

Daily Devotional
October, November,
and December

Day 1

The most powerful force in the world is the Holy Spirit. Before God said, “let there be light” the Spirit of God “hovered” over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

It was the Holy Spirit that brought us into the family of God. 1st Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

It is the continuing work of the Holy Spirit that changes our human nature into the nature of Jesus. 2nd Corinthians 3:18 NLT, “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”

It is the Holy Spirit that empowers the believer for service. Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Have you been born into the family of God? If not, receive Jesus’ death as the payment for your sin.

Is your human nature being changed into the nature of Jesus? If not, submit to the Lordship of the Spirit.

Have you been empowered for service? If not, ask Jesus right now to empower you.

Day 2

Jesus gave a monumental declaration in 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.” Notice He does not say “you ought to be the salt” or “you should be the salt”, He says, “You are the salt.”

Of course, the word “earth” here is not referring to ground on which we walk. He was talking about the inhabitants of the earth. Jesus said without salt doing its job, the earth is not worth much.

We are salt because the presence of God, the Holy Spirit, resides in us. That’s what makes us valuable to the earth. Mankind does not need our talent, our time, or our treasure; mankind needs the presence of God, the Holy Spirit, to season him.

Job 34:14&15 gives us a vivid image of mankind without the presence of God. Job 34:14&15 NLT, “If God were to take back his spirit and withdraw his breath, 15 all life would cease, and humanity would turn again to dust.”

Day 3

After Jesus told His disciples they were the salt of the earth, He said they were also the light of the World (Matthew 5:14).

John 9:5 is of the utmost importance to understanding the believer’s position of being the “light of the world.” “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” We must ask, “how was Jesus the light of the world?”

The world at the time of Jesus was far removed from the original intent of the Father. Our Father's passion was always relational. In John 17:24 Jesus said, "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." Jesus was not speaking so much about geographically "may be with Me where I am" but relationally, "You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

The "religious" world at the time of Jesus was one of self-righteousness and superstition. Jesus brought the love of the Father to a dark world.

Jesus is no longer physically in the world, but we are. Now, we are the "light of the world." Or rather, "light to the world." John 17:20-23, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

Day 4

I read this story recently—A father wanted to give his daughter something to do, and there was a picture of the world on a sheet of paper. He tore it into smaller pieces and told her to see if she could put the pieces back together correctly, kind of like she would work a puzzle. The little girl agreed. Five minutes later, she showed her father the pieces put back together perfectly. He was stupefied. When he asked her how she had done the task so quickly, she said, "Oh, on the back was a picture of Jesus and I figured if I got Him right, the world would fall into place."

What a fantastic example of how when we put Jesus as the priority of our lives, everything else falls into place. Jesus said, "Matthew 13:44-46, "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. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Day 5

Speaking of priorities; "A fairly wealthy man one day was driving his BMW and had an accident—a very bad accident. The car was totaled. A policeman came on the scene and got the man out of the car. As the man came to, he said, "My BMW, oh my BMW!" The policeman said, "Sir, I'm sorry but you don't have time to worry about your BMW. It's just a car. We've got to rush you to the hospital because your arm has been severed at the elbow." The wealthy man said, "Oh, my Rolex oh my Rolex!"

Paul, the apostle, gave us the correct view of priorities. He was very influential among his peers, rising in rank and status. In Philippians 3:1-6 Paul lists his credentials. Then he says in Philippians 3:7&8, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ." Then in verse 10 he says, "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"

Day 6

Some people wish days were 36 hours long while others would like 6-hour days. Paul had some things to say about time. Ephesians 5:16, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

To Redeem here means to make wise use of. Are our days cluttered with "time consuming" things that are not productive. Rest and relaxation are very important so don't take a guilt trip if you just do nothing at times; we need "down time."

Paul included in his letter to the Ephesians to examine ourselves. Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" "Psalms" here refers to times when we get alone with the Holy Spirit, in a quiet place, and examine our heart. In other words, get real or authentic, with God and ourselves. Are we using time wisely? We have to answer that question honestly.

Next Paul talks about "hymns." Hymns has to do with anthems to God. To remove what is not productive in our lives and to reinforce what is. Again, be honest.

The last of this progression is "spiritual songs." "Spiritual songs" is the result of a time alone in the "closet" with God, then reinforcing what is of the Kingdom (dominion of the King). We come out of this quiet time with a renewed spiritual vitality. Go ahead, do it.

Day 7

The result of research says that a pastor invests about one hour of study for every hour the congregation hears. At Bancroft Mission, our praise team invests about 2.5 hours of practice and leads us in worship for about 20 minutes. There are several others who participate in some form of leading, teaching, etc. during a normal gathering.

However, the majority of believers are in the congregation. Now, that's fine but does that mean that the sitting congregation have no talents. Not at all. The scripture teaches in too many places to cite in this short devotional that all believers have a gift. MOST of these gifts are used while not at a geographical location which we call church.

In Exodus 35 we have the account of the master artisan by the name of Bezalel. Bezalel had two very important gifts; he could make things with his hands and teach others to do this also. Your gift, or talent, may be in the use of your hands. It may be in the use of your mind, or even in your body (such as athletics). It may even be in the entertainment industry. The important thing is to remember that your "earthly vocation supports your heavenly vocation). We are all full-time ministers.

Day 8

Yes, God has given to each of us an ability to carry out His mission or His purpose. Sometimes we function in one capacity but, for some reason, we can no longer function at all.

For example, many of us have known singers that at a point in their lives they could no longer sing. They are not to be "put on the shelf." They just go to another function or gift. Maybe it's prayer, or some other productive gift.

One of the greatest gifts needed in the Body of Christ is an encourager. As Joshus became the leader of the children of Israel God knew he would face trials. God said to the people, in Deuteronomy 3:28, "But command Joshua, and **encourage** him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see."

As others become involved in their gifting it is important that the "old guard" encourage them. Encourage means to "put courage in."

Let's not be prideful or embarrassed to allow others to step into roles that we occupied. Also, let's not stand back and watch; let's be encouragers.

Day 9

How about our treasure, or money? The Bible is also very specific about what our priority is with money.

Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;" Notice the Holy Spirit says through Solomon "first-fruits." Then Paul says, in 1st Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."

When we have an increase, payday or otherwise (maybe an inheritance or some other type of "increase") the first action with this is to seek the Lord for what He would have us to give and where we should give it.

In Proverbs, Solomon goes on to say, "So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine." (Proverbs 3:10). In other words, as we obey the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God, God promises to invest in us. It's the spiritual law of sowing and reaping.

Day 10

Galatians 3:8&9 gives us some wonderful insight to faith, "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Another translation says, "Faith is the underlying ingredient that makes hope come to pass."

Faith is believing in spite of not seeing. Faith is believing in spite of not feeling. However, our faith is not blind. It is believing a God who has proven Himself in countless ways over thousands of years.

God said to Abraham in 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." My friends, this is a covenant of faith. Let's put our faith in God and His blessings. Let's put our faith in God and obey Him and be a blessing. Let's put our faith in God for His blessing on our families, our church, our communities, and our nation.

Day 11

It saddens some folks to discover that 8 billion do not make it their life's goal to bless them. We cannot live our lives expecting anyone to bless us. Our blessings come from God. God can, and probably will, use a person to be a blessing to us. Always remember, there is a difference between source and means.

The means may be our employment, our family, or maybe even a stranger. Always, ALWAYS, and in all ways, God is the source.

Luke 6:38 KJV, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Notice— "shall men give into your bosom." God is the source, but He uses men. We are thankful for men God uses to give but we praise God.

Another aspect of this is "Give, and it shall be given..." Our giving in faith is the prerequisite for receiving.

Day 12

Exodus 26:30, "And you shall raise up the tabernacle **according to its pattern** which you were shown on the mountain." As we read of God's instruction to Moses concerning the building of the tabernacle it is obvious that God had something in mind. Several times He told Moses "according to the pattern."

When God tells us to do something He expects to be obeyed. A very interesting and eye-opening event happened in 1st Samuel. God told King Saul, through Samuel the prophet, what he wanted him to do. Saul succumbed to the pressure of others and only partially obeyed. Let's read what God said to Saul in 1st Samuel 15:17&23, "So Samuel said, "When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? 18 "Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" 20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." 22 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. 23 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."

Wow, God is serious about our obedience.

Day 13

William Booth was an English Methodist preacher who, along with his wife, Catherine, founded the Salvation Army and became its first General. The Christian movement with a quasi-military structure and government founded in 1865 has spread from London to many parts of the world.

A quote from William Booth, "Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again until you can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other. James 2:17, "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Faith always has a corresponding action. Hebrews 11—"By faith Abel offered..." "By faith Noah, ...prepared an ark..." "By faith Abraham obeyed..." "By faith Abraham... offered up Isaac." You get the point.

Day 14

God identified Himself to Moses as “I am.” “I am” is in the present tense. He is ready to do it now, so when you pray, believe that the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ Jesus. 2nd Corinthians 1:20, “For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

When we read in the Word of God about promises that He has made to us we believe in faith that He will do what He said. That doesn’t mean that God is a “wish book” or a catalogue where we pick out what we want, and He will give it to us. It does mean, however, that what God says in His Word, taken in proper context; He will do. 1st John 5:14 says, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

We discern the will of God through His Word and through our “closet” times with Him.

Day 15

Ecclesiastes 10:10 tells us how important it is for believers to stay spiritually sharp, “If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.”

Naturally speaking, when we use cutting tools, it is of the utmost importance. Abraham Lincoln once said, “If I am given six hours to chop down a tree, I will spend the first four sharpening my ax.”

The same is true spiritually. We can be reactive and run to prayer and Bible study after a situation rises in our lives. Or we can be proactive and stay sharp.

Jesus is our great example—Luke 6:12, “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God.” Jesus knew he would face demons, persecution, people in need, and other “life situations.” He invested the entire night to prayer. I believe He invested the night in listening and fellowshiping with His Father—Praying.

As we invest time in fellowship, Bible reading and study, and prayer (listening) we will keep ourselves spiritually sharp.

Day 16

Another way to stay spiritually sharp is to be in submission to the Father and to others.

James 4:7, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” We are in the Kingdom of God. The word “kingdom” means “the dominion of the King.” As we live our lives submitted to the King of Kings, we will stay sharp.

We also have believing friends in which we can trust to help us. Proverbs 27:17 Solomon said, “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” We need to have believing and faithful friends who will hold us accountable to our progress in the journey in the Kingdom. Ephesians 5:21 says, “submitting to one another in the fear of God”

Let’s all be a friend and have friends that will love us enough to tell us the truth.

Day 17

Jesus is most often depicted as a Lamb. "Behold the Lamb of God", John 1:36. "Lamb without spot", 1st Peter 1:19.

There is an interesting event that happened in the book of Genesis concerning Jacob, Laban, Rachel and Leah. Jacob wanted to marry Laban's daughter, Rachel. He made an agreement with Laban to serve him for seven years for Rachel. After seven years of serving, Jacob went to Laban to get his bride. A great feast was given, and Jacob had too much to drink. Laban tricked him and gave him Leah instead. The next morning, when Jacob discovered the trickery, he was furious. Laban's explanation was that Leah was the older of the two and he couldn't allow his younger child (Rachel) to be married before his older. Jacob then agreed to marry Rachel and then serve seven more years.

Here's the teaching for us in this story. Rachel means Lamb and Leah means weary. When we serve or work to get the Lamb (Jesus) all we get is weary. We are to "marry" Jesus and then work, just as Jacob did after he married Rachel.

Day 18

Works do enter into our life. James 2:18, "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." We just don't work for our salvation; we work because we are saved.

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Jesus gives us rest, rest from our labors to gain His approval. Although His yoke is easy and His burden is light, there is a yoke and there is a burden or load; it's just light because we are yoked with Him.

Day 19

Contract or Covenant.

Many of us have signed contracts. You know, a contract is an agreement between two parties that creates an obligation to perform (or not perform) a particular duty. Maybe we bought an automobile and signed a note with a lending institution. Or maybe we hired a service. One thing about a contract, we don't even need to know the person or company with which we make a contract.

A covenant is vastly different than a contract. Marriage, for example, is a covenant. 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."

Also, we have a covenant with God, not a contract. Jesus prayed in John 17:20-22, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:"

Praise God, we have a covenant with God, He is in us, and we are in Him. We KNOW Him.

Day 20

1st Peter 4:10, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Each of us is uniquely gifted. Yes, many sing or have some other gift. However, we all sing or use our talents differently. The important thing is that we use our talents. Peter says in the verse above that we are to be good stewards, or good managers of the gift that God has given.

God places the importance on being productive in the book of Genesis. After He created Adam, the first thing God said to him was to be fruitful; He immediately gave Adam a task.

In Matthew 25 we read of the parable of the talents, or money. God rewards good managers and does not reward those who do not manage what He has given well.

Let's decide today, right now, that we are going to be good stewards of what God has given us.

Day 21

Our God is absolutely amazing. Martin Luther said, "He can give only according to His might; therefore, He always gives more than we ask for."

Philippians 4:19, in the Amplified Bible says, "And my God will liberally supply (fill until full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Wow, we say, how can I make this happen for me? In this letter to the Philippians, Paul had just commended them for their generosity. Philippians 4:15-17 Paul says, "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."

Paul says here, and in many other places, that the spiritual law of sowing and reaping will occur as we obey God in our giving.

Day 22

Revelation 19:6 says, "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, 'Alleluia! For our Lord God Omnipotent reigns!'"

God is omnipotent. To be omnipotent means to be all powerful. When life happens and comes in the form of mountains, we can focus on the mountains, we can focus on our own abilities, or we can focus on the omnipotent, all-powerful God—the choice is ours.

Andrew Murray said, "Faith keeps itself occupied only with His omnipotence."

How, how, how can I live this way? Romans 10:17, "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Literally, faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing and hearing and hearing...

Day 23

Absorb the principle that failure is never final, so if you do not succeed the first time, keep on trying.

Philippians 3:13&14 says, “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, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

If we have tried something, in obedience to God, and it does seem to have worked, don’t lose heart. Seek the Lord, maybe He wants us to stand in faith, or maybe He wants us to learn something. Obedience to God is never without fruit.

Day 24

God breathed into Adam, and he became a living soul. Without the “breath”, or life sustaining power of God, mankind would not be able to exist. In the book of Job it says, “If He should set His heart on it, If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, 15 All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust” (Job 34:14&15).

Several thousand years later Paul said in 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,” He went on to add in Ephesians 4:6, “one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

We live in the presence of God. Or rather, the presence of God lives in us.

Day 25

Have we ever noticed that Jesus did not teach His disciples how to preach. He didn’t teach them how to sing. He did teach them how to pray. Luke 11:1-4, “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” 2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

Prayer is saying to God, “I need You.” We need God’s direction, His counsel, His wisdom...there is not an area of our lives in which we do not need God.

Let’s invest some quiet time each day for mediation with God and His Word.

Day 26

Corrie ten Boom said, “Faith is the radar that sees through the fog.”

After an airplane pilot receives their pilot’s license, the next logical step is to become instrument certified. This allows the pilot to fly in the clouds or in inclement weather.

Faith in God and His Word makes us “instrument certified” in the sense that we are not moved by what we see or feel, we are only moved by what the “instrument” says—the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

Day 27

Many times, people quote us. They say, “I heard you say this or that.” The problem is, that’s not what we said, that’s what they heard. We hear things through preconceived ideas. John wrote, in John 21:23,

“Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”

Many times, we perceive someone’s “sour” look as disapproval when in actuality they may have a headache or some other ailment completely unrelated to us.

James 1:19 says, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;”

Let’s not be quick in making judgments or interpretations. Solomon, the book of Proverbs said, “The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him” (Proverbs 18:17).

Day 28

Job 38:2 says, in the NLT, “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?”

Job went through a terrible ordeal. Some scholars say his calamity lasted about nine months. Whether it was nine months or nine days, it was horrible.

The great lesson we can learn from Job is, of course, patience. But another lesson we can learn is who’s in charge. Please read Job chapters 39-42 and see God confronting Job about Job trying to be Him. Finally in Job 42:3-5, “You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ 5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.”

Let’s learn from Job to allow God to be God and us to be humans.

Day 29

We have heard it said that “hindsight is 20/20.” Wouldn’t it be great if foresight was 20/20? If we could only know what lies ahead, we would make our decisions today based on what we know is ahead.

Here’s the good news; Our Loving Father does know what is ahead.

In God’s graciousness to the children of Israel He said, “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:12).

Jesus said, in John 16:13, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

The Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke) word for prayer means to set your mind like a trap to capture the thoughts of God.

Father wants to speak to us, let’s determine to listen.

Day 30

Friends mean well when they say, "I have your back." They usually have full intentions of doing so. However, as many have discovered, this is not always the case. Maybe something unforeseen happened, or maybe there was an accident. Any number of things could have hindered them from keeping their word. We will not get into strife over it.

God gave a promise through the prophet Isaiah about His faithfulness. Isaiah 52:12, "For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard." He will never be hindered by any circumstance.

When the Holy Spirit leads us in a step of faith, God has our back. When the Holy Spirit walks us through life situations, God has our back. Most of us have this poem on our walls:

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testing's.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

Day 31

Isaiah 43:1&2 was written to Israel, but for us. It says, "But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you."

What wonderful truths are in these two verses. He created us. He formed us. He redeemed us. He called us by name (He knows us personally). We are His. Wherever He leads us, He will protect us. We might

get lowered over a wall in a basket (Acts 9:25). We might go through shipwrecks and abandonment from others (2nd Corinthians 11:22-33). Or we may be persecuted. No matter what, the Holy Spirit will be right there with us. Father will send Angels (perhaps in human form) to minister to us (Matthew 4:11).

November

Let's take the 30-day challenge and find something for which we can be thankful each day of November.

Day 1

For what are you thankful today?

While Thanksgiving is an American holiday, each of us, no matter our nationality can be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

Let's be thankful for the awesome gift of Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross, and His subsequent resurrection that provides for us a "peace that passes all understanding."

There are many things in life that we are possibly unsettled in. Please don't let your vertical relationship with God be one of them. Rest in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross.

As the old hymn says, "I've anchored my soul in the haven of rest..."

Day 2

For what are you thankful today?

Relationships are wonderful. "Life here is grand with friends I love so dear..."

The sad truth is many don't experience the coveted relationships that others enjoy. David made a declaration that we can rely on today. Psalm 27:10, "When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me."

The Shulamite spoke of abuse by her brothers in Song of Solomon 1:6.

2nd Timothy 2:13 in the Amplified Bible says, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful [true to His word and His righteous character], for He cannot deny Himself." HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF.

We are thankful for a faithful God. A God we can know as Father, or Dad (Romans 8:15). We can tell Him our innermost secrets and He will never gossip. We can share with Him our greatest struggles and He will never blush.

Day 3

For what are you thankful today?

There is probably not anyone reading this who does not have a roof over their head. Some would have a better "roof" while others have more "roof" than they need.

David gives us news about a shelter that is better than any house we could ever have. Psalm 61:3, "For You have been a **shelter** for me, A strong tower from the enemy." Then in the next verse, "I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the **shelter** of Your wings. Selah." Finally, in Psalm 143:9, "Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take **shelter**."

Today we are thankful for our homes that give us shelter but mostly we are thankful for our Loving Father who provides a covering of security and peace for us at all times.

Day 4

For what are you thankful today?

Did you know that you are wealthy? Paul gives us the basic necessities of life in 1st Timothy 6:8, "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." Do we have food and clothing? As I look at myself in the mirror it is obvious that I do pretty well in the food department.

One penny over the basic necessity of food and clothing puts us into the category of the wealthy. Wealth is relative. To the billionaire, the person that only has one million dollars is not wealthy. To the millionaire, the person who only has 100 thousand dollars is not wealthy. To the person who has 100 thousand dollars, the person who only has 100 dollars is not wealthy. To the person who only has food and clothing, anything else makes him wealthy.

Today we are thankful for food and clothing and the one penny over.

Day 5

For what are you thankful today?

We are not thankful today in comparison to anyone else. There will always be someone who can outdo us or has more possessions. Or maybe more relationships.

Here is something good for all of us. Find one thing in your life for which you are thankful and be thankful for that 100%. Let me say it again, **Find one thing in your life for which you are thankful, and be thankful for that 100%.**

Maybe everything is not what we want. We all have something for which we can be thankful. We can still breathe. We have food, shelter, clothing, etc.

Mostly, we have a Savior. "He's a personal Savior He's mine I know, I love Him so He did my heart a personal favor That's why I tell it now wherever I may go When I am blue and feeling, oh, so lowdown He'll take me through Old Satan can't get me down And from the path the path that is mine I'll never more waver For He's a friend He's a friend, He's a friend He's a personal friend"

Day 6

For what are you thankful today?

One of the definitions of "thankful" is appreciation.

Saying "thank you" or letting our appreciation be known is becoming a lost trait. We teach our children to say thank you. When someone lets us merge into traffic, we throw up our hand or blink our lights to

show our appreciation. A sense of entitlement is rampant in both the younger and older generations. The entitlement mentality is defined as a sense of deservingness or being owed a favor when little or nothing has been done to deserve special treatment. It's the "you owe me" attitude. Entitlement is a narcissistic personality trait.

King David was given many promises by God Himself. However, as we read the book of Psalms, David is constantly saying "thank you"; he was showing his appreciation.

Let's live our lives with thankfulness and appreciation.

Day 7

For what are you thankful today?

Solomon teaches us about a happy attitude. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart does good, like medicine..."

Here's what science has to say about thankfulness and a happy/merry heart.

Gratitude is more than just a polite gesture of saying "thank you." It's an essential aspect of mental health that can affect our overall well-being. Research has shown that [practicing gratitude can reduce stress, depression, and anxiety and improve sleep quality, self-esteem, and overall happiness.](#)

Gratitude is a positive emotion that involves acknowledging and appreciating the good things in our lives. [When we express gratitude, our brains release dopamine and serotonin](#), two important neurotransmitters that regulate our moods and emotions. These chemicals can help us feel happier, more content, and less stressed.

Here are just a few benefits to the human body that occurs when we show our gratitude:

1. Reduced Stress and Anxiety
2. Improved Sleep Quality
3. Increased Self-Esteem
4. Greater Resilience: Practicing gratitude can also help us become more resilient in adversity. A study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that more grateful people had greater resilience and were better able to cope with traumatic events.
5. Practicing mindfulness can also help you cultivate gratitude. Take a few minutes each day to focus on your breath and be present in the moment. Notice the sights, sounds, and sensations around you and appreciate them for what they are.

Day 8

For what are you thankful today?

I read this story recently: Two little girls one day were acting very badly. They were misbehaving. It was on Thanksgiving Day and their father told them, "Girls, go to your room. You are dismissed from Thanksgiving dinner." The girls went dejected and sad to their rooms. A few moments later, they heard their mother calling, "Girls, girls, come down to dinner, girls."

A little baffled in light of what their father had said, they sheepishly walked down to the dinner table and sat down. But they noticed something. Dad was not there. So, they naturally asked, “Mother, where is Dad?”

“Dad went to his room.”

“But why, Mom?”

“Because Dad loves you so much. He couldn’t change his standard, but he didn’t want to deny you dinner. So, Dad said he would go and pay the price so that you could come and eat the meal. So, while you enjoy the meal, remember that your dad has picked up the tab and is paying the penalty.”

Brothers and sisters, when you forget to say thanks for everything else, don’t forget to say thanks for Jesus.

Day 9

For what are you thankful today?

Why is being thankful so powerful?

Being thankful helps people refocus on what they have instead of what they lack. And, although it may feel contrived at first, this mental state grows stronger with use and practice.

David wrote in Psalm 9:1, “A psalm of David. I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.”

When we not only meditate on God’s greatness but tell others of the mighty acts that He has done, the Holy Spirit does a work in our lives. Our outlook becomes brighter. Our attitude becomes more like the attitude of Jesus. We become more pleasant in every area of our lives.

Go ahead, find one thing that God has done for you and share it with someone. See what the Lord does.

Day 10

For what are you thankful today?

Continuing with the thought of sharing our thankfulness.

1st Chronicles 16:8 says, “Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!”

Our faith is increased when we share the great things Father has done.

Before King David fought the giant, Goliath, he told King Saul about the hand of Lord enabling him. 1st Samuel 17:33-37, “And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 “I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 “Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 Moreover David

said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

David had not experienced the confidence that an earthly father can give. His brother had belittled him. King Saul had expressed his doubts. David needed to remind himself of all that God had done in order to strengthen his faith for the task ahead.

Day 11

For what are you thankful today?

Sometimes it can be tough to be thankful for the little things, especially in hard times. But here's the funny thing about thankfulness. Once we begin counting our blessings, we often discover that we have a gracious plenty after all. It's simply the change in perspective from dwelling on what we lack to focusing on what we have.

We all know the value of prayer. Paul put being thankful in the same context. Colossians 4:2, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."

What are some "little" things in life for which we can be thankful?

Day 12

For what are you thankful today?

1st Timothy 4:4, "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. "

Take some time to look around. We live in an amazing world. At this time of year in West Virginia the foliage gives off brilliant gold, orange, and other colors. We know this is because the trees are entering a time of rest. However, it is the mighty creation of God that causes this rest, which then produces these beautiful colors that dazzle us every year.

Instead of rushing through life, take some time to "smell the roses." Then thank God for this wonderful life.

Day 13

For what are you thankful today?

Do we realize how much God loves us? I know that I don't at times. Psalm 106:1 says, "Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

Not just His love but His faithful love.

Many times, we don't experience love for others the way we think we should. But our Loving Heavenly Father loves us unconditionally. Yes, He loves us in our brokenness (we are all broken in some way). He loves us in our unfaithfulness. He loves us when we don't love Him back.

He loves us just as we are. And He loves us too much to leave us in this state. He will change us, heal us, rebuke us, and encourage us.

Psalm 107:21, "Let them give thanks to the LORD for his **unfailing** love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."

Day 14

For what are you thankful today?

Psalm 69:30&31 says, "I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. 31 This also shall please the LORD..."

Do we realize that God enjoys our singing. Not necessarily the quality of our voice but words from our mouths. Jesus said, "...out of the abundance of our heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

Try getting alone with God and just singing to Him. Not for yourself, but for Him. Sing out of your heart what you are experiencing. The Lord will be pleased.

Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Day 15

For what are you thankful today?

How do we approach our Mighty God? Sometimes it is in panic. Sometimes it is in fear of a situation.

David gives us some insight as to the proper way to approach Him. Psalm 95:2, "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."

Let's slow down and first have a thankful heart. Thankful that He hears us. Thankful for His patience. Thankful for who He is. Then enter into a time of communication, two-way communication. Both listening and speaking.

Day 16

For what are you thankful today?

Psalm 92:1&2, "It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; 2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night"

How often should we be thankful to and for the Lord? These scriptures tell us in the morning and every night. I don't think this means to quit our jobs and just be thankful and sing praises all day. What it does mean is to have a thankful heart all day.

How wonderful would our day be if we began by thanking the Lord? Then, at night, before we sleep, we thank Him again.

Day 17

For what are you thankful today?

Even as we face the trials of a fallen world, we can rejoice in the redemptive power of Christ and the renewal that He promises us. Whatever obstacles and tribulations life brings, Christ calls us to give

thanksgiving through it all. As Christians, our hearts can be filled with gratitude for His sacrifice for us and the new life we can have in Him.

As Paul was closing his letter to the Thessalonians, he closed with exhortations. One of which is 1st Thessalonians 5:18, "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Notice he doesn't say "for" everything but "in" everything. Life happens and it is not always good (most of the time it is). We thank Him for His faithfulness and His unfailing love.

Day 18

For what are you thankful today?

God has uniquely gifted each of us. As life goes on sometimes our gift changes; but we are still gifted. Let's remember that it is our Father who has gifted us and anointed us. That's why Paul wrote to the Colossians and said, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (3:17).

I had a friend several years ago that shared with me quite an experience. Bill was a gifted singer and sang in nightclubs. Bill received Jesus as his Savior and vowed to God he would never sing another song that did not glorify Him. A couple of years later Bill had an accident and was severely injured. This injury resulted in him going into deep depression. He had several suicide attempts but "somehow", "something" happened, and he was not able to carry out the suicide. Bill said one day his children were in school and his wife was working. He said he went into the back room of his home and had this conversation with God, "God, I am too much of a coward to take my life. I am going to sing "Amazing Grace" and dedicate it to the devil." He did and then said to God, "Now, what are you going to do." Bill said a voice spoke to him in the dark backroom of his home and said, "I am going to love you." Ole Bill fell to his knees and repented. He was miraculously healed both physically and spiritually. Now, when Bill sings, he never fails to give thanks to the Lord.

Day 19

For what are you thankful today?

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and amid the hustle and bustle of the season, it's easy to forget why we celebrate this important holiday. For the Christian, Thanksgiving is about more than turkey, parades, and family traditions. Instead, it's about gratitude and honoring God through the act of giving thanks

The book of Chronicles reveals to us the heart of David, and a heart that we are asking Father to work in us. 1st Chronicles 29:11-13, "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. 13 "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name."

Let's stop what we are doing and read this again. But this time instead of reading David's words, let's make them ours.

Day 20

For what are you thankful today?

What about our giving? Jonah gives us some keen insight as to our attitude WHEN we give.

Jonah 2:9," But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD."

Giving of our time, talent, and treasure is a wonderful privilege for Saints. No, God will not curse us if we don't. Jesus took all our curses, or all the curses due us.

As we journey in life, enjoying the wonderful life He has given us it is out of gratitude that we give. We give with the attitude of thanksgiving.

Paul taught that as we give, it causes others to be blessed, which results in their thanksgiving to God.

2nd Corinthians 9:10-12, "Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,"

Day 21

For what are you thankful today?

It's easy to get swept away in the rush of everyday life and forget to be grateful for all the things we've been given, especially during the holiday season. When that happens, little by little, we start to feel on-edge, easily angered, and forget about the goodness of God.

Reminding ourselves that it is by His great mercy that He saved us. That we cannot add one item to obtaining our salvation. We are utterly hopeless in our selves to be righteous before God. We rejoice in Psalm 13:5, "But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation."

We ought to clap our hands, shout, or however we express our thankfulness to a merciful God right now!

Day 22

For what are we thankful today?

The goal of all believers should be to become more like Jesus. Not doing what He did but becoming who He is in our nature, the essence of our being. Our thoughts, our passions, our motives, etc.

The scripture says this occurs by an act of the Holy Spirit. 2nd Corinthians 3:18, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

With this in mind, we are thankful for the Holy Spirit's continued work in our lives. Yes, we are resting in our relationship with the Father. This rest comes from having received Jesus as our Savior. But we all want to grow in that relationship. Paul wrote to the Colossians saying how thankful we are for this work.

Colossians 2:7, “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Day 23

For what are you thankful today?

Isaiah 12:4 says, “And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.”

This is one of the many verses that begins “in that day.” In what day? In the case of Isaiah 12 it is the day of deliverance, freedom, and salvation.

Praise God, we are experiencing everyday freedom, deliverance, and salvation. Not in the sweet by and by but in the nasty now and now.

Let us enter each day with a thankful heart for what the Lord has done. Let’s share with others what the Lord has done. Let us tell others that God is God above every circumstance and situation in life.

Day 24

For what are you thankful today?

We are living in a fantastic world. The opportunities are unlimited.

Also, being totally honest, there is a lot of turmoil. At the time of this writing, 2024, prices on almost everything are soaring. The political climate is chaos. It seems that no one wants to compromise on anything—it’s all “my” way or nothing. Christian martyrdom is at an all-time high. We could go on, but you get the picture.

There is one constant: God. God has a kingdom that cannot be moved by anything or anyone. And we are living in that kingdom. Listen to what the writer of Hebrews has to say. Hebrews 12:28, “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,”

Let us be thankful that God is not wringing His hands in fear, pacing up and down and saying, “what am I going to do?”

Since God is not in fear, we are not either. We are a thankful people for His unshakable kingdom.

Day 25

For what are you thankful today?

One of my all-time favorite songs is *It Was Enough* written by Larry Bryant. Part of the lyrics with the chorus:

Lord, I see so much in me
That I just can't get right
Things that weigh me down each day
And steal my sleep at night
In Your Word I read about

A peace I wish I felt
 But how can You forgive me
 When I can't forgive myself

It was enough
 The blood that You shed
 It was enough
 That You rose from the dead
 It was enough
 To set me free
 It was enough
 That You died for me

One of the ways to obtain peace for believers is to realize that Jesus has truly paid it all. Another way is to be thankful. Paul says, in 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; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Day 26

For what are you thankful today?

Ever roll out "on the wrong side of the bed?" You know, when our attitude could be better. It is a fact that how we begin our day usually determines how we live that day.

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 118:24, "This *is* the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it."

We are aware, both by experience and in relationship to others, that sometimes life can be tough. Jeremiah experienced the most stressful and tortuous times in the history of Israel. Yet he wrote in Lamentations 3:22-24, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Try to begin each day with the expectation of a newness in the Lord and in life. Be thankful.

Day 27

For what are you thankful today?

Just what does a gift mean to us? Well, if it's something we really want, we are extremely happy and thankful.

Many of us have received a "re-gift." A gift that someone else has received but passed on to you. Please don't be critical. Yes, it may be something that they did not want, or it could be something that they cherish and their love for you has caused them to want to share. Maybe they did not have funds to buy a new gift??? It's all about the attitude in which we receive the gift.

In 2nd Corinthians 9:15 Paul describes God's gift as "indescribable." 2nd Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

How can we ever describe the gift of God? We can't. But we can be thankful.

Day 28

For what are you thankful today?

There is something great about reciprocal thankfulness. Saying to one another how thankful we are. In Ephesians 5:19&20 Paul spoke about helping each other on our spiritual journey. Part of that help includes sharing back and forth with others about things, or people, or God, or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit for which we are thankful.

As someone shares with us their thankfulness, it reminds us of that area also. The same thing happens when we share with others.

Ephesians 5:19&20,

“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Day 29

For what are you thankful today?

Changing a lifestyle can be extremely challenging. I read a few years ago that it takes a month of exercise for every year we have been out of shape, to get back into good shape.

Many have cultivated a lifestyle of complaining, groaning and moaning, and being a “glass is half-full” kind of a person.

We know Father wants us to be thankful. Not that He needs it, but we need it.

But yet, we don't want thankfulness to just be something that is really not us.

So, how do we do this? Do we grit our teeth and determine to “do this thing?”

1. Begin with a quiet time alone with Father. Just talking and listening just like we do our best friends.
2. Read the scriptures. As we read the Holy Word of God, the Holy Spirit will make the Word alive to us.
3. Ask Jesus to fill us with the Holy Spirit.
4. Allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives—this is Kingdom living.

After a period of time, it is different for all of us, we will begin to have a thankful spirit/attitude.

Day 30

For what are you thankful today?

Imagine what the world would look like if we all routinely pondered the things we're thankful for. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year to remember all your blessings in your life and give thanks to

God for it all. More than that, it is especially important for Christians to cultivate an attitude of gratitude and thankfulness throughout each and every day.

The Bible — and specifically, Bible verses on thankfulness and gratitude — encourages believers to thank the Lord regardless of life circumstances, with gratefulness serving as a central theme in the human experience.

The last of our “30-day challenge” in this November Daily Devotional is an assignment.

Go back to day one and re read all of the verses used throughout the month. Make being thankful a goal each day.

December

December can be a hectic time. For most of us, it is just like any other month. Go, go, go. I just watched, for probably the “umpteenth” time an episode on the Andy Griffith Show about a visiting minister to their church whose message was about slowing down, taking it easy, and enjoying life.

Let’s do this in December. Let’s start by reading these devotionals not just to get through them but to glean some things that can be applied to our lives.

Day 1

I have a friend who takes Ephesians 5:19 seriously and literally. It says, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;” He arises very early every morning, goes to his quiet place and reads several of the chapters in Psalms. He then takes out his red hymnal and begins to sing some hymns. You know, he always has a positive and upbeat attitude. Maybe there’s something to what he does, hmmmmm!

I do know this, Jesus invested several hours alone with the Father. He even instructed His disciples to “go to their closets...” Matthew 6:6, “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Hey, it might have some great and positive results.

Day 2

As a child, Christmas was very exciting. We usually received one present. A football or basketball for the boys. Clothes for the girls. I still get excited about Christmas. Not for presents that I will receive but to see our children and grandchildren receive their gifts.

I don’t think Jesus was really born on December 25th. I don’t think He was born in December. But that is beside the point. Why He was born and what He accomplished is of the utmost importance.

Galatians 4:4&5, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

He came to redeem us. To buy us back from a lost relationship with the Father.

Day 3

I read this great story not long ago: A mother was having a gathering to celebrate the birth of her newborn son. She invited a bunch of friends over to celebrate his arrival. She welcomed her guests, and they all had a great time celebrating, eating, and drinking.

After a while, one of the ladies said, “Well, bring the baby out. Let us see him.”

The mother went to get the baby from his crib—he was nowhere to be found. She started to panic and fell fearful. Suddenly, she remembered that the baby was still at her parents’ house, where she had left him that morning. She and the guests had been having so much fun they had forgotten what the party was about in the first place.

During the Christmas season, many people get busy with the celebration and forget that the birth of Jesus Christ is the reason for the season.

Day 4

In the second year of Jesus’ ministry while on earth He had huge gatherings. Some followed for the “loaves and fishes” and others followed for the miraculous healings. When Jesus challenged some to discipleship, they left Him. He turned the twelve that He had chosen and asked if they would leave too. Peter said, “To whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life.”

Isaiah prophesied some 750 years before Jesus saying, “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.”

What caused His followers to stay with Him was not His good looks, fine facilities, or even His charisma. It was the anointing.

My friends, let’s not be caught away by anything else than the anointing. The world is not hungry for a show, they are hungry for the anointing—the touch of the Master.

Day 5

In John 5:39 Jesus said, ““You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”

Eternal life comes only through Jesus. Jesus was talking to a group steeped in religion. They carried the scripture around their waist or attached to their heads in some way.

While scripture memorization has great value. Feeding the hungry and clothing the poor are extremely commendable. But eternal life comes only through Jesus: His substitutionary death and resurrection.

I am reminded of a very good worship song entitled *The Heart of Worship*. Part of the lyrics say:

I'm comin' back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
 When it's all about You
 It's all about You, Jesus

King of endless worth
 No one could express
 How much You deserve?

Day 6

There are almost 9,300 songs written about Christmas. Some are jingles, some “spiritual”, and some about fictitious characters.

What’s your favorite Christmas song and why? Stop and think about it.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for some but for others it is very stressful.

Let’s make resting in Jesus a year-round occasion. 1st Peter 5:7 says, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” All of our sin, stress, sorrow, cares, anxieties; everything. He really does care and desires to give us rest and peace, peace beyond understanding.

Now, it would be easy if all we had to do was snap our fingers and it would be done, not so. It takes a desire on our part. Also, we need to stop dwelling and meditating on what might have been or what we wish things were like. —Begin today.

Day 7

Reading 1st Timothy 1:15-17, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

We might contend with Paul about just who is the chief of sinners. Paul declares that it was by Jesus that he obtained mercy. He went on to declare the King is alone wise. In other words, what God says and does in us is greater than our opinion of ourselves.

Rest in the eternal, immortal, invisible God who alone is wise. Then give Him honor and glory forever—
 So be it.

Day 8

John 1:14 tells us about the birth of Jesus, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Many scriptures tell of the glory that Jesus had with the father before He came to earth. I encourage you to read the book of John.

John 3:16 declares, “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.” You see, Jesus came into the world and died for all mankind.

As we know, the New Testament was written in Greek. The Greek word *word* used in John 1:14 is *logos* while the other Greek word translated as *word* is *rhema* (pronounced ray muh). Here's the difference. *Logos* means a written word, something that all can read. The word *rhema* means the word alive; it becomes alive to us. How many times have we read a certain passage and then one day wham, it becomes alive.

Although Jesus died for all, He does not become alive to us until we receive Him as Savior. John 1:10-13 says, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Is He alive to you?

Day 9

Listen to this startling statistic. In the United States alone there are about 2 billion Christmas cards sent each year. I'm sure, in time past, there were even more.

Our mother used to string a line in the house and hang Christmas cards that we received on it. It was always a joy, and they were heartwarming to read.

Some cards speak of Santa Claus, and some of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer among other secular themes. However, most speak of the glorious birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

While Christmas card sending is becoming a thing of the past, let's not allow the birth of Jesus to slide by.

Day 10

One of the blackest and shameful times, if not the most, in American history is slavery. It's amazing to me that Paul, the great apostle, never dealt much about being free from human slavery.

What he did deal with was being free where we are. None of us have personally experienced being enslaved by another human being. We have, however, been in bondage. We were in bondage to sin. Some were, and still are, in bondage to a set of laws, whether Mosaic, Church, or self-imposed.

The good news is that Jesus has freed us. Romans 8:15 says, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" Also, in John 8:36, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Go ahead, enjoy life and enjoy your spiritual journey.

Day 11

There is a wonderful teaching by Jesus in Luke that will carry us through whatever life throws at us. Luke 6:48, "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock"

Several years ago, a very good friend of mine built a house and sold it. A few years later the house was destroyed by fire. My friend bought the house back. Now, you may ask, why would someone buy a house that was completely destroyed by fire? My friend built the house and knew that the foundation was good. He built another house on the same foundation and sold it.

If we have built our house on the foundation of Jesus Christ, we will never fall. Sure, storms come, the strong winds blow, but we are still standing. Listen to what Isaiah said in 28:16, "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily."

Day 12

There are many great fathers in the world. Many of you reading this are a great father.

Yet Jesus said this, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11)

Another good word for "evil" here is earthly. We, as earthly fathers, are limited. Not one father can bring everlasting fulfillment. Many fathers have good occupations, but no occupation can guarantee to be a constant source of provision.

We have a heavenly Father who is the total source of every need of mankind. Romans 14:17 says, "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Righteousness (right standing with God), peace (that goes beyond human understanding), and joy (the inner exhilaration) comes through by the Holy Spirit of God.

Day 13

Anyone ever been treated badly, taken advantage of, lied to, or in any way mistreated? We all have. Jesus said in Luke 17:1, "Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to *him* through whom they do come!"

The Greek for offense means, "the movable stick or trigger of a trap." We have all seen mouse traps. We apply the bait, set the trigger and WHAM, the mouse is caught.

When maltreatment comes, we can choose to walk in love and forgiveness, or we can be angry and offended. When we are offended, we trip the trap, just like the mouse. The bad news is, we are the ones that are trapped. The offending party goes on their merry way, and we are left with being trapped. Trapped by anger, resentment, even hate.

These bad reactions will take their toll on our spiritual journey.

Let's choose to forgive. Yes, it's hard. So, we cry, "Holy Ghost, pull me through."

Day 14

On one of the many confrontations with the Pharisees, Jesus said, in John 2:19, "Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Yes, Jesus did die on the cross and was buried then resurrected. Jonah was really in the belly of the fish.

Let's look at another aspect of "three days" in our scripture today.

"Three days" was an idiom of that time. You know, phrases and sayings that are familiar to one culture but maybe not another. Like, "he's a chip of the old block." Or "she has a chip on her shoulder." We all know what these mean, but other cultures do not. "Three days" in that culture meant that the reason for which someone does something has been accomplished.

When Jesus died on the cross, was buried and resurrected, the reason for which He came to earth was accomplished. He completed our salvation and restoration. He may have been in the grave two days, one day or four days; it doesn't matter. He completed the work.

Day 15

We are extremely thankful for the wonderful gift of salvation. Titus 3:5 says, "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

We understand that, on the cross, Jesus gave His life for us. However, in the resurrection, He gave His life to us. Dr. Luke, in Acts 17:28-31 says, "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

One of the ways in which He gave His life to us is with a new identity. We are not sinners saved by grace. We used to be sinners, but we were saved by grace; sinner is no longer our identity.

Paul told the Galatians, "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" (Galatians 2:20).

Day 16

Did you ever notice that the bible does not tell us why God loves us? He just does, it's who He is. If God would ever say, "I love you because" He would cease to be love. He would qualify His love based on our performance.

He loved us while we were sinners (Romans 5:8). He loves us when we "do right" but He loves us when we do wrong. That doesn't mean He approves of wrongdoing, just that He still loves us.

He loved us so much that He gave us what was most precious to Him. He turned His back on His Son. Matthew 7:46, when Jesus was hanging on the cross, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

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."

Day 17

Acts 2 records the first message preached after Pentecost. Part of it, in 2:36&37 says, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

This was a tremendous change for them. They had had generation after generation after generation of serving God in one way. Now, Peter tells them that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ) and they had crucified Him.

Someone has said that the only person that likes change is a wet baby. Lotta truth to that. Many of sit in the same chair at home. We eat at the same place at the table. We come to church and sit in the same pew and park in the same spot. Nothing wrong with that.

But when it comes to spiritual things, God is constantly changing. The Gospel does not change but methods do.

There is a fancy phrase that describes what has to happen in order to transition into what God wants to do now. It is called a paradigm shift. A paradigm is the way we see things or understand things. When we grasp old ways of doing things because that's the way we have always done it, it signals that something has become a tradition. The bad part is, we will miss out on what God wants to do in us and through us.

Day 18

Matthew 1:18-23, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

The virgin is an absolute necessity.

It is the fulfilment of Prophecy. Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

In order for Jesus to become the sacrifice for our sin, He had to have not inherited the same sin. Romans 5:12 says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—" Every person ever born of man and woman inherited sin. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit.

Day 19

Matthew 2:1, "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem."

For the most part ancient Palestine was a rugged land: Soil scorched, sand dunes, lined huge cracks in the sun parched earth. Vegetation and water were virtually non-existent. Bethlehem (City of Bread) had wheat fields, lush terraces, vineyards, abundance of figs and olive trees. In the middle of a wasteland, a beautiful fertility existed. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Jesus will appear in our wastelands, our disappointments, and dry places.

Psalm 43:5, "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God."

Day 20

Matthew 2:11, "And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

The visit of the Magi gives us some wonderful lessons.

They were men of education and wealth. When they saw the dwelling and surroundings of the "King", they could have left in disgust. They didn't. When life does not turn out like we want, don't get disgusted, stay faithful.

They presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This was not a chunk or slab of gold, it used to be, but someone fashioned it to make it more valuable. At the close of the 20th century a \$5 bar of steel could make \$10 worth of horseshoes. The same \$5 bar could make \$350 worth of needles. It also could make \$32,000 worth of knife blades. That same \$5 bar of steel could make \$250,000 worth of springs. It just determines whose hands the steel bar is in.

Jesus can take our lives, when we think we are not worth much, and make us into something beautiful. Isaiah 61:3, "To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Day 21

Matthew 2:6, "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people, Israel."

To govern means to rule or command. Most translations say "shepherd" instead of governor. Jesus rules and commands from a place of care and love, just like a true shepherd.

Jesus ruled over demons, leprosy, fevers, the sea, paralysis, blindness, deafness, and the list goes on. Deuteronomy 28 lists several curses. As we follow the ministry of Jesus, we find that He healed all of these. Galatians 3:13 says, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")"

He rules over sin, sickness, poverty, lack, and everything else.

Day 22

When the angel visited Mary, announcing to her that she would give birth to the Messiah, she had a natural and understandable response. Luke 1:34, "Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" The angel then explained how; Luke 1:35, "And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Have you ever been in a situation where you saw no way out. You may have cried out, "how." There are some things that are beyond all human reasoning and logic. The virgin birth, the resurrection, our unrighteous lives becoming right with a Holy God.

William Cowper found himself in the dilemma of his unrighteousness. He was convinced, through "terrorist" teaching that it was impossible. After several suicide attempts, he finally understood the message of GRACE. He wrote a wonderful song about it, *There is A Fountain*. One of the verses goes:

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
 Thy flowing wounds supply,
 Redeeming love has been my theme,
 And shall be till I die:
 And shall be till I die,
 And shall be till I die;
 Redeeming love has been my theme,
 And shall be till I die.

We may be able to explain many things. We accept by faith and live in victory.

Day 23

Matthew 2:1&2, "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Many songs we sing at Christmas are reminders that Christmastime is supposed to be happy. Songs like "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas," "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," "Jingle Bells," and "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" all communicate that Christmas time is to be a joyous, trouble-free season.

But let me ask you honestly: Is that what you are experiencing this season? Probably not. For some of you, personal problems keep you from experiencing the joy of the season. For others, you feel like one crisis after another has run you over. With such an avalanche of problems it is hard to have a holly-jolly Christmas.

There are a couple of questions from our scripture to consider:

1. What are we seeking?

The wise men were seeking Jesus, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews.” Let’s make Jesus our top priority of our everyday journey.

2. Where are we looking?

When we look for joy in any other place, we will ultimately be disappointed. True joy comes when we look to Jesus. Not our inner self, not others, not situations, but Jesus.

Enjoy Christmas with the King of Kings.

Day 24

Luke 2:8-12, “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 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. 11 “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 “And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

In the first century, shepherds were generally scorned as shiftless, dishonest people who grazed their flocks on others' lands. They weren't the pleasant Hallmark faces we're used to seeing this time of year. We have sentimentalized them so on our Christmas cards and art that they look like gentle folk waiting to go to a homecoming celebration. No picture is farther from reality.

We may ask, “why would God pick shepherds?” One reason is He was telling us that no matter our social, economic, education, or sinful status, He chooses us—we are accepted through Jesus.

The birth of this child is about God coming to us in our everyday lives and saying to us, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news."

- It's about God meeting us in our pain and loneliness.
- It's about God meeting us in our frustration and anger.
- It's about God meeting us Monday and Wednesday and Friday.
- It's about God wanting to be a part of our lives every day.

Day 25

Merry Christmas

Luke 2:13&14, “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Can you imagine the brilliance on that lea? A multitude of heavenly host praising God. Traditionally we say these were angels praising. But the scripture says, “there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God” Who were these heavenly hosts? I don’t know, do you?

The most important message is the light of the world was born. John 1:1-9, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life,

and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world”

Jesus brings “light” to sinful people, broken people, outcasts, lonely people; “whomsoever will.”

Day 26

Paul said, in 2nd Corinthians 10:12, “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

Use your imagination. It won’t be like this but for illustration purposes. You are standing in line at the pearly gates waiting for your turn to stand before God. Your name is Alan Hitler and just ahead of you is Adolf Hitler. You’re feeling pretty holy right now. But what if your name is Alan Bojaxhiu and just ahead of you is Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa). Uh oh, this could be trouble.

We are not compared with anyone else. We are compared with God’s perfect standard. The result, “You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.”

The Good News—Ephesians 2:8&9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Day 27

As we prepare for the coming new year, many are taking personal assessments and making resolutions.

Let’s consider keeping the most important things first. One of which is our character.

John Wooden instructed his basketball players, “Be more concerned with your character than your reputation because your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.”

Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit. Transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit. Going to heaven is a promise to those who walk by faith. Character, what we do when no one is watching, is a choice.

Day 28

More thought on resolutions.

Why not make a resolution to make Jesus first in our time, talent, and treasure.

Losing weight, quitting certain habits, starting to work out, etc. are all good things. As Jesus said, “These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

Jesus also said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Was He really serious? Seek first the dominion of God in our lives? Every day? What do you say? Luke 6:46, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Are you feeling guilty. Don’t feel guilty, just make the necessary adjustments.

Day 29

How to spiritually prepare for the new year?

Our preparing for the New Year spiritually should prioritize Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship. These three elements will help us grow in our relationship with God and make us a blessing to others. Preparing for the New Year spiritually is definitely worth doing. So go ahead.

We live in a “me” world. While we enjoy Facebook, sharing with our friends and families. It is amazing how many “selfies” are on there daily. Many are obsessed with self.

Galatians 3:14 says, “that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” God’s first conversation with Abraham is found in 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.”

Notice in Genesis that God promises to bless Abraham; that’s fantastic and true—God wants to bless us. The next part says, “you shall be a blessing.”

Let’s start each day by saying, “Father, how can I be a blessing to someone today.”

Day 30

Slow down. A very good friend gave me a book recently about slowing down; thank you. I receive it for myself and share it with others.

As we all too well know, we live in a fast-paced world. Especially parents with young, active children. Trying to juggle jobs, games, family time, etc. can be very difficult. A friend of mine said his dad told him he needed to pace himself. My friend said, “I am, I have it on full throttle and keeping it there.” Good news, he slowed down before having a nervous breakdown.

I don’t know how to tell you parents and grandparents to slow down. But we can all find time to invest with fellowshiping with the Father. This must be a top priority.

Whatever we have to do to invest five minutes or so with the Father, just do it.

Day 31

What do we expect for the coming year? Psalm 65:11 says, “You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.”

I don’t know what the coming year holds. I do believe we can enter it, and each day, with the expectation of the Favor of God; we call it the “FOG.”

We don’t enter the new year, or life with the attitude of gloom and doom or woe is me. We enter believing that God is a good God.

James 1:17 says, “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.”

Wake up each day thinking, “how can I be a blessing today” and “let’s see what great things God will do today.”