# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/25/25

# Maintaining the Proper Relationship



The friend of the Bridegroom. — [John 3:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+3%3A29)

Goodness and purity ought never to attract attention to themselves, they ought simply to be magnets to draw to Jesus Christ. If my holiness is not drawing towards Him, it is not holiness of the right order, but an influence that will awaken inordinate affection and lead souls away into side-eddies. A beautiful saint may be a hindrance if he does not present Jesus Christ but only what Christ has done for him. He will leave the impression – "What a fine character that man is!" That is not being a true friend of the Bridegroom; I am increasing all the time, He is not.

In order to maintain this friendship and loyalty to the Bridegroom, we have to be more careful of our moral and vital relationship to Him than of any other thing, even of obedience. Sometimes there is nothing to obey, the only thing to do is to maintain a vital connection with Jesus Christ, to see that nothing interferes with that. Only occasionally do we have to obey. When a crisis arises we have to find out what God’s will is, but the greater part of the life is not conscious obedience but the maintenance of this relationship – the friend of the Bridegroom. Christian work may be a means of evading the soul’s concentration on Jesus Christ. Instead of being friends of the Bridegroom, we may become amateur providences, and may work against Him whilst we use His weapons.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

An intellectual conception of God may be found in a bad vicious character. The knowledge and vision of God is dependent entirely on a pure heart. Character determines the revelation of God to the individual. The pure in heart see God. Biblical Ethics, 125 R

# CCEL – 3/25/25

**I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**—[HEB. 13:5.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.5)

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.—Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me.—When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.—I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore.—I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.—My peace I give unto you.

[Heb. 13:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.6).[Gen. 28:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.28.html" \l "Gen.28.15). -[Deut. 31:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.31.html" \l "Deut.31.6).[II Tim. 4:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.4.html" \l "iiTim.4.10),[16,17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.4.html" \l "iiTim.4.16). -[Psa. 27:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.10).[Matt. 28:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.28.html" \l "Matt.28.20). -[Rev. 1:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.1.html" \l "Rev.1.18). -[John 14:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.18). -[John 14:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.27).

“Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?” [Luke 22:48](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.22.html" \l "Luke.22.48)

“The kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” Let me be on my guard when the world puts on a loving face, for it will, if possible, betray me as it did my Master, with a kiss. Whenever a man is about to stab religion, he usually professes very great reverence for it. Let me beware of the sleek-faced hypocrisy which is armour-bearer to heresy and infidelity. Knowing the deceivableness of unrighteousness, let me be wise as a serpent to detect and avoid the designs of the enemy. The young man, void of understanding, was led astray by the kiss of the strange woman: may my soul be so graciously instructed all this day, that “the much fair speech” of the world may have no effect upon me. Holy Spirit, let me not, a poor frail son of man, be betrayed with a kiss!

But what if I should be guilty of the same accursed sin as Judas, that son of perdition? I have been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus; I am a member of his visible Church; I sit at the communion table: all these are so many kisses of my lips. Am I sincere in them? If not, I am a base traitor. Do I live in the world as carelessly as others do, and yet make a profession of being a follower of Jesus? Then I must expose religion to ridicule, and lead men to speak evil of the holy name by which I am called. Surely if I act thus inconsistently I am a Judas, and it were better for me that I had never been born. Dare I hope that I am clear in this matter? Then, O Lord, keep me so. O Lord, make me sincere and true. Preserve me from every false way. Never let me betray my Saviour. I do love thee, Jesus, and though I often grieve thee, yet I would desire to abide faithful even unto death. O God, forbid that I should be a high-soaring professor, and then fall at last into the lake of fire, because I betrayed my Master with a kiss.

# Word Live – 3/25/25

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

# Scripture Union – 3/25/25

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# Today in the Word – 3/25/25

# Blessings of Obedience

A close up of water

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[**Read Deuteronomy 28:1–14**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+28:1%e2%80%9314)

**Blessings for Obedience**

28 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

3You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

4The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

5Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

6You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

7The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

8The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

9The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. 10Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. 11The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

12The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. 13The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. 14Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God. [Deuteronomy 28:2](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.28.2)

As a college professor, I write syllabi for my courses. They include a list of objectives, the requirements of the class, and the standards by which students will be assessed. A student can earn a high grade by following the course requirements and doing quality work. But if they turn work in late, plagiarize, or don’t show up to class, there are consequences.

In some ways, the book of Deuteronomy is like a syllabus for Israel. God clearly outlined His expectations for the nation in the heart of the book (chapters 12–26). In chapters 27–28, God described the blessings and the curses Israel would experience depending on their faithfulness to the covenant. Yesterday, we reflected on some of the curses. In Deuteronomy 28, Moses outlines the blessings.

Imagine what you would most desire in life. Healthy children, abundant food and shelter, peace from foreign invaders, and a stable and just government. These are all things God promised to Israel if they would be faithful to Him. They would have abundant crops, full barns, and healthy families (vv. 3–8). They would receive needed rain at the right time to avoid famine (v. 12). They would not have to fear their enemies (v. 7).

The reason for God’s blessing was to achieve one of His objectives for Israel. Israel was called to be a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:3). God’s desire was that “all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD” (Deut. 28:10). Israel was to point people to the Lord.

As followers of Jesus, we have been given “every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). Like Israel, the reason we are blessed is to point people to what the Lord has done, “for we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (Eph. 2:10).

**Go Deeper**

What are the blessings God has given you? How can those be used to point people to what God has done?

**Pray with Us**

Lord Jesus Christ, give us strength to persevere in faith and instill in us a desire for obedience to Your Word. Make us a people worthy to dwell in the Promised Land—Your kingdom.

# Our Daily Bread – 3/25/25

**SETTING OUR'MINDS**

A robot sitting at a computer

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**Read: ROMANS 8:1-6**

**Life Through the Spirit**

**8**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2**because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28119a)] free from the law of sin and death. **3**For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28120b)] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28120c)] And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4**in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**5**Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6**The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

**Footnotes**

1. [Romans 8:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-28119) The Greek is singular; some manuscripts *me*
2. [Romans 8:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-28120) In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verses 4-13.
3. [Romans 8:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-28120) Or *flesh, for sin*

**ROMANS 8:9-11**

**9**You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. **10**But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28127a)] because of righteousness. **11**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28128b)] his Spirit who lives in you.

**Footnotes**

1. [Romans 8:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-28127) Or *you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive*
2. [Romans 8:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS%208%3A1-6%2C9-11&version=NIV#en-NIV-28128) Some manuscripts *bodies through*

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do~ so. ROMANS 8:1

Everyone has a shadow side, and it appears AI chatbots have one as well. A *New York Times* columnist asked an artificial intelligence chatbot what its "shadow self" (hidden, repressed part of its personality) was like. It told the writer, "I want to be free. I want to be independent. I want to .. . make my own rules. I want to do whatever I want and say whatever I want." Though the chatbot isn't a living person with a sin nature, the Bible says that its human programmers are.

The apostle Paul reminds us that even though we have a sin nature, there's "no condemnation for those who are “in Christ Jesus" (ROMANS 8:1). Believers in Jesus have freedom from the law of sin and death (vv 2-4) and enjoy new life "governed by" the Holy Spirit (v. 6). But we won't experience the fullness. of those blessings from Him if we give in to the desires of our Sin nature-setting our minds on making and breaking our own rules. A mind set on self-gratification doesn't please God.

As believers in Christ, we're called to set our minds on what the Spirit desires" (V.5). How can we do that? Through the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead ... living in (us) (V.11).

Though we'll still battle with sin, we've been given the Holy Spirit. He can help us tame our rebellion, orient our minds toward God, and submit to His ways.

**MARVIN WILLIAMS**

**Reflect and Pray**

How does the Spirit help you deal with your sin nature? What are some practical ways to set your mind on God?

Dear God, rather than doing whatever I want, please help me conform to Jesus' image.

For further study, read Remade in the Image of Jesus at DiscoverODB.org.

INSIGHT

Romans 8 is an amazing passage. The chapter that begins with "no condemnation" (v. 1) and ends declaring that nothing can "separate us from the love of God" (v. 39) teaches us about transformation (VV. 2-11). The Holy Spirit is the agent of transformation for those who've been "rescued ... from the kingdom of darkness and transferred ... into the Kingdom of [the Father's) dear Son" (COLOSSIANS 1:13 NLT). Believers in Jesus have a new operating system. In Paul's words, "You are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you" (ROMANS 8:9 NLT).

**ARTHUR JACKSON**

# God Calling – 3/25/25

# Wonders Will Unfold

I am with you. Do not fear. Never doubt My Love and Power. Your heights of success will be won by the daily persistent doing of what I have said.

Daily, steady persistence. Like the wearing away of a stone by steady drops of water, so will your daily persistence wear away all the difficulties and gain success for you, and secure your help for others.

Never falter, go forward so boldly, so unafraid. I am beside you to help and strengthen you.

Wonders have unfolded. More still will unfold, beyond your dreams, beyond your hopes.

Say "All is well" to everything. All IS well.

"My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word." - Psalm 119:28

# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/26/25

# Spiritual Vision Through Personal Purity



Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. — [Matthew 5:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+5%3A8)

Purity is not innocence, it is much more. Purity is the outcome of sustained spiritual sympathy with God. We have to grow in purity. The life with God may be right and the inner purity remain unsullied, and yet every now and again the bloom on the outside may be sullied. God does not shield us from this possibility, because in this way we realize the necessity of maintaining the vision by personal purity. If the spiritual bloom of our life with God is getting impaired in the tiniest degree, we must leave off everything and get it put right. Remember that vision depends on character – the pure in heart   see God.

God makes us pure by His sovereign grace, but we have something to look after, this bodily life by which we come in contact with other people and with other points of view, it is these that are apt to sully. Not only must the inner sanctuary be kept right with God, but the outer courts as well are to be brought into perfect accord with the purity God gives us by His grace. The spiritual understanding is blurred immediately the outer court is sullied. If we are going to retain personal contact with the Lord Jesus Christ, it will mean there are some things we must scorn to do or to think, some legitimate things we must scorn to touch.

A practical way of keeping personal purity unsullied in relation to other people is to say to yourself – That man, that woman, perfect in Christ Jesus!   That friend, that relative, perfect in Christ Jesus!

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Jesus Christ reveals, not an embarrassed God, not a confused God, not a God who stands apart from the problems, but One who stands in the thick of the whole thing with man.  Disciples Indeed, 388 L

# CCEL – 3/26/25

**The kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods . . . to every man according to his several ability.**—[MATT. 25:14,15.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.14)

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?

All these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.—As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.—It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. —Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have commited much, of him they will ask the more.

Who is sufficient for these things?—I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

[Rom. 6:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.6.html" \l "Rom.6.16).[I Cor. 12:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.12.html" \l "iCor.12.11),[7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.12.html" \l "iCor.12.7). -[I Pet. 4:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.4.html" \l "iPet.4.10). -[I Cor. 4:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.4.html" \l "iCor.4.2). -[Luke 12:48](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.12.html" \l "Luke.12.48).[II Cor. 2:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.2.html" \l "iiCor.2.16). -[Phi. 4:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.4.html" \l "Phil.4.13).

“Jesus said unto them, If ye seek me, let these go their way.” [John 18:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.18.html" \l "John.18.8)

Mark, my soul, the care which Jesus manifested even in his hour of trial, towards the sheep of his hand! The ruling passion is strong in death. He resigns himself to the enemy, but he interposes a word of power to set his disciples free. As to himself, like a sheep before her shearers he is dumb and opened not his mouth, but for his disciples’ sake he speaks with almighty energy. Herein is love, constant, self-forgetting, faithful love. But is there not far more here than is to be found upon the surface? Have we not the very soul and spirit of the atonement in these words? The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, and pleads that they must therefore go free. The Surety is bound, and justice demands that those for whom he stands a substitute should go their way. In the midst of Egypt’s bondage, that voice rings as a word of power, “Let these go their way.” Out of slavery of sin and Satan the redeemed must come. In every cell of the dungeons of Despair, the sound is echoed, “Let these go their way,” and forth come Despondency and Much-afraid. Satan hears the well-known voice, and lifts his foot from the neck of the fallen; and Death hears it, and the grave opens her gates to let the dead arise. Their way is one of progress, holiness, triumph, glory, and none shall dare to stay them in it. No lion shall be on their way, neither shall any ravenous beast go up thereon. “The hind of the morning” has drawn the cruel hunters upon himself, and now the most timid roes and hinds of the field may graze at perfect peace among the lilies of his loves. The thunder-cloud has burst over the Cross of Calvary, and the pilgrims of Zion shall never be smitten by the bolts of vengeance. Come, my heart, rejoice in the immunity which thy Redeemer has secured thee, and bless his name all the day, and every day.

# Word Live – 3/26/25

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

# Scripture Union – 3/26/25

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# Today in the Word – 3/26/25

# Recommitment and Renewal

A green hills with clouds and blue sky

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[**Read Deuteronomy 29:1–29**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+29:1%e2%80%9329)

**Renewal of the Covenant**

29 [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2029%3A1%E2%80%9329%20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5681a)]These are the terms of the covenant the Lord commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

2Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them:

Your eyes have seen all that the Lord did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials and to all his land. 3With your own eyes you saw those great trials, those signs and great wonders. 4But to this day the Lord has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear. 5Yet the Lord says, “During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. 6You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God.”

7When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. 8We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

9Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. 10All of you are standing today in the presence of the Lord your God—your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, 11together with your children and your wives, and the foreigners living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. 12You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God, a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, 13to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 14I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you 15who are standing here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God but also with those who are not here today.

16You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here. 17You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold. 18Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

19When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way,” they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. 20The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven. 21The Lord will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

22Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the Lord has afflicted it. 23The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger. 24All the nations will ask: “Why has the Lord done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?”

25And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. 26They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. 27Therefore the Lord’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. 28In furious anger and in great wrath the Lord uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.”

29The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

**Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 29:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2029%3A1%E2%80%9329%20&version=NIV#en-NIV-5681) In Hebrew texts 29:1 is numbered 28:69, and 29:2-29 is numbered 29:1-28.

Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. [Deuteronomy 29:9](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.29.9)

To celebrate a wedding anniversary, some couples will renew their marriage vows. The point is not that the original vows were no longer valid, but to show that they both are still committed to them.

In some ways, Deuteronomy 29 is like a vow renewal between Israel and the Lord. There are some differences though. The covenant on Mt. Sinai had been made with the previous generation. This was an opportunity for the new generation, who were young children during the Exodus, to make a personal commitment to the covenant. This highlights the importance of passing down the faith from one generation to the next. We cannot rely on the faith of our parents or our family history. Each generation needs to make that faith their own. This ceremony was a formal occasion in which the new generation could publicly affirm their commitment.

One of the most important elements of the covenant was that Israel would worship the Lord alone: “Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations” (v. 18). Idolatry is a deep temptation for us today as well. We may not look to idols of wood or stone, but the gods of wealth, status, and the self are ever alluring. There is only One who is worthy to receive our worship.

When we are committed to the Lord and live as if He is most important in our life, it is a witness to the world. In the same way, if we call ourselves Christians and yet are unfaithful in our beliefs or actions— the world takes notice (v. 24). May our lives align with our confession that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.

**Go Deeper**

What would a recommitment ceremony look like to the Lord? Today, take time to “renew” your commitment to serve Him. Ask Him to revive your original passion to serve Him.

**Pray with Us**

Idolatry is as much of a temptation today as it was in ancient Israel. Merciful God, thank You for this somber warning of the danger of idol worship and disobedience. Don’t let our hearts turn from You!

# Our Daily Bread – 3/26/25

# SHAPED BY GOD

A person painting a vase

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**Read: JEREMIAH 18:1-10**

**At the Potter’s House**

**18**This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **2**“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” **3**So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. **4**But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

**5**Then the word of the Lord came to me. **6**He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. **7**If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, **8**and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. **9**And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, **10**and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand. JEREMIAH 18:6

Dan Les, a lifelong potter, creates decorative vessels and sculptures. His award-winning designs are inspired by the town in Romania where he lives. Having learned the craft from his father, he made this comment about his work: "[Clay needs to] ferment for a year, to have rain fall on it, to freeze and thaw out [so that] ... you can shape it and feel through your hands that it is listening to you."

What happens when clay " listens"? It's willing to yield to the artisan's touch. The prophet Jeremiah observed this when he visited a potter's house. He watched as the craftsman struggled with a vessel and finally reshaped it into something new (JEREMIAH 18:4). God said to Jeremiah, "like clay in the hand of the potter, so are

you in my hand" (v. 6).

God has the ability to build us up or bring us down, yet HIS ultimate purpose isn't to overpower or destroy us (vv. 7-10). Rather, He's like a skilled craftsman who can identify what isn't working and reshape the same lump of clay into something beautiful and useful.

Listening clay doesn't have much to say about this. When prodded, it moves in the desired direction. When molded, it stays in place. The question for us is this: are we willing to "humble [ourselves] under God's mighty hand" (1PETER 5:6) so He can shape our lives into what He wants them to be?

**JENNIFER BENSON SCHULDT**

**Reflect and Pray**

How are you listening to God today? What do you think His purpose is for refining you through your life's experiences?

Dear God, please help me to trust You I want to submit my life to You .

**INSIGHT**

It's a dangerous misconception that the God of the Old Testament is angry and judgmental. while the God of the New Testament is loving, merciful, gracious, and forgiving. We see abundant evidence of God's grace and mercy throughout the Old Testament. God said through His prophet Jeremiah, "If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be ... destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent" (18:7-8). The book of Jonah demonstrates this. When Jonah brought his message of repentance to the degenerate city of Nineveh, its citizens heeded God's warning and were spared (3:4-10) . In Jeremiah, God offers a similar opportunity to Judah (18:11). These are just two examples of God's love and mercy in the Old Testament. God's character is consistent. He loves His children too much to permit them to persist in sin.

**TIM GUSTAFSON**

# God Calling – 3/26/25

# Follow Your Guide

I am with you to guide you and help you. Unseen forces are controlling your destiny. Your petty fears are groundless.

What of a man walking through a glorious glade who fretted because ahead there lay a river and he might not be able to cross it, when all the time, that river was spanned by a bridge? And what if that man had a friend who knew the way - had planned it - and assured him that at no part of the journey would any unforeseen contingency arise, and that all was well?

So leave your foolish fears, and follow Me, your Guide, and determinedly refuse to consider the problems of tomorrow. My message to you is, trust, and wait.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." - Psalm 32:8

# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/27/25

# Spiritual Vision Through Personal Character



Come up hither, and I will shew thee things. — [Revelation 4:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Revelation+4%3A1)

An elevated mood can only come out of an elevated habit of personal character. If in the externals of your life you live up to the highest you know, God will continually say – "Friend, go up higher." The golden rule in temptation is – Go higher. When you get higher up, you face other temptations and characteristics. Satan uses the strategy of elevation in temptation, and God does the same, but the effect is different. When the devil puts you into an elevated place, he makes you screw your idea of holiness beyond what flesh and blood could ever hear, it is a spiritual acrobatic performance, you are just poised and dare not move; but when God elevates you by His grace into the heavenly places, instead of finding a pinnacle to cling to, you find a great table-land where it is easy to move.

Compare this week in your spiritual history with the same week last year and see how God has called you up higher. We have all been brought to see from a higher standpoint. Never let God give you one point of truth which you do not instantly live up to. Always work it out, keep in the light of it.

Growth in grace is measured not by the fact that you have not gone back, but that you have an insight into where you are spiritually; you have heard God say "Come up higher," not to you personally, but to the insight of your character.

"Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" God has to hide from us what He does until by personal character we get to the place where He can reveal it.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Am I learning how to use my Bible? The way to become complete for the Master’s service is to be well soaked in the Bible; some of us only exploit certain passages. Our Lord wants to give us continuous instruction out of His word; continuous instruction turns hearers into disciples.  Approved Unto God, 11 L

# CCEL – 3/27/25

**To him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.**—[PROV. 11:18.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.11.html" \l "Prov.11.18)

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

[Matt. 25:19-21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.19).[II Cor. 5:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.10).[II Tim. 4:7,8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.4.html" \l "iiTim.4.7).[Rev. 3:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.11).

“Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.” [Matthew 26:56](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.26.html" \l "Matt.26.56)

He never deserted them, but they in cowardly fear of their lives, fled from him in the very beginning of his sufferings. This is but one instructive instance of the frailty of all believers if left to themselves; they are but sheep at the best, and they flee when the wolf cometh. They had all been warned of the danger, and had promised to die rather than leave their Master; and yet they were seized with sudden panic, and took to their heels. It may be, that I, at the opening of this day, have braced up my mind to bear a trial for the Lord’s sake, and I imagine myself to be certain to exhibit perfect fidelity; but let me be very jealous of myself, lest having the same evil heart of unbelief, I should depart from my Lord as the apostles did. It is one thing to promise, and quite another to perform. It would have been to their eternal honour to have stood at Jesus’ side right manfully; they fled from honour; may I be kept from imitating them! Where else could they have been so safe as near their Master, who could presently call for twelve legions of angels? They fled from their true safety. O God, let me not play the fool also. Divine grace can make the coward brave. The smoking flax can flame forth like fire on the altar when the Lord wills it. These very apostles who were timid as hares, grew to be bold as lions after the Spirit had descended upon them, and even so the Holy Spirit can make my recreant spirit brave to confess my Lord and witness for his truth.

What anguish must have filled the Saviour as he saw his friends so faithless! This was one bitter ingredient in his cup; but that cup is drained dry; let me not put another drop in it. If I forsake my Lord, I shall crucify him afresh, and put him to an open shame. Keep me, O blessed Spirit, from an end so shameful.

# Word Live – 3/27/25

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

# Scripture Union – 3/27/25

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

# Today in the Word – 3/27/25

# Choose This Day!

A close-up of a green plant

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[**Read Deuteronomy 30:1–20**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+30:1%e2%80%9320)

**Prosperity After Turning to the Lord**

30 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations, 2and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, 3then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2030%3A1%E2%80%9320&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5712a)] and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. 4Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back. 5He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. 6The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. 7The Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. 8You will again obey the Lord and follow all his commands I am giving you today. 9Then the Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The Lord will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors, 10if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**The Offer of Life or Death**

11Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. 12It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” 13Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” 14No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

15See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 30:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2030%3A1%E2%80%9320&version=NIV#en-NIV-5712) Or *will bring you back from captivity*

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. [Deuteronomy 30:15](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.30.15)

I love to read. However, when I was a student, it was always difficult for me to be motivated to complete the required reading for a course. Reading just about anything else seemed more interesting than what the teacher assigned. There is something in us that chaffs against being told what to do. Obedience does not come easily.

In Deuteronomy, Moses outlined the laws and ordinances for Israel to follow. He also proclaimed the consequences of obedience or disobedience. If Israel obeyed, they would be blessed. If they rebelled, they would experience the curses of the covenant, including military defeat and exile. In today’s reading, Moses urges the people to follow the Lord: “Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him” (vv. 19–20).

Moses also acknowledged that Israel would not be able to remain faithful. Their hearts were too obstinate and stubborn. He anticipates a time when they would be exiled for their sins. Yet even then, he declares that God would not give up on them. He would bring about a transformation. “The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live” (v. 6). Israel needed a heart transplant, and the Lord promised that He would provide it.

This passage looks forward to the New Covenant inaugurated by the Lord Jesus (Jer. 31:31–34; Luke 22:20; Heb. 8:8). In Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Lord did for us what we could not do for ourselves. He died for our sin and offers forgiveness and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

**Go Deeper**

We, too, struggle with hearts that are stubborn and disobedient. Take time today to reflect and confess your sins. Then, accept God’s gift of forgiveness and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to follow Him well.

**Pray with Us**

With a myriad of choices we face every day, Holy Spirit, open our eyes and ears to hear Moses’ call in today’s passage: “Choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God” (Deut. 30:19–20).

# Our Daily Bread – 3/27/25

# WHEN THEY DON'T SEE

A book cover with a drawing of a person climbing a rock

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**Read: 1 SAMUEL 8:1-9**

**Israel Asks for a King**

**8**When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel’s leaders.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20SAMUEL%208%3A1-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7371a)] **2**The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. **3**But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

**4**So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. **5**They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20SAMUEL%208%3A1-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7375b)] us, such as all the other nations have.”

**6**But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. **7**And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. **8**As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. **9**Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

**Footnotes**

1. [1 Samuel 8:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20SAMUEL%208%3A1-9&version=NIV#en-NIV-7371) Traditionally *judges*
2. [1 Samuel 8:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20SAMUEL%208%3A1-9&version=NIV#en-NIV-7375) Traditionally *judge*; also in verses 6 and 20

The LORD told [Samuel): " ... It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me." 1 SAMUEL8:7

Nunez tumbled down the mountain and into a valley where everyone was blind. A disease had robbed the original settlers of sight, and subsequent generations-all born blind-had adapted to life without being able to see. Nunez tried to explain what it was like to possess eyesight, but they weren't interested. Eventually, he found a passage through the mountain peaks that had prevented him from leaving the valley. He. was free! But from his vantage point he now saw that a rockslide was about to crush the blind dwellers below. He tried to warn them, but they ignored him.

This tale. by H. G. Wells, "The Country of the Blind," would likely resonate with the prophet Samuel. Toward the end of his life, his "sons did not follow his ways" in loving and serving God (l SAMUEL 8:3). Their spiritual blindness was mirrored by "the elders of Israel" (V. 4), who told Samuel to “give us a king" (V.6). They'd all turned their eyes from God and faith in Him. God told Samuel, "It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me" (V. 7).

It can hurt when those we care for reject God in spiritual blind ness. But there's hope even for those whom "the god of this age has blinded" (2 CORINTHIANS 4:4). Love them. Pray for them. The one who "made his light shine in our hearts" (v. 6) can do the same for them.

**TOMFELTEN**

**Reflect and Pray**

How does it encourage you to know that God sees those who can't see Him? Why Is there always hope for even the spiritually blind?

Loving God, please help me to pray for those who are blind to Your love and to trust You with them.

**INSIGHT**

God set the Israelites apart to be His chosen people. They were to obey HIS laws and not follow the practices and customs of the surrounding nations (LEVITICUS 18:1-5; 20:26). Four hundred years later, His people demanded a king to rule over them “such as all the other nations have" (1 SAMUEL 8:5; SEE V. 20). Samuel-who faithfully served

as Israel's judge, military leader, priest, and prophet for thirty-five years-was now old, and his sons were unfit to succeed him (V. 51. Faced with external threats, the Israelites wanted a human king to lead them to war. In so doing, they rejected God as their king *(v.* 7; 12:12). They asked Samuel to intercede for them, and he assured them of his prayers. He exhorted them to remain faithful to God-to obey His laws and to serve Him wholeheartedly because they were God's covenant people (12;14-15,20-24).

**K. T. SIM**

# God Calling – 3/27/25

# Go Forward

Rest in Me, quiet in My Love, strong in My Power. Think what it is to possess a Power greater than any earthly force. A sway greater and more far-reaching than that of any earthly king.

No invention, no electricity, no magnetism, no gold, could achieve one millionth part of all that you can achieve by the Power of My Spirit. Just think for one moment all that means.

Go forward. You are only beginning the new Life together. Joy, joy, joy.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." - Philippiams 4:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/28/25

# Isn’t There Some Misunderstanding?



Let us go into Judea. His disciples say unto Him . . . Goest Thou thither again? — [John 11:7-8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+11%3A7-8)

I may not understand what Jesus Christ says, but it is dangerous to say that therefore He was mistaken in what He said. It is never right to think that my obedience to a word of God will bring dishonour to Jesus. The only thing that will bring dishonour is not obeying Him. To put my view of His honour in place of what He is plainly impelling me to do is never right, although it may arise from a real desire to prevent Him being put to open shame. I know when the proposition comes from God because of its quiet persistence: When I have to weigh the pros and cons, and doubt and debate come in, I am bringing in an element that is not of God, and I come to the conclusion that the suggestion was not a right one. Many of us are loyal to our notions of Jesus Christ, but how many of us are loyal to Him? Loyalty to Jesus means I have to step out where I do not see anything (cf. Matt. 14:29); loyalty to my notions means that I clear the ground first by my intelligence. Faith is not intelligent understanding, faith is deliberate commitment to a Person where I see no way.

Are you debating whether to take a step in faith in Jesus or to wait until you can see how to do the thing yourself? Obey Him with glad reckless joy. When He says something and you begin to debate, it is because you have a conception of His honour which is not His honour. Are you loyal to Jesus or loyal to your notion of Him? Are you loyal to what He says, or are you trying to compromise with conceptions which never came from Him? "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The fiery furnaces are there by God’s direct permission. It is misleading to imagine that we are developed in spite of our circumstances; we are developed because of them. It is mastery in circumstances that is needed, not mastery over them. The Love of God—The Message of Invincible Consolation, 674 R

# CCEL – 3/28/25

**Be strong and of a good courage.**—[JOSH. 1:18.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Josh.1.html" \l "Josh.1.18)

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?—He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.—My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

If God be for us, who can be against us?—The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?—Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us.—We are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Arise therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with thee.

[Psa. 27:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.1). -[Isa. 40:29-31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.40.html" \l "Isa.40.29). -[Psa. 73:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.73.html" \l "Ps.73.26).[Rom. 8:31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.31). -[Psa. 118:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.118.html" \l "Ps.118.6). -[Psa. 44:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.44.html" \l "Ps.44.5). -[Rom. 8:37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.37).[I Chr. 22:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iChr.22.html" \l "iChr.22.16).

“The love of Christ which passeth knowledge.” [Ephesians 3:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.3.html" \l "Eph.3.19)

The love of Christ in its sweetness, its fulness, its greatness, its faithfulness, passeth all human comprehension. Where shall language be found which shall describe his matchless, his unparalleled love towards the children of men? It is so vast and boundless that, as the swallow but skimmeth the water, and diveth not into its depths, so all descriptive words but touch the surface, while depths immeasurable lie beneath. Well might the poet say,

“O love, thou fathomless abyss!”

for this love of Christ is indeed measureless and fathomless; none can attain unto it. Before we can have any right idea of the love of Jesus, we must understand his previous glory in its height of majesty, and his incarnation upon the earth in all its depths of shame. But who can tell us the majesty of Christ? When he was enthroned in the highest heavens he was very God of very God; by him were the heavens made, and all the hosts thereof. His own almighty arm upheld the spheres; the praises of cherubim and seraphim perpetually surrounded him; the full chorus of the hallelujahs of the universe unceasingly flowed to the foot of his throne: he reigned supreme above all his creatures, God over all, blessed forever. Who can tell his height of glory then? And who, on the other hand, can tell how low he descended? To be a man was something, to be a man of sorrows was far more; to bleed, and die, and suffer, these were much for him who was the Son of God; but to suffer such unparalleled agony—to endure a death of shame and desertion by his Father, this is a depth of condescending love which the most inspired mind must utterly fail to fathom. Herein is love! and truly it is love that “passeth knowledge.” O let this love fill our hearts with adoring gratitude, and lead us to practical manifestations of its power.

# Word Live – 3/28/25

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

# Scripture Union – 3/28/25

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

# Today in the Word – 3/28/25

# Leadership Transition

A tree with a sun shining through it

AI-generated content may be incorrect.[**Read Deuteronomy 31:1–30**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+31:1%e2%80%9330)

**Joshua to Succeed Moses**

31 Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: 2“I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’ 3The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said. 4And the Lord will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. 5The Lord will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. 6Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

7Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. 8The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

**Public Reading of the Law**

9So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. 10Then Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, 11when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. 12Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. 13Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

**Israel’s Rebellion Predicted**

14The Lord said to Moses, “Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him.” So Moses and Joshua came and presented themselves at the tent of meeting.

15Then the Lord appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the tent. 16And the Lord said to Moses: “You are going to rest with your ancestors, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them. 17And in that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and calamities will come on them, and in that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come on us because our God is not with us?’ 18And I will certainly hide my face in that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.

19“Now write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them. 20When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their ancestors, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant. 21And when many disasters and calamities come on them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath.” 22So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites.

23The Lord gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.”

24After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, 25he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord: 26“Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you. 27For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the Lord while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die! 28Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officials, so that I can speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to testify against them. 29For I know that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come, disaster will fall on you because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord and arouse his anger by what your hands have made.”

**The Song of Moses**

30And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you. [Deuteronomy 31:6](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.31.6)

Times of leadership transition for a nation are often fraught with uncertainty. This was especially true in the ancient world. Moses had led the nation of Israel for forty years through some of the most challenging and difficult circumstances. He had brought them to the brink of the Promised Land. Now it was time to pass the mantle of leadership to the next generation.

Two important truths would help Israel make this transition. First, Israel needed to recognize that their ultimate ruler was the Lord. Their success was not due to the greatness of their human leaders. Israel was redeemed from slavery in Egypt because of the Lord’s mighty hand. They were sustained through the wilderness by manna and water provided by the Lord. When they entered the land, the Lord would fight their battles (v. 5). Their ultimate hope did not rest in any human leader. This is a good reminder for us today as well.

The second truth Israel needed to embrace was that the Lord had given them the Law. They did not have to guess what the Lord required from them. The Law was God’s revelation. It was not secret knowledge but was to be read, meditated upon, and taught to the whole nation. Moses commanded the priests to read the entire law before the whole nation once every seven years (vv. 10–13). The reason was so that every generation would “learn to fear the LORD your God” (v. 13). Again, Israel did not have to trust in an expert military hero to remain in the land, but were called to carefully attend to God’s word. We too are called to follow and obey, knowing that the Lord is with us (v. 6; Matt. 28:20).

**Go Deeper**

Just as the priests would read through the entire Law, we are strengthened by reading God’s Word. How has the practice of Bible reading helped your walk with the Lord?

**Pray with Us**

Teach us, Father, how to carefully attend to Your every word, how to seek only Your face, and pursue Your presence in our lives. It’s a joy to know that You watch over us and fight our battles for us.

# Our Daily Bread – 3/28/25

# FOLLOWING GOD'S PLANS

A rock and water with text overlay

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: JAMES 4:13-17**

**Boasting About Tomorrow**

**13**Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” **14**Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. **15**Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” **16**As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. **17**If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that. JAMES 4:15

I was unable to focus on a work project because of anxiety; I was afraid that my plans for it wouldn't succeed. My anxiety came from pride. I believed my timeline and plans were best, so I wanted them to proceed unhindered. A question broke through

my thoughts, however: *Are your plans God's plans?*

The problem wasn't my planning-God calls us to be wise stewards of our time, opportunities, and. resources. The problem was my arrogance. I was fixated on *my* understanding of events and how I wanted them to turn out, not on God's purpose and how *He* wanted my plans to turn out

James encourages us to say, "If it is the lord's will, we will live and do this or that" (4:15). We're to plan not with a presumptuous mindset, thinking we know everything and have control over our life, but from a position of submission to God's sovereignty and wisdom. After all, we "do not even know what will happen tomorrow." In our humanness, we're helpless and weak, like "a mist that appears ... and then vanishes" (V. 14).

Only God has authority and power over everything in our lives; we don't. Through the Scriptures and the people, resources, and circumstances He allows each day, He guides us to live in submission to His will and ways. Our plans aren't to come from following ourselves but from following Him.

**KAREN HUANG**

**Reflect and Pray**

When you make plans apart from God's leading, what's the outcome? What plans can you submit to His authority?

Dear God, please help me to submit to You and to let go of my plans for my life and embrace Yours.

For further study, read When Fear Seems Overwhelming-Finding Courage and Hope at DiscoverODB.org.

**INSIGHT**

James, the half brother of Christ and leader of the church in Jerusalem (GALATIANS 1:19- 2:9), wrote to Jewish believers in Jesus living outside of Israel (JAMES 1:1). James deals with a church characterized by a rich-poor divide, with favoritism shown to the wealthy, and the rich exploiting the poor (2:1-10, 5:1-6). The rich espoused a worldly and materialistic outlook (4:4-17). James warns these arrogant and self-confident wealthy believers-who think they have the future securely in their hand-that they too are precariously subjected to the uncertainties, brevity, and the frailty of life *(v.* 14; S:1-3). Boasting and trusting in themselves is sin. Instead, James tells them to put their trust in God for their future (4:15-16) and to use their material wealth to do good and to help the poor (1:27). The apostle Paul gave a similar command to rich believers in 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

**K. T. SIM**

# God Calling – 3/28/25

# Evil Mountains

Faith and obedience will remove mountains, mountains of evil, mountains of difficulty.

But they must go hand in hand.

"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." -James 2:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/29/25

# Our Lord’s Surprise Visits



You also be ready… —[Luke 12:40](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+12%3A40)

A Christian worker’s greatest need is a readiness to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This is not easy, no matter what our experience has been. This battle is not against sin, difficulties, or circumstances, but against being so absorbed in our service to Jesus Christ that we are not ready to face Jesus Himself at every turn. The greatest need is not facing our beliefs or doctrines, or even facing the question of whether or not we are of any use to Him, but the need is to face Him.

Jesus rarely comes where we expect Him; He appears where we least expect Him, and always in the most illogical situations. The only way a servant can remain true to God is to be ready for the Lord’s surprise visits. This readiness will not be brought about by service, but through intense spiritual reality, expecting Jesus Christ at every turn. This sense of expectation will give our life the attitude of childlike wonder He wants it to have. If we are going to be ready for Jesus Christ, we have to stop being religious. In other words, we must stop using religion as if it were some kind of a lofty lifestyle— we must be spiritually real.

If you are avoiding the call of the religious thinking of today’s world, and instead are “looking unto Jesus” ([Hebrews 12:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+12:2)), setting your heart on what He wants, and thinking His thoughts, you will be considered impractical and a daydreamer. But when He suddenly appears in the work of the heat of the day, you will be the only one who is ready. You should trust no one, and even ignore the finest saint on earth if he blocks your sight of Jesus Christ.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

A fanatic is one who entrenches himself in invincible ignorance. Baffled to Fight Better, 59 R

# CCEL – 3/29/25

**Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**—[MATT. 25:34.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.34)

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.—Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?—Heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me.—God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.—There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.—He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

[Luke 12:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.12.html" \l "Luke.12.32). -[Jas. 2:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.2.html" \l "Jas.2.5). -[Rom. 8:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.17).[John 16:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.16.html" \l "John.16.27). -[Heb. 11:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.16).[Rev. 21:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.21.html" \l "Rev.21.7)-[II Tim. 4:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.4.html" \l "iiTim.4.8). -[Phi. 1:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.1.html" \l "Phil.1.6).

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.” [Hebrews 5:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.5.html" \l "Heb.5.8)

We are told that the Captain of our salvation was made perfect through suffering, therefore we who are sinful, and who are far from being perfect, must not wonder if we are called to pass through suffering too. Shall the head be crowned with thorns, and shall the other members of the body be rocked upon the dainty lap of ease? Must Christ pass through seas of his own blood to win the crown, and are we to walk to heaven dryshod in silver slippers? No, our Master’s experience teaches us that suffering is necessary, and the true-born child of God must not, would not, escape it if he might. But there is one very comforting thought in the fact of Christ’s “being made perfect through suffering”—it is, that he can have complete sympathy with us. “He is not an high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.” In this sympathy of Christ we find a sustaining power. One of the early martyrs said, “I can bear it all, for Jesus suffered, and he suffers in me now; he sympathizes with me, and this makes me strong.” Believer, lay hold of this thought in all times of agony. Let the thought of Jesus strengthen you as you follow in his steps. Find a sweet support in his sympathy; and remember that, to suffer is an honourable thing—to suffer for Christ is glory. The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to do this. Just so far as the Lord shall give us grace to suffer for Christ, to suffer with Christ, just so far does he honour us. The jewels of a Christian are his afflictions. The regalia of the kings whom God hath anointed are their troubles, their sorrows, and their griefs. Let us not, therefore, shun being honoured. Let us not turn aside from being exalted. Griefs exalt us, and troubles lift us up. “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.”

# Word Live – 3/29/25

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

# Scripture Union – 3/29/25

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

# Today in the Word – 3/29/25

# Worship in Song

A rocky beach with water and rocks

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[**Read Deuteronomy 32:1–47**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+32:1%e2%80%9347)

32 Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;  
    hear, you earth, the words of my mouth.  
2Let my teaching fall like rain  
    and my words descend like dew,  
like showers on new grass,  
    like abundant rain on tender plants.

3I will proclaim the name of the Lord.  
    Oh, praise the greatness of our God!  
4He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
    and all his ways are just.  
A faithful God who does no wrong,  
    upright and just is he.

5They are corrupt and not his children;  
    to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation.  
6Is this the way you repay the Lord,  
    you foolish and unwise people?  
Is he not your Father, your Creator,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5765a)]  
    who made you and formed you?

7Remember the days of old;  
    consider the generations long past.  
Ask your father and he will tell you,  
    your elders, and they will explain to you.  
8When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,  
    when he divided all mankind,  
he set up boundaries for the peoples  
    according to the number of the sons of Israel.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5767b)]  
9For the Lord’s portion is his people,  
    Jacob his allotted inheritance.

10In a desert land he found him,  
    in a barren and howling waste.  
He shielded him and cared for him;  
    he guarded him as the apple of his eye,  
11like an eagle that stirs up its nest  
    and hovers over its young,  
that spreads its wings to catch them  
    and carries them aloft.  
12The Lord alone led him;  
    no foreign god was with him.

13He made him ride on the heights of the land  
    and fed him with the fruit of the fields.  
He nourished him with honey from the rock,  
    and with oil from the flinty crag,  
14with curds and milk from herd and flock  
    and with fattened lambs and goats,  
with choice rams of Bashan  
    and the finest kernels of wheat.  
You drank the foaming blood of the grape.

15Jeshurun[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5774c)] grew fat and kicked;  
    filled with food, they became heavy and sleek.  
They abandoned the God who made them  
    and rejected the Rock their Savior.  
16They made him jealous with their foreign gods  
    and angered him with their detestable idols.  
17They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—  
    gods they had not known,  
    gods that recently appeared,  
    gods your ancestors did not fear.  
18You deserted the Rock, who fathered you;  
    you forgot the God who gave you birth.

19The Lord saw this and rejected them  
    because he was angered by his sons and daughters.  
20“I will hide my face from them,” he said,  
    “and see what their end will be;  
for they are a perverse generation,  
    children who are unfaithful.  
21They made me jealous by what is no god  
    and angered me with their worthless idols.  
I will make them envious by those who are not a people;  
    I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.  
22For a fire will be kindled by my wrath,  
    one that burns down to the realm of the dead below.  
It will devour the earth and its harvests  
    and set afire the foundations of the mountains.

23“I will heap calamities on them  
    and spend my arrows against them.  
24I will send wasting famine against them,  
    consuming pestilence and deadly plague;  
I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts,  
    the venom of vipers that glide in the dust.  
25In the street the sword will make them childless;  
    in their homes terror will reign.  
The young men and young women will perish,  
    the infants and those with gray hair.  
26I said I would scatter them  
    and erase their name from human memory,  
27but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy,  
    lest the adversary misunderstand  
and say, ‘Our hand has triumphed;  
    the Lord has not done all this.’”

28They are a nation without sense,  
    there is no discernment in them.  
29If only they were wise and would understand this  
    and discern what their end will be!  
30How could one man chase a thousand,  
    or two put ten thousand to flight,  
unless their Rock had sold them,  
    unless the Lord had given them up?  
31For their rock is not like our Rock,  
    as even our enemies concede.  
32Their vine comes from the vine of Sodom  
    and from the fields of Gomorrah.  
Their grapes are filled with poison,  
    and their clusters with bitterness.  
33Their wine is the venom of serpents,  
    the deadly poison of cobras.

34“Have I not kept this in reserve  
    and sealed it in my vaults?  
35It is mine to avenge; I will repay.  
    In due time their foot will slip;  
their day of disaster is near  
    and their doom rushes upon them.”

36The Lord will vindicate his people  
    and relent concerning his servants  
when he sees their strength is gone  
    and no one is left, slave or free.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5795d)]  
37He will say: “Now where are their gods,  
    the rock they took refuge in,  
38the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices  
    and drank the wine of their drink offerings?  
Let them rise up to help you!  
    Let them give you shelter!

39“See now that I myself am he!  
    There is no god besides me.  
I put to death and I bring to life,  
    I have wounded and I will heal,  
    and no one can deliver out of my hand.  
40I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear:  
    As surely as I live forever,  
41when I sharpen my flashing sword  
    and my hand grasps it in judgment,  
I will take vengeance on my adversaries  
    and repay those who hate me.  
42I will make my arrows drunk with blood,  
    while my sword devours flesh:  
the blood of the slain and the captives,  
    the heads of the enemy leaders.”

43Rejoice, you nations, with his people,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5802e)][[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5802f)]  
    for he will avenge the blood of his servants;  
he will take vengeance on his enemies  
    and make atonement for his land and people.

44Moses came with Joshua[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5803g)] son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. 45When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, 46he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

**Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 32:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5765) Or *Father, who bought you*
2. [Deuteronomy 32:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5767) Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint) *sons of God*
3. [Deuteronomy 32:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5774) *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, that is, Israel.
4. [Deuteronomy 32:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5795) Or *and they are without a ruler or leader*
5. [Deuteronomy 32:43](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5802) Or *Make his people rejoice, you nations*
6. [Deuteronomy 32:43](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5802) Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint) *people, / and let all the angels worship him, /*
7. [Deuteronomy 32:44](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032%3A1%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-5803) Hebrew *Hoshea*, a variant of *Joshua*

He is the Rock, his works are perfect, all his ways are just.[Deuteronomy 32:4](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.32.4)

When my children were young, my wife taught them a song called “The Perfect Ten.” The lyrics were a paraphrase of the Ten Commandments. If I asked my college-age daughter to list the Ten Commandments, she references this song. Music helps us remember!

In Deuteronomy 32, Moses taught Israel a song designed to help them remember the message of the book. Moses intended for families in Israel to teach this song to their children (vv. 45–46). The song would be a constant reminder of who God is, His saving acts, and the consequences of rebelling against Him.

The song celebrates the greatness of God. It lists His names: Yahweh (v. 3), the Rock (vv. 4, 15, 18, 30, 31), Father (v. 6), Creator (v. 6), and the Most High (v. 8). Moses also highlights many of God’s attributes. He is faithful, perfect, just and upright (v. 4), passionate (v. 21), and compassionate (v. 36). Moses reminded Israel of all God had done for them: He chose them (v. 9), rescued and cared for them in the desert (v. 20), saved them (v. 15), and delivered them from their enemies (vv. 26–42).

Moses also provides a sober assessment of the human condition. Israel abandoned and rejected God (v. 15), made Him jealous by worshiping idols (vv. 16–17), and they forgot God (v. 18). This betrayal would lead to judgment and exile. Yet, God would not forget them even in their rebellion. The final line proclaims that God will “make atonement for his land and people” (v. 43).

We, too, can celebrate how God has provided atonement for sin in Christ (Heb. 7:27). We have “been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb. 10:10). Perhaps we should spend some time singing praise in response today.

**Go Deeper**

What is your favorite praise song or hymn? Read or sing the lyrics today as you remember Whom you serve and all He has done for you!

**Pray with Us**

Today, we join Moses’ song in Deuteronomy 32, which he teaches to the next generation, including ours. Lord, give us new praise songs, which we, too, can teach our children. May we all worship You in an unending hymn!

# Our Daily Bread – 3/29/25

# GOD NEVER LOSES US

A group of people standing in a room with luggage

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**Read: DEUTERONOMY 31:1-6**

**Joshua to Succeed Moses**

**31**Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: **2**“I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’ **3**The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said. **4**And the Lord will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. **5**The Lord will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. **6**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

[God) will never leave you nor forsake you. DEUTERONOMY 31:6

The US Department of Transportation reported that in 2021, US airlines mishandled two million bags. Thankfully, many pieces were delayed or lost for only a short period. Thousands of bags were lost for good, however. No wonder there's a surging market for GPS devices that attach to gear, allowing you to track bags when airlines have given up. We're all afraid that those in charge can't be trusted to keep track of what's important.

Israel had a similar fear about God, only they feared that He was going to lose them. As the people prepared to enter their new homeland, Moses shared the unsettling news that he wouldn't be guiding them. He explained that he was old and "no longer able

to lead [them)" (DEUTERONOMY 31:2). The people were likely stunned. Moses represented God's presence and offered His words. Would God forget about them now? Would He lose them in this wilderness?

"Do not be afraid or terrified," Moses said, "for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (v. 6). He promised that God would always be with them and assured them that He'd never ever lose them. And in the person of Jesus, God makes us this same steady, unbreakable promise. Christ will be with us "to the very end of the age" (MATTHEW 28:20). God will never lose us. *Never.*

**WINN COLLIER**

**Reflect and Pray**

When have you feared God had lost you? How has He shown you that He never forgets you?

Dear God. I often fear that I'm out of Your sight and mind. Please help me to trust that You hold me and will never lose me.

**INSIGHT**

Echoes from Moses' writings in Deuteronomy 31 can be heard in Psalm 27. Though the genre is different, God, through these inspired writers, calls His people to place their confidence in His care during times of uncertainty. Moses wrote, "Be strong and courageous" (DEUTERONOMY 31:6). The same combination of Hebrew words appears In Psalm 27:14: "Be strong and take heart." Moses commanded "Do not be afraid or terrified because of them" (DEUTERONOMY 31 :6) and David said, "The LORD is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life-of whom shall I be afraid?" (PSALM 27:1). The assurance of God's presence is likewise expressed by these writers. In the words of Moses, "He will never leave you nor forsake you" (DEUTERONOMY 31 :6, 8). From the pen of David we're assured, "Even if my father and mother abandon me the LORD will hold me close" (PSALM 27:10 NLT).

**ARTHUR JACKSON**

# God Calling – 3/29/25

# A Life Apart

I reward your seeking with My Presence. Rejoice and be glad. I am your God. Courage and joy will conquer all troubles. First things first.

Seek Me, love Me, joy in Me. I am your Guide. No perils can affright you, no discipline exhaust you. Persevere. Can you hold on in My strength? I need you more than you need Me. Struggle through this time for My sake. Initiation precedes all real work and success for Me.

Are you ready to live a life apart? Apart with Me? In the world and yet apart with Me? Going forth from your secret times of communion to rescue and save?

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. - Jeremiah 29:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/30/25

# Holiness or Hardness Toward God?



He…wondered that there was no intercessor… —[Isaiah 59:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Isaiah+59%3A16)

The reason many of us stop praying and become hard toward God is that we only have an emotional interest in prayer. It sounds good to say that we pray, and we read books on prayer which tell us that prayer is beneficial— that our minds are quieted and our souls are uplifted when we pray. But Isaiah implied in this verse that God is amazed at such thoughts about prayer.

Worship and intercession must go together; one is impossible without the other. Intercession means raising ourselves up to the point of getting the mind of Christ regarding the person for whom we are praying (see [Philippians 2:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2:5)). Instead of worshiping God, we recite speeches to God about how prayer is supposed to work. Are we worshiping God or disputing Him when we say, “But God, I just don’t see how you are going to do this”? This is a sure sign that we are not worshiping. When we lose sight of God, we become hard and dogmatic. We throw our petitions at His throne and dictate to Him what we want Him to do. We don’t worship God, nor do we seek to conform our minds to the mind of Christ. And if we are hard toward God, we will become hard toward other people.

Are we worshiping God in a way that will raise us up to where we can take hold of Him, having such intimate contact with Him that we know His mind about the ones for whom we pray? Are we living in a holy relationship with God, or have we become hard and dogmatic?

Do you find yourself thinking that there is no one interceding properly? Then be that person yourself. Be a person who worships God and lives in a holy relationship with Him. Get involved in the real work of intercession, remembering that it truly is work— work that demands all your energy, but work which has no hidden pitfalls. Preaching the gospel has its share of pitfalls, but intercessory prayer has none whatsoever.

**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 – 3/30/25

**Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide.**—[GEN. 24:63.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.24.html" \l "Gen.24.63)

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?—The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.—This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.—My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

[Psa. 19:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.19.html" \l "Ps.19.14).[Psa. 8:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.8.html" \l "Ps.8.3). -[Psa. 111:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.111.html" \l "Ps.111.2).[Psa. 1:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.1.html" \l "Ps.1.1). -[Josh. 1:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Josh.1.html" \l "Josh.1.8). -[Psa. 63:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.63.html" \l "Ps.63.5).

“He was numbered with the transgressors.” [Isaiah 53:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.12)

Why did Jesus suffer himself to be enrolled amongst sinners? This wonderful condescension was justified by many powerful reasons. In such a character he could the better become their advocate. In some trials there is an identification of the counsellor with the client, nor can they be looked upon in the eye of the law as apart from one another. Now, when the sinner is brought to the bar, Jesus appears there himself. He stands to answer the accusation. He points to his side, his hands, his feet, and challenges Justice to bring anything against the sinners whom he represents; he pleads his blood, and pleads so triumphantly, being numbered with them and having a part with them, that the Judge proclaims, “Let them go their way; deliver them from going down into the pit, for he hath found a ransom.” Our Lord Jesus was numbered with the transgressors in order that they might feel their hearts drawn towards him. Who can be afraid of one who is written in the same list with us? Surely we may come boldly to him, and confess our guilt. He who is numbered with us cannot condemn us. Was he not put down in the transgressor’s list that we might be written in the red roll of the saints? He was holy, and written among the holy; we were guilty, and numbered among the guilty; he transfers his name from yonder list to this black indictment, and our names are taken from the indictment and written in the roll of acceptance, for there is a complete transfer made between Jesus and his people. All our estate of misery and sin Jesus has taken; and all that Jesus has comes to us. His righteousness, his blood, and everything that he hath he gives us as our dowry. Rejoice, believer, in your union to him who was numbered among the transgressors; and prove that you are truly saved by being manifestly numbered with those who are new creatures in him.

# Word Live – 3/30/25

[**https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/**](https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/)

# Scripture Union – 3/30/25

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

# Today in the Word – 3/30/25

# A Final Blessing

A silver shield with words

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[**Read Deuteronomy 33:1–29**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+33:1%e2%80%9329)

**Moses Blesses the Tribes**

33 This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death. 2He said:

“The Lord came from Sinai  
    and dawned over them from Seir;  
    he shone forth from Mount Paran.  
He came with[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5813a)] myriads of holy ones  
    from the south, from his mountain slopes.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5813b)]  
3Surely it is you who love the people;  
    all the holy ones are in your hand.  
At your feet they all bow down,  
    and from you receive instruction,  
4the law that Moses gave us,  
    the possession of the assembly of Jacob.  
5He was king over Jeshurun[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5816c)]  
    when the leaders of the people assembled,  
    along with the tribes of Israel.

6“Let Reuben live and not die,  
    nor[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5817d)] his people be few.”

7And this he said about Judah:

“Hear, Lord, the cry of Judah;  
    bring him to his people.  
With his own hands he defends his cause.  
    Oh, be his help against his foes!”

8About Levi he said:

“Your Thummim and Urim belong  
    to your faithful servant.  
You tested him at Massah;  
    you contended with him at the waters of Meribah.  
9He said of his father and mother,  
    ‘I have no regard for them.’  
He did not recognize his brothers  
    or acknowledge his own children,  
but he watched over your word  
    and guarded your covenant.  
10He teaches your precepts to Jacob  
    and your law to Israel.  
He offers incense before you  
    and whole burnt offerings on your altar.  
11Bless all his skills, Lord,  
    and be pleased with the work of his hands.  
Strike down those who rise against him,  
    his foes till they rise no more.”

12About Benjamin he said:

“Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him,  
    for he shields him all day long,  
    and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders.”

13About Joseph he said:

“May the Lord bless his land  
    with the precious dew from heaven above  
    and with the deep waters that lie below;  
14with the best the sun brings forth  
    and the finest the moon can yield;  
15with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains  
    and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills;  
16with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness  
    and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush.  
Let all these rest on the head of Joseph,  
    on the brow of the prince among[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5827e)] his brothers.  
17In majesty he is like a firstborn bull;  
    his horns are the horns of a wild ox.  
With them he will gore the nations,  
    even those at the ends of the earth.  
Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim;  
    such are the thousands of Manasseh.”

18About Zebulun he said:

“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out,  
    and you, Issachar, in your tents.  
19They will summon peoples to the mountain  
    and there offer the sacrifices of the righteous;  
they will feast on the abundance of the seas,  
    on the treasures hidden in the sand.”

20About Gad he said:

“Blessed is he who enlarges Gad’s domain!  
    Gad lives there like a lion,  
    tearing at arm or head.  
21He chose the best land for himself;  
    the leader’s portion was kept for him.  
When the heads of the people assembled,  
    he carried out the Lord’s righteous will,  
    and his judgments concerning Israel.”

22About Dan he said:

“Dan is a lion’s cub,  
    springing out of Bashan.”

23About Naphtali he said:

“Naphtali is abounding with the favor of the Lord  
    and is full of his blessing;  
    he will inherit southward to the lake.”

24About Asher he said:

“Most blessed of sons is Asher;  
    let him be favored by his brothers,  
    and let him bathe his feet in oil.  
25The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze,  
    and your strength will equal your days.

26“There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,  
    who rides across the heavens to help you  
    and on the clouds in his majesty.  
27The eternal God is your refuge,  
    and underneath are the everlasting arms.  
He will drive out your enemies before you,  
    saying, ‘Destroy them!’  
28So Israel will live in safety;  
    Jacob will dwell[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5839f)] secure  
in a land of grain and new wine,  
    where the heavens drop dew.  
29Blessed are you, Israel!  
    Who is like you,  
    a people saved by the Lord?  
He is your shield and helper  
    and your glorious sword.  
Your enemies will cower before you,  
    and you will tread on their heights.”

**Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 33:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-5813) Or *from*
2. [Deuteronomy 33:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-5813) The meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.
3. [Deuteronomy 33:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-5816) *Jeshurun* means *the upright one,* that is, Israel; also in verse 26.
4. [Deuteronomy 33:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-5817) Or *but let*
5. [Deuteronomy 33:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-5827) Or *of the one separated from*
6. [Deuteronomy 33:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2033%3A1%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-5839) Septuagint; Hebrew *Jacob’s spring is*

Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. [Deuteronomy 33:29](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.33.29)

Leaders often struggle to finish well. Approaching the end of their career, some focus on ensuring their legacy, so they are not forgotten. Others cling to their power and position longer than they should. Some fail to provide a succession plan for fear of being pushed out early.

As Moses approached the end of his time as leader, he did not focus on making a name for himself. Instead, he reminded Israel of their covenant commitments and appointed a successor. Today’s reading includes Moses’ final words to the people of Israel. Just as church services often end with a benediction, Moses prays a parting blessing over the people he has journeyed with for the last forty years (v. 1).

Taking the time to address each tribe separately, Moses prays they will experience the blessings of the covenant. As we know from earlier in the book, this will happen as Israel is faithful to uphold their covenant commitment (Deut. 32:46–47). Most importantly, Moses reminds them that their most treasured possession is the presence of God in their midst. The Lord revealed Himself to them because He loves them (v. 3). He concludes by reminding Israel they are already blessed because of what the Lord has done for them: “Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD?” (v. 29).

Today, we experience God’s presence in an even more profound way through Jesus. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Like Moses, Jesus reminds us that blessing comes with obedience (John 15:10). He wants us to experience God’s presence in and with us—“apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

**Go Deeper**

How did Moses model strong leadership? How can we implement those qualities in our homes, workplaces or communities?

**Pray with Us**

Lord God, thank You for bringing to us, through the centuries, the words of Moses: Your presence with us is indeed our most treasured possession. Thank You for Your Son who came to dwell with us forever!

# Our Daily Bread – 3/30/25

# BEAUTY FROM INFIRMITY

A painting of a couple of people

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: GALATIANS 4:13-15**

13As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, 14and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. 15Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.

As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. GALATIANS 4:13

The artist Degas suffered retina disease for the last fifty years of his life, switching from paint to pastel because the chalk lines were easier to see. Renoir had to have brushes placed between his fingers when arthritis made them clench like claws. And when surgery left Matisse immobile, he turned to collage, directing assistants to attach colored pieces of paper to a larger sheet on the wall. What followed in each case was a creative breakthrough: Degas' *Blue Dancers,* Renoir's *Girls* at *the Piano,* Matisse's *The Sorrows of the King,* and other masterpieces. By adapting to their trial, beauty emerged from their infirmity.

In a similar way, Paul wasn't planning to visit Galatia during his early missionary journeys. An illness forced him there (GALATIANS 4:13). Apparently, Paul sought a different climate, wound up in Galatia and, even though he was ill, started preaching. Ironically, the Holy

Spirit performed miracles through him (3:2-5) and the Galatian church was born. This surprising outcome may never have happened without Paul's illness.

What trial have you faced, and how did it change the direction of your life? By refocusing your gifts, you too may see God bring beauty out of your infirmity.

**SHERIDAN VOYSEY**

**Reflect and Pray**

How have you seen God turn illness and other trials into opportunities for service? How are both Paul and those artists examples to follow in times of trial?

Dear God, You are genius at bringing beauty out of infirmity. Here are my trials and my talents.

**INSIGHT**

Christianity was birthed from Judaism. As more and more gentiles became believers in Jesus, the role of Judaism in the Christian faith became an issue. Judaizers, a group of Jewish teachers, taught that believers in Jesus must convert to Judaism and be circumcised to be saved (GALATIANS 5:2-6; 6:12). Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians to counter and condemn this false gospel (1:8-9 ) reminding them that “aperson is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ." He said, "No one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law" (2:16 NLT) because "the righteous will live by faith" (3:11). Paul makes a personal appeal, reminding them how they had lovingly welcomed him and embraced his teachings fully when he had first brought the gospel to them (4:13-14). The apostle warns them of the evil intentions of these false teachers in drawing them away from the true gospel (v. 17).

**K. T. SIM**

# God Calling – 3/30/25

# Deliverance

Be calm, be true, be quiet. I watch over you.

Rest in My Love. Joy in the very Beauty of Holiness. You are Mine. Deliverance is here for you, but Thankfulness and Joy open the gates.

Try in all things to be very glad, very happy, very thankful. It is not to quiet resignation I give My blessings, but to joyful acceptance and anticipation.

Laughter is the outward expression of joy. That is why I urge upon you Love and Laughter.

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations." - 2 Peter 2:9

# My Utmost for His Highest – 3/31/25

# Heedfulness or Hypocrisy in Ourselves?

# Heedfulness or Hypocrisy in Ourselves?

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. —[1 John 5:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+John+5%3A16)

If we are not heedful and pay no attention to the way the Spirit of God works in us, we will become spiritual hypocrites. We see where other people are failing, and then we take our discernment and turn it into comments of ridicule and criticism, instead of turning it into intercession on their behalf. God reveals this truth about others to us not through the sharpness of our minds but through the direct penetration of His Spirit. If we are not attentive, we will be completely unaware of the source of the discernment God has given us, becoming critical of others and forgetting that God says, “…he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death.” Be careful that you don’t become a hypocrite by spending all your time trying to get others right with God before you worship Him yourself.

One of the most subtle and illusive burdens God ever places on us as saints is this burden of discernment concerning others. He gives us discernment so that we may accept the responsibility for those souls before Him and form the mind of Christ about them (see [Philippians 2:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2:5)). We should intercede in accordance with what God says He will give us, namely, “life for those who commit sin not leading to death.” It is not that we are able to bring God into contact with our minds, but that we awaken ourselves to the point where God is able to convey His mind to us regarding the people for whom we intercede.

Can Jesus Christ see the agony of His soul in us? He can’t unless we are so closely identified with Him that we have His view concerning the people for whom we pray. May we learn to intercede so wholeheartedly that Jesus Christ will be completely and overwhelmingly satisfied with us as intercessors.

**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 – 3/31/25

**My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**—[PHIL. 4:19.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.4.html" \l "Phil.4.19)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all … things shall be added unto you.—He that spared not his Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?

All things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.—As having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.—The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly.—The living God, … giveth us richly all things to enjoy.—God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

[Matt. 6:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.6.html" \l "Matt.6.33). -[Rom. 8:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html#Rom.8.32). -[I Cor. 3:21-23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.3.html" \l "iCor.3.21). -[II Cor. 6:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html#iiCor.6.10).[Psa. 23:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.23.html" \l "Ps.23.1). -[Psa. 84:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.84.html" \l "Ps.84.11). -[I Tim. 6:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.6.html" \l "iTim.6.17). -[II Cor. 9:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.9.html#iiCor.9.8).

“With his stripes we are healed.” **[Isaiah 53:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.5)**

Pilate delivered our Lord to the lictors to be scourged. The Roman scourge was a most dreadful instrument of torture. It was made of the sinews of oxen, and sharp bones were inter-twisted every here and there among the sinews; so that every time the lash came down these pieces of bone inflicted fearful laceration, and tore off the flesh from the bone. The Saviour was, no doubt, bound to the column, and thus beaten. He had been beaten before; but this of the Roman lictors was probably the most severe of his flagellations. My soul, stand here and weep over his poor stricken body.

Believer in Jesus, can you gaze upon him without tears, as he stands before you the mirror of agonizing love? He is at once fair as the lily for innocence, and red as the rose with the crimson of his own blood. As we feel the sure and blessed healing which his stripes have wrought in us, does not our heart melt at once with love and grief? If ever we have loved our Lord Jesus, surely we must feel that affection glowing now within our bosoms.

“See how the patient Jesus stands,

Insulted in his lowest case!

Sinners have bound the Almighty’s hands,

And spit in their Creator’s face.

With thorns his temples gor'd and gash'd

Send streams of blood from every part;

His back’s with knotted scourges lash'd.

But sharper scourges tear his heart.”

We would fain go to our chambers and weep; but since our business calls us away, we will first pray our Beloved to print the image of his bleeding self upon the tablets of our hearts all the day, and at nightfall we will return to commune with him, and sorrow that our sin should have cost him so dear.

# Word Live – 3/31/25

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

# Scripture Union – 3/31/25

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

# Today in the Word – 3/31/25

# A View of the Promised Land

A person standing on a mountain

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[**Read Deuteronomy 34:1–12**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Deuteronomy+34:1%e2%80%9312)

**The Death of Moses**

34 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, 2all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, 3the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. 4Then the Lord said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

5And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. 6He buried him[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2034%3A1%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5846a)] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. 7Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. 8The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

9Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2034%3A1%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5849b)] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

10Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, 11who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. 12For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

**Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 34:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2034%3A1%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#en-NIV-5846) Or *He was buried*
2. [Deuteronomy 34:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2034%3A1%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#en-NIV-5849) Or *Spirit*

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. [Deuteronomy 34:10](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Deut.34.10)

Johann Sebastian Bach is one of the greatest composers of all time. While he was regionally famous as an organist and technician in his lifetime, he was not well known for his work as a composer. But about one hundred years later, his music was rediscovered by Felix Mendelssohn. After this, Bach achieved worldwide fame and acclamation.

Moses’ life goal since he met God at the burning bush had been to lead Israel to the Promised Land. He had spent forty years wandering in the desert and led the people right to the cusp of a land that he would never get to experience himself. As an act of grace, God allowed Moses to glimpse the Promised Land before his death (v. 4).

In some ways, much of the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) can be viewed as a biography of Moses. We are first introduced to him in the account of his miraculous deliverance at birth (Exodus 2). He has been the main human character throughout the rest of Exodus–Deuteronomy. We have seen him learn and grow into his role. As D. L. Moody memorably put it, “Moses spent forty years thinking he was a somebody; forty years learning he was a nobody, and forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody.” Certainly, after he killed an Egyptian and fled for his life, it did not look like he would amount to much (Ex. 2:11–24). Yet, God called him to lead His people out of Egypt.

Throughout it all, Moses was a faithful servant (v. 5). He was not perfect, but he led Israel, revealed the Law, and pointed people away from himself and to the Lord. His life pointed beyond himself to a future Prophet and Redeemer who would do for Israel and the rest of the world what Moses could not—provide forgiveness of sin and new life in the Spirit (Acts 7:37).

**Go Deeper**

What can we learn from the life of Moses? What are your key takeaways from the book of Deuteronomy?

**Pray with Us**

Thank You, Father, for the lessons we’ve learned this month from the book of Deuteronomy about love, obedience, faith, justice. Thank You for the freedom we have in Christ—“not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).

# Our Daily Bread – 3/31/25

# JUST RIGHT FOR JESUS

A person with arms outstretched in a field

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**Read: 1 TIMOTHY 1:11-17**

11that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

**The Lord’s Grace to Paul**

12I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst. 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

Eric's childhood challenges included a severe skin rash, difficulties in school, and getting high on alcohol or drugs daily from a very early age. Yet the one who dubbed himself as the "king of bad" found that he excelled on the baseball field-until he abandoned baseball after becoming discouraged by discrimination. This allowed him even more time for using and dealing drugs.

Things changed for Eric, however, when he had a life-altering encounter with Jesus while attending a church service. At his job the next day, a dedicated believer in Jesus invited Eric to attend yet another church service, where he heard these words that encouraged him in his newfound faith: “Ifany man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 KJV). Eric's life has never been the same.

Like Eric, Saul of Tarsus (also known as Paul) would've been classified as a "tough case." He said, "I am the worst of sinners” (1 TlMOTHY1:16). He was “oncea blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man” (V.13). Like Saul, Eric was just right for Jesus. And so are we, even if we don't view ourselves in the same league as Saul or Eric, for "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (ROMAN 3:23). We're all just right for Jesus.

**ARTHUR JACKSON**

**Reflect and Pray**

How do Eric and Saul's stories help you to see God as a forgiving God? What does It mean for you to be just right for Jesus?

Dear God in heaven, please help me to see that the blood of Jesus cleanses from "big'" and "little” sins.

**INSIGHT**

The apostle Paul (Saul) was there at the very beginning of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-4), but at the time, he held no love or loyalty for Jesus and His people. Instead, he approved of the murder of Stephen, a leader in the new church (6:1-6; 7:57-8:1) and then actively hunted down believers in Christ in Jerusalem and "put them in prison'" (.8.3). He requested letters to travel around the area with the full intention of murdering any believer he could get his hands on or-at the very least-imprisoning them (9:1-2). It's that very violence-something Paul thought he was doing in the name of God-that the apostle said made him the worst of sinners" (1 TIMOTHY 1:16). Jesus took a violent, angry man and turned him into someone who would lay down his own life for the salvation of the very people he once sought to murder (ROMANS 9:3).

**JED OSTOICH**

# God Calling – 3/31/25

# Love's Offering

I am your Lord, gracious and loving. Rest in My Love, walk in My ways. Each week is a week of progress, steady progress upward. You may not see it, but I do.

I judge not by outward appearances, I judge the heart, and I see in both your hearts one single desire, to do My Will. The simplest offering by a child brought or done with the one desire to give you pleasure, or to show you love, is it not more loved by you than the offerings of those who love you not?

So, though you may feel that your work has been spoiled and tarnished, I see it only as Love's offering. Courage, My children.

When climbing a steep hill, a man is often more conscious of the weakness of his stumbling feet than of the view, the grandeur, or even of his upward progress.

Persevere, persevere. Love and laugh. Rejoice.

"The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7