accept Him as my Lord and will daily choose to follow His Word as the practice of my life. I pray that others might see Christ in me.

Scriptures for Today

Acts 11:26 When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the Church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. It was at Antioch that the Believers were first called Christians. (NLT)

Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (NKJV)

*Do you have to become a Jew, to
become a Christian?*

September 21

This was the question argued among the Apostles in the first Church at Jerusalem. Acts, chapter 15, records the debate and the decision of James, the pastor of the Church and the half brother of Jesus. It was decided that no one need convert to Judaism in order to become a Believer in Jesus as Messiah. We no longer hear this question, but we do face many similar questions in our day. Many Church denominations demand that an individual be converted to their particular doctrine of faith and practice before being accepted as a true believer with rights to the benefits of the Kingdom of God. This, my friend, is heresy, and should not be embraced as a condition for salvation. However, once born again, it is reasonable that we worship and fellowship with other believers who hold similar convictions, concerning doctrine, faith, and practice. Allow God to set you into His Church as it pleases Him and not as it may please man, while giving every other Believer that same right and respect.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to remember that I am first a believer committed to You and am called to serve in the place of Your will for my life. Help me to have the grace and the wisdom to accept others You have called who may not be exactly like me. Keep me from being judgmental, critical, and exclusive since You have included everyone in Your plan.

Scriptures for Today

John 10:16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. (NKJV)

Acts 15:19-20 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. (NKJV)

*Life is most often no more complicated
than your next decision*

September 22

Several years ago, I went home for lunch from the office. It was evident to my wife that I was preoccupied with thought and seemingly a bit frustrated with some situation I was facing. She tried to make conversation but could get only a surface response before I would withdraw back into the mental battle I was waging. Finally, she asked what was troubling me. When I shared the frustration I was having with an employee who was not performing up to the standards necessary to meet our goals, she gave me a great piece of advice which changed my perspective and gave me solid direction. She said, “It seems to me that you are the only one who can do anything about this. You simply need to make a decision.”

Armed with that idea, I realized that my problem was no bigger than the next decision, which simply demanded to be made. Through the years, I have found that many of life’s problems fall into that same category. No one else can do anything about it but the person who is in charge of the situation and, life is often no more challenging or difficult than the next decision we must make. Survey your frustrations and you may find that life is simply demanding a decision ... a decision which is rightfully yours. Make a decision and move life forward today.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, grant me the wisdom to know which decisions are mine and the courage to make my decision in tough times. Today, I put You in charge of my life. Lead me, guide me, and give me Your grace in Jesus’ name.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. (KJV)

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word. (NKJV)

Exodus 14:16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. (NKJV)

You may not have to be more like me to please Jesus, but it's certain you will have to be a whole lot less like you

September 23

God loves you too much to leave you like you are. This is the reason why He has encouraged me to write these devotionals and share the principles of life with you that He has given to me. I realize that in sharing so many of my own experiences and personal convictions, it may seem like I am some authority on life or feel as though others should become more like me. Believe me, I do not think that I hold the answers to every question, but I know who does. Neither do I think that becoming more like me would fix everyone's problems seeing that I too have problems and face the common dilemmas of life. You don't have to be more like me to be like Jesus, but you will have to be a whole lot less like you. Why? Because we all come to God like clay in the hands of a master potter and He forms and fashions us according to His will, creating in us the capacity to please Jesus and become more like Him. Yield yourself to the Master's work as you look beyond these devotions to the One who is really speaking to you. Hear the voice within the voice and be changed today.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, I want to be more like Jesus and I need Your help. Show me the things that must change in my life and make me as clay in Your hands.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father. We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 18:6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!" (NKJV)

*The success of God's Kingdom
depends on four groups of people:
go-ers, stay-ers, pray-ers, and pay-ers*

September 24

An army depends on certain elements of necessity. First, there are those who are willing and committed to go to war and face the enemies on the foreign fields of battle. Second, there is a necessity for those who are just as willing to stay behind, protecting the nation's individuals and assets. Third, are those trained to keep the lines of communication open between the various groups and the commander-in-chief. These lines of communication are essential to receiving instruction, ordering supplies, and sending updates. And last but not least, are those who often are not seen to be as engaged but without whom the army could not exist. These are the citizens of that nation who go about their daily affairs making money and paying taxes which ultimately fund our armies at home and in the field. The Kingdom of God and every local Church is no different. For each to accomplish their mission it will take go-ers, stay-ers, pray-ers, and pay-ers. Where is your willingness and commitment? What has God made you to be?

Prayer for Today

God I want to be a vital part of Your Kingdom and my local Church. I know that You have made me with purpose and prepared me to meet a certain need. Show me my place and I will commit to do my part. Thank You.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 12:12, 14, 18-20 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For in fact the body is not one member but many. But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. (NKJV)

The Gospel is not based upon do's and don'ts but rather ... done

September 25

The law of Moses was based upon a set of rules and regulations, instructions of life, do's and don'ts, if you will. One day you could be accepted by God and the next day rejected. Law demands policing, judging, and punishing. Under the law, no man was justified and all were condemned.

The Gospels, however, paint a different picture. When God's Son gave His life as a ransom for all men, things changed. Mankind was reconciled and came under the umbrella of God's grace. The law was satisfied, judgment was served, and penalty paid. We no longer find our approach to God through the regulated do's and don'ts, but rather through the consecrated "done." Jesus did it, it is done, it is finished, and we, by faith, become recipients of that completed work. We do not keep God's rules so that we can be accepted by Him but rather we do His will because we are accepted by Him.

Prayer for Today

Father, I accept Your Son Jesus as my Savior and place Him on the throne of my life. I choose to live my life by faith in His finished work. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 3:20-22 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference ... (NKJV)

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (NKJV)

*Sometimes things don't work because
they just won't work for anyone else
but you*

September 26

Often when God speaks to you, it is because He wants to work through you and delegating that work to others will not always accomplish the job. Take the story of Elisha and the Shunamite woman in 2 Kings 4. Her son became ill and suddenly died. She went to the prophet and told him of her trouble. With great concern, Elisha sent his staff in the hands of his servant to be laid upon the child and raise him from the dead. However, when Elisha's servant returned, he reported that the child was no different.

At this point, Elisha made the journey himself and laid his body upon the child's body, and God ultimately brought the child back to life. Why would this miracle not work for the one whom Elisha delegated? I don't know why, but I do know that: Sometimes things don't work because they just won't work for anyone else but you.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly father, I desire for You to speak to me and work through me by my own hand and by those I delegate to do Your work. Teach me to know which miracles I must keep my hand on and which ones I can hand off to others. Thank You Sir, amen.

Scriptures for Today

2 Kings 4:31-35 Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened." When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. (NKJV)

If you are going to have the future you dream of, you must go to work now for that future

September 27

He had been something of a trouble maker for most of his life. In fact, his latest scheme had ended so badly for him that he had to leave home with little hope of returning. All he had going for him was the name of a distant relative, his wits, and a newfound relationship with the Lord.

Then he met Rachel. And now Jacob knew what his future held, for he had met the girl of his dreams. However, just knowing what the goal was did not guarantee results; Jacob had to work to make it happen. He made a deal with her father, and began to prove himself and provide for his future. The Lord had given Jacob hope for a better tomorrow, but He still expected him to take part in the plan. Through this experience, Jacob learned an important lesson he passed on to at least one of his sons. Can't you hear him telling his son, the dreamer, not to give up when things become difficult? "Remember, Joseph, If you are going to have the future you dream of, you must go to work now for that future."

That is still good advice today!

Prayer for Today

Father, Your Word says You have a good plan for my life, to give me hope and a future! As I look forward to the future that awaits me, please show me the things I need to do now to make it happen. Thank You, Father, for giving me strength to work hard for what lies ahead.

Scripture for Today

Genesis 29:18 Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife." (NLT)

*One gets further from God when
either, God moves and we don't ...
or when we move in a direction that
God won't*

September 28

Walking away from God doesn't always seem so significant in the moment. At a certain point in time, Abraham and his nephew Lot saw that it was wise to separate for the sake of harmony. They had been so blessed by the Lord that their workers were beginning to quarrel over resources. Abraham graciously offered Lot first choice of where he would pasture his flocks. Now here is where Lot made a crucial mistake. The Bible tells us that Lot chose ... "for himself."

This may seem rather insignificant, but the fact is that Lot didn't seek counsel from the Lord as his uncle did. He did, in fact, choose the best land available. But God knew what Lot didn't – the place he was moving to had no future. The Lord destroyed the very city where Lot became a leader, and he lost everything. He learned too late that one gets further from God when either, God moves and we don't ... or when we move in a direction that God won't. Being successful is good, but no good can come when we choose poorly, as Lot did and distance ourselves from God. Make sure you are always moving yourself closer to God.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I want to be pleasing to You in everything I do, and in every decision I make. Please give me ears to hear Your voice clearly, eyes that look for Your works, and a heart that loves You more than any other thing. As I study Your Word, please show me how to make wise choices. I want to follow You – don't let me stray!

Scripture for Today

Genesis 13:11-13 Lot chose that land for himself – the Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. So while Abram stayed in the land of Canaan, Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom, among the cities of the plain. The people of this area were unusually wicked and sinned greatly against the LORD. (NLT)

*God may not pay for what
He does not order*

September 29

Imagine yourself in a restaurant when the waiter begins filling your table with dishes of food which you did not order. Without regard to how good the food may look, smell, or taste, it is unlikely that you will want to pay for those things which you did not order. How would you feel if that same waiter demanded that you be responsible for the entire bill?

This happened to me recently in a foreign country. Although I was nice, I was nonetheless firm. To the waiter's amazement I stood against every plea and refused to pay for those things which I had not ordered. Sometimes, I believe God does the same. He is not obligated to take care of every bill we make on our own. Be prayerful before you decide what is best for God and where He needs to spend His money or you may be faced with paying the bill yourself.

Prayer for Today

Father, speak to me and give me the wisdom to only obligate myself for things which I know are within Your will. Help me not to waste Your resources on things which You would not do.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 12:16-20 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' (NKJV)

James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." (NKJV)

If it's your baby, you raise it

September 30

Some years ago, a man and his wife visited our Church. They asked for and received an appointment with me to share the vision they believed God had given them. As I listened, I became concerned that they were missing an important element of any vision ... the responsibility to take care of something after it is birthed. You see, they told me they were called to help Churches by beginning a bus ministry. However, after much discussion they remained firmly uncommitted to work in that ministry or to be responsible for any aspects of its continued care and success. They desired to impregnate our Church with their seeds of desire but felt no obligation to provide anything thereafter. In fact, they were committed to no Church or any ministry except their own. I rebuked them for being so shallow as to think that Churches or Church leaders, for that matter, were short on vision. It's not vision we lack but people who are committed to care for the ministries after they are birthed. So, if God makes you the father or mother of a ministry, commit to do more than just have the baby ... raise the baby.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to have the good sense to be responsible beyond merely impregnating others with my ideas. Give me the wisdom it takes to continue caring for those things which You bring to birth through me.

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 11:28 Besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the Churches. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 8:16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. (KJV)

Philippians 2:20 For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state. (KJV)

October



*You will never do anything on any day
that is not called today*

October 1

God wants to transform you into the image of His Son, Jesus. It is possible for you to begin this life changing encounter today. A wise man once said that even a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. If you are willing to take the first step and pray, God is willing to begin this process of transformation today. Go ahead: be the kind of person who trusts God and puts their faith into action.

You will never do anything on any day that is not called today. Today is your day! Go for it.

Prayer for Today

Oh God, make me the kind of person you are well pleased with and begin the transformation today. Give me the grace to embrace the challenges of life knowing that You are right here with me, guiding me through on my way to Your best for me.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 95:7 For He is our God. We are the people He watches over, the sheep under His care. Oh, that you would listen to His voice today! (NLT)

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

*What we do with what we have shows
who we are and what we believe*

October 2

Are you predictable? A person is known by the fruit of his life. Thus it is fair that we should be judged by what we have historically produced in life. Why should anyone expect you to act or react any differently than you have always done in the past? It is not enough to wait until things get better to begin doing what is right.

What you are doing with what you have right now really determines who you are and what you believe. If you aren't pleased with it, change. Begin writing a new chapter in your life today.

Prayer for Today

Father, I know that I am sowing seeds today that will determine my future harvest. Help me Lord to have patience, to be kind and considerate, and to take what I have, start where I am, and do the very best I can for You.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (NKJV)

*While forgiveness may cost the
forgiver, restoration is the offender's
responsibility*

October 3

There is a big difference between forgiveness and restoration. Forgiveness is a right. Restoration is a responsibility. Every offender has a God-given right to be forgiven of their offense and every Believer is commanded by God to forgive since we too have been forgiven of our offenses. However, forgiveness does not equal restoration. Restoration of a broken relationship comes after the offending party accepts their responsibility for the offense and makes every attempt to make real and meaningful restitution, if at all possible. A true heart of repentance and brokenness are signs that the offender understands the value of being forgiven and pledges his future to never offend in like manner again. If you have been offended, forgive. If you, however, have offended and have been forgiven, accept your responsibility. Make every restitution possible and humbly pledge to not offend in like manner again. Perhaps God will grant you restoration of the relationship you have damaged.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, please give me the grace to forgive others where and when they fail my expectations or otherwise offend me. Give me a willingness to be restored to these offenders. Also, Father, grant me the grace and humility to do whatever I can to be restored to those whom I have offended. Thank You Sir, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle. (NKJV)

*Who we are connected to can
determine our future*

October 4

Noah's three daughters-in-law were spared from perishing in the flood and became the mothers of a wonderful new world. What was their claim to fame? Nothing more than a common decision of the day: To whom will I connect my life? Everyday people make decisions to associate, partner, court, marry, or become close friends with those who will influence them for good or for bad, for success or for failure.

Who we are connected to will determine our future. It is also true that we influence others with whom we have relationship. Iron can sharpen iron or make it dull. To whom are you connected? Examine your relationships in light of this truth.

Prayer for Today

Lord God, I pray that You guide me in making the right choices with whom I choose to begin and build relationships. Teach me to choose my friends wisely and help me be the kind of friend and partner others need in order to achieve our best for You. Keep me, Lord, from the wrong influences.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character. (NIV)

Proverbs 4:14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. (NKJV)

*There is a circle of life - things begin
and these things end*

October 5

Each season of life presents us with opportunities to move on from those things which were good for the past, which brought us to this moment, and embrace those new things which will take us on from here. In order to be properly prepared for life and all its complexities we should teach ourselves and others this truth.

There is a circle of life - things begin and these things end. This is the way of God for all mankind. However, there is one thing which will stand forever, the Word of God.

Prayer for Today

Give me grace, oh Lord, to discern the seasons of my life. Help me to know when to stop one thing and begin another. Give me peace in life's transitions and take me to my greatest day.

Scriptures for Today

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under Heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted. (NKJV)

1 Peter 1:24-25 Because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. (NKJV)

*There is a circle of life - things begin
and these things end
There is a cycle of life - between
beginnings and endings, there are ups
and downs*

October 6

The road of life is filled with smooth riding and rough times; curves and straight stretches; hills and plains. Like Joseph, between birth and death we too will experience our share of good times and tough times. It is your choice which one will capture your focus. Perspective is everything. Is the glass half full or half empty? Is this your problem or your opportunity? You get to decide.

There is a circle of life - things begin and these things end, and there is a cycle of life - between beginnings and endings, there are ups and downs. Don't be disillusioned, God is still on His throne.

Prayer for Today

God, help me not to faint in the day of adversity. Give me strength to know that right around the curve, just over the hill, when daylight comes, You will still be on Your throne and everything will work together for my good.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. (KJV)

Psalms 27:13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. (NKJV)

There is a circle of life, there is a cycle of life and there is a secret of life - you reap what you sow!

October 7

The law of life from Genesis 1 says that all things reproduce after their kind, with seed in themselves, bearing fruit of like kind. There are no dark or hidden secrets to reaping a harvest. Simply sow the seeds, in the calculated amount you wish to harvest, water the seeds, weed the garden, and patiently await the fruit. It works not only in the natural, but is a spiritual phenomenon as well.

The secret of life is that you reap what you sow. What do you want out of life? For others to be kind and friendly to you? Assistance with basic needs? The recognition or promotion from others? Encouragement? Peace in your home? Joy in your heart? Money for your future? Sow!

Prayer for Today

Lord, show me the places where I have sown seeds which I do not want to reap and give me a crop failure in those areas ... then Lord, grant me the time and wisdom to sow new seeds in the garden of my life. Remind me, Lord, that with each thought, word, and deed, I am sowing for my future and the future of my family.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 8:22 While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease. (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (NKJV)

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (NKJV)

***Don't take a temporary situation and
create a permanent problem***

October 8

Almost daily we have opportunities to become frustrated with life's little challenges. We all encounter pressures at home, school, in the work place, or with friends. Not properly dealing with these continuing frustrations will allow pressures to build into a bigger than manageable problem.

Take marriage for example. Many couples separate and divorce over irreconcilable differences which started from minor disagreements. Don't let a hurried life or a lack of self control push you into making mountains out of mole hills. Don't fall into the habit of taking temporary situations and creating permanent problems. Instead, pray and put life back into proper perspective.

Prayer for Today

Today I need Your help once again, Lord. Help me to not be frustrated with the daily problems and pressures of life. Teach me self-control and remind me that not all things which affect me are always about me. Make me a builder, not a destroyer, and help me to see the big picture.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (NKJV)

*Make a living, make a life, make a
difference*

October 9

Some people spend so much time making a living that they forget to make a life. They have great incomes and prestigious positions in the company and community but their children, parents, or friends don't really know them. Others realize that there is more to life than making money and buying things. They invest the time and energy to building a life with the money they make. But life doesn't stop there.

God has designed us with purpose. We are inspired by both the Word and the Spirit to make a living and make a life so that we can then make a difference. What are you doing to make a real and lasting difference?

Prayer for Today

Lord, show me the priorities of life. Teach me to take the principles of Your Word and make a better living, make a better life, and make a greater difference. Help me to know when to say yes and when to say no. Keep me from running the wrong race and guide me to my greatest day.

Scriptures for Today

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (NKJV)

Matthew 6:20-21 But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NKJV)

There is a reason why the windshield is bigger than the rear view mirror

October 10

I am told that when a baseball player comes up to bat that his greatest challenge is not the pitcher but his own batting average. If he hit a home run last time, he is pressured by the odds and expectations of doing it again. If he struck out last time at bat, there is the fear of a repeat. The greatest challenge takes place in the mind of the batter, and the pitcher too, for that matter. Our past performance, whether poor or excellent, can limit us when we focus too much on the past and not enough on the future.

There is a reason why the windshield is bigger than the rear view mirror. Sure we need a glimpse and small picture perspective of where we have been, but our greatest potential is yet ahead. Stop allowing the yesterdays to determine your tomorrows. Lift up your head, open up your eyes, and look to the future. Your greatest day is yet ahead!

Prayer for Today

Help me, Father, not to spend too much time trusting or fearing my accomplishments or my failures of the past. I cannot turn back the clock and relive or change my yesterdays. Forgive me where I have failed You, myself, and others. Give me a future perspective and plan, then guide me in all I do.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

The journey is your friend

October 11

It is the journey which prepares us to operate at destiny capacity. Without becoming great in the ordinary everyday challenges of life, we may never qualify for the truly extraordinary opportunities which come our way every now and then. The daily journey of life, along with its common struggles and perplexities, is the exercise our soul needs to get ready for the greater tests of life.

Neither Joseph nor David, not Ruth or Esther, Peter or Paul could have been prepared to fulfill their destined role in life had it not been for the stretching and shaping pressures of the journey which took them there. The journey is not your enemy ... it is your friend. Stop complaining and start growing.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, I am sorry for the times I have complained or gotten angry about my journey. I know that You have plans for my life and that all things will work for good. Help me to understand, give me the grace to endure, and strength for my journey. You be the potter and I'll be the clay.

Scriptures for Today

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (NKJV)

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (NKJV)

*Cursing the darkness changes nothing
... light a lamp*

October 12

It takes zero talent to identify and complain about obvious shortcomings in people and in plans. The temptation is to allow frustrations to be the basis of our conversations. This practice is counterproductive to healthy relationships and problem solving.

The children of Israel developed a bad habit of murmuring and complaining about everything which did not suit them or turn out like they wanted it. Soon, every decision of their leaders was opposed and progress came to a halt. Cursing the darkness changes nothing ... light a lamp. What we need to do with our better idea is offer it as a solution. If we have no better idea, we should be supportive of those who do.

Prayer for Today

Oh Lord, I put my trust in You. Help me to not be a complainer. Inspire me with ideas and solutions that can make things better and then give me the audience and respect of my superiors and peers so that I can offer them in a non threatening way. Make me valuable to the process.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining and arguing. (NLT)

Luke 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. (NKJV)

Psalms 119:111 Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they are the rejoicing of my heart. (NKJV)

*While people wait for a move of God,
God waits for a move of people*

October 13

Ignoring something which needs attention won't make it go away. Neither will turning something over to God which He expects you to help with. Like the story of the four lepers in 2 Kings 7, just sitting in your problem won't solve your problem. God demands that we participate with Him in this adventure of life. Without advancing and engaging our enemies we may never know victory.

While people wait for a move of God, God waits for a move of people. God is able and willing to take the least of our earnest and sincere efforts and make them successful. Since we reap what we sow it is imperative that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

Prayer for Today

Father, I choose to be a doer of the Word of God and not just a hearer. Help me to be the kind of person You can depend on for action. Give me the information, inspiration, and motivation I need to advance and engage. Make me a co-worker with Your Holy Spirit today.

Scriptures for Today

2 Kings 7:3 And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? (KJV)

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (NKJV)

There is no lasting success without a successor

October 14

Why should all that you know die and go to the grave with you? Life is a relay race, a team sport in which no one participant can succeed without the team. It is each person's responsibility to raise up runners for the next lap and then to pass the baton while still able to run.

With so much emphasis put on individual achievement these days, no wonder we see envy, jealousy, and greed permeating our society. Take a step back and consider - what will be your lasting success? Find a disciple. Be a mentor. Raise up a qualified runner for the next lap. Pass the baton. There will be no lasting success without a successor.

Prayer for Today

Father, give me someone in whom I can invest. Teach me to be a mentor. Grant me the skills to pass on what I know about life and eternity to others who will one day replace me. Help me to positively impact someone's life today.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (NKJV)

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

*God has a plan; He will succeed; We
have an opportunity to participate*

October 15

From the pit to Potiphar's house, from the prison to the palace, Joseph was never outside the plan of God for his life. David, too, walked a long and rugged pathway to becoming the King of Israel as God had spoken of him. In times of trouble or tragedy it can seem hard to imagine any good thing coming from our pain.

However, if we belong to Christ, we must believe that God has a plan, that He will succeed, and be thankful that we have an opportunity to participate in His plan. We cannot allow personal hardship to outweigh the eternal plan of Almighty God. When facing difficult situations of life our proper response to God is simply to trust and obey.

Prayer for Today

God, how can I begin to understand the complexities of Your plan for me, my family, and the future? These things I ask: Be merciful to me and my loved ones, remember we are but clay and fragile in Your hands. Keep us from evil and use us for Your Glory. As always, not my will but Thine be done.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 45:8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. (NKJV)

Matthew 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (NKJV)

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (NKJV)

Many of the challenges of life can be handled by simply facing the facts and telling the truth

October 16

The facts may be ugly, costly, or depressing and they may even point the blame right at you. However, in order to get complete closure, we must nonetheless face the facts and tell the truth ... not the truth from your perspective, but from God's perspective.

Sure life can get tough; we can mess up; others can fail us; we can fail ourselves. But God is faithful even when others aren't. He has a word for you, a word straight from the Bible about your current situation. You can face the facts and speak God's Word over your life.

Prayer for Today

Father, I know You love me and will never take Your love away. Teach me Your Word. Grant me the faith to trust it more than I trust my own opinion, fears, or what others may say. As I face my enemies with the sword of Your Spirit, give me the boldness I need to speak out in faith.

Scriptures for Today

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (KJV)

Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. (NKJV)

*It could cost you right now to do the
right thing, but it could cost you
forever not to*

October 17

Have you ever wondered what happens to a soul one second after it is forever too late? There are many reasons people give as to why they put off doing what they know is right. Most of these excuses deal with an attempt to avoid the immediate costs sometimes involved with making a right choice.

They're right! It might cost you to do the right thing. There may be a price to pay right now. However, waiting to do the right thing will most likely cost you even more. Either we pay for our future with our now or we pay for our now with our future. The choice is yours!

Prayer for Today

Take fear from me, oh God, and deliver me from the spirit of procrastination. Help me to make the right decisions, even in the face of temporary costs. Strengthen me to be strong in my stand against compromise and be faithful to You without fear of the consequences.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:15 But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ. (NKJV)

Mark 8:35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call Heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. (NKJV)

*Perhaps the reason you can't buy what
you want is because you bought what
you wanted*

October 18

One of the problems with a dollar is that it only spends one time. Often we may not realize that saying yes to one purchase may mean that we are saying no to another. Impulse spending or pressured purchasing is seldom a good investment of resources. God expects us to be stewards, not only of what we see as His money, but also of that which we call our own.

Many times the reason why we cannot afford to buy what we want is because we already bought ourselves what we wanted. The problem is we may not want what we bought any more, or at least not as much as we want what we want now! Somewhere we must get control of spending. Do you have control of your spending, or does it have control over you? God can help!

Prayer for Today

Father, deliver me from the snares of life, especially in the area of finances. Show me how to get a spending plan that will make me a better steward of the blessings You wish to pour out on me. Fill my treasuries with Your riches and make me able to be a blessing to others.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 10:4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. (NKJV)

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it. (NKJV)

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. (NKJV)

*You may not see the change taking
place, but nonetheless
things are changing*

October 19

Have you ever had the experience of revisiting a place you have not visited in ten or more years? Perhaps you've experienced seeing an old friend who you hardly recognize anymore. Most likely the changes which have taken place over time, although barely noticeable to the constant observer on a day to day basis, can prove to be drastic and even alarming to someone who has not been a daily observer. It is the same principle we encounter in our spiritual life as we read our daily Word, gather ourselves to prayer each day, and consistently serve the Lord over a long period of time. Although the changes in our lives and, perhaps the lives of our close friends and family members, may not be greatly noticed, nonetheless, changes are taking place. Don't despair nor allow the enemy to make you think that your daily connection with God is fruitless. You, and others around you are being changed as you continue to look into God's perfect Word and apply that Word to your life. These changes are more often noticed by those who have not seen you for a period of time.

Prayer for Today

Father, I choose to trust You in the lives of my family and friends and in my life as well. I know Your Word and Spirit are working on me and daily I am being transformed into the image of Your dear Son. Thank you for making me more like You.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJV)

The power of sin is in the secret

October 20

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. No one can go and bring back a jar of darkness. Darkness is simply the absence of light. This is the same principle of the existence of sin. Sin is simply the absence of righteousness. Sin occurs when we make a departure from the righteousness of God. Sin loses its power when we confess that sin to God, repent, and return to being right with God.

Sin easily hides where there is no light. The power of sin is in the secret. Don't let sin keep you captive. Sin loses its power when you bring it to God and shine the light of His Word on your life.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, I know I have sinned and I confess now my sins to You. I forsake them and turn away from them. Forgive me, oh Lord, and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Wash me with the water of Your pure Word. Sin shall have no more hold on me. Thank You Lord.

Scriptures for Today

John 3:20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (NKJV)

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under law but under grace. (KJV)

1 John 1:9-10 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (KJV)

The most important and profitable thing we ever encounter may at first seem like a terrible and unfair burden

October 21

One day a man took his two young sons to the city. They watched their father carry on trade and saw how he interacted with the merchants. The father found them a late lunch and sat and talked with his sons about the day's lessons. He was preparing them to one day take their place in society.

Passing through the streets they came upon a condemned man being led to his punishment. The convict fell under the weight of his burden. The sons watched as their father was threatened by the soldiers and forced to carry this prisoner's cross. Like Simon the Cyrene, the most important and profitable thing we ever encounter may at first seem like a terrible and unfair burden. It's believed that Simon's sons were later instrumental leaders in the early Church.

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me not to complain when compelled to carry another man's burden. Give me the strength and compassion I need to be of greater, unflinching service to You and Your children.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 27:32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. (NKJV)

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (NKJV)

*God will give to you in direct
proportion to what He can give
through you*

October 22

Have you ever felt like the wells of your life were stopped up? Like the flow of God's presence and blessing had been dammed? Whether finances, revelation, wisdom, or joy, God does not withhold any good thing from those who walk upright before Him. Perhaps you should examine yourself.

One of the sure principles of God's Word is that God will give to you in direct proportion to what He can give through you. When examining yourself, make sure you look to see if you have stopped the flow of God's goodness in your life by disallowing what flows to you to flow through you. Many times we can let refreshing new waters into the sea of our life by making sure the outlets are cleaned and flowing freely. What do you desire more of? Become a supply to others and God will ensure His supply to you!

Prayer for Today

I want to be a blessing Lord. I will give of my time, talent, and treasury as You lead. Open up the windows of Heaven and pour out Your blessings on me. Grant me to know Your peace and Your presence. Teach me Your living Word.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (NKJV)

Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given. (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (NKJV)

Focus on your proper response to God

October 23

God expects a lot from us. But, He gave us His Son, His Word, and His Spirit to teach, guide, and protect us. We really have no excuses why we do not obey His commands. No circumstance of life gives one a right to disregard God's Word. We cannot allow the actions of others to determine how godly we will act.

When faced with temptation, testing, trials, and pressures of life, we must sharpen our focus on our proper response to God. Asking ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" is a reasonable approach to any problem.

Prayer for Today

Father, I want to please You above pleasing myself or others. Help me Lord to see through the confusing issues to the principles of Your Word. In each of life's situations, teach me to focus on my proper response to You without regard to what others do.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 14:10-12 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (NKJV)

*Our whole life is an expression of what
we believe*

October 24

What we do with what we have determines who we are and what we believe. A person seldom cares what you know until they know that you care. Don't be deceived; a person will not die for something which they would not live for.

Our whole life is an expression of what we believe. You are writing the story that your grandchildren will one day tell about you. With each choice you add another chapter to the story that chronicles your life. Make wise choices today.

Prayer for Today

God, You said that a wise man will leave an inheritance to his children's children and that a good name is better to be had than silver or gold. Father, I want my life's story to tell of a person who was blessed by You and became a blessing to others for You. Show me how to make my life count.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. (NKJV)

Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. (NKJV)

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. (NKJV)

*God demands that we participate in
our miracle*

October 25

From the widow with only a small jar of oil and a little handful of flour in 2 Kings 4 to Naaman the Leper in 2 Kings 5, God expects us to trust Him and act on His Word. We must start where we are, take what we have, and do the very best we can with it. God will meet us and make up the difference.

God demands that we participate in our miracle. We must be a faithful doer of God's work and not just a hearer of His Word. God will bless the work of your hands so that everything you do will prosper.

Prayer for Today

Oh God, bless the work of my hands. I pledge to You that I will not be lazy or procrastinate, but will start where I am, take what I have and will do the very best I can with it. Give me miracles on my way. Increase me with Your bountiful blessings. I will be a doer of Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (NKJV)

Psalms 1:3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. (NKJV)

*Jesus will be Lord, either by conquest
or by consent*

October 26

There is no power in the universe greater than the power God has given to His Son, Jesus. One day, every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. This is a fact and it will happen.

Jesus will be Lord, either by conquest or by consent. Those who know Him and love Him submit their lives to His Lordship without threat or fear. However, for those who hold to their own stubborn and wicked wills, the judgment awaits where the souls of lost men will cry out with every created being, Jesus is Lord! Give Him His due today ... He wins anyway.

Prayer for Today

Father, I have accepted Your Son as My Savior and now I want to recommit my life to Him anew. He is my Lord. I gladly give Him my allegiance and pledge to serve Him, loving and obeying Him as my Master and soon coming King.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 6:46 But why do you call Me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do the things which I say? (NKJV)

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. (NKJV)

Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (KJV)

*Falling down won't make you a failure
- staying down will*

October 27

Imagine we were walking together on our way to Church. Suppose I tripped on something in the way and fell down. Although I did not hurt myself much, my pride is wounded and I am embarrassed. You attempt to help but, continuing to lie where I fell, I finally convince you to go on without me.

The following week, on your way to Church again, you see me still lying where I had fallen. A bit weaker and dirty from the experience, I recount the tragedy of my failure to you. "I tried, gave it my best, but I couldn't even walk to Church." What would be your advice? Get up! Falling down doesn't make you a failure but staying down will.

Prayer for Today

God, teach me to see myself through Your eyes. I am Your child, learning to walk and trying to run the race of this life. Help me to avoid failure, especially when I have fallen and just need to get back up, brush myself off, and try again. Thank you, Lord.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholdeth him with His hand. (KJV)

Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. (NKJV)

Those who do not believe in hell may not be as harmful as those who do believe and hold no compelling urge to warn others

October 28

What kind of a God would it take to send His Only Son to die on a cruel cross to save you from something which did not exist? My friend, there is a hell! Eternal separation from God in a lake of fire, along with death and all of the fallen angels, will be the eternal abode of all mankind who refuse to acknowledge Jesus as Lord while they still have a chance.

It is the duty of each believer to be a witness, not of the horrors of hell, but of the blessings of Heaven and how to get there. Those who do not believe in hell may not be as harmful as those who do believe and hold no compelling urge to warn others. We who hold the light must shine it on the path of eternal life for others. Are you doing your part?

Prayer for Today

Father, souls sit today in danger. Laborers are needed. Prepare the hearts for harvest and send me into the fields. Show me someone to witness to today. Open the door and give me the right words to say. I will not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

Scriptures for Today

Revelation 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (NKJV)

Luke 10:2 Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (NKJV)

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (NKJV)

*The treasure of God's blessing on your
life is found in the field of God's will
for your life*

October 29

God has a will and purpose for your life, a fruitful field for you to grow in. There is a place of blessing and provision for each person and every endeavor. Abraham called God "Jehovah Jireh." More than the simple understanding that "The Lord is my Provider," is the true meaning of this Name. "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

God has made provision for us in the place where He wants us to be for each season of life. The treasure of God's blessing on your life is found in the field of God's will for your life. Keep in mind, however, seldom are cures geographical in nature. The change you need may simply mean an adjustment to your attitude or to your gratitude.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to be in the center of Your will for my life. Speak to me and show me where You want me, how You want me to be, and what You want me to do. Give me dreams and visions, speak to me through Your Word and by Your Spirit. Confirm Your will to me.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided." (NKJV)

1 Kings 17:9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." (NKJV)

Psalms 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. (KJV)

It's not our charisma that makes us valuable to God, but our character

October 30

“Charismatic” is a term given to people who have a winning way about them. The smile, the confidence, the sense that they know where they are going and understand how to get there, these are all reasons why people feel good just being around them. Charismatic people invoke a following.

However, it's not our charisma that makes us valuable to God, but our character. While charisma may help us reach some level of success, recognition, or acceptance, it will take character to stay there. More than an outward portrayal of likeable qualities, an inner commitment to honesty, integrity, loyalty, and Christian morals will serve to develop our character. Character is how God sees us.

Prayer for Today

My prayer today, Father, is that I would please You in all things I say and do. I pledge to You to be a person of Christ-like character. I will not allow the pressures of life to dictate my responses. Help me not to stumble and fall. Make my heart Your home.

Scripture for Today

Matthew 23:26-28 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (NKJV)

Sometimes the most godly thing a person can do is to take a nap

October 31

Throughout the Bible, God encourages, even commands, that His children recognize the need for periodic scheduled times of rest and relaxation. Nothing else can refresh the mind and body like a break from the daily chores of life.

Never in the history of man have people been so busy, running from one thing to another, believing that one day soon things will slow down. Added to the rush are the pressures of job, school, family, bills, and social life. Is it any wonder that stress induced mental and physical illnesses are at an all time high? Sometimes the most godly thing a person can do is to take a nap. Take a break! It's God's way.

Prayer for Today

Father, forgive me for not following Your wisdom in the area of personal rest and relaxation. Help me to break free from the rush and set aside meaningful time to enjoy the journey and be refreshed for what is to come. Take away my stress and fill my life with peace.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (NKJV)

Luke 10:39-42 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (NKJV)

Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep. (NKJV)

November



Our unwillingness or inability to reproduce will limit God's plan

November 1

Isn't it interesting that even nature reflects God's continuing cycle of reproduction and re-generation? Each season of the year holds its own beauty and serves a purpose, but eventually it must give way to the next so that the cycle of new life continues. Human beings, as well as animals, have a built-in desire to reproduce. This desire was put there by our Creator for the single purpose of carrying forth His plan from one generation to the next.

Just as Adam and Eve were given the directive from God to multiply, so we, as believers, have been given that same spiritual directive to reproduce disciples. We accomplish this task in two ways. One way is by testifying of Jesus to the lost and seeing them born again into the Kingdom. The second is by actively mentoring and discipling others, reproducing ourselves in them. Are you limiting or facilitating God's plan?

Prayer for Today

Father, in the busyness of life, help me to never neglect my responsibility of participating with You and others in seeing Your Kingdom expand. Empower me with boldness to win the lost and grant me the inner security and maturity to realize that I must raise up runners for the next lap.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (NIV)

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (NKJV)

Truth is not determined by a show of hands

November 2

America is known to be a democratically elected Republican form of government. America's Founding Fathers established a nation with the intent that "We the people" rule. Thus, a majority rule approach is used when electing officials, passing laws, and adding amendments to the constitution. Policy is therefore established by a show of hands in every area of that democratic society.

God's Kingdom however, is neither a democracy nor a republic. It operates under a theocratic rule, which simply means it is "God ruled." When going through difficult times, we often seek the opinion and approval of others who may agree with our perspective. However, without regard to how many people we can line up on our side, God's Word is never to be debated or voted on. The Bible is the *Word of Truth*. It says what it means and means what it says. Forsake all, put your hand in God's hand, and walk in His truth today.

Prayer for Today

I have been made by You, Lord, and I recognize that as my Creator You will always know what is best for me. Give me the strength in tough times to not allow myself to be persuaded by what the majority may say but to stay committed to Your truth as revealed in Your Word.

Scriptures for Today

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. (NKJV)

Psalms 119:30 I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on Your laws. (NIV)

Romans 3:4 ... Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That you may be justified in your words, and may overcome when you are judged." (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 1:20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. (NLT)

Courage is not the absence of fear

November 3

Fear is not necessarily a negative emotion. For instance, a healthy fear of driving too close to the edge of a mountain may prevent one from a serious or fatal accident. A healthy fear of a wild animal such as a snake may keep one from being bitten. Yet, a parent, out of courage (not the absence of fear), may stand between that snake and their child to keep that child from being bitten and poisoned.

Fear, therefore, has the potential to serve our lives in either a positive or negative way. Fear may keep us from doing the things we should as well as keep us from doing the things we shouldn't. Heroes are simply those who know the difference, and act wisely and with courage. Don't allow irrational fears to keep you from moving forward. Be courageous and take your stand.

Prayer for Today

God, thank You for helping me face all my fears with courage and empowering me to walk in victory today and every day. Teach me to respond with courage to life's problems by trusting in You.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. (NIV)

Jude 1:22-23 Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. (NIV)

Joshua 1:8-9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (NKJV)

*The most determined you will ever be is
when you are determined NOT to quit*

November 4

How tragic that we do not reflect often enough on the little lessons we all learned in childhood and then apply them to where we are today. Let's think back to our first attempts at riding a bicycle. It may have seemed impossible to balance on two wheels, but we gathered up our courage and went at it with all we had. How many times did we fall, skin our knees, and then get back up to try again? Yet we kept at it because we refused to give up the vision of riding that bike to school with our friends. Finally, our persistence and courage paid off and down the road we went.

The challenges we face in life are no different in basis than riding that bike. Going forward down the straight and narrow road of righteousness and fulfilling God's purpose is just like riding that bike. It will take courage, focus, and a determination not to quit.

Prayer for Today

Father, restore to me a child-like faith that I may face every challenge of life with an overcoming attitude. Remind me of all the heroes of the faith who overcame impossible odds and by the power of Your Spirit completed their assignments on earth in victory.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:14 I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me Heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NIV)

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. (NKJV)

Life is designed to be lived with a margin

November 5

Life is best lived so that when we get to the top of the stairs we still have some breath left; when we get to the end of the day, we still have some patience left; and when we get to the end of the month, we still have some money left. Life is best lived with a margin and those who push the envelope and always live on the edge are setting themselves up for potential disaster ... one unexpected event, and life comes tumbling down.

Joseph showed us how to create our margins in life. He paid close attention to the good times, peaceful times, and times of abundance, gathering extra so that when life required, he had more than enough for his needs. We should take his example in every critical area of life: health, wealth, and relationships, both with God and man. Don't take the good times for granted. Work, exercise, save, and build relationships before you need their supply so that when you have a need you will have the margin. What should you do about your future today? It costs no more to live from the top of the barrel than it does to live from the bottom of the barrel and it actually costs less to drive on a full tank than on one that is nearly empty. Fill your tanks today.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to see my opportunities today and capitalize on their potential so that I might be more secure and better prepared for my tomorrows. Teach me the value of building a reservoir in my good days so that I might not waste the abundance of Your blessings. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 41:35-36 And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt that the land may not perish during the famine. (NKJV)

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (NKJV)

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase. So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. (NKJV)

What you are going through may not be punishment for your past but rather positioning for your future

November 6

When going to a job interview many of us have been asked, “Do you have any experience?” While we may put great emphasis on a college education, employers are still very interested in our past experience. Reality is that many jobs still require a certain degree of experience even if we are well educated.

The benefit of past experience enables us to know what to do and what not to do and may prevent us from making costly mistakes more than once. Along life’s way we make mistakes, however, God is willing to use these mistakes to educate us and therefore better our position.

Prayer for Today

God, help me to change my thinking about my current situations and circumstances. Use them to teach me of Your faithfulness and love so that I will be better equipped to handle the greater things in life You have for me. Also, as I learn of You, I pray that You learn of me that I can be trusted for greater things because I am determined to pass my tests of life through Your power and Word.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (NIV)

Isaiah 48:10 See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

*You will never change your tomorrows
if you fail to change YOU today*

November 7

No one ever does anything on any day that is not called today. Today is the only day you have and tomorrow never comes. It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. If we expect our future to be any different than our past, we must take the opportunity we have today, make the decisions necessary to secure our future, and change where we know we must.

Examine yourself right now ... there is no better time ... challenge yourself to take the first step and change your future to line up with God's best for your life. God expects us to change. He expects us to grow in His Word by applying it daily. He knows that what we change today will change our tomorrow. Change!

Prayer for Today

Father, give me the strength of character to allow You to shine a light on the things I need to change about myself today. I realize that what may be holding me back from a better tomorrow may simply be myself. Give me the grace to change today.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 6:2 For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, God is ready to help you right now. Today is the day of salvation. (NLT)

*Crying will deliver you from your
Egypt, but it takes faithfulness to take
you into the Promise Land*

November 8

Just as the Israelites cried out to God for deliverance from the Egyptians, we cry out today from the things in life that are oppressing us. It could be that we have some type of addiction, have a financial problem, are in need of a job, want our marriage healed, or desire any number of other things that seem to hold us captive.

We have all experienced our personal crying out times to God and have seen Him come down and rescue us. Yet, if we expect to inherit all the promises of God, we must not yield to the temptation of forgetting God when the current crisis is over. The same hand of God that delivered us will also keep us and lead us into a land flowing with milk and honey but it will take faithfulness to possess it.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, give me a possessor's mentality of faithfulness to You. When my current need has been met and I am tempted to go back to my former ways or to grow complacent about You, convict me by Your Holy Spirit and grant me grace to continue on in faithfulness so that I may not miss the promise land You have for me.

Scriptures for Today

Exodus 3:7-8b The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey ..." (NIV)

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness ... (NKJV)

***It's the ordinary that prepares and
qualifies you for the extra ordinary.
Become great in your ordinary ...***

November 9

Does life ever seem mundane and routine to you? Do you ever wish something spectacular would happen to break up your otherwise monotonous day? These feelings are common to everyone, but the truth of the matter is we will spend many such ordinary days in life. They are, however, not without purpose. They are designed to test, shape, and solidify our character.

True greatness is not defined by one shining moment; it is determined by a lifetime of consistent behavior. When we show ourselves trustworthy and disciplined in our ordinary moments, we become qualified to handle the extra ordinary ones. Be great in your ordinary!

Prayer for Today

God, I thank You for my ordinary days that You have designed to propel me forward to extra ordinary ones. I will prove myself faithful over my today, fulfilling my obligations in expectation of proving myself trustworthy for the extra ordinary moments of life.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 40:31 But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. (NLT)

Acts 19:11 God gave Paul the power to do unusual miracles. (NLT)

Admit it, quit it, and forget it

November 10

There has been given to us by God a most wonderful gift and that is the gift of choice. We can choose to serve God or choose to serve ourselves. Serving ourselves will only put us on a road of certain destruction but that destination can be changed at anytime by exercising our right to choose to go another direction in life.

How do we start heading in the right direction? First, we must admit our sin to God. Admission is very important because with it comes the responsibility and conviction that we need to change. Second, we need to quit our sin. This second choice keeps us heading in the right direction. Then we need to forget our sin in order to live free from guilt. Admit it, quit it, and forget it; three steps necessary to go forward in life.

Prayer for Today

Father, today I admit my sin before You. Forgive me and empower me to quit and never look back and then help me to abide in Your love, knowing that Jesus' blood has removed my sin, enabling me to forget it.

Scriptures for Today

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (NIV)

Activity does not equal productivity

November 11

If ever a time existed in the history of mankind that the word “busyness” applied, it is today. Everyone is busy, and we often dash from one activity to another, barely keeping up with our rugged and demanding schedules. However, busyness does not always equate with productivity. In today’s demanding and hectic pace, consider *what* you are doing, *why* you are doing it, and *who* you are doing it for. You may discover some non-essential commitments that consume large amounts of energy without yielding valuable results. Prioritize your life. Put first things first. You will find that life runs more smoothly and your time investments will really matter.

Prayer for Today

God, give me the wisdom to honestly look at my life and identify the things that really are most important. Help me elevate these things to the place of importance they deserve and need to be. Next, give me strength to remain committed to making these things the central focus of my life. Near the end of my life, I want to be able to look back over my years and say with confidence that I made a difference because I focused on the most important things life had to offer.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:15-17 Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NAS)

You may be right in the middle of a making

November 12

When David decided to build a house for God to dwell in, he was rebuked by God through the prophet Nathan. God reminded David that he was chosen, when just a little boy, following after a few sheep, an obscure time in life when David was nothing and had nothing to offer God. The prophet continued by telling David that it was presumptuous to assume that he could build a house for God when God had asked for no house. God finally said to David, “I took you and made you ...”

This story reveals the reason why David was king over Israel. It was because God took him and made him a king. He did not take him and give him a Kingdom. David spent years in the making and often, so do we. Perhaps you are in the middle of a making today. Be moldable clay in the hands of the Master Potter and yield your life to His making. He has a plan for you!

Prayer for Today

Father, I choose to keep my focus on You in times when I am tested and challenged through the trials of life. I choose to believe that Your hand is on my life and that You are building in me the qualities that earn me the right to be called a Christian-*one who is Christ-like*. I will stay the course, and I will finish my race. When I find myself in the middle of a pressured moment, I will cooperate with You and allow You to fashion me to be like You. Make me more like You.

Scripture for Today

2 Samuel 7:8 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.’” (NKJV)

*Many are willing to be used yet
unwilling to be prepared for use*

November 13

How would you like to be a doctor, an astronaut, a research scientist, or a great athlete? Perhaps you could be and maybe you should be. However, you will fail to be if you fail to *prepare* to be. In almost every discipline of life we can find people who are willing to be used for some great purpose, however, fewer people are willing to spend the time, resources, and effort necessary to properly prepare themselves for that great use. This explains the scripture which says many are called but few are chosen.

The difference between those who are called and those who are chosen could simply be preparation. We would not think of allowing a brain surgeon to operate on us or our children if they had no training, no preparation, no oversight, or supervised experience, and yet we who deal with the eternal affairs of the soul, although willing to be used by God are, at times, unwilling to spend the time, resources, and effort necessary to be prepared for that use. Decide today that you are going to be more than called of God ... submit to and invest in this season of preparation so that you can be used in a greater way.

Prayer for Today

God, help me gladly welcome the call to be prepared for my life's purpose as warmly as I embrace the thrill of being used. I gladly submit to the preparation for the purpose to which You have called me. Use others, according to Your Word and plan, to equip me for my life's work.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (NKJV)

The eleventh commandment is “Thou shalt not sweat it”

November 14

So often, worry washes through our lives like high tides erode sand castles. Dread of the unknown, the possibilities, and the “what ifs” fill our thoughts until we see and think of nothing else. But Paul admonished Timothy that God had not given him a spirit of fear. Instead, Paul encouraged Timothy that God provides every Christian with a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. So, when faced with the unavoidable anxieties of your day, cast your care on the Lord ... as many times as it takes. He will help you through the storms and struggles of your life.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I choose today to set my mind on the things above, not on the things of this life that cause me stress. I know I can and will do all things through Christ who strengthens me, and I am an overcomer. The problems I face will not overwhelm me. I will overwhelm my problems with the Word of God. Through faith and patience, I will inherit Your promises.

Scriptures for Today

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power and love and self-discipline. (NLT)

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

In order to be healthy, every body needs a proper diet, proper exercise, proper rest, and healthy elimination

November 15

Need I explain more? Well, regardless, here it goes. Balance is the key to life. Lack one or more of these components and you begin to feel the effects. God made us a spirit that has a soul which lives in a body, and each of these must be properly maintained for optimum effectiveness. Therefore, the body, soul, and spirit need proper care to achieve optimum healthiness. And no, that does not only mean the intake of the proper nutrients. It also includes the essential elimination of elements that have proven to be unhealthy and harmful if retained. So, do not think it strange that, regularly, you should search your soul and spirit and discard any and everything contrary to God's will, His way, and His Word. You will feel much better and be much healthier for it, He promises.

Prayer for Today

God, help me to confront the issues of my life that threaten my well-being as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Give me wisdom to recognize those things that menace my soul and spirit's health and to rid myself of them. Purify my heart, O God, and make me a clean vessel that You can shine through.

Scriptures for Today

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted which is able to save your souls. (NAS)

Ephesians 4:22-24b ...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self ... (NAS)

*Give people as much room to fail
as to succeed*

November 16

The Bible paints a picture of Jesus, as both Son of God and Son of man. Jesus' humanity demanded that He be taught and experience life while growing into His manhood and ministry. Not only was He tempted in every way, yet without sin, but He also learned the value of obeying through the things which He suffered. The prophet Isaiah declared that Messiah would be allowed to taste both the sweet and the bitter things of life so that He would know how to make decisions for himself when it came His time.

God gave His Son Jesus the right of choice and allowed Him as much room to fail as He did to succeed. Jesus could have called ten thousand angels to fight for Him and escape the cross, but He chose not to. That choice was His right. We need not feel the burden to micromanage those whom we disciple and raise beyond the season of their preparation. At some point, we must allow others to ride beyond our reach as we are raising up runners for the next lap.

Prayer for Today

Father, I ask that You give me wisdom and the grace to trust others as You trust them and to allow those under my care to shoulder their responsibilities in direct relationship with You. This is Your Kingdom and we are all Your servants. Help us all to make the right choice in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 7:15 Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. (NKJV)

Hebrews 5:8 Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. (NKJV)

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (NKJV)

You don't need resources to be a resource – to be a resource, what you need is a source

November 17

When Elijah was sent to the widow of Zarahphath, God told him that she would sustain him for the duration of the famine. However, upon meeting the widow, it was evident to Elijah that she possessed no resources of her own with which she could even feed her family, let alone sustain him. What was the answer to this dilemma? God knew, and Elijah learned, as did the widow, that in order to be an abundant resource, you do not need abundant resources yourself, but rather an abundant source.

You may wonder how God is going to meet your need or the needs of others for whom you feel responsible. You may look at your lack and feel inadequate based upon your resources. However, you are not limited to your resources alone. To be a greater resource you need only be connected to a greater source. Look to God as your source and to yourself as His resource. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you ... don't limit God.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to be Your resource. Therefore, I choose You as my source. Abundantly supply me for the work to which You have called me ... bless me and make me a blessing so that I will never lack to be the resource You need in the earth.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 78:41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (NKJV)

1 Kings 17:14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. (KJV)

*Don't mistake someone's description of
how God led them as a prescription for
how He will lead you*

November 18

“God leads in mysterious ways,” the old saying reads. He spoke through a donkey to Balaam to thwart his disobedience. He commanded Phillip to leave the revival he was conducting and go into the desolate desert. He charged Elijah to lie on the body of a dead boy to raise him from the dead. And He instructed Elisha to throw salt into bitter water to purify it, making it sweet.

You may know someone who, in following a strange inspiration from God, received great blessing and success from God. But before you march out and start lying on the dead, get your own word from God for you and your situation. These accounts of God's intervention were prescriptions for their particular situations and circumstances, but for you, they are merely descriptions of God's special leading in others' lives. Like these men of God, seek Him for your situation and need. Search for God with all your heart. But, listen for your prescription from Him for your circumstance. It will precisely meet your need and be just what the Doctor ordered.

Prayer for Today

Father, I see the boldness and awesome faith my spiritual forefathers practiced, and I am awed. I admire them and want to possess the same faith and courage in my own life. Help me to discover that devotion and obedience in You through hearing Your plan for my life. Speak to me by Your Spirit and through Your Word. Give me the prescription for the particular needs of my life.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. (NKJV)

Raise up a runner for the next lap

November 19

God intends on each of us investing in others' lives for the purpose of touching those we will never meet. We invest in our children, in our friends, in our loved ones, in co-workers. We pour ourselves into them to some degree and through some form or fashion, with intention to help better prepare and equip them for their future. This is God's Kingdom. Paul instructed Timothy to entrust the things he had been taught to faithful men who would be able to teach others also. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a relay race with many runners, each running in their generation. Like Paul, we must have a view that reaches beyond our current needs and interests. Plan for the future, and do so by investing in people. They are the only thing God intends on taking to Heaven, anyway.

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the opportunity I have today to invest in someone else's life. Help me to not miss my chance to positively affect others and to bless them. Give me wisdom in my words and actions that I might always be a good example. Give me eyes to see those whom You want me to mentor and teach me to reach beyond my own circle of need. Thank you, Sir, amen.

Scriptures for Today

2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NAS95)

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (KJV)

*Following every bless me
should be a use me*

November 20

How many times have you said or heard others say, “Bless me, Lord”? Certainly many and with good reason. The Bible encourages us to seek the blessing of the Lord. However, let us never forget that the blessing is not the end result of the request. It is merely a beginning, a means by which God can touch others, those with whom you come in contact. So, determine to seek the blessing of God and make yourself blessable through the fear of God and a godly lifestyle. But, after you have received from Him, turn and touch someone else whom Jesus would touch if He were there in the flesh. Then, God’s blessing will have made a real difference.

Prayer for Today

Father, I ask for Your blessing on my life today. Fill me with Your favor and goodness in every part of my life: financially, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, and physically. But God, do not stop there. Once You have filled me, help me to be a blessing and resource to others on Your behalf. I know that nothing of mine is really mine. It’s all Yours. So, use me to give it away freely to my family, co-workers, neighbors, and acquaintances. Bless me that I can be a blessing.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 8:18 But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers. (NAS)

Luke 12:48b From everyone who has been given much, much will be required. (NAS95)

*God is our source - we are His
resource*

November 21

Never forget where you have come from, Who delivered you, and what He intends that you do with such a great salvation. God cautioned Israel to remember how He delivered them from an inescapable foe, the Pharaoh, and how He provided for them in the wilderness for forty years. He reminds us also to remember Who our Savior is and why we are saved. Our salvation is not the end product of His deliverance. Rather, our service and cooperation with Him is His desire and purpose. God provided the way of escape. He is our source. Now, He expects you to turn and strengthen your brother and sister in the Lord. He wants you to serve as a resource for His Kingdom to reach into the lives of those He puts in your life and make a Kingdom difference.

Prayer for Today

God, I want to make a difference in the lives of people I come in contact with during my day. Help me to draw on You for wisdom, courage, and ability to touch the lives of people I meet today. I will be Your resource, available to serve as opportunity arises and to bless others on Your behalf.

Scriptures for Today

Deuteronomy 24:17-18 You shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge. But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and that the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore, I am commanding you to do this thing. (NAS)

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. (NKJV)

Petty problems are those which only affect you

November 22

If you are the only person that is truly affected by a problem, then you may want to consider if you are being petty. Sometimes things which negatively affect us are not always all about us. There are some things we just need to get over. Petty is defined as small, minor, of little importance, and trifling. Petty problems can consume our lives and literally blind us for the more important issues at hand. They consume large amounts of energy and effort and yield zero advancement even when they are resolved. The only thing different once they are solved is that you got your way, and that is not a Biblical standard by which God instructs us to live. Esteem more highly the things of God and that which He has entrusted to you. Forgive, forget, and move on beyond the concerns that matter only to you. Kingdom business is at hand. While we sit brooding, people are lost, dying, and going to hell. Don't be petty.

Prayer for Today

God, help me set my eyes and mind on things above and live with an eternity-mindedness. Teach me to recognize the subjects that matter and to deal with them with Kingdom results in mind. I will not promote myself to a place of importance by preempting Your will with my petty worries and concerns. I will put You first and trust that You are able to take care of that which concerns me.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 12:29-32 And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. (NLT)

*Never complain about the pressure that
pushes you toward God*

November 23

A well seasoned servant of God came to visit me several years ago. It was a time in my life when I was struggling to grow through some common pressures of life. The weight of family, job, ministry, and other simple matters of life seemed to be an overbearing burden and I felt the pressure. This older pastor sat with me and listened to my frustrations. When I concluded, he simply smiled and with such grace, loving care, and firmness, he said to me, “Never complain about the pressure that pushes you toward God ... just don’t let the pressures of life get between you and God.”

I’ve heard it said that a diamond is nothing but an old piece of coal that made good under pressure. Don’t allow the common struggles of life to irritate you and frustrate you. Let them educate you and motivate you as you are pressed more and more, ever closer to God. Use these times to develop a closer relationship with Him.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I choose to live my life on a more even plane, not allowing the pressures I encounter to push me down into the valley of complaint. I trust in You and know that in these times You are close to me, caring for my burden. Use these things to make me more like Your Son Jesus.

Scriptures for Today

John 16:33 In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. (NAS)

Philippians 3:10 That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. (KJV)

*The main thing is to keep the main
thing the main thing*

November 24

Life is filled with distractions and deceptions which so easily get us off the track of God's perfect will for our life. This is what Eve faced in the Garden of Eden when tempted by the devil to get her eyes off of God's Word and onto her desires. Many times the devil will send small problems in hopes to capture your day and take away your opportunity to be productive in the things that matter most. People often argue over things that don't matter at the expense of things that do matter.

Determine that you are not going to be distracted, detoured, derailed, discouraged, or defeated by things that really don't matter from eternity's perspective. Remember, the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing ... and the main thing is souls for the Kingdom of God.

Prayer for Today

God, give me wisdom and discernment to realize when I am succumbing to life's distractions or becoming too self absorbed and help me to keep the main thing the main thing in my life today and every day.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 3:1, 6 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (NKJV)

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (NIV)

*Your anointing will outstretch
your ability*

November 25

God gave Moses a staff as a symbol of his anointing. Elijah was given a mantle which he then passed on to Elisha for his double portion anointing. With this anointing came great power and demonstration of miracles, signs, and wonders. The anointing of God working through a person's life will enable them to do greater works than they could ever do by their own means. Throughout the Bible, and even our recent history, we find men and women who were anointed by God so that in the name of Jesus they healed the sick, raised the dead, and changed the courses of nature. God Almighty is still anointing people today. What has He anointed you to do? The grace of God's gifting in your life will always outstretch your natural abilities. Depend on the anointing of God and live your life by faith in Jesus' name. God will anoint you for what He wants you to do. From parent to employee, from Sunday School teacher to friend, one touch from God makes the difference.

Prayer for Today

Thank You God for calling me, equipping me, positioning me, and continuing to anoint me so that by my faith in the name of Jesus I can move mountains, work miracles, and gain every victory over the enemies of Your will. Help me to trust in Your anointing more than I do in my own abilities.

Scriptures for Today

Exodus 14:16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. (NIV)

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

Zechariah 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'" says the LORD of hosts. (NKJV)

Be insulated not isolated

November 26

We are admonished to put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to stand in this world against the tyranny of the devil. This gives us an indication that God wants us to be protected in this world from the things which could hurt us rather than Him choosing to remove us from the world. Although we are *in* the world we are not *of* the world and the things of the world should not be able to ill affect our faith or family. Neither is it God's will that we isolate ourselves from the world to the point where we have no opportunity to reach the lost, preach the Gospel, and meet the needs. We must be insulated but not isolated. Insulate yourself with God's Word, by prayer and godly counsel. Then, engage yourself, even at the risk of being hurt, offended, persecuted, or cursed. If you are insulated properly, you can stand firm on the fields of battle.

Prayer for Today

God, I choose to put on Your armor so that I may stand in this world as a light shining in darkness and well-protected from the evils which would otherwise consume me. I will not allow offense or persecution to keep me from engaging in my destined call. Help me, Sir, to do Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (KJV)

Proverbs 18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. (NKJV)

*What seems like a surprise to you is a
plan to God*

November 27

Genesis 29 tells the story of Jacob waking up the morning after he thought he had married his true love, Rachel. Instead he was surprised to find out he was actually married to Leah, Rachel's older sister. For many years to come, Leah was not treated as his beloved wife but rather considered by Jacob to be a mistake. However, what may have seemed like a surprise to Jacob, and even a mistake in his eyes was actually a plan being orchestrated by God, the author and finisher of our faith, the sovereign almighty God, ruler of the universe, who has every right to do anything He wishes. God does not first have to seek our permission before He upsets our plans. You see, it's Leah who becomes the mother of Judah, through whom comes Messiah and it is Leah who is buried with Jacob, in the same tomb as Abraham and Sarah and Isaac and Rebecca. God has a plan! And, what may seem like a surprise to you might actually be a plan to God. Turn your life over to Him, acknowledge Him in all your ways, and let Him direct your path.

Prayer for Today

Thank You Lord for the plan of salvation given to me. Help me to be used of You today to inform others of Your love. Also, as I journey through life, may I see each unexpected surprise as Your plan to bring me joy, grow me up, and teach me to trust in You.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD. (NKJV)

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delighteth in his way. (KJV)

*When God speaks, ignore the voice of
doubt*

November 28

Everyone encounters their share of unexpected disappointments and roadblocks in life. However, these events do not hold the power to change your life's course. Only you possess that kind of authority. When David approached the battle line between Israel and the Philistines, his brothers mocked and chided him, accusing him of arrogant pride for even asking about the reward for the one who killed Goliath. However, David ignored them and earned an audience with the king. The rest is history. David triumphed over Goliath and Israel over the Philistines. Instead of cowering to the words of discouragement from his brothers, he pressed on and earned the respect due a warrior of the Lord. You, too, will encounter times when people or circumstances will attempt to hinder and eliminate your effectiveness. Choose to ignore the doubters and lay hold of the victory in the name of the Lord.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to keep my eyes on You and Your Word. I will make it my meditation and my counsel each day of my life. When I encounter situations or people who would stop my progress, I choose to keep my eyes set on You to take me through the storm. I will not allow something or someone else to alter my calling. I will fulfill Your will for my life.

Scripture for Today

I Samuel 17:32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." (NKJV)

*Your victory is NOT in your enemies
defeat ... your victory is in Christ*

November 29

Can anything good ever come from something bad, something terrible, something you wish had not happened? Is there ever a time when someone who loses actually wins? Does God know what He is doing when He occasionally allows an enemy to win a battle or succeed in some endeavor you are involved in? The answer to all these questions is a definite *yes*.

God can and does allow our enemies to overplay their hand and seemingly win some battles which eventually turn out to our best interest. Such was the case when the enemies of God succeeded in beating and crucifying Jesus. It was also true when Syria defeated Israel by killing Ahab in 1 Kings 22. Keep your eyes off of your enemy's victories and off of your enemy's defeats ... keep your eyes on Jesus, for your victory is in Him.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to keep my eyes on You and off of my problems. Teach me to love my enemies and bless those who persecute me and treat me wrongfully. Help me to realize that my victory does not lie in my enemy's defeat, but rather my victory is in You.

Scriptures for Today

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. (NKJV)

Luke 6:27 But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. (NKJV)

*Your predictability is often your
downfall*

November 30

Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been tempting mankind with the same old temptations. He is a master tempter who delivers to us temptations which are neither too hard nor too easy, but fit to the age and stage of our life. Over thousands of years, Satan has researched mankind, walking about the earth, seeking those whom he may devour, and he has gotten pretty good at it. The devil believes he can predict what you will do when he offers you a temptation, specifically designed for your temperament and personality type. He believes he has advantage as he sets you up to see you fall. Don't be predictable! Don't go the way of a natural man, depending on your intelligence or human wisdom. If you do, you will fall prey to his devices. Be unpredictable ... when you are slapped on one cheek, turn the other; when you are cursed, bless in return; when you are persecuted, do good to those who have treated you wrongly. This is the message of Jesus and the will of God for your life. Don't allow the devil to predict your failure and cause your defeat. Trust in Jesus and act on His Word.

Prayer for Today

God, teach me to be like Jesus and live my life above the common ways of my flesh. Help me to train my soul to live Your Word and to not react to the problems and pressures of this life. I choose to be unpredictable.

Scriptures for Today

John 3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (NKJV)

December



*Faith is man believing in God. Grace is
God believing in man.*

December 1

Life is a partnership, a two-way street, a series of giving and taking that makes a healthy and productive relationship. Without this partnership life as we know it cannot continue. Even God, though He is sovereign and accountable to no one has chosen to accomplish His will by partnering with mankind. The strength and health of any relationship is dependent on each one doing their part in an unselfish way.

The relationship you have with God, contrary to some belief, is not all about you. Faith is what you offer to God hoping that it will change your world. Grace, however, is what God offers to you, hoping that it will change His world. God is your hope ... you are His. So, put your faith and trust in God while He, in return, puts His trust in you. Use your God-given graces of life to benefit God's Kingdom and not just your own.

Prayer for Today

God, help me to realize that our relationship is a two way street and that we both depend upon one another for the help that we need. I know I can trust my future to You and ask that You trust Your plans to me. By Your grace, I will not fail You.

Scriptures for Today

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. (NKJV)

Romans 5:2 Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (NKJV)

The questions may change from one season of life to another. However, the answers are always the same.

December 2

As we grow through life we often transition from one season to another. From preschool to elementary, from high school to college or career, from raising children to retirement, seasons of life come and go. With each new stage of life there can be many new questions we face, things which we have never encountered before.

Although the questions may change from one season of life to another, the answers remain the same. The same Word of God, will of God, and way of God will be your guide all through life. Integrity, character, humility, patience, love, forgiveness, self control, and faith will be your stability and prove to endure throughout all of your life. Stick to the simple answers from God's Word.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I pledge to keep Your Word close to me and to hide it in my heart that I might not stray from Your will. I will make it my constant meditation and my joy. Guide me through the seasons of life and give me Your peace in each new day.

Scriptures for Today

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (KJV)

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness... (NKJV)

There is such potential in an empty vessel

December 3

2 Kings 4 tells the story of a woman in great need. She came to the prophet

Elisha and was instructed to borrow empty vessels from her neighbors. Elisha told her that God would anoint the small amount of oil she possessed and multiply it to fill every one of those empty vessels. Why empty vessels? Full vessels may have already reached their greatest day, depending on what they are full of. Partially filled vessels can, at best, produce only a mixture of God and man symbolizing a watering-down of the anointing. However, empty vessels present the greatest opportunity to be fully and completely filled with the miraculous anointing of God. Our life is a vessel we lift to God. Many times we are partially or completely filled with other things not of God's choosing, which serves to resist or compete with the anointing God wants to pour into us. Are you willing to be emptied of this world's effect so you can be filled by God? Pour yourself out in prayer and allow a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit to fill your life.

Prayer for Today

Father, I rid myself of the effects of this world and ask You to fill my life. I will not despair when I find myself empty and in need of Your anointing.

Scriptures for Today

2 Kings 4:1-7 A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors-empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest." (NKJV)

Life is an opportunity

December 4

Imagine waking up one morning without a job, a car, or perhaps a house.

This could be viewed as one of the saddest days of your life or it could be viewed as one of life's greatest opportunities. Think about it ... although you may miss what you had and perhaps would not have chosen to lose it, nonetheless, you now have opportunity to replace it with whatever you desire. Perhaps, you could build it better this time, do it different somehow, end up with something more suited to your current or future needs. You cannot always choose what you lose but you can always choose to work toward replacing a loss with something better.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, give me the grace to process my losses, to leave my regrets in Your hands and to place my trust in You. Give me the wisdom to see every day as an opportunity to achieve my greatest for Your best.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Isaiah 43:18-19 Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. (NKJV)

*With your last breath you can
confidently say that your greatest day is
yet ahead*

December 5

Without regard as to what all of mankind's differences are, culture, nationality, position in life, if one is rich or poor, if one is educated or completely illiterate, or the circumstances of birth, we have a common appointment that we will keep ... our appointment with death.

This appointment with death is why we must evangelize the world, sharing the love of Christ and present a choice to accept or reject God's love. For those who reject Christ death will hold eternal punishment, but for the Christian death is a passageway to eternal peace, joy, hope, and perpetual love. The most wonderful hope to the Christian on this side of Heaven is the assurance that no matter what happens in this life, the best is yet to come. It is imperative that we keep an eternal perspective when facing life as we know it now because truly our greatest day is yet ahead!

Prayer for Today

Father, I am so thankful to know that You are preparing a place for me. Some wonderful day I will see You face to face and be filled with the awesome understanding of Your love and the glory of Your presence. When facing life, help me to keep an eternal perspective - for when it is all said and done, my greatest day is yet ahead.

Scriptures for Today

I Thessalonians 4:13-14 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. (NIV)

John 14:1-3 Do not let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (NIV)

Luke 21:28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (NIV)

Develop great patience for retrial

December 6

You may already have heard that success is more than a one step process and that success most often belongs to those who are able to endure that process. Life is filled with trial and error, which demands we constantly take inventory, weed out those elements of life which may cause failure, and try again.

Our Christian walk is no different. The life of a Believer demands that when we fall, we get back up, brush ourselves off, and go forward once more. Just because something did not work does not mean it will not work. It may only mean we need to work it again. What ideas or attempts have you abandoned in the past simply because they did not work the first time ... you may need to try again.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to grow fruits of the Spirit in my life, especially the fruits of patience and self control. Teach me to harness my fears and never give up attempting something You have given me to do.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:14 I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me Heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. (NKJV)

Habakkuk 2:3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. (NIV)

*Who you allow in your inner circle can
limit you*

December 7

Most of us who were raised by conscientious parents learned quite early who we should and shouldn't bring home to meet mom. Mothers just seemed to have a built-in radar system that alerted them as to whether or not the company we kept as kids was good for us. They knew that, even as children, our future could be adversely affected by our circle of friends and when we grow into adulthood this truth remains the same.

Our inner circle of friends, more than likely, will be the ones that will influence us the most in life. We often trust these folks and share our most intimate secrets and dreams with them. We also tend to allow them to speak the most into our lives. We value their opinions. This is why it is very important that we listen to the Lord and carefully select our closest relationships according to His counsel. Does your inner circle believe in you? Do they encourage you to walk on the water or do they cause you to look at the storm around you? Perhaps you should re-evaluate the people in your boat to see how each one influences you and adjust your relationships accordingly.

Prayer for Today

God, I ask You today for Your input regarding the friends in my life. I ask You to surround me with faith filled people of vision and purpose. I also know that I am a part of someone else's inner circle as well, so use me to be a good influence and to always push them toward a closer walk with You.

Scriptures for Today

I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character. (NIV)

Acts 4:23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all the chief priests and elders had said to them. (NIV)

The true test of being a servant is how you react when you are treated like one

December 8

Many people are willing to be used by God but not everyone is willing to be prepared for use. Also, so often the ministry opportunities which God offers to us demand that we humble ourselves and become a servant to others. Jesus gave us the example of being a servant when He washed the feet of His disciples. This shows us that no one is too great to be a servant and no position so high that one should be exempt from serving others. In fact, if you want to be great in God's Kingdom, you must become the servant of all. So, how do we know if we possess a spirit of humility and are not burdened down with pride and issues of self importance? The true test of being a servant is how you react when you are treated like one. How do you feel when made to serve others? Deal with it.

Prayer for Today

Father, I desire to have a servant's heart. When You choose to use me, I will be a willing and uncomplaining servant, knowing that whatever I do, I do as unto You.

Scriptures for Today

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (NIV)

Mark 10:43-45 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (NIV)

Response-able

December 9

Perhaps our greatest ability is our availability, without which all other abilities go unused. The Word of God says that if we see a brother in need and we have what it takes to meet that need, but we are not moved with compassion to help, how is it that the love of God could dwell within us? Simply put, this scripture says that if we have the opportunity and the ability to respond to a need and yet we fail to respond then our ability is wasted for lack of response.

While many people are looking for authority, God is looking for people who are responsible. When God finds a responsible person, one who will respond with their ability to meet the need, He gives them all of the authority necessary to complete their mission. It is God's responsibility to open the doors and man's responsibility to go through those doors. Respond when you are able.

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for making me more than able to meet every challenge of life and also for the ability to come along side and help others in their needs as well. I will learn to lean on the greater One within me and develop a responsible attitude about everything in life.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
(NIV)

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens." (NKJV)

Don't judge success on a daily basis

December 10

Life is filled with opportunities to be overly impressed and opportunities to be severely depressed on any given day. At times we are all tempted to make decisions based on the emotions of the moment. Believe me, no matter how good or bad it is, you can still mess it up or make it worse when you react to your moment.

In order to avoid taking a temporary situation and creating a more permanent problem, we need to resist engaging in reactionary behavior. This requires that we slow our response in accordance with God's Word and give God time to help us process life. Never judge success on a daily basis.

Prayer for Today

Father help me to see life through Your eyes and from Your perspective, not just my own. When I am surprised by what my day brings, I will lay that surprise at Your feet in prayer. Show me how to respond and keep me safe.

Scriptures for Today

James 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in Heaven and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools. (NKJV)

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression. (NKJV)

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful. (KJV)

*God does not point where He will not
also provide*

December 11

One of the Old Testament names for God is Jehovah Jireh. Generally, this term is connected to God's name to usefully describe Him as a provider. However, its literal meaning is "in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen." Our father of faith first described God as the One who would make provision available in the place of His choosing. In Abraham's case, God instructed him to journey to a certain mountain where Abraham found provision waiting on his arrival. These things were not recorded in the Bible just to inform us of Abraham's journey, but rather to encourage us on our journey as well. You, like Abraham, will find provision made available and waiting for you at every critical moment and all along your journey with God. God does not point where He will not also provide. Trust in the Lord for He is Jehovah Jireh.

Prayer for Today

Show me Your way, oh Lord, and give me understanding as to the path You desire for me to travel. Take me to my appointed route, making provision along the way. I put my trust in You as my source.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (NKJV)

Romans 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? (NKJV)

Romans 4:20-24 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. (NKJV)

*God never intended His relationship
with man to take the place of
mankind's relationship with man*

December 12

In the book of Genesis God made man in His own image and placed him in a garden. Later God surveyed all that He had done and saw only one thing which was not good. He said, "It is not good that man should dwell alone." So God made woman.

Although nothing can replace your relationship with God, God never intended for His relationship with you to take the place of another person's relationship with you. He knows that people need people. We need each other. Spend time today on those important relationships in your life ... both with God and your loved ones.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I want a deeper relationship with You. You are the most important One in my life. At the same time Lord, I want to build and enjoy the relationships You have given me with other people. Help me to know and follow Your priorities in my relationships. Thank You.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (NKJV)

Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (NKJV)

*Change is coming - like it or not,
change is coming*

December 13

Transition can be some of the most unsettling and frustrating moments in life. Going from one place to another, one job to another, or one season of life to another are certainties of life. Not all change is bad and many times change is necessary and unavoidable.

It has been said that God loves us too much to leave us the way we are. One thing is for sure, change is coming, like it or not change is coming to you. When faced with transitions in life, be flexible, trust God, and get a vision for a greater day.

Prayer for Today

God, teach me to embrace the moments of transition which are necessary and unavoidable in life. Guide me through my uncertainties and insecurities and grant me Your vision of a better day on the other side of the change.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (KJV)

*God is making a future for you and He
is making a you for that future*

December 14

The scriptures reveal that God is committed to continue working with us, much like a potter works with clay. He is endeavoring with each day's tasks and every situation of life to bring each one of us into the image of His Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

God is making a future for you while at the same time, He is creating greater capacity in you to embrace that future. It is for this reason that God has commanded all things to work together for our good and has designed the pressure of life to make us better, not bitter. Embrace a better self image and begin to see yourself like God sees you. Dream His dreams for your life and let Him make a new you.

Prayer for Today

God, my Father, build me up and give me an inheritance ... take me to the future You dreamed of when You first created me. Help me to be moldable and pliable in Your hands. Be the Master Potter and I shall be content to be the clay. Make me pleasing in Your sight.

Scriptures for Today

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Psalms 138:8 The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. (NKJV)

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand. (NKJV)

*Learn to manage conflict instead of
always avoiding it*

December 15

Conflict is often a necessary step towards unity. It is often in the struggle that we arrive at the best decision and come into agreement once that best has been discovered. Do not continue going through life so afraid of confrontation that you fail to realize the value and benefits of conflict. We not only must struggle with our enemies but we also should strengthen our friends, stretch our relationships, and search yet undiscovered answers to life challenges. Where would we be if we altogether forsook the pressures, the struggles, and difficulties of child birth? Remember the best is often discovered when we search for truth, despite the conflict. Learn to manage conflict instead of always avoiding it.

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me to stand strong, unafraid of the conflicts of this life. Give me the grace to manage the moments when struggle is necessary to achieving my best for Your cause. Do not allow conflict to bring division but rather exercise me so that I might become stronger in Jesus' name.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. (NKJV)

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (NKJV)

Our greatest blessings in life may be waiting on us to become a blessing to others

December 16

The stories of Job, as well as the story of Joseph, are both reflections of this godly principle of life. Joseph may never have gained release from prison had he not taken the time to be kind and to be a blessing to the imprisoned chief butler of Pharaoh. As well, Job found himself at a place in life where he had lost everything. In the last recorded chapter of Job's account we read that the Lord turned his captivity only after Job prayed for his friends.

Even God did not exempt Himself from the truth of this principle. You see when God was separated from His creation and mankind was destined for hell, God had but one way to achieve his greatest desire. What was it that would so bless God? God wanted His relationship with man to be restored. However, restoration required a sacrifice. In order for God to be blessed, He would first have to bless others. So, God sent His only Son and blessed mankind with forgiveness of sin and, in turn, God was blessed with many children. Our greatest blessings in life may be waiting on us to become a blessing to others.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father in Heaven, I ask that Your Holy Spirit would remind me in my greatest hours of need that others also sit in need. Help me to refocus my life so that I am a blessing to others as I await Your blessing on my life and work.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (NKJV)

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. (NKJV)

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (NKJV)

Those who won't leave, can't cleave

December 17

Life is filled with transitions ... things begin and things end. Often when we arrive at one destination we find it is merely the departure point for our next great adventure. Sometimes God sends us down a particular road to get to the end of that road while at other times He may lead us down a road to get to the fork in the road. In either case, transitions require bold decisions and fresh commitments.

Sometimes life requires us to fully let go of one thing before we can get hold of another. Letting go of the past does not always equal letting go of the people of the past. Many times, it simply requires us to release the past by forgiving hurts, disappointments, and failures. However, there are moments which may require us to fully separate ourselves from an individual or group before we can fully embrace the new day God wants for us. Leaving is seldom easy but often necessary before cleaving is possible.

Prayer for Today

Lord, I understand that I must let go of some things to take a hold of others. Show me how. I want to please You more than anything or anyone else. Give me the wisdom to discern what needs to change in my thinking and in my life. I will follow Your wisdom.

Scriptures for Today

Ephesians 4:22-24 That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (NKJV)

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (NKJV)

Matthew 19:5 And said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (NKJV)

*Sometimes our season of life demands
that we trust God in others*

December 18

In Genesis 22 Abraham was told to take his son Isaac to a place God would show him and sacrifice him there as an offering to God. Isaac was between 30 and 35 years old at this point. Abraham took Isaac and walked three days north of Beersheba to what is now the old city of Jerusalem. Abraham laid the wood for the sacrifice on Isaac's shoulders and they ascended the mountain God showed Abraham. The story continues with Abraham binding Isaac with a rope, laying the wood in order upon a newly fashioned altar and placing Isaac, ready for sacrifice, upon the wood. Hebrews 11 says that Abraham trusted God ... but who was Isaac trusting?

Isaac questioned his father and heard his father's answer, then allowed his father to bind him and prepare him to be sacrificed. In all of this, Isaac trusted God in Abraham although Isaac did not hear directly from God. Sometimes our seasons or situations of life demand that we trust God in others.

Prayer for Today

Dear Father in Heaven, help me to discern the times and seasons of life which demand me to trust You in and through others. Grant me the grace to accept the leadership You send to me and to allow You to lead me through them according to Your will.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 22:7-9 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So, the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. (NKJV)

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. (NKJV)

*Not every time does everyone affected
hear from God*

December 19

Just as we discussed in yesterday's devotion, Abraham heard from God to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice ... Isaac only heard from Abraham. We have no way of knowing if Isaac also heard the voice from Heaven telling Abraham to change his plans and not sacrifice his son Isaac. However, there are many other instances in scripture where not everyone who was affected heard directly from God. Such was the case of Samuel who as a young boy heard the voice of God calling his name and speaking his message while Eli the old priest heard nothing. God speaks to whom He will and at times not everyone who will be affected by the voice hears the voice. Allow God to choose who he wants to use and no doubt sometimes you will hear from God and at other times you will hear from others with whom God chooses to speak.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, give me the grace to trust You when I hear You speak and also to trust You through the leadership of others You have placed in my life. I know Your voice will never violate Your Word. Teach me Your Word oh Lord.

Scriptures for Today

1 Samuel 3:9-11, 15 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. (NKJV)

*Never underestimate the power
of a vision*

December 20

So many times people lose sight of their future because of a moment they are going through. Clouds of confusion and seasons of frustration serve to rob us of hope for our future. In these times of confusion nothing will straighten out a life like having a vision for a greater day. Whether we are facing a difficult challenge in life or going through a change in the seasons of life, hope for a better tomorrow is key to us moving forward on a steady course.

Don't allow the fog of the moment to confine you to the moment. Look beyond and ask God to give you a glimpse of the tomorrow He has planned for you. Never underestimate the power of a vision. It will restore your joy, give you strength, and guide you through the valleys of life. Don't forget, your greatest day is yet ahead.

Prayer for Today

Oh God I need You to give me a glimpse of what You have planned for my future. Visit me in my night time and speak to me in visions and dreams. Strengthen me and give me joy as You guide me to my greatest by Your Holy Spirit.

Scriptures for Today

Psalms 126:1 When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. (NKJV)

Job 33:14-16 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction. (NKJV)

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. (NKJV)

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law. (NKJV)

God is a “trust Me, try Me, and prove Me” God

December 21

God is sovereign, not just all powerful, but sovereign. God cannot be put to the test nor can He be coerced to answer our questions. Yet He has offered to prove Himself to His children so that we might gain greater confidence in His Word and increase our faith in Him. By God’s sovereign choice He has declared that we can try Him and see if He will not perform His Word on our behalf.

One such scripture in Malachi deals with our tithes and our offerings. Decide today that you are going to trust God, try Him, and allow Him to prove Himself faithful on your behalf. It begins when you apply the Word of God to your situations of life. Try Him today.

Prayer for Today

Lord, You alone are God and there is none other beside You. Thank You for loving and caring for me. In all things I will trust You through Your Word. Show me what You want me to do and I will do it. As my faith grows, teach me to share those testimonies with others.

Scriptures for Today

Malachi 3:10 “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of Heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.” (NKJV)

Psalms 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You. (NKJV)

Psalms 56:11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (NKJV)

*If God is not number one in your day,
He may not be number one in your life*

December 22

Life is busy and the days quickly fill with tasks which demand our time. Days pass and turn into weeks and weeks into months almost without notice. Often there seems to be so little time to just sit back and enjoy the simple and meaningful things of life.

If we are not watchful, our relationship with God can be one of those things which suffer. It is so easy to put Him off, to grow lax in our prayer habit and in giving the study of God's Word its proper priority in our day. However, if God is not number one in your day, it could be argued that He is most likely not number one in your life. Make a change now. Commit to starting each day with God.

Prayer for Today

Father, forgive me when I do not include You in the quality time of my day. Remind me each morning that You are waiting to spend Your time with me. Open the treasures of Your Kingdom to me as we explore Your Word together. Hear my prayer, oh God. I love You.

Scriptures for Today

Genesis 19:27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. (NKJV)

Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. (NKJV)

Proverbs 8:17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. (KJV)

*Relief is often only one tough
decision away*

December 23

I have heard it said that if money can fix it, time can fix it, or if it's just a tough decision, it's not a problem but rather an opportunity. However, there are some situations which can only be remedied by a decision that is difficult to make. Such was the case when God faced eternal separation from mankind. No amount of money could fix the problem and time without remedy would only make it worse. The only answer to God's problem was to send his Son as a baby, born in a stable in Bethlehem, destined to be rejected, bruised, beaten, and crucified, all for sins He did not commit. This was a tough decision but there was no other relief and no one else who could make that decision but God. Although no other such sacrifice will ever be required, we nonetheless face situations which cannot be remedied without us making a tough decision. Face the facts! Relief may be only one tough decision away ... and you may be the only one who can fix it.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to take my responsibility seriously and realize that there are some things only I can fix. Help me to face and make the right decision even when it's a difficult one.

Scriptures for Today

Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call Heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. (NKJV)

God gives to people through people

December 24

On the night before Christmas God had already prepared to give His greatest gift to all mankind ... the gift of salvation. How did God choose to give His greatest gift? He chose to bring salvation to mankind through Jesus of Nazareth. Often when God wants a job done a child is born. Why? Because God has chosen to give *to* people *through* people. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, He is also the Son of man and it was through His humanity that Jesus paid the price and delivered the gift of God.

This principle continues throughout scripture and life. If God desires to bless you He most often chooses to send those blessings through another person. You see, God will seldom give to you what He cannot give through you. God wants to bless others today ... can He trust you? If God blesses you, will you bless others? Let God know that you are prepared to deliver His gift to someone in need today.

Prayer for Today

God, thank You for Your Son Jesus and the gift of salvation He brought to me. Use me, Sir, to deliver Your blessings to others in need. Bless me and make me a blessing. Give to me and give through me in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (NKJV)

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. (NKJV)

Luke 19:8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." (NKJV)

God's will for you is good

December 25

Today, many Christians celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, Messiah of the Jews and Savior of the world. On the night Jesus was born angels appeared to shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem proclaiming God's will to a lost and hurting world. Above all else that wonderful night was the revelation the angels brought to mankind. The angels sang out, "Peace on Earth and goodwill toward man."

Although I cannot tell you what God has in store for you or the path He may choose to lead you I can firmly declare that God's will for you is good. He harbors no anger, ill-will, or malice toward man. Jesus, His son, born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem signaled to the world that God's only intention toward us was for our good. Trust in this good God and His good plan for your life by accepting this Jesus as both Savior and Lord.

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, today I thank you for sending your son Jesus to the earth. I believe He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and died an atoning death. I believe what the angels declared and commit myself to telling others this good news.

Scriptures for Today

Luke 2:10-14 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (NKJV)

*A pardon from sin is not a license
to sin*

December 26

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah of the Jews, and Savior of the world was born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem, lived a sinless life, and died an atoning death. His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary forever paid for the sins of mankind. Jesus died to save our souls from an eternity in hell and from the hell of this life. He redeemed us from sin's power to damn our souls eternally and from sin's power to govern our lives temporally. God's forgiveness through the blood of Jesus, once applied for, is complete. He remembers forgiven sins no more; casts them behind His back; drops them into the seas of forgetfulness; and removes them from us as far as the east is from the west. God the Father, laid upon Jesus the Son, the iniquities of us all and we have been pardoned. However, a pardon from sin is not a license to sin.

Prayer for Today

Father, all men have sinned and fallen short of Your grace and the wages of sin is death but Your great gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive me of sin, cleanse me from unrighteousness, and give me the grace to walk free from its governing grip.

Scriptures for Today

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (NKJV)

Romans 10:13 For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (NKJV)

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (NKJV)

Psalms 25:11 For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. (NKJV)

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (NKJV)

*What you did to get something is
generally what you need to do to keep it*

December 27

When John wrote the book of Revelation, Jesus spoke to him about the Church in Ephesus. This was a good Church that labored, was very productive, had great patience, hated evil, and protected the doctrine. All this they did in an untiring manner for the sake of Jesus and His name. However, Jesus had one thing against them: they had left their first love. What was Jesus referring to? He was simply stating a principle that the basics of Christianity will never change and no matter how productive or involved we may seem unless we are truly connected to the life-flowing relationship which comes from an intimate relationship with Jesus, all of our work is for nothing. It is the same with any relationship, including your marriage and/or job. What you did to get something is generally what you need to do to keep it. Return to the basics and don't forget your first love.

Prayer for Today

Father God, show me my error and the true motivation of my heart. Help me to not forget my first love and what I did to get where I am. Teach me to value the basics of life and relationship as I continue to serve in Your Kingdom.

Scriptures for Today

Revelation 2:1-5 To the angel of the Church of Ephesus write, "These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place-unless you repent.'" (NKJV)

No one can be fully given until they are truly broken

December 28

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humility is the constant awareness of dependence on God.

Many times throughout the Gospels, Jesus is seen taking bread, blessing it, and then breaking it before he gives it. This principle speaks to us of the process of God in our lives. The precious hand of God that takes us and draws us to Himself is the same loving hand which blesses us. With many people this is as far as they will allow God to interact with them. However, to be fully given we must allow that same caring God access to the inner sanctum of our life. He knows what is in man and He knows what man is capable of. God wants to take you and God wants to bless you but He also wants to break you so you can be given. The two men on the road to Emmaus gave testimony to the other disciples saying, "We knew Him in the breaking of the bread." Do not despair when God begins to deal with your pride or other great sins in your life. He only intends to give you.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, be merciful unto me and remember I am but dust. Chastise me not in Your hot displeasure but take my life, bless my life, break my life in Your gentle hands, where You will, that You may give me as You need in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

John 2:25 And had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. (NKJV)

Luke 24:35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. (NKJV)

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." (NKJV)

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (NKJV)

If it's bad, God is not finished yet

December 29

Can you imagine, just from the human perspective, how bad it must have seemed to Jesus as He faced the cross being punished for crimes He did not commit? In fact, He quoted from Psalms 22 as He hung on the cross saying, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" Joseph probably had just the same feelings on many occasions as well as Job, Paul, Peter, Mary, and countless other saints in the Bible.

Remember, faith is believing that no matter where we are or what we may be facing in life, God is in complete control. Draw strength and faith today from the life stories of the saints revealed to us from the scriptures and know that when it's bad God is not finished yet!

Prayer for Today

God, help me to realize today that nothing is too difficult for You. I know that my life and my times are in Your hands and the best is yet to come!

Scriptures for Today

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (NKJV)

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (NKJV)

When God told Moses to deliver His children from Pharaoh's bondage in Egypt, He sent Moses with a message from Heaven. The message Moses spoke for God to the children of Israel was very direct: 'I will deliver you from Egypt and take you into the Promised Land of milk and honey.' When God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint little David to be king over all Israel He spoke through the prophet to David about his great destiny to rule the people of God. When Jesus met His first Disciples on the shores of Galilee He called them by telling them, "Come follow Me and I will make you to become fishers of men."

These words from God all speak to men in terms of destiny without making reference to the long, hard, and costly journey required to obtain that destiny. God speaks to us in terms of destiny then walks with us on our journey to that destiny. Life is a journey ... and with God the journey is your friend.

Prayer for Today

God, grant me the wisdom to accept Your Will for my life and the strength to walk Your way to that will. Amen.

Scriptures for Today

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (NKJV)

Numbers 21:4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. (NKJV)

Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (NKJV)

*Your greatest day will not come until
you've passed your greatest test*

December 31

As with the birth of anything, from mankind, throughout the animal Kingdom, and even with the seeds we plant, life begins with struggle. Day by day, year by year, life continues to be strengthened as we push against forces which oppose our growth and try to hold us back. Struggle is a continuing part of life for it is in the struggle that we are strengthened. Jacob wrestled with an angel, David with his sin, Moses with his calling, Peter with his fear, Paul with his past, and Jesus with His destiny. Through each struggle the men and women who overcome and gain victory in the situation are also those who go forward to gain victory over the situation. Do not despair when life comes to test you and remember failure is not defeat. Though the righteous may fall seven times yet he shall rise again. Fight the good fight of faith. Strengthen yourself in the battle and remember your greatest day will not come until you have faced and passed your greatest test.

Prayer for Today

Father, Your Word says that if I faint in the day of adversity my strength is small. I ask You to exercise me, stretch, and strengthen me by giving me manageable tests of life, not too hard, nor too easy, but fit to the age and stage of my life that I may grow thereby. Teach me Your ways.

Scriptures for Today

Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. (NKJV)

I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (NKJV)

