# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/4/25

# The Compelling Majesty of His Power



The love of Christ compels us… —[2 Corinthians 5:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+5%3A14)

Paul said that he was overpowered, subdued, and held as in a vise by “the love of Christ.” Very few of us really know what it means to be held in the grip of the love of God. We tend so often to be controlled simply by our own experience. The one thing that gripped and held Paul, to the exclusion of everything else, was the love of God. “The love of Christ compels us….” When you hear that coming from the life of a man or woman it is unmistakable. You will know that the Spirit of God is completely unhindered in that person’s life.

When we are born again by the Spirit of God, our testimony is based solely on what God has done for us, and rightly so. But that will change and be removed forever once you “receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you…” ([Acts 1:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1:8)). Only then will you begin to realize what Jesus meant when He went on to say, “…you shall be witnesses to Me….” Not witnesses to what Jesus can do— that is basic and understood— but “witnesses to Me….” We will accept everything that happens as if it were happening to Him, whether we receive praise or blame, persecution or reward. No one is able to take this stand for Jesus Christ who is not totally compelled by the majesty of His power. It is the only thing that matters, and yet it is strange that it’s the last thing we as Christian workers realize. Paul said that he was gripped by the love of God and that is why he acted as he did. People could perceive him as mad or sane— he did not care. There was only one thing he lived for— to persuade people of the coming judgment of God and to tell them of “the love of Christ.” This total surrender to “the love of Christ” is the only thing that will bear fruit in your life. And it will always leave the mark of God’s holiness and His power, never drawing attention to your personal holiness.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

No one could have had a more sensitive love in human relationship than Jesus; and yet He says there are times when love to father and mother must be hatred in comparison to our love for Him.   So Send I You, 1301 L

# CCEL – 2/4/25

**The Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.**—[DEUT. 17:16.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.17.html" \l "Deut.17.16)

Truly if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is a heavenly. Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.—The just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.—No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.—Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

He which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

[Heb. 11:15,16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.15),[25,26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.25). -[Heb. 10:38,39](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.38). -[Luke 9:62](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.9.html" \l "Luke.9.62).[Gal. 6:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.6.html" \l "Gal.6.14). -[II Cor. 6:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.17).[Phi. 1:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.1.html" \l "Phil.1.6).

“The love of the Lord.” [Hosea 3:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Hos.3.html" \l "Hos.3.1)

Believer, look back through all thine experience, and think of the way whereby the Lord thy God has led thee in the wilderness, and how he hath fed and clothed thee every day—how he hath borne with thine ill manners—how he hath put up with all thy murmurings, and all thy longings after the flesh-pots of Egypt—how he has opened the rock to supply thee, and fed thee with manna that came down from heaven. Think of how his grace has been sufficient for thee in all thy troubles—how his blood has been a pardon to thee in all thy sins—how his rod and his staff have comforted thee. When thou hast thus looked back upon the love of the Lord, then let faith survey his love in the future, for remember that Christ’s covenant and blood have something more in them than the past. He who has loved thee and pardoned thee, shall never cease to love and pardon. He is Alpha, and he shall be Omega also: he is first, and he shall be last. Therefore, bethink thee, when thou shalt pass through the valley of the shadow of death, thou needest fear no evil, for he is with thee. When thou shalt stand in the cold floods of Jordan, thou needest not fear, for death cannot separate thee from his love; and when thou shalt come into the mysteries of eternity thou needest not tremble, “For I am persuaded, that neither death; nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Now, soul, is not thy love refreshed? Does not this make thee love Jesus? Doth not a flight through illimitable plains of the ether of love inflame thy heart and compel thee to delight thyself in the Lord thy God? Surely as we meditate on “the love of the Lord,” our hearts burn within us, and we long to love him more.

# Word Live – 2/4/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/4/25

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# Today in the Word – 2/4/25

# Jesus Understands Our Struggle

A desert landscape with mountains and sky

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[**Read Hebrews 2:14–18**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Hebrews+2:14%e2%80%9318)

14Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17For this reason he had to be made like them,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%202%3A14%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29995a)] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Footnotes**

1. [Hebrews 2:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%202%3A14%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29995) Or *like his brothers*

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. [Hebrews 2:18](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Heb.2.18)

When nineteenth-century preacher Charles Spurgeon considered that “Jesus was tempted as I am,” he said it was “nectar to the weary heart”: “It is a dark room which you are going through, but Jesus went through it before. It is a sharp fight which you are waging, but Jesus has stood foot to foot with the same enemy. Let us be of good cheer, Christ has borne the load before us, and the blood- stained footsteps of the King of glory may be seen along the road which we traverse.”

It should be a great comfort to us that Jesus understands our struggle against temptation. Not only does He provide an example for us to imitate, He also fights with us and for us. He became a flesh-and-blood human to break the power of sin, death, and the devil (v. 14; see also John 1:14). How? “By his death.” Ever since the Fall, every human being has owed the penalty of death. Only another human being, One who had never sinned, could pay it and set us free (v. 15). For this reason, He became “fully human in every way” (v. 17).

Jesus redeemed us. He became our once-for-all, atoning sacrifice as well as our “merciful and faithful high priest” (v. 17; see also Heb. 7:26–27). He set us free in a positional sense (we call that “justification”), that is, we stand righteous before God. He’s setting us free day by day (“sanctification”), that is, we’re being made more and more righteous, a perfecting process that will one day be completed (“glorification”). While we’re in process, evil tempts us and tries to derail us. Jesus understands this because He, too, was tempted. He resisted as we do, except that He never yielded. Therefore, “he is able to help those who are being tempted” (v. 18). That’s good news!

**Go Deeper**

Do you regularly call on Christ when you face temptation? What other steps can you take to make prayer an ingrained habit?

**Pray with Us**

Jesus, what a consolation it is to know that You became fully human to break the power of sin and death, that You fight with us and for us. Help us hear Your words of life and hope even in the midst of trials, loss, and tragedy.

# Our Daily Bread – 2/4/25

GOD'S SPACIOUS PLACE

TUESDAY I FEBRUARY 4

A person with a beard and glasses

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: PSALM 31:1-2, 8-16**

**Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies**

**To the leader. A Psalm of David.**

**1**In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;  
    do not let me ever be put to shame;  
    in your righteousness deliver me.  
**2**Incline your ear to me;  
    rescue me speedily.  
Be a rock of refuge for me,  
    a strong fortress to save me.

**8**and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;  
    you have set my feet in a broad place.

**9**Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;  
    my eye wastes away from grief,  
    my soul and body also.  
**10**For my life is spent with sorrow,  
    and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM%2031%3A1-2%2C%208-16&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-14342a)]  
    and my bones waste away.

**11**I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
    a horror[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM%2031%3A1-2%2C%208-16&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-14343b)] to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
    those who see me in the street flee from me.  
**12**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
    I have become like a broken vessel.  
**13**For I hear the whispering of many—  
    terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me,  
    as they plot to take my life.

**14**But I trust in you, O Lord;  
    I say, ‘You are my God.’  
**15**My times are in your hand;  
    deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.  
**16**Let your face shine upon your servant;  
    save me in your steadfast love.

**Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 31:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM%2031%3A1-2%2C%208-16&version=NRSVA#en-NRSVA-14342) Gk Syr: Heb *my iniquity*
2. [Psalm 31:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM%2031%3A1-2%2C%208-16&version=NRSVA#en-NRSVA-14343) Cn: Heb *exceedingly*

You ... have set my feet in a spacious place. PSALM 31:8

When theologian Todd Billings received a diagnosis of incurable blood cancer, he described his imminent mortality as like lights in distant rooms turning off or flickering. "As the father of a one- and three-year-old, I tended to think of the next few decades as an open expanse, assuming I would see Neti and Nathaniel grow and mature .... But in being diagnosed ... there is a narrowing that takes place."

In thinking about these limitations, Billings reflected on Psalm 31, how God set David in "a spacious place" (v.8). Although David spoke of being afflicted by his enemies, he knew that God was his refuge and place of safety (V. 2). Through this song, the psalmist voiced his trust in God: "My times are in your hands" (V. 15).

Billings follows David in placing his hope in God. Although this theologian, husband, and father faces a narrowing in life, he agrees that he also lives in a spacious place. Why? Because God's victory over death through Christ's sacrifice means that we dwell in Christ, "the most spacious place imaginable," As he explains, "What could be broader and more expansive than to share in His life by the Holy Spirit?"

We too may cry in lament, but we can take refuge in God, asking Him to lead us and guide us (VV. l, 3). With David we can affirm that we live in a spacious place.

**AMY BOUCHER PYE**

**Reflect and Pray**

What does it mean to you to live in a spacious place? What are some concrete ways you can put your hope in God today?

Heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son to die to set me free. Thank You for the gift of a spacious place.

**INSIGHT**

The book of Psalms is divided into five books or sections. Book I (CHS. 1-41) and Book II (CHS, 42-72) carry the majority of David's psalms, and many of them are in the form of lament. Psalm 31 falls into this category. We might think it's inappropriate to "complain" to God, but that's what a lament is-a complaint about a circumstance in life. The difference between biblical lament and complaining, however, is that biblical lament almost always resolves in hope and praise. The psalmist finds this resolution in verses 19-24. He concludes: "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD" (V. 24).

**BILL CROWDER**

# God Calling – 2/4/25

# Drop Your Crutch

Just go step by step. My will shall be revealed as you go. You will never cease to be thankful for this time when you felt at peace and trustful, and yet had no human security.

That is the time of the True learning of trust in Me. "When thy Father and Mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take thee up." This is a literal dependence on Me.

When human support or material help of any kind is removed, then My power can become operative. I cannot teach a man to walk who is trusting to a crutch. Away with your crutch, and My power shall so invigorate you that you shall indeed walk on to victory. Never limit My power. It is limitless.

"God has spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God." Psalm 62:11

# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/5/25

# Are You Ready To Be Poured Out As an Offering? (1)



If I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. —[Philippians 2:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Philippians+2%3A17)

Are you willing to sacrifice yourself for the work of another believer—to pour out your life sacrificially for the ministry and faith of others? Or do you say, “I am not willing to be poured out right now, and I don’t want God to tell me how to serve Him. I want to choose the place of my own sacrifice. And I want to have certain people watching me and saying, ‘Well done.’ ”

It is one thing to follow God’s way of service if you are regarded as a hero, but quite another thing if the road marked out for you by God requires becoming a “doormat” under other people’s feet. God’s purpose may be to teach you to say, “I know how to be abased…” ([Philippians 4:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4:12)). Are you ready to be sacrificed like that? Are you ready to be less than a mere drop in the bucket— to be so totally insignificant that no one remembers you even if they think of those you served? Are you willing to give and be poured out until you are used up and exhausted— not seeking to be ministered to, but to minister? Some saints cannot do menial work while maintaining a saintly attitude, because they feel such service is beneath their dignity.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

God engineers circumstances to see what we will do. Will we be the children of our Father in heaven, or will we go back again to the meaner, common-sense attitude? Will we stake all and stand true to Him? “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” The crown of life means I shall see that my Lord has got the victory after all, even in me.  The Highest Good—The Pilgrim’s Song Book, 530 L

# CCEL – 2/5/25

**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**—[JOHN 10:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.10)

In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.—She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.—If by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.—Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.—Our Saviour Jesus Christ, . . . hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.—For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

[Gen. 2:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.2.html" \l "Gen.2.17). -[Gen. 3:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.3.html" \l "Gen.3.6).[Rom. 6:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.6.html" \l "Rom.6.23). -[Rom. 5:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.17). -[I Cor. 15:21,22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.21). -[II Tim. 1:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.1.html" \l "iiTim.1.10).[I John 5:11,12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.5.html" \l "iJohn.5.11). -[John 3:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.3.html" \l "John.3.17).

“The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.” [1 John 4:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.14)

It is a sweet thought that Jesus Christ did not come forth without his Father’s permission, authority, consent, and assistance. He was sent of the Father, that he might be the Saviour of men. We are too apt to forget that, while there are distinctions as to the persons in the Trinity, there are no distinctions of honour. We too frequently ascribe the honour of our salvation, or at least the depths of its benevolence, more to Jesus Christ than we do the Father. This is a very great mistake. What if Jesus came? Did not his Father send him? If he spake wondrously, did not his Father pour grace into his lips, that he might be an able minister of the new covenant? He who knoweth the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost as he should know them, never setteth one before another in his love; he sees them at Bethlehem, at Gethsemane, and on Calvary, all equally engaged in the work of salvation. O Christian, hast thou put thy confidence in the Man Christ Jesus? Hast thou placed thy reliance solely on him? And art thou united with him? Then believe that thou art united unto the God of heaven. Since to the Man Christ Jesus thou art brother, and holdest closest fellowship, thou art linked thereby with God the Eternal, and “the Ancient of days” is thy Father and thy friend. Didst thou ever consider the depth of love in the heart of Jehovah, when God the Father equipped his Son for the great enterprise of mercy? If not, be this thy day’s meditation. The Father sent him! Contemplate that subject. Think how Jesus works what the Father wills. In the wounds of the dying Saviour see the love of the great I AM. Let every thought of Jesus be also connected with the Eternal, ever-blessed God, for “It pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.”

# Word Live – 2/5/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/5/25

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# Today in the Word – 2/5/25

# Tempted in Every Way

Clouds and sky with clouds

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[**Read Hebrews 4:14–16**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Hebrews+4:14%e2%80%9316)

**Jesus the Great High Priest**

14Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%204%3A14%E2%80%9316&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30029a)] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**Footnotes**

1. [Hebrews 4:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%204%3A14%E2%80%9316&version=NIV#en-NIV-30029) Greek *has gone through the heavens*

**[Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.**[**Hebrews 4:15**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Heb.4.15)

On June 28, 2023, New York Yankees pitcher Domingo German threw a perfect game against the Oakland A’s. A “perfect game” in baseball is when the pitcher gives no walks and allows no hits. No other pitcher had accomplished this feat in over a decade!

We could say that Jesus pitched a “perfect game” against temptation! His purpose in becoming human and living a sinless life was to rescue us from the power of sin and death. His sacrificial death and resurrection accomplished that (past tense). In our lives, He’s *still* accomplishing that purpose (present tense) as He helps us battle against temptation.

“Therefore,” on this basis, “let us hold firmly to the faith we profess” (v. 14). Jesus is our “great high priest” (see also Heb. 2:17). Trusting in Him moves us from the dominion (reign) of darkness to His kingdom of light (Col. 1:12–14). To stand firm includes the pursuit of righteousness, since to sin would be to choose contrary to our own redemption.

While Jesus “has ascended into heaven” (see Acts 1:7–11), He also remains here with us always (Matt. 28:20). Because He was “tempted in every way, just as we are,” He’s able to empathize with us (v. 15). “Empathize” means “to understand and share the feelings of another.” Jesus knows what we’re going through because He went through it, too. While He never sinned, He does understand our experience of temptation.

As a result, when we face temptation, we can pray with absolute confidence for Christ’s help (v. 16). When we approach His throne, we remind ourselves that He is King and in complete control. His mercy and grace are available to us. His help is what we need—He has won and will win the victory!

**Go Deeper**

What does it mean to live in the “dominion” or under the reign of “darkness”? How does recognizing Christ’s sovereignty, His complete control, change our view of temptation?

**Pray with Us**

We acknowledge that we are often slow to confess our sins and quick to deceive ourselves. We tend to focus on the sin of others while passing over our own. Father, bring us to Your throne of grace where we can repent and be forgiven.

# Our Daily Bread – 2/5/25

# FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

A highway with signs over it

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: JOHN 5:36-40**

**36**“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. **37**And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, **38**nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. **39**You study[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOHN%205%3A36-40&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26250a)] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, **40**yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

**Footnotes**

1. [John 5:39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOHN%205%3A36-40&version=NIV#en-NIV-26250) Or ***39****Study*

[Jesus said), "These are the very Scriptures that testify about me." JOHN 5:39

June's eyes were fixed on the gray car beside her. She had to change lanes to exit the highway, but each time she tried to overtake the vehicle, the other driver seemed to speed up too. Finally, she managed to cut in front. Smug in her moment of triumph, June looked in the rearview mirror and smirked. At the same time, she noticed her destination exit passing her by. With a rueful smile, she recounted: "I was so fixated on overtaking that I missed my exit."

Such a slip can also happen in our desire to walk in God's ways. When the religious leaders persecuted Jesus for not keeping the Jewish law (JOHN 5:16), He warned that they'd become so fixated on studying and enforcing the law that they were missing the person the law pointed to: "These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (vv 39-40).

In trying to be right before God, the religious leaders focused on following the Jewish law and making sure everyone else did too. Likewise, in our zeal for God, we may keep up with good things-church attendance, Bible study, charity work-and even get others to join us. But we can become so focused on them that we miss the person we're doing them for-Jesus.

In all we do, let's ask God to help us fix our eyes on Christ (HEBREWS 12:2). He alone is "the way and the truth and the life" (JOHN 14:6).

**JASMIN GOH**

**Reflect and Pray**

What are you focused on today? What does it mean for you to fix your eyes on Jesus?

Dear God, thank You for giving me life through Christ. Please help me to keep Him at the center of all I do.

**INSIGHT**

In John 5:39-40, Jesus acknowledges the importance of studying the Scriptures yet asserts that they ultimately point to Him. Both the Old and New Testaments declare Scripture's impact. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul encourages Timothy to continue in the Scriptures, and he notes that "all Scripture is God-breathed" and trains and equips us for personal growth in holiness and to serve others (vvl6-17). Before installing Joshua as the new Israelite leader, God urged him to "meditate on [the Law) day and night" so that he'd be "prosperous and successful" in leading the Israelites into Canaan (JOSHUA 1:8). In Psalm 19, David declares that the words of God refresh the soul, make wise the simple, and give joy to the heart and light to the eyes. By them we're warned and find great reward (vv 7-11). Through keeping and treasuring Scripture, God makes our way clear (PSALM 119:1-3, 105; PROVERBS 2:1-5).

**ALYSON KIEDA**

# God Calling – 2/5/25

# You Shall Know

Walk with Me. I will teach you. Listen to Me and I will speak. Continue to meet Me, in spite of all opposition and every obstacle, in spite of the days when you may hear no voice, and there may come no intimate heart-to-heart telling.

As you persist in this, and make a life-habit of it, in many marvelous ways I will reveal My will to you. You shall have more sure knowing of both the present and the future. But that will be only the reward of the regular coming to meet Me.

Life is a school. There are many teachers. Not to everyone do I come personally. Believe literally that the problems and difficulties of your lives can be explained by Me more clearly and effectually than by any other.

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:17

# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/6/25

# Are You Ready To Be Poured Out As an Offering? (2)



I am already being poured out as a drink offering… —[2 Timothy 4:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Timothy+4%3A6)

Are you ready to be poured out as an offering? It is an act of your will, not your emotions. Tell God you are ready to be offered as a sacrifice for Him. Then accept the consequences as they come, without any complaints, in spite of what God may send your way. God sends you through a crisis in private, where no other person can help you. From the outside your life may appear to be the same, but the difference is taking place in your will. Once you have experienced the crisis in your will, you will take no thought of the cost when it begins to affect you externally. If you don’t deal with God on the level of your will first, the result will be only to arouse sympathy for yourself.

“Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar” ([Psalm 118:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+118:27)). You must be willing to be placed on the altar and go through the fire; willing to experience what the altar represents— burning, purification, and separation for only one purpose— the elimination of every desire and affection not grounded in or directed toward God. But you don’t eliminate it, God does. You “bind the sacrifice…to the horns of the altar” and see to it that you don’t wallow in self-pity once the fire begins. After you have gone through the fire, there will be nothing that will be able to trouble or depress you. When another crisis arises, you will realize that things cannot touch you as they used to do. What fire lies ahead in your life?

Tell God you are ready to be poured out as an offering, and God will prove Himself to be all you ever dreamed He would be.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The truth is we have nothing to fear and nothing to overcome because He is all in all and we are more than conquerors through Him. The recognition of this truth is not flattering to the worker’s sense of heroics, but it is amazingly glorifying to the work of Christ. Approved Unto God, 4 R

# CCEL – 2/6/25

**The grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.**—[I TIM. 1:14.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.1.html" \l "iTim.1.14)

Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich.—For where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.—Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.—According to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

[II Cor. 8:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.8.html" \l "iiCor.8.9). -[Rom. 5:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.20).[Eph. 2:7-9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.7). -[Gal. 2:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.2.html" \l "Gal.2.16). -[Tit. 3:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Titus.3.html" \l "Titus.3.5).

“Praying always.” [Ephesians 6:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.6.html" \l "Eph.6.18)

What multitudes of prayers we have put up from the first moment when we learned to pray. Our first prayer was a prayer for ourselves; we asked that God would have mercy upon us, and blot out our sin. He heard us. But when he had blotted out our sins like a cloud, then we had more prayers for ourselves. We have had to pray for sanctifying grace, for constraining and restraining grace; we have been led to crave for a fresh assurance of faith, for the comfortable application of the promise, for deliverance in the hour of temptation, for help in the time of duty, and for succour in the day of trial. We have been compelled to go to God for our souls, as constant beggars asking for everything. Bear witness, children of God, you have never been able to get anything for your souls elsewhere. All the bread your soul has eaten has come down from heaven, and all the water of which it has drank has flowed from the living rock—Christ Jesus the Lord. Your soul has never grown rich in itself; it has always been a pensioner upon the daily bounty of God; and hence your prayers have ascended to heaven for a range of spiritual mercies all but infinite. Your wants were innumerable, and therefore the supplies have been infinitely great, and your prayers have been as varied as the mercies have been countless. Then have you not cause to say, “I love the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplication”? For as your prayers have been many, so also have been God’s answers to them. He has heard you in the day of trouble, has strengthened you, and helped you, even when you dishonoured him by trembling and doubting at the mercy-seat. Remember this, and let it fill your heart with gratitude to God, who has thus graciously heard your poor weak prayers. “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

# Word Live – 2/6/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/6/25

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 2/6/25

**Guard Against the World**

A group of fishing lures

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[**Read Proverbs 1:10–19**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Proverbs+1:10%e2%80%9319)

10My son, if sinful men entice you,  
    do not give in to them.  
11If they say, “Come along with us;  
    let’s lie in wait for innocent blood,  
    let’s ambush some harmless soul;  
12let’s swallow them alive, like the grave,  
    and whole, like those who go down to the pit;  
13we will get all sorts of valuable things  
    and fill our houses with plunder;  
14cast lots with us;  
    we will all share the loot”—  
15my son, do not go along with them,  
    do not set foot on their paths;  
16for their feet rush into evil,  
    they are swift to shed blood.  
17How useless to spread a net  
    where every bird can see it!  
18These men lie in wait for their own blood;  
    they ambush only themselves!  
19Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain;  
    it takes away the life of those who get it.

If sinful men entice you, do not give in to them. [Proverbs 1:10](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Prov.1.10)

When I was young, while fishing with my father and grandfather, I hooked a large muskie. My little fishing pole bent under the strain, but I managed to reel it in close to our boat. But the muskie escaped before we could get it in the net, and it became “the one that got away” in family stories for many years after.

In this world, we are a lot like that muskie, tempted by colorful baits and lures. In Proverbs 1, we read about evil men enticing a person to “ambush some harmless soul” (v. 11). They’re scheming to rob, swindle, or otherwise exploit their victim for their own greedy and selfish purposes. It sounds like a criminal plan, and it is, but there’s more to it than that. This is basically the way our fallen world works. Fallen people tend to “look out for #1” and do whatever they can get away with.

How should we as followers of Christ respond to worldly temptations? First, we should stand our ground. “Do not give in to them” (v. 10), wrote Solomon. “Do not set foot on their paths” (v. 15). Second, we need to keep our eyes open. Those who choose evil are spiritually blind (v. 17). Even a bird can see and avoid a net or trap set in plain sight, but not the “sinful men” in this narrative. Wrong goals, wrong methods, wrong actions, wrong results—all these temptations are to be righteously avoided. After all, sin is self-defeating: “They ambush only themselves!” (v. 18).

Proverbs 16:29 summarizes: “A violent person entices their neighbor and leads them down a path that is not good.” Finally, the best defenses against such temptations include wisdom, versus the foolishness behind wickedness; and love of God, versus the love of power and material benefit behind worldliness (see also 1 John 2:15–17).

**Go Deeper**

What colorful but dangerous “lures” are we sometimes tempted with? According to Solomon, what is our best defense against temptation?

**Pray with Us**

Christ Jesus, Your love and wisdom are the best defenses against temptation. Help us remember that when we face temptations, Your love protects us, and Your wisdom shows a way out. May we walk in Your truth!

# Our Daily Bread – 2/6/25

# A CULTIVATED LIFE IN CHRIST

A sign in a grassy field

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: GENESIS 2:4-9**

**4**This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

**5**Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%202%3A4-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-36a)] and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, **6**but streams[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%202%3A4-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-37b)] came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. **7**Then the Lord God formed a man[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%202%3A4-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-38c)] from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

**8**Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. **9**The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Footnotes**

1. [Genesis 2:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%202%3A4-9&version=NIV#en-NIV-36) Or *land*; also in verse 6
2. [Genesis 2:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%202%3A4-9&version=NIV#en-NIV-37) Or *mist*
3. [Genesis 2:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%202%3A4-9&version=NIV#en-NIV-38) The Hebrew for *man (adam)* sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *ground (adamah)*; it is also the name *Adam* (see verse 20).

There was no one to work the ground. GENESIS 2:5

When we built our home, it stood on little more than a muddy, empty lot at the end of a gravel road. We needed grass, trees, and shrubs to match the surrounding Oregon foothills. As I got out my lawn tools and set to work, I thought of the first garden waiting for humans: "No shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, ... and there was no one to work the ground" (GENESIS 2:5). •

The creation account in Genesis 1 repeats God's assessment of creation: it "was good" or "very good" (VV. 4, la, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). However, it wasn't complete. Adam and Eve needed to cultivate the ground-to exercise stewardship of God's creation (v. 28). They weren't meant to live in an unchanging paradise but one that needed care and development.

Since the beginning, God has been inviting humans to partner with Him in His creation. He did it in the garden of Eden, and He does it with "the new creation" He makes of us when we put our faith in Christ (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17). Upon salvation, we're not made perfect. As the apostle Paul says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world" (ROMANS 12:2). God works in us as we pursue a life pleasing to Him, conformed to the image of his *Son"* {8:29j.

Whether it's caring for the earth or caring for our new life in Christ, God has given us a gift we need to cultivate.

**MATT LUCAS**

**Reflect and Pray**

What work do you enjoy most? What might God be calling you to cultivate in your community?

Father, thank You for inviting me to participate in the work You're doing in the world and in me.

For further study, read Worshipping God Means More than Singing at D;scoverODB.org.

**INSIGHT**

In Genesis 2, we're given a description of the garden of Eden, where God placed the first humans so they could care for what He created (vv 8, 15). The garden was delightful-God caused trees to provide fruit (V. 9) and rivers to water the ground (V. 10). He asked our first parents to care for it, but this request came with a commandment (vv. 15-17). This is a picture of how God continues to interact with humanity. He brings blessing but also gives us instructions in how to live. We're given the choice to obey Him or not. We honor Him when we choose obedience as the Spirit helps us.

**MATT LUCAS**

# God Calling – 2/6/25

# God's Longing

To the listening ear I speak, to the waiting heart I come. Sometimes, I may not speak. I may ask you merely to wait in My Presence, to know that I am with you.

Think of the multitudes who thronged Me when I was on earth all eager for something. Eager to be healed, or taught, or fed.

Think as I supplied their many wants, and granted their manifold requests, what it meant to Me, to find amid the crowd, some one or two, who followed Me just to be near Me, just to dwell in My Presence. How some longing of the Eternal Heart was satisfied thereby.

Comfort Me, a while, by letting Me know that you would seek Me just to dwell in My Presence, to be near Me, not even for teaching, not for material gain, not even for a message -- but for Me. The longing of the human heart to be loved for itself is something caught from the Great Divine Heart.

I bless you. Bow your heads.

"I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in his word do I hope." Psalm 130:5

# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/7/25

# Spiritual Dejection

# Spiritual Dejection

We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. —[Luke 24:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+24%3A21)

Every fact that the disciples stated was right, but the conclusions they drew from those facts were wrong. Anything that has even a hint of dejection spiritually is always wrong. If I am depressed or burdened, I am to blame, not God or anyone else. Dejection stems from one of two sources— I have either satisfied a lust or I have not had it satisfied. In either case, dejection is the result. Lust means “I must have it at once.” Spiritual lust causes me to demand an answer from God, instead of seeking God Himself who gives the answer. What have I been hoping or trusting God would do? Is today “the third day” and He has still not done what I expected? Am I therefore justified in being dejected and in blaming God? Whenever we insist that God should give us an answer to prayer we are off track. The purpose of prayer is that we get ahold of God, not of the answer. It is impossible to be well physically and to be dejected, because dejection is a sign of sickness. This is also true spiritually. Dejection spiritually is wrong, and we are always to blame for it.

We look for visions from heaven and for earth-shaking events to see God’s power. Even the fact that we are dejected is proof that we do this. Yet we never realize that all the time God is at work in our everyday events and in the people around us. If we will only obey, and do the task that He has placed closest to us, we will see Him. One of the most amazing revelations of God comes to us when we learn that it is in the everyday things of life that we realize the magnificent deity of Jesus Christ.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

“I have chosen you” (John 15:16). Keep that note of greatness in your creed. It is not that you have got God, but that He has got you.  My Utmost for His Highest, October 25, 837 R

# CCEL – 2/7/25

**When thou has eaten and are full, . . . thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.**—[DEUT. 8:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.8.html" \l "Deut.8.10)

Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God.—One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.—He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks.—The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, . . . who forgiveth all thine iniquities; . . . who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

[Deut. 8:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.8.html" \l "Deut.8.11). -[Luke 17:15-18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.17.html" \l "Luke.17.15).[I Tim. 4:4,5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.4.html" \l "iTim.4.4). -[Rom. 14:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.14.html" \l "Rom.14.6). -[Prov. 10:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.10.html" \l "Prov.10.22).[Psa. 103:1-4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.1).

“Arise, and depart.” [Micah 2:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mic.2.html" \l "Mic.2.10)

The hour is approaching when the message will come to us, as it comes to all—“Arise, and go forth from the home in which thou hast dwelt, from the city in which thou hast done thy business, from thy family, from thy friends. Arise, and take thy last journey.” And what know we of the journey? And what know we of the country to which we are bound? A little we have read thereof, and somewhat has been revealed to us by the Spirit; but how little do we know of the realms of the future! We know that there is a black and stormy river called “Death.” God bids us cross it, promising to be with us. And, after death, what cometh? What wonder-world will open upon our astonished sight? What scene of glory will be unfolded to our view? No traveller has ever returned to tell. But we know enough of the heavenly land to make us welcome our summons thither with joy and gladness. The journey of death may be dark, but we may go forth on it fearlessly, knowing that God is with us as we walk through the gloomy valley, and therefore we need fear no evil. We shall be departing from all we have known and loved here, but we shall be going to our Father’s house—to our Father’s home, where Jesus is—to that royal “city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” This shall be our last removal, to dwell forever with him we love, in the midst of his people, in the presence of God. Christian, meditate much on heaven, it will help thee to press on, and to forget the toil of the way. This vale of tears is but the pathway to the better country: this world of woe is but the stepping-stone to a world of bliss.

“Prepare us, Lord, by grace divine,

For thy bright courts on high;

Then bid our spirits rise, and join

The chorus of the sky.”

# Word Live – 2/7/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/7/25

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 2/7/25

# Guard Against Materialism

A person holding a money bill

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[**Read 1 Timothy 6:6–10**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=1+Timothy+6:6%e2%80%9310)

6But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.[1 Timothy 6:10](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=1Tim.6.10)

Money has always been tremendously important to humans. The oldest handwritten document ever discovered in England was about a personal loan. In 57 AD, a freed Roman slave named Tibullus promised to repay another freed slave, Gratus, the sum of 105 denarii, or in today’s money perhaps around $4,500.

While money is a part of our lives, the love of money is dangerous. In 1 Timothy 6, Paul warned Timothy and the church in Ephesus to fight the world’s tendency to crave material things. Instead, we are to pursue “godliness with contentment” (vv. 6, 8). We’ve heard people say, “you can’t take it with you” or “I never saw a U-Haul following a hearse” (see v. 7). Paul himself demonstrated this “godliness” virtue in Philippians 4:11–13. How? “Through him [Christ] who gives me strength.” If we depend on the Lord, the temptation to love money won’t pose much of a threat.

If our walk with Him is weak, however, the desire to get rich can be a dangerous “trap” involving “many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction” (v. 9). Why? Because “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (v. 10). Money itself is neutral— it’s the love of money that is spiritually corrupting. On what do we have our hearts set? If the root is rotten, so is the fruit. Asking ourselves “Who or what do we love most” is a good defense against temptation. We can consider what a love or a choice or a priority might grow into if pursued wholeheartedly.

When we are “eager for money,” the consequences are dire. Because of it, some have “wandered from the faith” or otherwise harmed themselves. Those who believe they can love both God and money are only deceiving themselves (Luke 16:13).

**Go Deeper**

What are your priorities with regard to your finances? Do your stated values and bank statements match up? What steps might you need to take to align them?

**Pray with Us**

Merciful Lord, we repent of the times when we lost sight of Your truth and gave in to the materialism of our culture. Keep our priorities straight, we pray! Thank You for Your sacrificial love that gave us freedom from sin.

# Our Daily Bread – 2/7/25

# NOT IRRELEVANT IN GOD'S EYES

A person holding a jersey and a person holding a jersey

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: 1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6-13**

**Samuel Anoints David**

**16**The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

[1 Samuel 16:1 in all English translations](https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/1%20Samuel%2016%3A1)

**6**When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

**7**But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**8**Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” **9**Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” **10**Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” **11**So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

**12**So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

**13**So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. SAMUEL 16:7

During the annual National football League Draft, professional football teams choose new players. Coaches spend thousands of hours evaluating prospective players' skills and physical fitness. In 2022, Brock Purdy was the last-262nd-pick and labeled "Mr. Irrelevant,' the nickname given to the last football player selected. No one expected he would play in a game during the upcoming season. Just a few months later, however, Purdy led his team to two playoff wins. The reality is that team executives don't always do an effective job identifying potential. And neither do we.

In a familiar Old Testament story, God sent the prophet Samuel to select the next king of Israel from among the sons of Jesse. When Samuel looked at the men, he was swayed by their physical appearance. But God said to him, "Do not consider his appearance or his height" (l SAMUEL 16:7). Instead, God led him to choose not the oldest or tallest but the youngest and seemingly least relevant choice-David, who would be Israel's greatest earthly king.

Why do we often do such a poor job evaluating people? Our passage reminds us that "people look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (V.7). When we're asked to select someone to be on a work team or serve on a volunteer committee, we can ask God to give us wisdom to make choices based on qualities valuable to Him.

**LISA M SAMRA**

**Reflect and Pray**

When have you felt "irrelevant"? How might you see people from God's perspective?

Heavenly Father. Please give me insight to see others as You see them.

**INSIGHT**

There's no mention of how David's brothers felt about his public anointing by the prophet Samuel in Bethlehem (1 SAMUEL 16:13). A bit later, however, we gain a glimpse of his eldest brother Eliab's resentment when David visited the frontlines of a standoff between Israel and the Philistines. Eliab "burned with anger" at his youngest brother (17:28). He said, "I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle" (V. 28). Eliab likely regretted those words as David soon made history by slaying Goliath (VV. 41·51).

**TIM GUSTAFSON**

# God Calling – 2/7/25

# Light Ahead

Trust and be not afraid. Life is full of wonder. Open child-trusting eyes to all I am doing for you. Fear not.

Only a few steps more and then My Power shall be seen and known. You are, yourselves, now walking in the tunnel-darkness. Soon, you yourselves shall be lights to guide feet that are afraid.

The cries of your sufferings have pierced even to the ears of God himself -- My Father in Heaven, your Father in Heaven. To hear, with God, is to answer. For only a cry from the heart, a cry to Divine Power to help human weakness, a trusting cry, ever reaches the Ear Divine.

Remember, trembling heart, that with God, to hear is to answer. Your prayers, and they have been many, are answered.

"Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/8/25

# The Cost of Sanctification



May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely… —[1 Thessalonians 5:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Thessalonians+5%3A23)

When we pray, asking God to sanctify us, are we prepared to measure up to what that really means? We take the word sanctification much too lightly. Are we prepared to pay the cost of sanctification? The cost will be a deep restriction of all our earthly concerns, and an extensive cultivation of all our godly concerns. Sanctification means to be intensely focused on God’s point of view. It means to secure and to keep all the strength of our body, soul, and spirit for God’s purpose alone. Are we really prepared for God to perform in us everything for which He separated us? And after He has done His work, are we then prepared to separate ourselves to God just as Jesus did? “For their sakes I sanctify Myself…” ([John 17:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:19)). The reason some of us have not entered into the experience of sanctification is that we have not realized the meaning of sanctification from God’s perspective. Sanctification means being made one with Jesus so that the nature that controlled Him will control us. Are we really prepared for what that will cost? It will cost absolutely everything in us which is not of God.

Are we prepared to be caught up into the full meaning of Paul’s prayer in this verse? Are we prepared to say, “Lord, make me, a sinner saved by grace, as holy as You can”? Jesus prayed that we might be one with Him, just as He is one with the Father (see [John 17:21-23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:21-23)). The resounding evidence of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life is the unmistakable family likeness to Jesus Christ, and the freedom from everything which is not like Him. Are we prepared to set ourselves apart for the Holy Spirit’s work in us?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The life of Abraham is an illustration of two things: of unreserved surrender to God, and of God’s complete possession of a child of His for His own highest end. Not Knowing Whither

# CCEL – 2/8/25

**Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends.**—[JOHN 15:15.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.15)

The Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?—It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.—God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.—Even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.—The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him: and he will shew them his covenant.—I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

[Gen. 18:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.18.html" \l "Gen.18.17). -[Matt. 13:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.13.html" \l "Matt.13.11). -[I Cor. 2:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.2.html" \l "iCor.2.10). -[I Cor. 2:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.2.html" \l "iCor.2.7).[Psa. 65:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.65.html" \l "Ps.65.4). -[Psa. 25:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.25.html" \l "Ps.25.14). -[John 17:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.8).[John 15:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.14).

“Thou shalt call his name Jesus.” [Matthew 1:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.1.html" \l "Matt.1.21)

When a person is dear, everything connected with him becomes dear for his sake. Thus, so precious is the person of the Lord Jesus in the estimation of all true believers, that everything about him they consider to be inestimable beyond all price. “All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia,” said David, as if the very vestments of the Saviour were so sweetened by his person that he could not but love them. Certain it is, that there is not a spot where that hallowed foot hath trodden—there is not a word which those blessed lips have uttered—nor a thought which his loving Word has revealed—which is not to us precious beyond all price. And this is true of the names of Christ—they are all sweet in the believer’s ear. Whether he be called the Husband of the Church, her Bridegroom, her Friend; whether he be styled the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world—the King, the Prophet, or the Priest—every title of our Master—Shiloh, Emmanuel, Wonderful, the Mighty Counsellor—every name is like the honeycomb dropping with honey, and luscious are the drops that distil from it. But if there be one name sweeter than another in the believer’s ear, it is the name of Jesus. Jesus! it is the name which moves the harps of heaven to melody. Jesus! the life of all our joys. If there be one name more charming, more precious than another, it is this name. It is woven into the very warp and woof of our psalmody. Many of our hymns begin with it, and scarcely any, that are good for anything, end without it. It is the sum total of all delights. It is the music with which the bells of heaven ring; a song in a word; an ocean for comprehension, although a drop for brevity; a matchless oratorio in two syllables; a gathering up of the hallelujahs of eternity in five letters.

“Jesus, I love thy charming name,

’Tis music to mine ear.”

# Word Live – 2/8/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/8/25

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 2/8/25

# Guard Against False Teachers

A red rose on a thorny branch

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[**Read 2 Peter 2:17–22**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=2+Peter+2:17%e2%80%9322)

17These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.” 20If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A17%E2%80%9322&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30523a)] and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

**Footnotes**

1. [2 Peter 2:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A17%E2%80%9322&version=NIV#en-NIV-30523) Prov. 26:11

Every day for over 700 years, a bugle has been sounded from the steeple of St. Mary’s Church in Krakow, Poland. This commemorates a heroic trumpeter who blew his horn to call people to the city’s defense until the enemy killed him with an arrow. To honor him, the last notes on the bugle are always muted and broken.

Like that brave trumpeter, we, too, need to be on guard against the enemies: false teachers. If they convince us to believe untruths, we can be tempted to do wrong things. What strategies do these false teachers use? They tend to prey on the weak or immature (v. 18). They attempt to dazzle people with “empty, boastful words.” They do whatever they can to appeal to the “lustful desires of the flesh,” that is, to our fallen sin natures. They promise freedom while themselves serving as evidence that they’re lying (v. 19). A harsher judgment is reserved for them because they heard the truth but then turned their backs on the way of righteousness (vv. 17, 20–22).

The best way to be on guard against false teachers is to know God’s Word and to be committed to it as our authority and standard for all of life (see Day 2). As a church, we must take special care of the “spiritual babies” in our midst, watching over them protectively just as we do our physical children. As a community, we can help one another be on guard against false teachers. There’s literally nothing to them: “These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm” (v. 17). They have no substance. Their teachings cannot truly satisfy. With God’s help, we should be able to see right through the outward show to the hypocrisy and lies beneath.

**Go Deeper**

In what ways does your church guide and disciple new believers? How is your congregation helping one another to stand firm against false teachers? If you’re unsure, ask a pastor or elder.

**Pray with Us**

Father in heaven, You saved us into a family of believers, to dwell together in unity. Guide us as a church to watch over new Christians, help them grow in faith, and be on guard against false teachers and a false gospel.

# Our Daily Bread – 2/8/25

# CARING IN CHRIST

An older person and person sitting on a couch

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11**

**Imitating Christ’s Humility**

**2**Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2**then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4**not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

**6**Who, being in very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHILIPPIANS%202%3A1-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] God,  
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
**7**rather, he made himself nothing  
    by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHILIPPIANS%202%3A1-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a servant,  
    being made in human likeness.  
**8**And being found in appearance as a man,  
    he humbled himself  
    by becoming obedient to death—  
        even death on a cross!

**9**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
    and gave him the name that is above every name,  
**10**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
**11**and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God the Father.

**Footnotes**

1. [Philippians 2:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHILIPPIANS%202%3A1-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29398) Or *in the form of*
2. [Philippians 2:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHILIPPIANS%202%3A1-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-29399) Or *the form*

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 2:5

Ms. Charlene, my friend Dwayne's mother, is ninety-four years old, under five feet tall, and weighs less than a hundred pounds. Yet this doesn't stop her from doing what she can to care for her son, whose physical health prevents him from caring for himself. Visits to their two-story home often find her on the second floor, where she resides. Slowly, she descends sixteen stairs to the first floor to greet her guests, just as she does to assist in caring for the son whom she loves.

Ms. Charlene's selfless determination convicts, challenges, and inspires me as she prioritizes her son's well-being over her own. She models what Paul encourages in Philippians 2: "In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (vv. 3-4).

Caring for those with health challenges or other needs can be costly. The demands of life can be all-consuming, and even those closest to us can be shortchanged if we're not intentional about taking our eyes off ourselves. But humbly caring is what believers in Jesus are called to do (SEE vv. 1-4). When we give of ourselves, we follow the example of Jesus and help others in the process. The apostle reminds us: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus" (v. 5).

**ARTHUR JACKSON**

**Reflect and Pray**

Who inspires you to be more ca ring and selfless? What obstacles might you have to navigate to meet others' needs?

Dear Jesus, please help me to be more intentional in giving myself for the good of others.

**INSIGHT**

Paul's call to imitate Jesus' example of self-giving love (PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8) begins with a call to unity: "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind" (V. 2). This kind of deep unity isn't accomplished by a lack of differences but a willingness to surrender "selfish ambition" and "vain conceit" (v. 3) in order to see and serve others with a heart like His. When believers in Christ live out what He modeled-the humility and willingness to surrender for the well-being of others – unity is possible.

**MONICA I.A ROSE**

# God Calling – 2/8/25

# On Me Alone

I am your Lord, your Supply. You must rely on Me. Trust to the last uttermost limit. Trust and be not afraid. You must depend on Divine Power only. I have not forgotten you. Your help is coming. You shall know and realize My Power.

Endurance is faith tried almost to breaking point. You must wait, and trust, and hope, and joy in Me. You must not depend on man but on Me, on Me, your Strength, your Help, your Supply.

This is the great test. Am I your supply or not? Every great work for Me has had to have this great test-time.

Possess your souls in patience and rejoice. You must wait until I show the way. Heaven itself cannot contain more joy than that soul knows, when, after the waiting-test, I crown it Victor, but no disciple of Mine can be victor, who does not wait until I give the order to start. You cannot be anxious if you know that I am your supply.

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:4

# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/9/25

# Are You Exhausted Spiritually?



The everlasting God…neither faints nor is weary. —[Isaiah 40:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Isaiah+40%3A28)

Exhaustion means that our vital energies are completely worn out and spent. Spiritual exhaustion is never the result of sin, but of service. Whether or not you experience exhaustion will depend on where you get your supplies. Jesus said to Peter, “Feed My sheep,” but He gave him nothing with which to feed them ([John 21:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21:17)). The process of being made broken bread and poured-out wine means that you have to be the nourishment for other people’s souls until they learn to feed on God. They must drain you completely— to the very last drop. But be careful to replenish your supply, or you will quickly be utterly exhausted. Until others learn to draw on the life of the Lord Jesus directly, they will have to draw on His life through you. You must literally be their source of supply, until they learn to take their nourishment from God. We owe it to God to be our best for His lambs and sheep, as well as for Him.

Have you delivered yourself over to exhaustion because of the way you have been serving God? If so, then renew and rekindle your desires and affections. Examine your reasons for service. Is your source based on your own understanding or is it grounded on the redemption of Jesus Christ? Continually look back to the foundation of your love and affection and remember where your Source of power lies. You have no right to complain, “O Lord, I am so exhausted.” He saved and sanctified you to exhaust you. Be exhausted for God, but remember that He is your supply. “All my springs are in you” ([Psalm 87:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+87:7)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We are all based on a conception of importance, either our own importance, or the importance of someone else; Jesus tells us to go and teach based on the revelation of His importance. “All power is given unto Me.… Go ye therefore ….”  So Send I You, 1325 R

# CCEL – 2/9/25

**Now he is comforted.**—[LUKE 16:25.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.16.html" \l "Luke.16.25)

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.—He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth.—These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters.—God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

[Isa. 60:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.60.html" \l "Isa.60.20). -[Isa. 25:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.25.html" \l "Isa.25.8). -[Rev. 7:14-17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.7.html" \l "Rev.7.14). -[Rev. 21:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.21.html" \l "Rev.21.4).

“And David enquired of the Lord.” [2 Samuel 5:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiSam.5.html" \l "iiSam.5.23)

When David made this enquiry he had just fought the Philistines, and gained a signal victory. The Philistines came up in great hosts, but, by the help of God, David had easily put them to flight. Note, however, that when they came a second time, David did not go up to fight them without enquiring of the Lord. Once he had been victorious, and he might have said, as many have in other cases, “I shall be victorious again; I may rest quite sure that if I have conquered once I shall triumph yet again. Wherefore should I tarry to seek at the Lord’s hands?” Not so, David. He had gained one battle by the strength of the Lord; he would not venture upon another until he had ensured the same. He enquired, “Shall I go up against them?” He waited until God’s sign was given. Learn from David to take no step without God. Christian, if thou wouldst know the path of duty, take God for thy compass; if thou wouldst steer thy ship through the dark billows, put the tiller into the hand of the Almighty. Many a rock might be escaped, if we would let our Father take the helm; many a shoal or quicksand we might well avoid, if we would leave to his sovereign will to choose and to command. The Puritan said, “As sure as ever a Christian carves for himself, he'll cut his own fingers;” this is a great truth. Said another old divine, “He that goes before the cloud of God’s providence goes on a fool’s errand;” and so he does. We must mark God’s providence leading us; and if providence tarries, tarry till providence comes. He who goes before providence, will be very glad to run back again. “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go,” is God’s promise to his people. Let us, then, take all our perplexities to him, and say, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Leave not thy chamber this morning without enquiring of the Lord.

# Word Live – 2/9/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/9/25

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 2/9/25

# Be on Guard Against Satan

A person holding up her hand

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[**Read James 4:4–10**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+4:4%e2%80%9310)

4You adulterous people,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A4%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30342a)] don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A4%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30343b)]? 6But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud  
    but shows favor to the humble.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A4%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30344c)]

7Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

**Footnotes**

1. [James 4:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A4%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-30342) An allusion to covenant unfaithfulness; see Hosea 3:1.
2. [James 4:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A4%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-30343) Or *that the spirit he caused to dwell in us envies intensely;* or *that the Spirit he caused to dwell in us longs jealously*
3. [James 4:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A4%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-30344) Prov. 3:34

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [James 4:7](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.4.7)

On his way to the Celestial City in John Bunyan’s classic *Pilgrim’s Progress*, a man named Christian saw two lions on the path ahead. Frightened, he decided to turn back, but a man called to him, “Fear not the lions, for they are chained.” Christian hadn’t seen the chains, only the fierce faces and sharp teeth of the lions.

In Scripture, Satan is described as a prowling lion who wants to “devour” us (1 Peter 5:8), but despite the fierceness of his roar, he too is chained. Satan has already been defeated by Christ. In Him we have victory! Even so, we must be on guard against Satan’s wily and deceptive temptations. We live in a scientific age, so we tend to forget about the supernatural realm, but the truth is that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 6:12).

There are two main strategies for staying on guard against Satan and his forces. The first is a close relationship with God. To submit to Him in obedience and to draw near to Him is equivalent to resisting the devil (vv. 7–8). In fact, it defeats the devil, since the victory already belongs to God. When we submit and draw near, Satan flees.

The second strategy is repentance. If we sin—and we will—we should repent and turn away from it (v. 8; 1 John 1:8–10). We should grieve over what we’ve done (v. 9). God will forgive us and restore the relationship (v. 10). When we cling to sin and keep our distance from God, Satan tempts us further toward the ways of the world (vv. 4–6). For that reason, we cannot be “double-minded” (v. 8)—we must set our hearts on God alone and be in obedience only to Him.

**Go Deeper**

How can you be on guard against Satan? What does the Bible promise us about defeating this enemy?

**Pray with Us**

How do we deal with sin? Today, we pray with the words of the hymnwriter: “Come, every soul by sin oppressed,/There’s mercy with the Lord;/And He will surely give you rest/By trusting in His Word” (John Stockton, 1874).

# Our Daily Bread – 2/9/25

# JESUS OUR PEACE

A group of women sitting at a table eating

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: EPHESIANS 2:11-18**

**Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ**

**11**Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— **12**remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **13**But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**14**For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15**by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16**and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. **17**He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18**For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. EPHESIANS 2:17

Joan groaned when she saw Susan's social media post. The photo showed ten church friends smiling around a restaurant table. For the second time this month, they were having a grand time-without her. Joan blinked away tears. She didn't always get along with the others, but still. How strange to attend church with people who didn't include her!

How strangely first century! But Jesus desires unity and came to heal our division. From the church's beginning, people who didn't get along were to find common ground in Him. Jews looked down on gentiles for not keeping the law, and gentiles loathed Jews for thinking they were better. Then Jesus "made the two groups one"; He "destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands" (EPHESIANS 2:14-15). Keeping the law no longer mattered. What counted was Jesus. Would Jew and gentile unite in Him?

That depended on their response. Jesus "preached peace to" gentiles "who were far away and peace to [Jews) who were near" (v 17). Same message, different application. Self-righteous Jews needed to admit they weren't better, while snubbed gentiles needed to believe they weren't worse. Both needed to stop fretting about the other and focus on Christ, who was creating "in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace" (V. l5).

Feeling snubbed? That hurts. It's not right. But you can be a peacemaker as you rest in Jesus. He's still our peace.

**MIKE WITTMER**

**Reflect and Pray**

When have you felt snubbed? How can you be a peacemaker?

Dear Father. when I'm snubbed, I’ll rest in Your Son.

**INSIGHT**

Ephesians 2:11-22 is theologically rich. Like a cord of three strands, this passage brings together three key doctrines of the faith in Jesus: teaching about Christ (Christology), the church (ecclesiology), and the Holy Spirit (pneumatology). Jesus, through His reconciling work, is the source of our peace with God (vv. 14-15) and through Him two disparate groups-Jews and gentiles-could become one new humanity (vv.14-18). The church is indeed one body and a new family (Vv. 14-18) " built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (V. 20). The Holy Spirit has been and is at work in forming and sustaining the church. He facilitates our decision for salvation (V. l8) and indwells the church that Jesus is building (v. 22).

**ARTHUR JACKSON**

# God Calling – 2/9/25

# The Voice Divine

The Divine Voice is not always expressed in words.

It is made known as a heart-consciousness.

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

# My Utmost for His Highest – 2/10/25

# Is Your Ability to See God Blinded?



Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things… —[Isaiah 40:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Isaiah+40%3A26)

The people of God in Isaiah’s time had blinded their minds’ ability to see God by looking on the face of idols. But Isaiah made them look up at the heavens; that is, he made them begin to use their power to think and to visualize correctly. If we are children of God, we have a tremendous treasure in nature and will realize that it is holy and sacred. We will see God reaching out to us in every wind that blows, every sunrise and sunset, every cloud in the sky, every flower that blooms, and every leaf that fades, if we will only begin to use our blinded thinking to visualize it.

The real test of spiritual focus is being able to bring your mind and thoughts under control. Is your mind focused on the face of an idol? Is the idol yourself? Is it your work? Is it your idea of what a servant should be, or maybe your experience of salvation and sanctification? If so, then your ability to see God is blinded. You will be powerless when faced with difficulties and will be forced to endure in darkness. If your power to see has been blinded, don’t look back on your own experiences, but look to God. It is God you need. Go beyond yourself and away from the faces of your idols and away from everything else that has been blinding your thinking. Wake up and accept the ridicule that Isaiah gave to his people, and deliberately turn your thoughts and your eyes to God.

One of the reasons for our sense of futility in prayer is that we have lost our power to visualize. We can no longer even imagine putting ourselves deliberately before God. It is actually more important to be broken bread and poured-out wine in the area of intercession than in our personal contact with others. The power of visualization is what God gives a saint so that he can go beyond himself and be firmly placed into relationships he never before experienced.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Beware of pronouncing any verdict on the life of faith if you are not living it. Not Knowing Whither, 900 R

# CCEL – 2/10/25

**He smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed.**—[PSA. 78:20.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.78.html" \l "Ps.78.20)

All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that rock was Christ.—One of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.—He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.—My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.—Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

[I Cor. 10:1-4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.10.html" \l "iCor.10.1). -[John 19:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.19.html" \l "John.19.34). -[Isa. 53:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.5).[John 5:40](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.5.html" \l "John.5.40). -[Jer. 2:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.2.html" \l "Jer.2.13).[John 7:37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.7.html" \l "John.7.37). -[Rev. 22:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.22.html" \l "Rev.22.17).

“I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.” [Isaiah 44:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.44.html" \l "Isa.44.22)

Attentively observe the instructive similitude: our sins are like a cloud. As clouds are of many shapes and shades, so are our transgressions. As clouds obscure the light of the sun, and darken the landscape beneath, so do our sins hide from us the light of Jehovah’s face, and cause us to sit in the shadow of death. They are earth-born things, and rise from the miry places of our nature; and when so collected that their measure is full, they threaten us with storm and tempest. Alas! that, unlike clouds, our sins yield us no genial showers, but rather threaten to deluge us with a fiery flood of destruction. O ye black clouds of sin, how can it be fair weather with our souls while ye remain?

Let our joyful eye dwell upon the notable act of divine mercy—“blotting out.” God himself appears upon the scene, and in divine benignity, instead of manifesting his anger, reveals his grace: he at once and forever effectually removes the mischief, not by blowing away the cloud, but by blotting it out from existence once for all. Against the justified man no sin remains, the great transaction of the cross has eternally removed his transgressions from him. On Calvary’s summit the great deed, by which the sin of all the chosen was forever put away, was completely and effectually performed.

Practically let us obey the gracious command, “return unto me.” Why should pardoned sinners live at a distance from their God? If we have been forgiven all our sins, let no legal fear withhold us from the boldest access to our Lord. Let backslidings be bemoaned, but let us not persevere in them. To the greatest possible nearness of communion with the Lord, let us, in the power of the Holy Spirit, strive mightily to return. O Lord, this night restore us!

# Word Live – 2/10/25

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 2/10/25

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 2/10/25

# Bolster Your Immunity

A metal shield with text

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[**Read 1 Corinthians 7:1–7**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=1+Corinthians+7:1%e2%80%937)

**Concerning Married Life**

7 Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 3The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. 5Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. [1 Corinthians 16:13](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=1Cor.16.13)

Science has found many ways to boost our immune systems. One method? We can eat more jalapeño peppers. If that sounds too spicy, other options include apples, cranberries, garlic, and chicken soup. My favorite choice is music. Studies have found that both performing and listening to music can positively impact our immunity.

Spiritually, we also need healthy “immune systems” to guard against temptation. First Corinthians 7 gives a specific example of the principle we learned yesterday—we must be on guard against Satan. The context here is marriage. A husband and wife by mutual consent might set aside the gift of sex in order to devote themselves to prayer. This is well and good, but if overdone, warned Paul, it can create an opening for Satan to tempt them.

How? Through a lack of self-control (v. 5). The desire for sex, which should be fulfilled exclusively with one’s spouse (vv. 2–4), might in this situation of temporary abstinence lead to a desire for adultery, pornography, or another form of sexual immorality. This temptation includes sin in both thought and deed. As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: “I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:28).

The background principle here focuses on mutual submission and obligation (v. 3). In marriage, the husband’s body belongs to the wife and vice versa (v. 4). This is not an excuse for selfish demands by either spouse, but rather a recognition that sex within marriage is an exclusive, mutual right and a God-given protection against lust, immorality, and sexual impurity. Such things were apparently common in Corinth (v. 2), as they are in our own culture. Husbands and wives need to take care that good actions with good intentions don’t create gaps in their spiritual “immune systems.”

**Go Deeper**

What steps can you take to bolster your spiritual immunity? Why is Paul’s advice so important for a marriage?

**Pray with Us**

Jesus, thank You for sending the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth whom we can trust and who cuts through the lies and shame the enemy throws at us. We thank You, Holy Spirit, that Your voice is stronger than the voice of the accuser.

# Our Daily Bread – 2/10/25

# FISHING FOR FRIENDS

A child holding a fishing pole

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: MATTHEW 4:18-21**

**Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

**18**As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **19**“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” **20**At once they left their nets and followed him.

**21**Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,

[Jesus said], "I will send you out to fish for people.” MATTHEW 4:19

Patty spent the afternoon on the banks of a local river, using her fishing pole to cast bait into the water. Having only recently moved to the area, she wasn't hoping to catch fish; she was angling for some new friends. Her line wasn't baited with worms or any other traditional lure. Instead, she used her heavy-duty sturgeon rod to extend packets of cookies to people who were floating down the river in rafts on a hot summer day. She used this creative way to meet her new neighbors, who all seemed to enjoy the sweet treat!

Patty went "fishing for friends" in a much more literal way than Jesus intended when He invited Peter and Andrew to walk with Him through life. The two brothers were hardworking fishermen, casting their nets into the Sea of Galilee. Jesus interrupted their labors with a call to follow Him, saying He would send them out to "fish for people" instead of fish (MATTHEW 4:19). He made the same invitation to two other fishermen, James and John, shortly thereafter. They all left their nets and boats immediately to journey with Jesus. Like the fishermen who became His first disciples, Christ invites us to follow Him and focus our attention on eternal matters: the spiritual lives of those with whom we interact. We can offer those around us what really satisfies-the enduring hope of life with Jesus (JOHN 4:13-14}.

**KIRSTEN HOLMBERG**

**Reflect and Pray**

Who first shared with you about Jesus? How might you offer others the hope He provides?

Dear Jesus, please help me to become a fisher of people so that others will know You better.

**INSIGHT**

Christ's calling of His disciples to follow Him was strategic. He started His public ministry when He "was about thirty years old" (LUKE 3:23) and many scholars believe He ministered for approximately three years before He was crucified. During this time, He called and taught His disciples. In addition to His invitation to two sets of brothers from Galilee to join Him-Simon Peter and Andrew; James and John (MATTHEW 4:18·22) - He called Matthew (Levi), a tax collector: "Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them" (LUKE 5:27-29). Matthew's example of friends reaching friends is worth emulating today.

**ARTHUR JACKSON**

# God Calling – 2/10/25

# The Life-Line

I am your Savior, your Savior from sins' thralls, your Savior from all the cares and troubles of life, your Savior from disease.

I speak in all to you both. Look to Me for salvation. Trust in Me for help. Did not My servant of old say, "All Thy waves and Thy billows are gone over me?" But not all the waters of affliction could drown him. For of him was it true, "He came from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters."

The life-line, the line of rescue, is the line from the soul to God, faith, and power. It is a strong line, and no soul can be overwhelmed who is linked to Me by it. Trust, trust, trust. Never be afraid.

Think of My trees stripped of their beauty, pruned, cut, disfigured, bare, but through the dark seemingly dead branches flows silently, secretly, the spirit-life-sap, till, lo! with the sun of Spring comes new life, leaves, bud, blossom, fruit, but oh! fruit a thousand times better for the pruning.

Remember that you are in the hands of the Master-Gardener. He makes no mistakes about His pruning. Rejoice. Joy is the Spirit's reaching out to say its thanks to Me. It is the new life-sap of the tree, reaching out to Me to find such beautiful expression later. So never cease to joy. Rejoice.

"From the end of the earth will I cry onto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Psalm 61:2