# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/9/25

# Do It Yourself (2)



…bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ… —[2 Corinthians 10:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+10%3A5)

**Determinedly Discipline Other Things.**

This is another difficult aspect of the strenuous nature of sainthood. Paul said, according to the Moffatt translation of this verse, “…I take every project prisoner to make it obey Christ….” So much Christian work today has never been disciplined, but has simply come into being by impulse! In our Lord’s life every project was disciplined to the will of His Father. There was never the slightest tendency to follow the impulse of His own will as distinct from His Father’s will— “the Son can do nothing of Himself…” ([John 5:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5:19)). Then compare this with what we do— we take “every thought” or project that comes to us by impulse and jump into action immediately, instead of imprisoning and disciplining ourselves to obey Christ.

Practical work for Christians is greatly overemphasized today, and the saints who are “bringing every thought [and project] into captivity” are criticized and told that they are not determined, and that they lack zeal for God or zeal for the souls of others. But true determination and zeal are found in obeying God, not in the inclination to serve Him that arises from our own undisciplined human nature. It is inconceivable, but true nevertheless, that saints are not “bringing every thought [and project] into captivity,” but are simply doing work for God that has been instigated by their own human nature, and has not been made spiritual through determined discipline.

We have a tendency to forget that a person is not only committed to Jesus Christ for salvation, but is also committed, responsible, and accountable to Jesus Christ’s view of God, the world, and of sin and the devil. This means that each person must recognize the responsibility to “be transformed by the renewing of [his] mind….” ([Romans 12:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12:2)).

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Seeing is never believing: we interpret what we see in the light of what we believe. Faith is confidence in God before you see God emerging; therefore the nature of faith is that it must be tried.  He Shall Glorify Me, 494 R

# CCEL – 9/9/25

**He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.**—[LUKE 1:53.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.1.html" \l "Luke.1.53)

Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.—When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.—I am the Lord thy God . . . open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.—I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

[Rev. 3:17-19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.17).[Matt. 5:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.5.html" \l "Matt.5.6). -[Isa. 41:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.41.html" \l "Isa.41.17). -[Psa. 81:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.81.html" \l "Ps.81.10).[Isa. 55:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.55.html" \l "Isa.55.2). -[John 6:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.35).

“I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.” [Jeremiah 33:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.33.html" \l "Jer.33.3)

There are different translations of these words. One version renders it, “I will shew thee great and fortified things.” Another, “Great and reserved things.” Now, there are reserved and special things in Christian experience: all the developments of spiritual life are not alike easy of attainment. There are the common frames and feelings of repentance, and faith, and joy, and hope, which are enjoyed by the entire family; but there is an upper realm of rapture, of communion, and conscious union with Christ, which is far from being the common dwelling-place of believers. We have not all the high privilege of John, to lean upon Jesus’ bosom; nor of Paul, to be caught up into the third heaven. There are heights in experimental knowledge of the things of God which the eagle’s eye of acumen and philosophic thought hath never seen: God alone can bear us there; but the chariot in which he takes us up, and the fiery steeds with which that chariot is dragged, are prevailing prayers. Prevailing prayer is victorious over the God of mercy, “By his strength he had power with God: yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Beth-el, and there he spake with us.” Prevailing prayer takes the Christian to Carmel, and enables him to cover heaven with clouds of blessing, and earth with floods of mercy. Prevailing prayer bears the Christian aloft to Pisgah, and shows him the inheritance reserved; it elevates us to Tabor and transfigures us, till in the likeness of his Lord, as he is, so are we also in this world. If you would reach to something higher than ordinary grovelling experience, look to the Rock that is higher than you, and gaze with the eye of faith through the window of importunate prayer. When you open the window on your side, it will not be bolted on the other.

# Word Live – 9/9/25

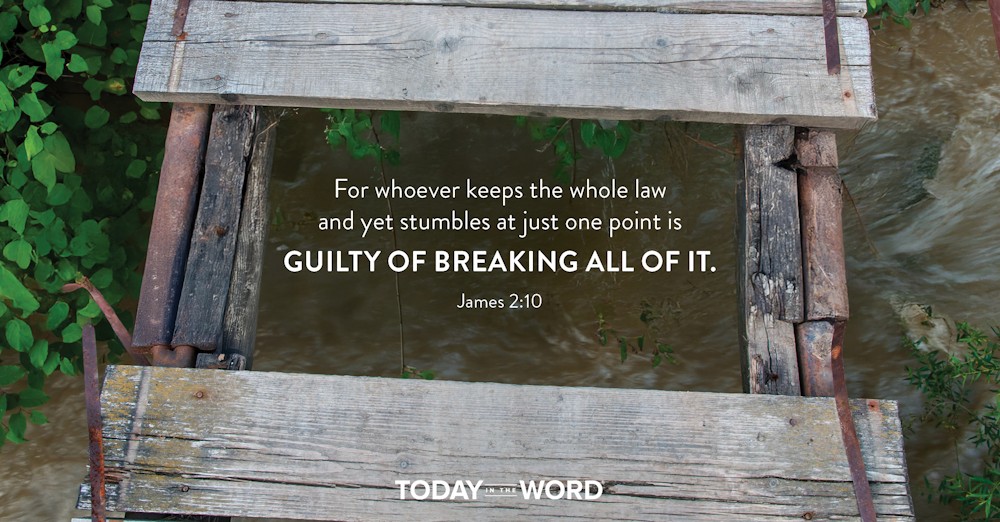
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# Scripture Union – 9/9/25

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# Today in the Word – 9/9/25

# The Whole Law



[Read James 2:8–13](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+2:8%e2%80%9313)

8If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A8%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30302a)] you are doing right. 9But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A8%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30305b)] also said, “You shall not murder.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A8%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30305c)] If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

12Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Footnotes**

1. [James 2:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A8%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-30302) Lev. 19:18
2. [James 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A8%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-30305) Exodus 20:14; Deut. 5:18
3. [James 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A8%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-30305) Exodus 20:13; Deut. 5:17

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. [James 2:10](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.2.10)

Does it matter if you break just one law? Biblical Law should be seen as one unit with many parts. Old Testament scholars tell us that there are 613 laws in the Old Testament. James teaches that if you break one law, no matter how small, you’ve broken the entire Law.

James 2:10 says, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” He is not saying that Christians are to keep all 613 laws. That would be missing the point. Rather, James is stating that as sons and daughters of the King our hearts and behavior should reflect His royal Law. James says that one way we keep this Law is by loving our neighbor as ourselves (v. 8).

I believe James is reflecting on the words of Jesus when He spoke to a religious expert. This person tried to test Jesus, asking Him, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matt. 22:35-40).

Loving God and others is central to our obedience as believers. First John 4:20 reinforces this idea, “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.” Loving God and loving others is not only expected but should be a great desire of the believer. Only Jesus did that perfectly, but as God’s children our lives should overflow with His love.

**Go Deeper**

Is there someone in your life you have trouble loving? Why not ask God to give you the grace to show His love to them?

**Pray with Us**

Thank you, Jesus, that You revealed to us what true love is. Help us to live in the light of this love and to love You in return with everything in us.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/9/25

# Unashamed for Jesus

**I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power.**

**The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.**

**My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I’m finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.**

**I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudity, or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer and labor by power.**

**My pace is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way rough. My companions few.  My guide is reliable and my mission is clear.**

**I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.**

**I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.**

**I won’t give up, shut up, let up, until I’ve stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.**

**I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give ’til I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He’ll have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear!**

**Read:** [**2 Timothy 1:6-12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1:6-12)

**Appeal for Loyalty to Paul and the Gospel**

6For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:8

**Today's Devotional**

Before he was martyred for his steadfast faith in Jesus, an African minister whose name has not been preserved penned “A Martyr’s Prayer.” This profound message from another era has become known as “The Fellowship of the Unashamed.”

This pastor’s words present a challenge to all believers in Jesus—a challenge that echoes the words of the apostle Paul, who wrote in his letter to his young friend Timothy: “Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord” (2 Timothy 1:8) because the Holy Spirit gives us “power, love and self-discipline” (v. 7).

Here, in part, is what that faithful African pastor wrote: “I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of [Jesus] and I won’t back up, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. . . . I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by the Holy Spirit’s power.”

Both Timothy and that pastor faced difficulties we may never experience, but their words challenge us to stand strong when our faith is tested. We can remain unashamed because God “is able to guard what [we] have entrusted to him” (v. 12)—our lives and our future.

**Reflect & Pray**

What gives you courage to be unashamed for Christ? How can you follow the examples of others who were unashamed of the gospel?

Dear God, You promised that the Holy Spirit gives us power. Please help me to stand up for You and be unashamed in all kinds of situations.

Dive deeper into the [wisdom shared in 1 and 2 Timothy.](https://odbu.org/topic/nt246-01-getting-started/?utm_source=Digital&utm_medium=ODB+Email%2C+app%2C+website&utm_campaign=2025+Sept+9th+ODB+R%26P+-+1-2+Timothy)

**Today's Insights**

In 2 Timothy 1:6-14, Paul’s advice to Timothy was in no way arrogant, nor was it given flippantly. He wrote out of his own deep suffering. In fact, he was imprisoned at that moment and understood that he’d soon be executed. “The time for my departure is near,” he wrote (2 Timothy 4:6). And yet the apostle was forward-looking. Just as Jesus gave instructions to His disciples the night before His crucifixion, so too Paul focused on developing the faith and ministry of his younger protégé Timothy, who would carry on the work. “Fan into flame the gift of God,” he urged him (1:6). “Join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God” (v. 8). Paul didn’t fear death because he anticipated “the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (v. 10). We can also stand strong when our faith is tested.

# God Calling – 9/9/25

# Cultivate  --  Yourself

**In Thy Strength we conquer.**

Yes! Your conquering Power you gain from Me. There can be no failure with me. The secret of success then is Life with Me.

Do you want to make the best of life? Then live very near to Me, the Master and Giver of all Life.

Your reward will be sure. It will be perfect success, but My success.

Sometimes the success of souls won, sometimes the success of disease cured, and devils cast out. Sometimes the success of a finished sacrifice as on Calvary. Sometimes the success of one who answered never a word in the face of the scorn and torture and jeering cries of his enemies, or the success of a Risen Savior as He walked through the Garden of Joseph of Arimathea on that first Easter morning.

But My success. The world may deem you failures. The world judges not as I judge.

Bend your knees in wonder before My revelation. The joy of seeing Spiritual Truths is a great Joy. When the Heavens are opened and the Voice speaks, not to all hearts, but to the faithful loving hearts.

Remember your great field of labor is yourself. That is your first task, the weeding, the planting, digging, pruning, bearing fruit. When that is done I lead you out into other fields.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savior of his knowledge by us in every place. 2 Corinthians 2:14

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/10/25

# Missionary Weapons (1)



When you were under the fig tree, I saw you. —[John 1:48](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+1%3A48)

**Worshiping in Everyday Occasions**. We presume that we would be ready for battle if confronted with a great crisis, but it is not the crisis that builds something within us— it simply reveals what we are made of already. Do you find yourself saying, “If God calls me to battle, of course I will rise to the occasion”? Yet you won’t rise to the occasion unless you have done so on God’s training ground. If you are not doing the task that is closest to you now, which God has engineered into your life, when the crisis comes, instead of being fit for battle, you will be revealed as being unfit. Crises always reveal a person’s true character.

A private relationship of worshiping God is the greatest essential element of spiritual fitness. The time will come, as Nathanael experienced in this passage, that a private “fig-tree” life will no longer be possible. Everything will be out in the open, and you will find yourself to be of no value there if you have not been worshiping in everyday occasions in your own home. If your worship is right in your private relationship with God, then when He sets you free, you will be ready. It is in the unseen life, which only God saw, that you have become perfectly fit. And when the strain of the crisis comes, you can be relied upon by God.

Are you saying, “But I can’t be expected to live a sanctified life in my present circumstances; I have no time for prayer or Bible study right now; besides, my opportunity for battle hasn’t come yet, but when it does, of course I will be ready”? No, you will not. If you have not been worshiping in everyday occasions, when you get involved in God’s work, you will not only be useless yourself but also a hindrance to those around you.

God’s training ground, where the missionary weapons are found, is the hidden, personal, worshiping life of the saint.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Wherever the providence of God may dump us down, in a slum, in a shop, in the desert, we have to labour along the line of His direction. Never allow this thought—“I am of no use where I am,” because you certainly can be of no use where you are not! Wherever He has engineered your circumstances, pray. So Send I You, 1325 L

# CCEL – 9/10/25

**I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them.**—[JER. 32:39.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.32.html" \l "Jer.32.39)

A new heart . . . will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you.—Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

I . . . beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, . . . endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

[Ezek. 36:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ezek.36.html" \l "Ezek.36.26). -[Psa. 25:8-10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.25.html" \l "Ps.25.8).[John 17:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.21).[Eph. 4:1-6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.1).

“And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.” **[Mark 3:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.3.html" \l "Mark.3.13)**

Here was sovereignty. Impatient spirits may fret and fume, because they are not called to the highest places in the ministry; but reader be it thine to rejoice that Jesus calleth whom he wills. If he shall leave me to be a doorkeeper in his house, I will cheerfully bless him for his grace in permitting me to do anything in his service. The call of Christ’s servants comes from above. Jesus stands on the mountain, evermore above the world in holiness, earnestness, love and power. Those whom he calls must go up the mountain to him, they must seek to rise to his level by living in constant communion with him. They may not be able to mount to classic honours, or attain scholastic eminence, but they must like Moses go up into the mount of God and have familiar intercourse with the unseen God, or they will never be fitted to proclaim the gospel of peace. Jesus went apart to hold high fellowship with the Father, and we must enter into the same divine companionship if we would bless our fellowmen. No wonder that the apostles were clothed with power when they came down fresh from the mountain where Jesus was. This morning we must endeavour to ascend the mount of communion, that there we may be ordained to the lifework for which we are set apart. Let us not see the face of man today till we have seen Jesus. Time spent with him is laid out at blessed interest. We too shall cast out devils and work wonders if we go down into the world girded with that divine energy which Christ alone can give. It is of no use going to the Lord’s battle till we are armed with heavenly weapons. We must see Jesus, this is essential. At the mercy-seat we will linger till he shall manifest himself unto us as he doth not unto the world, and until we can truthfully say, “We were with him in the Holy Mount.”

# Word Live – 9/10/25

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

# Scripture Union – 9/10/25

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 9/10/25

# Words and Action



[**Read James 2:14–19**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+2:14%e2%80%9319)

**Faith and Deeds**

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? [James 2:14](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.2.14)

As a parent, I cannot imagine telling my children that I love them and then never providing food for them to eat or clothes for them to wear. You would be right to question if I truly loved my children at all. My actions would betray my words.

In James chapter two, he talks about the connection between our faith and our works, what we say we believe and what we do. A reader may ask at this point, “So, how are we saved? By keeping the Law?” This is a legitimate question. But James is explaining that our internal faith expresses itself in outward action. Some have misunderstood, assuming that James is saying both faith and works save us. In fact, some have tried to discount this letter altogether because of this misunderstanding.

But James is stating something totally different. He says true faith will naturally express itself in demonstrable works. In verses 15 through 19, he gives the example of loving a neighbor in need. If we look at someone who is suffering and simply say, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but offer no assistance, our words mean nothing (v. 16). James uses strong language in conclusion: “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (v. 17).

The example James chooses reminds us of Jesus’ response to the expert in the Law in Luke 10. When asked how to gain eternal life, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Two religious men (the priest and the Levite) walked across the street and did not help the man in need. It was the Samaritan who took care of the man who had been robbed, beaten and left on the side of the road. The religion of the priest and Levite was not worth anything, especially to the helpless man (Luke 10:25–37).

**Go Deeper**

When you see someone in trouble, what is your response? How does your faith live out in your actions?

**Pray with Us**

Dear God, guide us into maturity of faith and service as Your disciples. May we show our faith and our love for You in action, and not just in words.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/10/25

# Powerless but Not Prayerless



**Read:** [**2 Chronicles 20:2-4**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20:2-4,+6-12,+15)

2Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%2020%3A2-4%2C%206-12%2C%2015&version=NIV#fen-NIV-11590a)] from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). 3Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. 4The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

**Footnotes**

1. [2 Chronicles 20:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%2020%3A2-4%2C%206-12%2C%2015&version=NIV#en-NIV-11590) One Hebrew manuscript; most Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint and Vulgate *Aram*

**Read:**[**2 Chronicles 20:6-12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20:2-4,+6-12,+15)

6and said:

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. 7Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 9‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

10“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. 12Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

**Read:** [**2 Chronicles 20:15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20:2-4,+6-12,+15)

15He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. 2 Chronicles 20:12

**Today's Devotional**

Anita Bailey’s heart was warmed when she got this social media message about her son Jalen: “I was a greeter today at [church] and a young man with a child in his arms came up to me and put his arms around me. . . . I stared for a second, then I recognized him and said, ‘Jalen!' We embraced and chatted briefly. What a fine young man!” The greeter knew Jalen in his rebellious days when Anita and her husband, Ed, had felt powerless to save their son from the consequences of his unwise choices, which had resulted in twelve years in prison for him.

Though the Baileys felt powerless, they were not prayerless. And neither was King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20. When harassed by a menacing coalition of enemy forces, he called a prayer meeting (vv. 1-4). “Our God, will you not judge them?” he prayed. “For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you” (v. 12).

Have you ever felt powerless or clueless in the face of circumstances that were out of your control? Why not call a prayer meeting—either alone or with others? That’s what Jesus did in the face of His coming crucifixion (Luke 22:39-44). Prayer space is the sacred place where the petitions of powerless people are offered to our almighty God in the name of Jesus.

**Reflect & Pray**

What’s keeping you from bringing your challenges to God in prayer? How can you partner with others in prayer for mutual support?

Almighty God of resurrection power, please help me in my powerlessness today as I fix my eyes on Jesus.

**Today's Insights**

The temple in Jerusalem is where the Israelites sought God in prayer during national crises (2 Chronicles 6:18-40). When Israel was threatened by a large enemy military coalition, Jehoshaphat assembled the nation at the temple and prayed for God’s help (20:1-12; see 6:34-35). Responding to the people’s faith, God assured them of victory: “Do not be afraid or discouraged . . . . For the battle is not yours, but God’s. . . . Stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you” (20:15, 17). Prayer is where powerless people offer petitions to an almighty God.

# God Calling – 9/10/25

# God or Mammon?

You must be ready to stand apart from the world. Do you want the full and complete satisfaction that you find in Me, and the satisfaction of the world too? Then you are trying to serve God and Mammon, or if not trying to serve, then claiming the wages of both God and Mammon.

If you work for Me, you have your reward. But then you turn to the world, to human beings, and expect that reward too. This is not right.

Do not expect love or gratitude or acknowledgement from any. All reward necessary I will give you.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; ... Ye cannot serve God and mammon.  Matthew 6:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/11/25

# Missionary Weapons (2)



If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. —[John 13:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+13%3A14)

**Ministering in Everyday Opportunities.** Ministering in everyday opportunities that surround us does not mean that we select our own surroundings— it means being God’s very special choice to be available for use in any of the seemingly random surroundings which He has engineered for us. The very character we exhibit in our present surroundings is an indication of what we will be like in other surroundings.

The things Jesus did were the most menial of everyday tasks, and this is an indication that it takes all of God’s power in me to accomplish even the most common tasks in His way. Can I use a towel as He did? Towels, dishes, sandals, and all the other ordinary things in our lives reveal what we are made of more quickly than anything else. It takes God Almighty Incarnate in us to do the most menial duty as it ought to be done.

Jesus said, “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” ([John 13:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:15)). Notice the kind of people that God brings around you, and you will be humiliated once you realize that this is actually His way of revealing to you the kind of person you have been to Him. Now He says we should exhibit to those around us exactly what He has exhibited to us.

Do you find yourself responding by saying, “Oh, I will do all that once I’m out on the mission field”? Talking in this way is like trying to produce the weapons of war while in the trenches of the battlefield— you will be killed while trying to do it.

We have to go the “second mile” with God (see [Matthew 5:41](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:41)). Yet some of us become worn out in the first ten steps. Then we say, “Well, I’ll just wait until I get closer to the next big crisis in my life.” But if we do not steadily minister in everyday opportunities, we will do nothing when the crisis comes.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The attitude of a Christian towards the providential order in which he is placed is to recognize that God is behind it for purposes of His own.  Biblical Ethics, 99 R

# CCEL – 9/11/25

**Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.**—[ROM. 12:2.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.12.html" \l "Rom.12.2)

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.

Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?—Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. The world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

In time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.—Ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, . . . as the truth is in Jesus.

[Exo. 23:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.23.html" \l "Exod.23.2).[Jas. 4:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.4.html" \l "Jas.4.4).[II Cor. 6:14-16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.14). -[I John 2:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.15),[17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.17).[Eph. 2:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.2). -[Eph. 4:20,21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.20).

“Be ye separate.” **[2 Corinthians 6:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.17)**

The Christian, while in the world, is not to be of the world. He should be distinguished from it in the great object of his life. To him, “to live,” should be “Christ.” Whether he eats, or drinks, or whatever he does, he should do all to God’s glory. You may lay up treasure; but lay it up in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, where thieves break not through nor steal. You may strive to be rich; but be it your ambition to be “rich in faith,” and good works. You may have pleasure; but when you are merry, sing psalms and make melody in your hearts to the Lord. In your spirit, as well as in your aim, you should differ from the world. Waiting humbly before God, always conscious of his presence, delighting in communion with him, and seeking to know his will, you will prove that you are of heavenly race. And you should be separate from the world in your actions. If a thing be right, though you lose by it, it must be done; if it be wrong, though you would gain by it, you must scorn the sin for your Master’s sake. You must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Walk worthy of your high calling and dignity. Remember, O Christian, that thou art a son of the King of kings. Therefore, keep thyself unspotted from the world. Soil not the fingers which are soon to sweep celestial strings; let not these eyes become the windows of lust which are soon to see the King in his beauty—let not those feet be defiled in miry places, which are soon to walk the golden streets—let not those hearts be filled with pride and bitterness which are ere long to be filled with heaven, and to overflow with ecstatic joy.

Then rise my soul! and soar away,

Above the thoughtless crowd;

Above the pleasures of the gay,

And splendours of the proud;

Up where eternal beauties bloom,

And pleasures all divine;

Where wealth, that never can consume,

And endless glories shine.

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# Word Live – 9/11/25

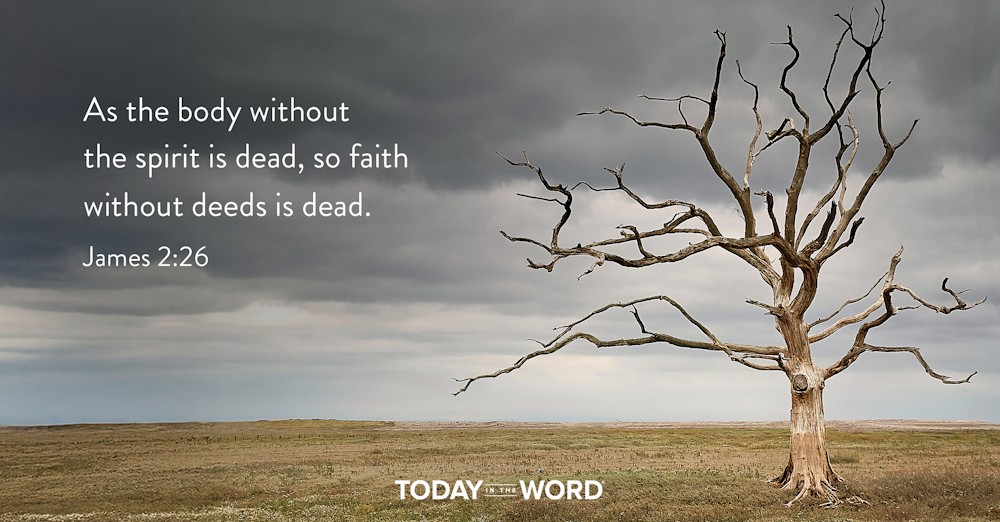
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# Scripture Union – 9/11/25

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 9/11/25

# Belief and Faith



[**Read James 2:20–26**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+2:20%e2%80%9326)

20You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A20%E2%80%9326&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30314a)]? 21Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A20%E2%80%9326&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30317b)] and he was called God’s friend. 24You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

**Footnotes**

1. [James 2:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A20%E2%80%9326&version=NIV#en-NIV-30314) Some early manuscripts *dead*
2. [James 2:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A20%E2%80%9326&version=NIV#en-NIV-30317) Gen. 15:6

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.[James 2:26](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.2.26)

As a pastor, I’ve attended and presided over my share of funerals. The body of the deceased is usually laid in a casket and nicely dressed. The facial cosmetics are flawless, and the hair is perfectly groomed. But while every effort is made to make the loved one appear natural, we all realize that the body is dead.

In James 2, the author says that without works, our faith is dead. He writes: “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead” (v. 26). To illustrate the close relationship between what we believe and what we do, James presents two examples from the Old Testament.

First, James points to Abraham who believed God’s promise and acted in obedience. In Hebrews 11, we read: “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice” (v. 17). Abraham believed two things that seemed contradictory: 1) God had told him his lineage through Isaac would be multiplied (Gen. 17:21); and 2) God had instructed him to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22:2). Because Abraham believed God’s promise, he acted in faith.

The second example is Rahab. In Joshua chapter 2, two spies were sent into the Promised Land where they met a prostitute named Rahab. Acting in faith, she hid the spies from the king of Jericho. She stated, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.” Because she believed, Rahab acted. She explained, “The LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below” (Josh. 2:9–11). For Abraham and Rahab, faith resulted in action.

**Go Deeper**

James’s words are convicting! Check the pulse of your own faith. Is there something you should be doing based upon your beliefs? In what ways should your faith be demonstrated today?

**Pray with Us**

Father God, we want to be alive in the Spirit and to have a vibrant faith. Lead us to opportunities to serve you where we can exercise our faith in action.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/11/25

# Lamenting to God



**Read:** [**Lamentations 1:20-22**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations+1:20-22)

20“See, Lord, how distressed I am!  
    I am in torment within,  
and in my heart I am disturbed,  
    for I have been most rebellious.  
Outside, the sword bereaves;  
    inside, there is only death.

21“People have heard my groaning,  
    but there is no one to comfort me.  
All my enemies have heard of my distress;  
    they rejoice at what you have done.  
May you bring the day you have announced  
    so they may become like me.

22“Let all their wickedness come before you;  
    deal with them  
as you have dealt with me  
    because of all my sins.  
My groans are many  
    and my heart is faint.”

See, Lord, how distressed I am! I am in torment within, and in my heart I am disturbed. Lamentations 1:20

**Today's Devotional**

I viewed the opening displays of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City with curiosity but kept my emotions in check. That changed when we entered the inner exhibit, which the curators have wisely closed off from children and those wanting to shield themselves from the more heartrending images. As I encountered story after story of heartbreak and loss, waves of lament rose within me.

When we witness or remember such destruction and pain, we can join the cries of those who have voiced their distress to God. This includes the words of anguish found in Lamentations, which many scholars believe the prophet Jeremiah wrote after the destruction of Jerusalem. In the tightly formed structure of this poem, he releases his sorrow and grief over the pain of God’s people: “See, Lord, how distressed I am! I am in torment within, and in my heart I am disturbed” (Lamentations 1:20). And yet he looks to God as the ultimate judge, knowing that only He can deal with the sins and destruction: “Let all their wickedness come before you” (v. 22).

This kind of honest crying out to God can help us to grapple with painful atrocities such as what happened on September 11, 2001, or other current-day evil deeds. We look to God for help, hope, comfort, and justice.

**Reflect & Pray**

When you witness wickedness, how do you keep your heart tender before God? How might He lead you to pray for those who are hurting today?

God of truth and love, I know that Your heart breaks over the pain in the world. Please envelop me in Your grace and mercy and heal my wounds.

**Today's Insights**

When we think of lament in the Bible, Jeremiah—known as the weeping prophet—comes to mind (see Jeremiah 9:1). However, he’s not the sole exemplar of lament in the Scriptures. Other examples are Job, David, and Jesus.

In Lamentations 1:20-22, the prophet Jeremiah expresses the rawness and weightiness of lament even in the choice of his words. It’s the consequence of something so powerful or heartbreaking—where something of value has been lost—that it prompts uncommon expression. Jeremiah exclaims, “See, Lord, how distressed I am! I am in torment within, and in my heart I am disturbed” (v. 20). The situation was such that it generated “groaning” (v. 21). Lament is the appropriate language of those who have personally come to grips with their pain and the conditions that caused it. As we grapple with pain, God invites us to express our honest, prayerful, and worshipful lament to Him.

Visit [GO.ODB.org/091125](https://GO.ODB.org/091125) to learn how lament can help us praise God in the midst of loss.

# God Calling – 9/11/25

# A Generous Giver

**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.    John 10:10**

Yes, I, your Master, am a generous Giver. Abundant Life, in overflowing measure, I give to you. For that I came. Life for souls. The Life, Eternal Life, that pulses through your whole being, that animates your mind and body too.

A generous Giver. A Kingly Giver. For this I came that man might live in Me. Life it was of which I spoke when I said "I am the Vine and ye are the branches." The life flow of the Vine is in the branches.

Our lives are one - yours and Mine. All that is in  My Nature must therefore pass into yours, where the contact is so close a one.

I am Love and Joy and Peace and Strength and Power and Healing and Humility and Patience, and all else you see in Me your Lord. Then these, too, you must have as My Life flows through you. So courage.

You do not make yourselves loving and strong and patient and humble. You live with Me, and then My Life accomplishes the miracle-change.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. John 6:33

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/12/25

# Going Through Spiritual Confusion



Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask." —[Matthew 20:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+20%3A22)

There are times in your spiritual life when there is confusion, and the way out of it is not simply to say that you should not be confused. It is not a matter of right and wrong, but a matter of God taking you through a way that you temporarily do not understand. And it is only by going through the spiritual confusion that you will come to the understanding of what God wants for you.

**The Shrouding of His Friendship** (see [Luke 11:5-8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:5-8)). Jesus gave the illustration here of a man who appears not to care for his friend. He was saying, in effect, that is how the heavenly Father will appear to you at times. You will think that He is an unkind friend, but remember— He is not. The time will come when everything will be explained. There seems to be a cloud on the friendship of the heart, and often even love itself has to wait in pain and tears for the blessing of fuller fellowship and oneness. When God appears to be completely shrouded, will you hang on with confidence in Him?

**The Shadow on His Fatherhood** (see [Luke 11:11-13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:11-13)). Jesus said that there are times when your Father will appear as if He were an unnatural father— as if He were callous and indifferent— but remember, He is not. “Everyone who asks receives…” ([Luke 11:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:10)). If all you see is a shadow on the face of the Father right now, hang on to the fact that He will ultimately give you clear understanding and will fully justify Himself in everything that He has allowed into your life.

**The Strangeness of His Faithfulness** (see [Luke 18:1-8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18:1-8)). “When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” ([Luke 18:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18:8)). Will He find the kind of faith that counts on Him in spite of the confusion? Stand firm in faith, believing that what Jesus said is true, although in the meantime you do not understand what God is doing. He has bigger issues at stake than the particular things you are asking of Him right now.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The Bible is the only Book that gives us any indication of the true nature of sin, and where it came from. The Philosophy of Sin, 1107 R

# CCEL – 9/12/25

**I have seen his ways, and will heal him.**—[ISA. 57:18.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.57.html" \l "Isa.57.18)

I am the Lord that healeth thee.

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.—Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.—All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.—He is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.—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.—He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.—Thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

[Exo. 15:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.15.html" \l "Exod.15.26).[Psa. 139:1-3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.139.html" \l "Ps.139.1). -[Psa. 90:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.90.html" \l "Ps.90.8). -[Heb. 4:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.13).[Isa. 1:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.1.html" \l "Isa.1.18). -[Job 33:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.33.html#Job.33.24). -[Isa. 53:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.5). -[Isa. 61:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.61.html" \l "Isa.61.1). -[Mark 5:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.5.html" \l "Mark.5.34).

“God is jealous.” **[Nahum 1:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Nah.1.html" \l "Nah.1.2)**

Your Lord is very jealous of your love, O believer. Did he choose you? He cannot bear that you should choose another. Did he buy you with his own blood? He cannot endure that you should think that you are your own, or that you belong to this world. He loved you with such a love that he would not stop in heaven without you; he would sooner die than you should perish, and he cannot endure that anything should stand between your heart’s love and himself. He is very jealous of your trust. He will not permit you to trust in an arm of flesh. He cannot bear that you should hew out broken cisterns, when the overflowing fountain is always free to you. When we lean upon him, he is glad, but when we transfer our dependence to another, when we rely upon our own wisdom, or the wisdom of a friend—worst of all, when we trust in any works of our own, he is displeased, and will chasten us that he may bring us to himself. He is also very jealous of our company. There should be no one with whom we converse so much as with Jesus. To abide in him only, this is true love; but to commune with the world, to find sufficient solace in our carnal comforts, to prefer even the society of our fellow Christians to secret intercourse with him, this is grievous to our jealous Lord. He would fain have us abide in him, and enjoy constant fellowship with himself; and many of the trials which he sends us are for the purpose of weaning our hearts from the creature, and fixing them more closely upon himself. Let this jealousy which would keep us near to Christ be also a comfort to us, for if he loves us so much as to care thus about our love we may be sure that he will suffer nothing to harm us, and will protect us from all our enemies. Oh that we may have grace this day to keep our hearts in sacred chastity for our Beloved alone, with sacred jealousy shutting our eyes to all the fascinations of the world!

# Word Live – 9/12/25

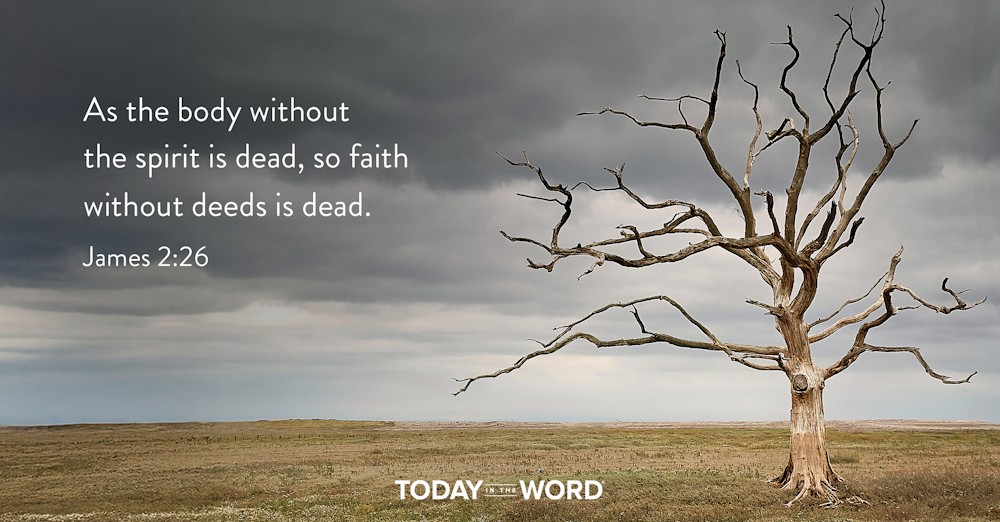
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# Scripture Union – 9/12/25

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 9/12/25

# Untamed Tongue



[**Read James 3:1–12**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+3:1%e2%80%9312)

**Taming the Tongue**

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

3When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.[James 3:5](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.3.5)

On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered the “Gettysburg Address.” Although you might not be able to recite the entire speech from memory, you probably remember his opening words: “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Words create lasting impressions. We can use words to lift others up or tear people down. James points out that, because of the duplicity of our heart, we use words both ways. Even as believers, we may speak love at one moment and communicate hate the next. This should not be!

James addresses the issue of our speech because the tongue is difficult to control. While we may have learned how to tame the largest and wildest of animals, we seem to have limited capacity to control our own tongues (vv. 7–8). Why? Because our mouth expresses what is in our heart (Matt. 15:18–20). James directs our attention to the way we communicate with others. We may slander them directly or tear them down behind their backs. Why do we say such things? Because of an issue within our own heart. There may be many causes, but the outcome is always the same.

Perhaps instead of talking to other people, we should talk to God first. We can ask Him, “God, show me the source of my anger, insecurity, fear, etc. Why do I want to verbally respond in the way that I do?” After we prayerfully confess our sinful impulse, we can ask, “Holy Spirit, provide the power I need to respond in a way that glorifies You.” You might not be able to control your tongue, but God can.

**Go Deeper**

Have you ever found yourself speaking to or about others in ways that do not bring glory to God? Today, why don’t you consider talking to God about someone rather than talking to someone?

**Pray with Us**

Today, we echo the words of Your disciples: “Lord, teach us to pray!” Teach us also to come to You in prayer first, before judging others and before speaking in haste.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/12/25

# Guarding Thoughts in Christ



**Read:** [**Philippians 4:4-9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4:4-9)

**Final Exhortations**

4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure . . . think about such things. Philippians 4:8

**Today's Devotional**

Lap after lap, Katie Ledecky was in a familiar spot during the 1500-meter freestyle race at the 2024 Paris Olympics. For some fifteen minutes, she was far ahead of the rest of the swimmers and alone with her thoughts. What was Ledecky thinking about during the long race? In an interview conducted immediately following her gold-medal-winning performance in which she set a new Olympic record, Ledecky said she was thinking about her training partners and saying their names in her head.

Distance swimmers aren’t the only ones who need to focus their minds on the right things. We as believers in Jesus also need to guard our thoughts throughout our faith journey.

The apostle Paul encouraged the Philippian church to “rejoice in the Lord,” not be “anxious about anything, but pray about everything (Philippians 4:4, 6). The result? “The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (v. 7). Jesus, the Prince of Peace, helps put our worries and troubles in perspective.

Paul also encouraged believers: “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (v. 8).

As we go about our day, let’s be aware of our thoughts. When we see God’s hand in our life, we can count our blessings and worship Him.

**Reflect & Pray**

What have you been thinking about lately? How can you honor God with your thoughts?

Dear God, may my thoughts be pleasing to You.

**Today's Insights**

In this “joyful” letter (Philippians 1:4, 25; 2:2, 29; 4:1), Paul challenged believers in Jesus to “rejoice in the Lord always” (4:4). He explains why he’s rejoicing and encourages believers to do the same (1:18; 2:17-18; 3:1; 4:4, 10). When he first visited the Roman colony of Philippi on his second missionary journey about ten years earlier, he’d been falsely accused of disturbing the social peace of the city. Even though he’d been illegally beaten and unjustly imprisoned (Acts 16:20-24), he was a picture of calmness and peace, “praying and singing hymns to God” (v. 25). In Philippians 4, Paul says not to “worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. . . . Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise” (vv. 6, 8 nlt). As we focus our thoughts on what God’s done, we can worship Him even in the midst of trials.

# God Calling – 9/12/25

# Money Values

**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.      - Matthew 6:33**

**If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.      -   Matthew 6:22**

The eye of the soul is the will.  If your one desire is My Kingdom, to find that Kingdom, to serve that Kingdom, then truly shall your whole body be full of light.

When you are told to seek first the Kingdom of God, the first step is to secure that your will is for that Kingdom.  A single eye to God's glory. Desiring nothing less than that His Kingdom come. Seeking in all things the advance of His Kingdom.

Know no values but Spiritual values. No profit but that of Spiritual gain. Seek in all things His Kingdom first.

Only seek material gain when that gain will mean a gain for My Kingdom. Get away from money values altogether. Walk with Me. Learn of Me. Talk to Me. Here lies your true happiness.

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.  Luke 12:31

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/13/25

# After Surrender— Then What?



I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. —[John 17:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+17%3A4)

True surrender is not simply surrender of our external life but surrender of our will— and once that is done, surrender is complete. The greatest crisis we ever face is the surrender of our will. Yet God never forces a person’s will into surrender, and He never begs. He patiently waits until that person willingly yields to Him. And once that battle has been fought, it never needs to be fought again.

**Surrender for Deliverance.** “Come to Me…and I will give you rest” ([Matthew 11:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11:28)). It is only after we have begun to experience what salvation really means that we surrender our will to Jesus for rest. Whatever is causing us a sense of uncertainty is actually a call to our will— “Come to Me.” And it is a voluntary coming.

**Surrender for Devotion.** “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself…” (Matthew 16:24). The surrender here is of my self to Jesus, with His rest at the heart of my being. He says, “If you want to be My disciple, you must give up your right to yourself to Me.” And once this is done, the remainder of your life will exhibit nothing but the evidence of this surrender, and you never need to be concerned again with what the future may hold for you. Whatever your circumstances may be, Jesus is totally sufficient (see [2 Corinthians 12:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+12:9) and [Philippians 4:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4:19)).

**Surrender for Death.** “…another will gird you…” ([John 21:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21:18); also see [John 21:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John21:19)). Have you learned what it means to be girded for death? Beware of some surrender that you make to God in an ecstatic moment in your life, because you are apt to take it back again. True surrender is a matter of being “united together [with Jesus] in the likeness of His death” ([Romans 6:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:5)) until nothing ever appeals to you that did not appeal to Him.

And after you surrender— then what? Your entire life should be characterized by an eagerness to maintain unbroken fellowship and oneness with God.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

It is not what a man does that is of final importance, but what he is in what he does. The atmosphere produced by a man, much more than his activities, has the lasting influence.  Baffled to Fight Better, 51 L

# CCEL – 9/13/25

**If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**—[JOHN 7:37.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.7.html" \l "John.7.37)

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.—O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.—The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.—My blood is drink indeed.

Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

[Psa. 84:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.84.html" \l "Ps.84.2). -[Psa. 63:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.63.html" \l "Ps.63.1).[Isa. 55:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.55.html" \l "Isa.55.1). -[Rev. 22:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.22.html" \l "Rev.22.17). -[John 4:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.4.html" \l "John.4.14). -[John 6:55](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.55).[Song 5:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.5.html" \l "Song.5.1).

“Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well, the rain also filleth the pools.” **[Psalm 84:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.84.html" \l "Ps.84.6)**

This teaches us that the comfort obtained by a one may often prove serviceable to another; just as wells would be used by the company who came after. We read some book full of consolation, which is like Jonathan’s rod, dropping with honey. Ah! we think our brother has been here before us, and digged this well for us as well as for himself. Many a “Night of Weeping,” “Midnight Harmonies,” an “Eternal Day,” “A Crook in the Lot,” a “Comfort for Mourners,” has been a well digged by a pilgrim for himself, but has proved quite as useful to others. Specially we notice this in the Psalms, such as that beginning, “Why art thou cast down, O my soul?” Travellers have been delighted to see the footprint of man on a barren shore, and we love to see the waymarks of pilgrims while passing through the vale of tears.

The pilgrims dig the well, but, strange enough, it fills from the top instead of the bottom. We use the means, but the blessing does not spring from the means. We dig a well, but heaven fills it with rain. The horse is prepared against the day of battle, but safety is of the Lord. The means are connected with the end, but they do not of themselves produce it. See here the rain fills the pools, so that the wells become useful as reservoirs for the water; labour is not lost, but yet it does not supersede divine help.

Grace may well be compared to rain for its purity, for its refreshing and vivifying influence, for its coming alone from above, and for the sovereignty with which it is given or withheld. May our readers have showers of blessing, and may the wells they have digged be filled with water! Oh, what are means and ordinances without the smile of heaven! They are as clouds without rain, and pools without water. O God of love, open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing!

# Word Live – 9/13/25

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

# Scripture Union – 9/13/25

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 9/13/25

# True Wisdom



[**Read James 3:13–18**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+3:13%e2%80%9318)

**Two Kinds of Wisdom**

13Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. [James 3:18](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.3.18)

In January 2025, there was a series of deadly fires in the Los Angeles area, fueled by the Santa Ana winds. The fires consumed almost everything in their path. Using James’s analogy, if the fires were the tongue, the wind represented the heart (James 3:5–6). The fire went where the wind blew.

Two distinct paths are laid out in chapter 3 by James. The first path follows earthly wisdom, which uses the untamed tongue to destroy like a forest fire. The second path chooses heavenly wisdom, which sows peace and brings forth the fruit of righteousness. It brings life. The choice is ours to make.

In James 3:13, the author challenges his readers: “Who is wise among you?” This question connects to 3:1, “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” James is saying that biblical teachers should have a handle on their tongue. Their lives and speech should reflect the wisdom given by God.

James warns that the wisdom of this world is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic (v. 15). It harbors bitter envy and selfish ambition in the heart. It expresses itself in the wicked speech highlighted in verses 2–12. “[The tongue] is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (v. 8). Uncontrolled speech, fueled by our sinful nature, results in disorder and evil practices. There is nothing attractive or beautiful in it. It produces death rather than life. As Galatians 6:7 concludes, “A man reaps what he sows.”

By contrast, heavenly wisdom produces beautiful characteristics in people. Their speech reflects the God they serve. They become peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit. They are peacemakers who sow in peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

**Go Deeper**

Do your words stir up discord or bring peace? Pray for an opportunity to speak peace, truth, and love to somebody today.

**Pray with Us**

Heavenly Father, by Your Spirit, guide us to live as people who speak peace and not discord, love and not hatred, wisdom and not foolishness. Lead us to people who need to hear Your Word of truth.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/13/25

# Searching for Mercy



**Read:** [**Exodus 16:11-16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+16:11-16)

11The Lord said to Moses, 12“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

13That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. 16This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2016%3A11-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1964a)] for each person you have in your tent.’”

**Footnotes**

1. [Exodus 16:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2016%3A11-16&version=NIV#en-NIV-1964) That is, possibly about 3 pounds or about 1.4 kilograms; also in verses 18, 32, 33 and 36

Then you will know that I am the Lord your God. Exodus 16:12

**Today's Devotional**

Her fans knew her as Nightbirde. Singer-songwriter Jane Kristen Marczewski won a following in 2021 on a popular TV talent show. In 2017, she’d been diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. In 2018, she went into remission. She started touring, but months later the cancer returned, giving her little chance of survival. Amazingly she recovered and was declared cancer-free. But on February 19, 2022, Nightbirde died.

During her difficult journey, she blogged, “I remind myself that I’m praying to the God who let the Israelites stay lost for decades. They begged to arrive . . . but instead He let them wander, answering prayers they didn’t pray. . . . Every morning, He sent them mercy-bread from heaven . . . . I look for the mercy-bread . . . The Israelites called it manna, which means ‘what is it?’ That’s the same question I’m asking . . . . There’s mercy here somewhere—but what is it?”

The exodus story reveals much about God’s mercy. First, His mercy was promised to the Israelites. “You *will* be filled with bread” (Exodus 16:12). And second, His mercy may surprise us. “They did not know what it was” (v. 15). Mercy often doesn’t look like what we think. But it’s mercy nonetheless. For the Israelites, it looked like morning manna. For Nightbirde, she wrote of the gift of a blanket from a friend, and her mother’s hands.

**Reflect & Pray**

How has God’s mercy surprised you? What might it mean for you to look for mercy today?

Merciful God, thank You for Your mercy. Please help me search for it.

For further study, read [A Child’s Compassion](https://discoverodb.org/articles/a-childs-compassion/).

**Today's Insights**

The desert sojourn (Exodus 16:11-16) and God’s merciful provision of manna became an example or pattern of God’s intention as a royal shepherd to provide for His people (celebrated annually in the Feast of Tabernacles). The Good Shepherd in the Gospels continues to offer divine provision to believers in Jesus in their deserts (Mark 6:32-44), but only at the end of this present age will He wipe away every form of suffering and want for His faithful followers. Revelation 7 describes this future time: “He who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes’ ” (vv. 15-17).

Check out how [God provides spiritual food in the desert too.](https://odbu.org/learning-library/spiritual-sheep-need-spiritual-food/?utm_source=digital&utm_medium=email%2C+app%2C+website&utm_campaign=9_13_25-spiritual-sheep-need-spiritual-food)

# God Calling – 9/13/25

# No Other Name

My Name is the Power that turns evil aside, that summons all good to your aid.  Spirits of evil flee at the sound of "Jesus."  Spoken in fear, in weakness, in sorrow, in pain, it is an appeal I never fail to answer.  "Jesus."

Use My Name often. Think of the unending call of "Mother" made by her children. To help, to care, to decide, to appeal, "Mother." Use My Name in that same way - simply, naturally, forcefully.  "Jesus."

Use it not only when you need help but to express Love. Uttered aloud, or in the silence of your hearts, it will alter an atmosphere from one of discord to one of Love. It will raise the standard of talk and thought.  "Jesus."

"There is none other Name under Heaven whereby you can be saved."

Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth. Song of Solomon 1:3

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/14/25

# Arguments or Obedience



…the simplicity that is in Christ.  —[2 Corinthians 11:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+11%3A3)

Simplicity is the secret to seeing things clearly. A saint does not think clearly until a long time passes, but a saint ought to see clearly without any difficulty. You cannot think through spiritual confusion to make things clear; to make things clear, you must obey. In intellectual matters you can think things out, but in spiritual matters you will only think yourself into further wandering thoughts and more confusion. If there is something in your life upon which God has put His pressure, then obey Him in that matter. Bring all your “arguments and…every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” regarding the matter, and everything will become as clear as daylight to you ([2 Corinthians 10:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+10:5)). Your reasoning capacity will come later, but reasoning is not how we see. We see like children, and when we try to be wise we see nothing (see [Matthew 11:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11:25)).

Even the very smallest thing that we allow in our lives that is not under the control of the Holy Spirit is completely sufficient to account for spiritual confusion, and spending all of our time thinking about it will still never make it clear. Spiritual confusion can only be conquered through obedience. As soon as we obey, we have discernment. This is humiliating, because when we are confused we know that the reason lies in the state of our mind. But when our natural power of sight is devoted and submitted in obedience to the Holy Spirit, it becomes the very power by which we perceive God’s will, and our entire life is kept in simplicity.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading.  My Utmost for His Highest, March 19, 761 L

# CCEL – 9/14/25

**I, even I, am he that comforteth you.**—[ISA. 51:12.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.51.html" \l "Isa.51.12)

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.—Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.—As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.—Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.

Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Another Comforter . . . even the Spirit of truth.—The Spirit . . . helpeth our infirmities.

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.

[II Cor. 1:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.1.html" \l "iiCor.1.3). -[Psa. 103:13,14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.13). -[Isa. 66:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.66.html" \l "Isa.66.13). -[I Pet. 5:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.7).[Psa. 86:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.86.html" \l "Ps.86.15).[John 14:16,17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.16). -[Rom. 8:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.26).[Rev. 21:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.21.html" \l "Rev.21.4).

“There were also with him other little ships.” **[Mark 4:36](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.4.html" \l "Mark.4.36)**

Jesus was the Lord High Admiral of the sea that night, and his presence preserved the whole convoy. It is well to sail with Jesus, even though it be in a little ship. When we sail in Christ’s company, we may not make sure of fair weather, for great storms may toss the vessel which carries the Lord himself, and we must not expect to find the sea less boisterous around our little boat. If we go with Jesus we must be content to fare as he fares; and when the waves are rough to him, they will be rough to us. It is by tempest and tossing that we shall come to land, as he did before us.

When the storm swept over Galilee’s dark lake all faces gathered blackness, and all hearts dreaded shipwreck. When all creature help was useless, the slumbering Saviour arose, and with a word, transformed the riot of the tempest into the deep quiet of a calm; then were the little vessels at rest as well as that which carried the Lord. Jesus is the star of the sea; and though there be sorrow upon the sea, when Jesus is on it there is joy too. May our hearts make Jesus their anchor, their rudder, their lighthouse, their life-boat, and their harbour. His Church is the Admiral’s flagship, let us attend her movements, and cheer her officers with our presence. He himself is the great attraction; let us follow ever in his wake, mark his signals, steer by his chart, and never fear while he is within hail. Not one ship in the convoy shall suffer wreck; the great Commodore will steer every barque in safety to the desired haven. By faith we will slip our cable for another day’s cruise, and sail forth with Jesus into a sea of tribulation. Winds and waves will not spare us, but they all obey him; and, therefore, whatever squalls may occur without, faith shall feel a blessed calm within. He is ever in the centre of the weather-beaten company: let us rejoice in him. His vessel has reached the haven, and so shall ours.

# Word Live – 9/14/25

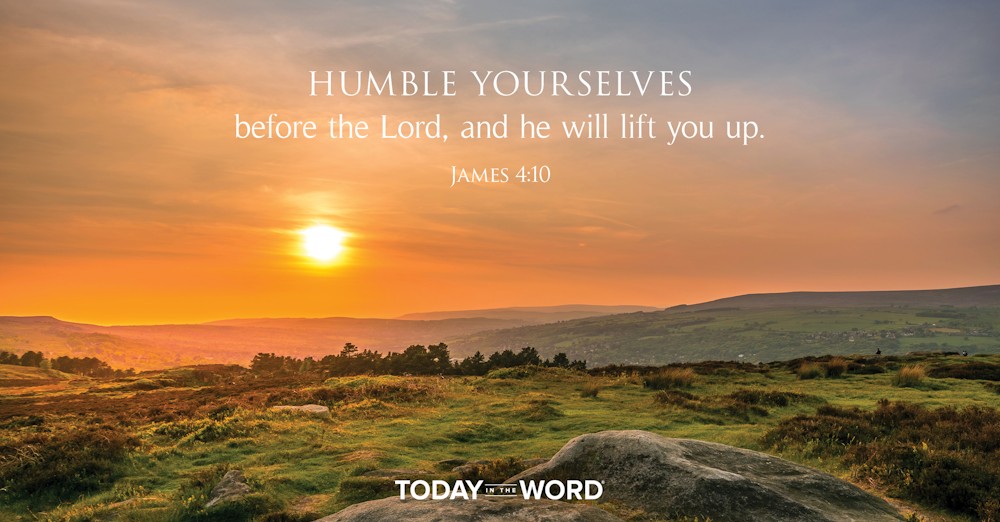
# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 9/14/25

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 9/14/25

# Covetous Hearts



[**Read James 4:1–10**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+4:1%e2%80%9310)

**Submit Yourselves to God**

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? 2You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4You adulterous people,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A1%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%3A1%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%3A1%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%3A1%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%3A1%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%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-30344) Prov. 3:34

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.[James 4:10](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.4.10)

Most of the letters written by the apostle Paul were written to address a problem in the church. The letter written by James is no different. In chapter 4, he points to division and disagreements within the body of Christ. James begins by asking, “What causes fights and quarrels among you?” (v. 1).

The answer boils down to covetousness: “You desire but you do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight” (v. 2). I have often thought of the tenth commandment as the “invisible” commandment: “You shall not covet” (Ex. 20:17). Here’s why. Commandments 6 through 9 can be observed. “You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor” (vv. 13–16). But the 10th commandment about covetousness is a matter of the heart that can produce murder, adultery, theft, and lying.

Rather than desiring what somebody else has, James says we should make our requests known to God (v. 2). Consider Jesus’ teaching on prayer. He says to His disciples, “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matt. 7:9–11).

Rather than coveting what others have—position, power, status, money, material goods—we should share our desires with our good Father and trust Him to provide according to His will. We can trust the Lord to provide exactly what we need. “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (v. 10).

**Go Deeper**

Why is covetousness an “invisible” commandment? Why does James warn against this attitude of the heart? What problem did it pose within the church?

**Pray with Us**

God, You see our hearts! Most of the problems James addresses in his letter still face us today. Teach us to put on Christ every day and live as citizens of Your kingdom.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/14/25

# God’s Tender Care



**Read:** [**Isaiah 40:10-11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+40:10-11,+29-31)

10See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
    and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
    and his recompense accompanies him.  
11He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
    He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
    he gently leads those that have young.

**Read:** [**Isaiah 40:29-31**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+40:10-11,+29-31)

29He gives strength to the weary  
    and increases the power of the weak.  
30Even youths grow tired and weary,  
    and young men stumble and fall;  
31but those who hope in the Lord  
    will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
    they will run and not grow weary,  
    they will walk and not be faint.

He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart. Isaiah 40:11

**Today's Devotional**

Sitting in the hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit, I visited with a mother as her newborn baby cuddled up against her chest. In this technologically advanced medical facility, the doctors had recommended a very low-tech “prescription” to improve and strengthen the child’s health—the new mom was to spend extended periods of time simply holding her daughter.

There’s almost nothing like the overwhelming love and tender compassion of a parent providing healing comfort for a child. We see this powerful imagery in the prophet Isaiah’s description of God with His people.

Even after prophesying impending exile for the nation of Israel because they’d rejected God (Isaiah 39:5-7), Isaiah emphasized to the people that God still loved them and would always provide for them. God’s tender compassion and secure care is evident in the beautiful metaphor where He is described as a shepherd who, much like a loving father, gathers His sheep “in his arms and carries them close to his heart” (40:11).

God’s presence grants us peace and protection and reminds us that He carries us close to His heart, like a newborn baby with its mother. As He “gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak” (v. 29), the Spirit’s healing comfort allows us to meet the challenges of each day.

**Reflect & Pray**

What comes to mind when you think about the love of a mother for her newborn baby? How has God’s protective and loving care strengthened you?

Heavenly Father, I'm so grateful that You hold me close to Your heart.

**Today's Insights**

Isaiah 40 signals a shift in this prophetic book. Up to this point, the prophecies have focused on the situation of the people of Judah and their looming judgment. They’ve repeatedly broken God’s covenant made with them through Moses. Now Isaiah looks far ahead, and the tone shifts dramatically. But what is this “reward” he refers to in verse 10? The context is militaristic: “the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.” Hence, *reward* likely refers to the spoils taken in battle. And what is “his recompense” (v. 10)? It’s either the repayment God will give to His people when He restores them or the vengeance He’ll pour out on those who’ve oppressed them. Such militant language is ironic given the compassionate tone of so much of this chapter. God’s strength, appropriately displayed, enables Him to show us this great compassion and comfort as we meet the challenges of each day.

# God Calling – 9/14/25

# When Faith Fails

**Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.     Mark 9:24**

This cry of the human heart is as expressive of human need as it was when uttered to Me while I was on earth. It expresses the soul's progress.

As a soul realizes Me and My Power, and knows Me as Helper and Savior, that soul believes in Me more and more. At the same time it is more conscious than before of its falling short of absolute trust in Me.

"Lord, I believe. Help Thou mine unbelief." The soul's progress - an increased belief - then a cry for more faith - a plea to conquer all unbelief, all lack of trust.

That cry heard. That prayer answered. More faith, and at the same time more power to see where trust is lacking.

My children seek to go up this path, leading by each stage, nearer to Me.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.    Hebrews 3:12

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/15/25

# What To Renounce



We have renounced the hidden things of shame…  —[2 Corinthians 4:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+4%3A2)

Have you “renounced the hidden things of shame” in your life— the things that your sense of honor or pride will not allow to come into the light? You can easily hide them. Is there a thought in your heart about anyone that you would not like to be brought into the light? Then renounce it as soon as it comes to mind— renounce everything in its entirety until there is no hidden dishonesty or craftiness about you at all. Envy, jealousy, and strife don’t necessarily arise from your old nature of sin, but from the flesh which was used for these kinds of things in the past (see [Romans 6:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:19) and [1 Peter 4:1-3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4:1-3)). You must maintain continual watchfulness so that nothing arises in your life that would cause you shame.

“…not walking in craftiness…” ([2 Corinthians 4:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+4:2)). This means not resorting to something simply to make your own point. This is a terrible trap. You know that God will allow you to work in only one way— the way of truth. Then be careful never to catch people through the other way— the way of deceit. If you act deceitfully, God’s blight and ruin will be upon you. What may be craftiness for you, may not be for others— God has called you to a higher standard. Never dull your sense of being your utmost for His highest— your best for His glory. For you, doing certain things would mean craftiness coming into your life for a purpose other than what is the highest and best, and it would dull the motivation that God has given you. Many people have turned back because they are afraid to look at things from God’s perspective. The greatest spiritual crisis comes when a person has to move a little farther on in his faith than the beliefs he has already accepted.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Am I becoming more and more in love with God as a holy God, or with the conception of an amiable Being who says, “Oh well, sin doesn’t matter much”?  Disciples Indeed, 389 L

# CCEL – 9/15/25

**Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**—[ROM. 6:14.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.6.html" \l "Rom.6.14)

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.—My brethren, ye . . . are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.—Being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ.—The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.—Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.—If the Son . . . shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

[Rom. 6:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.6.html" \l "Rom.6.15). -[Rom. 7:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.4). -[I Cor. 9:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.9.html" \l "iCor.9.21). -[I Cor. 15:56,57](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.56).[Rom. 8:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.2). -[John 8:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.8.html" \l "John.8.34). -[John 8:36](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.8.html" \l "John.8.36).[Gal. 5:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.5.html" \l "Gal.5.1).

“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.” [Psalm 112:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.112.html" \l "Ps.112.7)

Christian, you ought not to dread the arrival of evil tidings; because if you are distressed by them, what do you more than other men? Other men have not your God to fly to; they have never proved his faithfulness as you have done, and it is no wonder if they are bowed down with alarm and cowed with fear: but you profess to be of another spirit; you have been begotten again unto a lively hope, and your heart lives in heaven and not on earthly things; now, if you are seen to be distracted as other men, what is the value of that grace which you profess to have received? Where is the dignity of that new nature which you claim to possess?

Again, if you should be filled with alarm, as others are, you would, doubtless, be led into the sins so common to others under trying circumstances. The ungodly, when they are overtaken by evil tidings, rebel against God; they murmur, and think that God deals hardly with them. Will you fall into that same sin? Will you provoke the Lord as they do?

Moreover, unconverted men often run to wrong means in order to escape from difficulties, and you will be sure to do the same if your mind yields to the present pressure. Trust in the Lord, and wait patiently for him. Your wisest course is to do as Moses did at the Red Sea, “Stand still and see the salvation of God.” For if you give way to fear when you hear of evil tidings, you will be unable to meet the trouble with that calm composure which nerves for duty, and sustains under adversity. How can you glorify God if you play the coward? Saints have often sung God’s high praises in the fires, but will your doubting and desponding, as if you had none to help you, magnify the Most High? Then take courage, and relying in sure confidence upon the faithfulness of your covenant God, “let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

# Word Live – 9/15/25

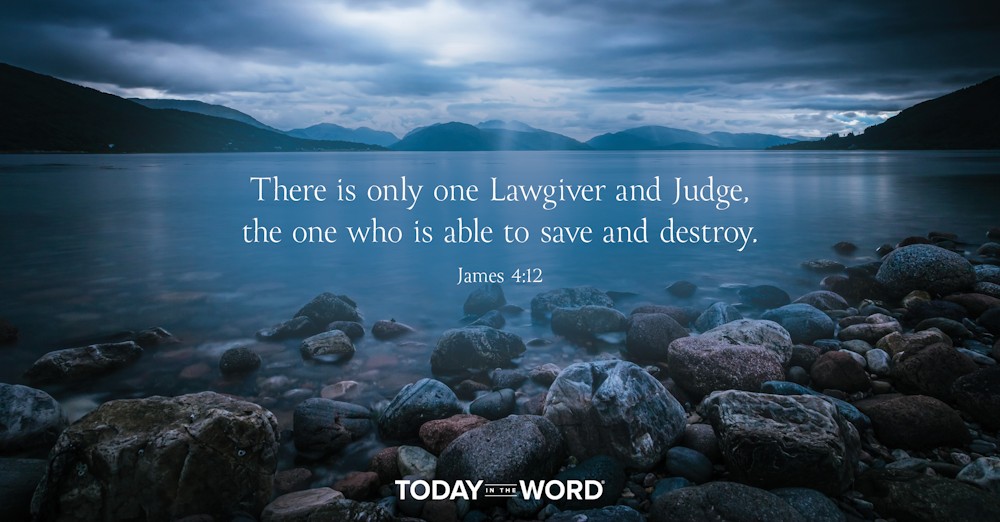
# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 9/15/25

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 9/15/25

**Only One**



[**Read James 4:11–12**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=James+4:11%e2%80%9312)

11Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A11%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30349a)] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

**Footnotes**

1. [James 4:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204%3A11%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#en-NIV-30349) The Greek word for *brother or sister* (*adelphos*) refers here to a believer, whether man or woman, as part of God’s family.

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.[James 4:12](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Jas.4.12)

While in college, my brother visited a friend in Louisiana where they went crabbing. When his friend put the first crab in a large bucket, he put a top over the bucket to keep it from getting out. But when he caught the second crab, he left the top off. Evidently, every time a crab crawled near the top, the other crab would pull it down and get on top. This is the perfect picture of slander. We tear one another down to try to gain a position of authority.

James warns that there is no place for one-upmanship in the body of Christ. In yesterday’s reading, we were told: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (4:10). In today’s passage, James instructs, “Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another” (v. 11). Slander builds us up by putting others down.

When we do this, we make ourselves a judge over them. But more than that, we have become a judge of the Law. James picks up a theme from earlier in his letter. “If you really keep the royal Law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers” (2:8–9). When we slander our brother or sister, we are not only breaking the Law (by not loving them) but we are setting ourselves above the Law by acting as a judge.

A good judge has a full knowledge of the law. A qualified criminal law judge can assess a person’s behavior based upon criminal law. A qualified civil law judge can assess based upon civil law. But only a qualified judge of God’s divine Law can properly assess a person’s behavior, motives, and intent, and that Judge (who wrote and knows the Law fully) is not us.

**Go Deeper**

Consider meditating on this verse today, “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law” (Rom. 13:8).

**Pray with Us**

Almighty God, thank You for giving us Your perfect law of love. Thank You that we are no longer under the law of Moses but under Your grace, and that the sacrifice of Your Son brought us forgiveness and freedom.

# Our Daily Bread – 9/15/25

# Making Disciples for Christ

**Read:** [**Matthew 28:16-20**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28:16-20)

**The Great Commission**

16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Go and make disciples. Matthew 28:19

**Today's Devotional**

Early in the basketball season, the coach at our neighborhood middle school seemed to work hardest convincing his players to risk shooting the ball. “Shoot!” he pleaded from the sidelines. His players eagerly passed the ball. Dribbling was a favorite too. The season was half over before most of them would shed their doubts and try to shoot the ball to score. But “going for it” made all the difference. By obeying their coach, letting go of doubt, and trying—even if they often missed the target—they learned to win.

Jesus teaches us to let go of doubt to obey His call to make disciples. He explains, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:18-20).

In practical terms, this can mean stepping out of our comfort to share our story of what God has done for us. Or getting involved in the lives of our hurting neighbors, showing them Jesus’ love. Such approaches work, but only if we let go and try them.

Above all, we go in Jesus’ authority to attempt what may look hard—making disciples. But we need not fear. Jesus promised: “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (v. 20).

**Reflect & Pray**

What fears and doubts do you have about making disciples? Why? How can you obey Christ’s call?

I need practice making disciples, dear Father, but please encourage me to let go of doubt and try.

**Today's Insights**

The Gospels describe Jesus as a man who “taught as one who had authority” (Matthew 7:29) and one who “has authority on earth to forgive sins” (9:6). God has “granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those [God has] given him” (John 17:2). When Christ sent His twelve disciples out to preach, He gave them His authority to do the work (Matthew 10:1). Before He returned to the Father after His death and resurrection, Jesus entrusted to us the task of telling the world the good news. He commanded us to tell others about what He’s done for us and to disciple them (28:19-20). We can let go of doubt, for we’re not going out on our own. Christ promised, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (v. 20).

# God Calling – 9/15/25

# Quiet Strength

Rest in Me. When tired nature rebels it is her call for rest. Rest then until My Life-Power flows through you.

Have no fear for the future. Be quiet, be still, and in that very stillness your strength will come and will be maintained.

The world sees strength in action. In My Kingdom it is known that strength lies in quiet.  "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

Such a promise!  Such glorious fulfillment!  The strength of Peace and the Peace of strength.  Rest in Me. Joy in Me.

My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.  Exodus 33:14