# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/6/20

# The Collision of God and Sin



…who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree… —[1 Peter 2:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Peter+2%3A24)

The Cross of Christ is the revealed truth of God’s judgment on sin. Never associate the idea of martyrdom with the Cross of Christ. It was the supreme triumph, and it shook the very foundations of hell. There is nothing in time or eternity more absolutely certain and irrefutable than what Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross— He made it possible for the entire human race to be brought back into a right-standing relationship with God. He made redemption the foundation of human life; that is, He made a way for every person to have fellowship with God.

The Cross was not something that happened to Jesus— He came to die; the Cross was His purpose in coming. He is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” ([Revelation 13:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+13:8)). The incarnation of Christ would have no meaning without the Cross. Beware of separating “God was manifested in the flesh…” from “…He made Him…to be sin for us…” ([1 Timothy 3:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3:16) ; [2 Corinthians 5:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5:21)). The purpose of the incarnation was redemption. God came in the flesh to take sin away, not to accomplish something for Himself. The Cross is the central event in time and eternity, and the answer to all the problems of both.

The Cross is not the cross of a man, but the Cross of God, and it can never be fully comprehended through human experience. The Cross is God exhibiting His nature. It is the gate through which any and every individual can enter into oneness with God. But it is not a gate we pass right through; it is one where we abide in the life that is found there.

The heart of salvation is the Cross of Christ. The reason salvation is so easy to obtain is that it cost God so much. The Cross was the place where God and sinful man merged with a tremendous collision and where the way to life was opened. But all the cost and pain of the collision was absorbed by the heart of God.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We can understand the attributes of God in other ways, but we can only understand the Father’s heart in the Cross of Christ.  The Highest Good—Thy Great Redemption, 558 L

# CCEL – 4/6/20

He ever liveth to make intercession.—[HEB. 7:25.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.7.html" \l "Heb.7.25)

Who is he that condemneth? it is Christ that died . . . who also maketh intercession for us.—Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.—There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Seeing . . . that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.—Through him we . . . have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

[Rom. 8:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.34). -[Heb. 9:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.9.html" \l "Heb.9.24).[I John 2:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.1). -[I Tim. 2:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.2.html" \l "iTim.2.5).[Heb. 4:14-16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.14). -[Eph. 2:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.18).

“Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp.” [Hebrews 13:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.13)

Jesus, bearing his cross, went forth to suffer without the gate. The Christian’s reason for leaving the camp of the world’s sin and religion is not because he loves to be singular, but because Jesus did so; and the disciple must follow his Master. Christ was “not of the world:” his life and his testimony were a constant protest against conformity with the world. Never was such overflowing affection for men as you find in him; but still he was separate from sinners. In like manner Christ’s people must “go forth unto him.” They must take their position “without the camp,” as witness-bearers for the truth. They must be prepared to tread the straight and narrow path. They must have bold, unflinching, lion-like hearts, loving Christ first, and his truth next, and Christ and his truth beyond all the world. Jesus would have his people “go forth without the camp” for their own sanctification. You cannot grow in grace to any high degree while you are conformed to the world. The life of separation may be a path of sorrow, but it is the highway of safety; and though the separated life may cost you many pangs, and make every day a battle, yet it is a happy life after all. No joy can excel that of the soldier of Christ: Jesus reveals himself so graciously, and gives such sweet refreshment, that the warrior feels more calm and peace in his daily strife than others in their hours of rest. The highway of holiness is the highway of communion. It is thus we shall hope to win the crown if we are enabled by divine grace faithfully to follow Christ “without the camp.” The crown of glory will follow the cross of separation. A moment’s shame will be well recompensed by eternal honour; a little while of witness-bearing will seem nothing when we are “forever with the Lord.”

# Word Live – 4/6/20

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# Scripture Union – 4/6/20

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# Today in the Word – 4/6/20

# Jesus Prays for Us

**Read:** [**John 17:20–26**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3a20%e2%80%9326)

### **Jesus Prays for All Believers**

20“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26I have made you[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3a20%e2%80%9326#fen-NIV-26786a)] known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [John 17:26](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3a20%e2%80%9326#en-NIV-26786) Greek your name

There is an old fable about a man who, at the hour of his death, gathered his sons around him. He gave them a bunch of sticks, tied into a bundle, and asked the oldest son to try and break them. The son struggled to break the sticks in half, but failed. One by one his brothers failed as well. Then the father untied the bundle and handed them each one stick, asking them to break it. Easily they snapped the limbs in half. The moral of this lesson? In unity is strength.

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one. John 17:20–21

In today’s prayer, Jesus prayed for the unity of believers. It is hard to imagine, but just hours before Jesus’ betrayal, trial, and crucifixion He was thinking about...you. In verse 20 of our text, He transitions from praying for His disciples to praying for all believers. His one request is that believers everywhere may be one.

When believers from all different races and ethnicities, ages and backgrounds are united, the world will begin to believe that Jesus is indeed the Christ (vv. 21, 23). Jesus goes on to pray for believers to not only be tolerant with one another but also to be connected and attached to one another, just as the Father is to the Son (v. 22). Jesus imagines that the unity among believers is as strong as the unity that is within the Trinity.

Jesus’ prayer crescendos with His desire that we will one day be with Him. Knowing what He was about to endure, His final thoughts were about us being unified with other believers and one day being united with Him (v. 24). Christ’s prayer for us was that we would be completely committed to being united with Jesus and one another on both sides of eternity.

**Apply the Word**

This week, have a conversation with a Christian who is different from you. Maybe you differ in ethnicity, political persuasion, or socio-economic class. Learn something new about this brother or sister in Christ, and pray together for unity.

### **Pray with Us**

Father, we grieve that sometimes we elevate the differences between believers above our shared relationship to you. Grant us a servant’s heart to strengthen ties with others—particularly those who are different from us.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/6/20

# Companions in Christ

 **Read:** [**Philippians 1:3–8**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%201.3%E2%80%938)

### **Thanksgiving and Prayer**

3I thank my God every time I remember you. 4In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. 8God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

I thank my God every time I remember you. [Philippians 1:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%201.3)

The Harvard Study of Adult Development is a decades-long project that’s resulted in a greater understanding of the importance of healthy relationships. The research began with a group of 268 sophomores at Harvard University in the 1930s and later expanded to, among others, 456 Boston inner-city residents. Researchers have conducted interviews with the participants and pored over their medical records every few years. They discovered that close relationships are the biggest factor in predicting happiness and health. It turns out that if we surround ourselves with the right people, we’ll likely experience a deeper sense of joy.

This appears to reflect what the apostle Paul is describing in [Philippians 1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%201). Writing from prison, Paul can’t help but tell his friends that he thanks God for them every time he remembers them, praying “with joy” (v. 4). But these aren’t just any friends; these are brothers and sisters in Jesus who “share in God’s grace,” partners in the gospel with Paul (v. 7). Their relationship was one of sharing and mutuality—a true fellowship shaped by God’s love and the gospel itself.

Yes, friends are important, but fellow companions in Christ are catalysts of a true and deep joy. The grace of God can bind us together like nothing else. And even through the darkest seasons of life, the joy that comes from that bond will last.

By:  [Glenn Packiam](https://odb.org/author/glennpackiam/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Who are the friends that surround you? What’s the substance of your relationships? How has the grace of God shaped your choice of companions?

Dear God, thank You for the gift of friendship. Help me to express my gratitude to those who have been faithful companions to me. Give me the grace to strengthen and encourage them.

#### **Insight**

When Paul recalled his relationship with the Philippians “from the first day until now” ([Philippians 1:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%201.5)), he was giving them reasons for hope going forward (v. 6). He and his companions had tried to go elsewhere before receiving a vision from God to come to their region ([Acts 16:6–12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2016.6%E2%80%9312)). Soon after his arrival, they met Lydia. She and some other women had been meeting on a riverbank outside of town waiting for God to answer their prayers (vv. 13–15). Her spiritual openness followed by the baptism of her household was the beginning of things to come (vv. 16–40). What an introduction! In Philippi, Paul and Silas encountered a demon-possessed fortune teller; were arrested, beaten, imprisoned; survived an earthquake; and witnessed the amazing story of a jailer’s conversion and the baptism of his family. It was God who’d brought them all together.

# God Calling – 4/6/20

# Easter Joy

I lay My loving Hands on you in blessing. Wait in Love and longing to feel their tender pressure and, as you wait, courage and hope will flow into your being, irradiating all your lives with the warm sun of My Presence.

Let all go this Eastertide. Loosen your hold on earth, its care, its worries, even its joys. Unclasp your hands, relax, and then the tide of Easter Joy will come. Put aside all thought of the future, of the past. Relinquish all to get the Easter Sacrament of Spiritual Life.

So often man, crying out for some blessing, has yet such tight hold on some earth-treasure that he has no hand to receive Mine, as I hold it out in Love. Easter is the wonder-time of all the year. A blessing is yours to take. Sacrifice all to that.

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow." Matthew 6:34

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/7/20

# Why We Lack Understanding



He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. — [Mark 9:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Mark+9%3A9)

As the disciples were commanded, you should also say nothing until the Son of Man has risen in you— until the life of the risen Christ so dominates you that you truly understand what He taught while here on earth. When you grow and develop the right condition inwardly, the words Jesus spoke become so clear that you are amazed you did not grasp them before. In fact, you were not able to understand them before because you had not yet developed the proper spiritual condition to deal with them.

Our Lord doesn’t hide these things from us, but we are not prepared to receive them until we are in the right condition in our spiritual life. Jesus said, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now” ([John 16:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16:12)). We must have a oneness with His risen life before we are prepared to bear any particular truth from Him. Do we really know anything about the indwelling of the risen life of Jesus? The evidence that we do is that His Word is becoming understandable to us. God cannot reveal anything to us if we don’t have His Spirit. And our own unyielding and headstrong opinions will effectively prevent God from revealing anything to us. But our insensible thinking will end immediately once His resurrection life has its way with us.

“…tell no one….” But so many people do tell what they saw on the Mount of Transfiguration— their mountaintop experience. They have seen a vision and they testify to it, but there is no connection between what they say and how they live. Their lives don’t add up because the Son of Man has not yet risen in them. How long will it be before His resurrection life is formed and evident in you and in me?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Awe is the condition of a man’s spirit realizing Who God is and what He has done for him personally. Our Lord emphasizes the attitude of a child; no attitude can express such solemn awe and familiarity as that of a child.  Not Knowing Whither, 882 L

# CCEL – 4/7/20

As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.—[II COR. 6:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.10)

We . . . rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also.—I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.—Believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

In a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.—Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.

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?—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.

[Rom. 5:2,3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.2). -[II Cor. 7:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.7.html" \l "iiCor.7.4). -[I Pet. 1:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.8).[II Cor. 8:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.8.html" \l "iiCor.8.2). -[Eph. 3:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.3.html" \l "Eph.3.8).[Jas 2:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.2.html" \l "Jas.2.5). -[II Cor. 9:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.9.html" \l "iiCor.9.8).

“O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame?” [Psalm 4:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.4.html" \l "Ps.4.2)

An instructive writer has made a mournful list of the honours which the blinded people of Israel awarded to their long expected King.

1. They gave him a procession of honour, in which Roman legionaries, Jewish priests, men and women, took a part, he himself bearing his cross. This is the triumph which the world awards to him who comes to overthrow man’s direst foes. Derisive shouts are his only acclamations, and cruel taunts his only paeans of praise.

2. They presented him with the wine of honour. Instead of a golden cup of generous wine they offered him the criminal’s stupefying death-draught, which he refused because he would preserve an uninjured taste wherewith to taste of death; and afterwards when he cried, “I thirst,” they gave him vinegar mixed with gall, thrust to his mouth upon a sponge. Oh! wretched, detestable inhospitality to the King’s Son.

3. He was provided with a guard of honour, who showed their esteem of him by gambling over his garments, which they had seized as their booty. Such was the body-guard of the adored of heaven; a quaternion of brutal gamblers.

4. A throne of honour was found for him upon the bloody tree; no easier place of rest would rebel men yield to their liege Lord. The cross was, in fact, the full expression of the world’s feeling towards him; “There,” they seemed to say, “thou Son of God, this is the manner in which God himself should be treated, could we reach him.”

5. The title of honour was nominally “King of the Jews,” but that the blinded nation distinctly repudiated, and really called him “King of thieves,” by preferring Barabbas, and by placing Jesus in the place of highest shame between two thieves. His glory was thus in all things turned into shame by the sons of men, but it shall yet gladden the eyes of saints and angels, world without end.

# Word Live – 4/7/20

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# Scripture Union – 4/7/20

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# Today in the Word – 4/7/20

# Hannah's Prayer

**Read:** [**1 Samuel 2:1–10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+2%3a1%e2%80%9310)

### **Hannah’s Prayer**

2 Then Hannah prayed and said:

“My heart rejoices in the Lord;  
    in the Lord my horn[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+2%3a1%e2%80%9310#fen-NIV-7242a)] is lifted high.  
My mouth boasts over my enemies,  
    for I delight in your deliverance.

2“There is no one holy like the Lord;  
    there is no one besides you;  
    there is no Rock like our God.

3“Do not keep talking so proudly  
    or let your mouth speak such arrogance,  
for the Lord is a God who knows,  
    and by him deeds are weighed.

4“The bows of the warriors are broken,  
    but those who stumbled are armed with strength.  
5Those who were full hire themselves out for food,  
    but those who were hungry are hungry no more.  
She who was barren has borne seven children,  
    but she who has had many sons pines away.

6“The Lord brings death and makes alive;  
    he brings down to the grave and raises up.  
7The Lord sends poverty and wealth;  
    he humbles and he exalts.  
8He raises the poor from the dust  
    and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
he seats them with princes  
    and has them inherit a throne of honor.

“For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s;  
    on them he has set the world.  
9He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,  
    but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.

“It is not by strength that one prevails;  
10    those who oppose the Lord will be broken.  
The Most High will thunder from heaven;  
    the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.

“He will give strength to his king  
    and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [1 Samuel 2:1](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+2%3a1%e2%80%9310#en-NIV-7242) Horn here symbolizes strength; also in verse 10.

Has there ever been a time when you pleaded with the Lord? “God, if you do this, then I promise to . . . ” Sometimes God looks at our life and chooses to answer “Yes.” In our text today, we turn to the Old Testament and read a powerful prayer, spoken by a woman named Hannah.

There is no one holy like the LORD, there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:2

Although Hannah’s husband, Elkanah, loved her more than his other wife, she could not bear a child. Scripture tells us that God closed Hannah’s womb (1:5). But Hannah’s desire became so strong that she promised that, if God would grant her a child, she would surrender him to Yahweh (1:11). God answered her plea. In response, she indeed dedicated Samuel to the Lord and handed him over to Eli the priest (1:28). What tremendous courage it must have taken Hannah to surrender her answered prayer over to someone else.

The prayer we read today is very personal to Hannah. She cries, “my heart... my horn... my mouth” (2:1). We see that it was Yahweh, not Samuel, who was the ultimate foundation of her joy and strength. For Hannah, there was no one like the Lord (v. 2). Safety, comfort, and justice are found in Him (v. 3).

Throughout her prayer, Hannah praises the Lord for reversing the conditions of people who rightly follow Him. From the dead, they are given life, from the grave they are raised up, from the ash heap they are lifted (vv. 6–8). Her prayer ends with an eye to the future. At this time in Israel’s history, they had no king, but she prophetically proclaims Israel’s future king, and the future King of kings, Jesus Christ (v. 10). Hannah’s prayer reminds us that God is in control and that He has a grand plan.

**Apply the Word**

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the things God has blessed you with and then take this time to give Him the adoration He deserves.

### **Pray with Us**

We praise you for the daily blessings that bring us joy. We adore you for the miraculous ways you have proven your faithfulness. We glorify you for the work you have done in our lives that we do not yet understand.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/7/20

# Through Thick and Thin

 **Read:** [**Exodus 40:34–38**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2040.34%E2%80%9338)

### **The Glory of the Lord**

34Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

36In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; 37but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. 38So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

The cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels. [Exodus 40:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2040.38)

On January 28, 1986, the US Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart seventy-three seconds after takeoff. In a speech of comfort to the nation, President Reagan quoted from the poem “High Flight” in which John Gillespie Magee, a World War II pilot, had written of “the high untrespassed sanctity of space” and the sense of putting out his hand to touch “the face of God.”

Although we can’t literally touch God’s face, we sometimes experience a stunning sunset or a place of meditation in nature that gives us an overwhelming sense that He’s near. Some people call these moments “thin places.” The barrier separating heaven and earth seems to grow a little thinner. God feels a little closer.

The Israelites may have experienced a “thin place” as they sensed the nearness of God in the desert wilderness. God provided a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night to lead them through the desert ([Exodus 40:34–38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2040.34%E2%80%9338)). When they were staying in the camp, “the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle” (v. 35). Throughout all their travels, they knew God was with them.

As we enjoy the incredible beauty of God’s creation, we grow conscious that He’s present everywhere. As we talk with Him in prayer, listen to Him, and read the Scriptures, we can enjoy fellowship with Him anytime and anywhere.

By:  [Cindy Hess Kasper](https://odb.org/author/cindyhesskasper/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What places in nature make you feel especially close to God? How can you seek Him anytime and anywhere?

Father, help me to seek and find You even when I’m lost in a desert wilderness.

#### **Insight**

The tabernacle (tent of meeting) was the place where God dwelled ([Exodus 25:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2025.8)). The book of Exodus devotes many chapters to this portable sanctuary that served as a place of worship in the desert and in Israel until Solomon built the temple. In [Exodus 24–31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2024%E2%80%9331) instructions for the tabernacle’s structure and its furnishing are given in minute detail. Then in chapters 35–40 we read how all these directions were carried out by the Israelites at Mount Sinai. [Exodus 39:32–40:37](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2039.32%E2%80%9340.37) details the dedication of the tabernacle. It was completed according to God’s directions to Moses in the beginning of the second year after the Israelites escaped out of Egypt (40:2, 17). When everything was in place, the cloud covered the tabernacle where God’s glory dwelled (v. 34). The cloud had directed the Israelites’ travels throughout their wilderness wanderings (vv. 34–38; see 13:21; [Nehemiah 9:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Neh%209.12), [19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Nehemiah%209.19)).

# God Calling – 4/7/20

# Calvary

From the death of My Body on the Cross, as from the shedding of husks in seed-life, springs that New Life which is My Gift to every man who will accept it.

Die with Me to self -- to human life, and then you will know the rapturous Joy of Easter Resurrection.

A Risen Life so glad and free can be yours.

Mary left home and kindred, friends, all, that Easter morning in her search for Me, and not until the "Mary" had been followed by the glad triumphant rapture of her "Rabboni" was her search over.

So with each of you. Man speaks to you too of the buried Christ. Search until you meet Me face to face, and My tender uttering of your name awakes your glad "Rabboni."

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." Galatians 2:20

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/8/20

# His Resurrection Destiny



Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? —[Luke 24:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+24%3A26)

Our Lord’s Cross is the gateway into His life. His resurrection means that He has the power to convey His life to me. When I was born again, I received the very life of the risen Lord from Jesus Himself.

Christ’s resurrection destiny— His foreordained purpose— was to bring “many sons to glory” ([Hebrews 2:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2:10)). The fulfilling of His destiny gives Him the right to make us sons and daughters of God. We never have exactly the same relationship to God that the Son of God has, but we are brought by the Son into the relation of sonship. When our Lord rose from the dead, He rose to an absolutely new life— a life He had never lived before He was God Incarnate. He rose to a life that had never been before. And what His resurrection means for us is that we are raised to His risen life, not to our old life. One day we will have a body like His glorious body, but we can know here and now the power and effectiveness of His resurrection and can “walk in newness of life” ([Romans 6:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:4)). Paul’s determined purpose was to “know Him and the power of His resurrection” ([Philippians 3:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3:10)).

Jesus prayed, “…as You have given Him authority over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him” ([John 17:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:2)). The term Holy Spirit is actually another name for the experience of eternal life working in human beings here and now. The Holy Spirit is the deity of God who continues to apply the power of the atonement by the Cross of Christ to our lives. Thank God for the glorious and majestic truth that His Spirit can work the very nature of Jesus into us, if we will only obey Him.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 4/8/20

In everything ye are enriched by him.—[I COR. 1:5.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.1.html" \l "iCor.1.5)

When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.—He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine ye are the branches: he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.—To will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.—Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.—Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

[Rom. 5:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.6). -[Rom. 8:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.32).[Col. 2:9,10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.2.html" \l "Col.2.9).[John 15:4,5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.4). -[Rom. 7:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.18). -[Eph. 4:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.7).[John 15:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.7). –[Col. 3:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.16).

“If they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?” [Luke 23:31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.23.html" \l "Luke.23.31)

Among other interpretations of this suggestive question, the following is full of teaching: “If the innocent substitute for sinners, suffer thus, what will be done when the sinner himself—the dry tree—shall fall into the hands of an angry God?” When God saw Jesus in the sinner’s place, he did not spare him; and when he finds the unregenerate without Christ, he will not spare them. O sinner, Jesus was led away by his enemies: so shall you be dragged away by fiends to the place appointed for you. Jesus was deserted of God; and if he, who was only imputedly a sinner, was deserted, how much more shall you be? “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” what an awful shriek! But what shall be your cry when you shall say, “O God! O God! why hast thou forsaken me?” and the answer shall come back, “Because ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.” If God spared not his own Son, how much less will he spare you! What whips of burning wire will be yours when conscience shall smite you with all its terrors. Ye richest, ye merriest, ye most self-righteous sinners—who would stand in your place when God shall say, “Awake, O sword, against the man that rejected me; smite him, and let him feel the smart forever”? Jesus was spit upon: sinner, what shame will be yours! We cannot sum up in one word all the mass of sorrows which met upon the head of Jesus who died for us; therefore it is impossible for us to tell you what streams, what oceans of grief must roll overyour spirit if you die as you now are. You may die so, you may die now. By the agonies of Christ, by his wounds and by his blood, do not bring upon yourselves the wrath to come! Trust in the Son of God, and you shall never die.

# Word Live – 4/8/20

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

# Scripture Union – 4/8/20

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# Today in the Word – 4/8/20

# David's Prayer (Part 1)

**Read:** [**1 Chronicles 29:1–13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313)

### **Gifts for Building the Temple**

29 Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. 2With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise,[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313" \l "fen-NIV-11167a" \o "See footnote a)] stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. 3Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: 4three thousand talents[[b](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11169b)] of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents[[c](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11169c)] of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, 5for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?”

6Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work gave willingly. 7They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents[[d](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11172d)] and ten thousand darics[[e](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11172e)] of gold, ten thousand talents[[f](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11172f)] of silver, eighteen thousand talents[[g](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11172g)] of bronze and a hundred thousand talents[[h](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#fen-NIV-11172h)] of iron. 8Anyone who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the Lord in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

### **David’s Prayer**

10David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, Lord,  
    the God of our father Israel,  
    from everlasting to everlasting.  
11Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power  
    and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
    for everything in heaven and earth is yours.  
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;  
    you are exalted as head over all.  
12Wealth and honor come from you;  
    you are the ruler of all things.  
In your hands are strength and power  
    to exalt and give strength to all.  
13Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
    and praise your glorious name.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [1 Chronicles 29:2](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11167) The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.
2. [1 Chronicles 29:4](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11169) That is, about 110 tons or about 100 metric tons
3. [1 Chronicles 29:4](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11169) That is, about 260 tons or about 235 metric tons
4. [1 Chronicles 29:7](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11172) That is, about 190 tons or about 170 metric tons
5. [1 Chronicles 29:7](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11172) That is, about 185 pounds or about 84 kilograms
6. [1 Chronicles 29:7](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11172) That is, about 380 tons or about 340 metric tons
7. [1 Chronicles 29:7](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11172) That is, about 675 tons or about 610 metric tons
8. [1 Chronicles 29:7](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a1%e2%80%9313#en-NIV-11172) That is, about 3,800 tons or about 3,400 metric tons

Groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies are ways we celebrate and thank the many people who paved the way for a new business or building. As God’s people prepared to build the Temple in Jerusalem, King David’s words and prayer taught his people, and us, that a proper perspective produces praise.

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. 1 Chronicles 29:11

At this point in his life, David’s boyish good looks had most likely turned to wrinkles. His ruddy red hair had turned gray. He used to be able to run for miles, now he had to stop to catch his breath when climbing a flight of stairs. One last task he had before leaving this world was to build a place of worship for God. So he drew up plans for a magnificent temple. But the Lord informed him that, because he was a warrior, He wanted someone else to build it. So David rolled up the blueprints, gave them to his son, and then addressed the whole assembly with a prayer to God.

In this powerful prayer, David proclaims that the Lord deserves praise because He is our eternal God (v. 10), who reigns with greatness and power. We have become so accustomed to the things God created that we often focus our attention on human accomplishments. But God created everything, and therefore, everything in heaven and in earth is His (v. 11). God’s creation displays His majesty, splendor, and power.

For instance, just ten seconds of the sun’s power, which God created, have enough energy to power the entire world for 100 years. God is head over all and the ruler of all things (vv. 11–12). David recognized Yahweh’s character and attributes and praised Him unashamedly until his last breath. He had a proper perspective of God which produced praise, and his praise continues to echo today.

**Apply the Word**

Follow David’s example and reflect on God’s greatness. As you do, praise God by giving thanks for who He is.

### **Pray with Us**

Father, with joyful humility we recognize that there is nothing we can offer you that we did not receive from you. We are awestruck by your majesty, love, justice, and mercy. To your name be all glory!

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/8/20

# Love Reins Us In

 **Read:** [**Romans 14:1–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2014.1%E2%80%9313)

### **The Weak and the Strong**

14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. 2One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14%3A1%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28291a)]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. 11It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,  
‘every knee will bow before me;  
    every tongue will acknowledge God.’”[[b](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14%3A1%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28292b)]

12So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

13Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Romans 14:10](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14%3A1%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-28291) The Greek word for brother or sister (adelphos) refers here to a believer, whether man or woman, as part of God’s family; also in verses 13, 15 and 21.
2. [Romans 14:11](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14%3A1%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-28292) Isaiah 45:23

It is better not to . . . do anything . . . that will cause your brother or sister to fall. [Romans 14:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2014.21)

Most young Samoan boys receive a tattoo signaling their responsibility to their people and their chief. Naturally, then, the marks cover the arms of the Samoan men’s rugby team members. Traveling to Japan where tattoos can carry negative connotations, the teammates realized their symbols presented a problem for their hosts. In a generous act of friendship, the Samoans wore skin-colored sleeves covering the designs. “We’re respectful and mindful to . . . the Japanese way,” the team captain explained. “We’ll be making sure that what we’re showing will be okay.”

In an age emphasizing individual expression, it’s remarkable to encounter self-limitation—a concept Paul wrote about in the book of Romans. He told us that love sometimes requires us to lay down our rights for others. Rather than pushing our freedom to the boundaries, sometimes love reins us in. The apostle explained how some people in the church believed they were free “to eat anything,” but others ate “only vegetables” ([Romans 14:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2014.2)). While this might seem like a minor issue, in the first century, adherence to Old Testament dietary laws was controversial. Paul instructed everyone to “stop passing judgment on one another” (v. 13), before concluding with particular words for those who ate freely. “It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall” (v. 21).

At times, loving another means limiting our own freedoms. We don’t have to always do everything we’re free to do. Sometimes love reins us in.

By:  [Winn Collier](https://odb.org/author/wcollier/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

When have you seen people limit their freedom for the sake of other believers in Jesus? What was that like? What’s difficult about those situations where love reins us in?

God, help me to see where I need to encourage others to experience freedom and how I need to limit how I use my own freedoms.

#### **Insight**

Paul’s normal pattern for his church letters was to present a section of teaching (doctrine) followed by a section on living out one’s faith (practice). As one pastor put it, what we believe prepares the way for how we behave. If [Romans 1–11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%201%E2%80%9311) provide the doctrine—Paul’s careful explanation of the truth that the gospel is a message of grace freely offered to us by our gracious God—it should come as no surprise that in the practical portion of the letter (such as today’s text), he would call us to extend and live out that grace in our relationships with one another.

# God Calling – 4/8/20

# Marks of the Kingdom

Our Savior, we greet Thee. Thy Love and Sacrifice we would return in our poor faulty measure by Love and sacrifice.

No gift is poor if it expresses the true Love of the giver. So to Me your heart's gifts are rich and precious. Rejoice in My glad acceptance as you bring your Easter offerings.

My children must make a stand. "Come ye out from among them and be ye separate" was the command. Today in life and work, in Love and service, My children must be outstanding. I called a Peculiar People to make known My Name. My servant Paul said that My followers must be willing to be deemed "fools" for My Sake.

Be ready to stand aside and let the fashions and customs of the world go by, when My Glory and My Kingdom are thereby served. Be known by the Marks that distinguish those of My Kingdom. Be ready to confess Me before man. To count all things as loss so that you may gain Me in your lives.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." 2 Corinthians 6:17

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/9/20

# Have You Seen Jesus?



After that, He appeared in another form to two of them… —[Mark 16:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Mark+16%3A12)

Being saved and seeing Jesus are not the same thing. Many people who have never seen Jesus have received and share in God’s grace. But once you have seen Him, you can never be the same. Other things will not have the appeal they did before.

You should always recognize the difference between what you see Jesus to be and what He has done for you. If you see only what He has done for you, your God is not big enough. But if you have had a vision, seeing Jesus as He really is, experiences can come and go, yet you will endure “as seeing Him who is invisible” ([Hebrews 11:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11:27)). The man who was blind from birth did not know who Jesus was until Christ appeared and revealed Himself to him (see [John 9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+9)). Jesus appears to those for whom He has done something, but we cannot order or predict when He will come. He may appear suddenly, at any turn. Then you can exclaim, “Now I see Him!” (see [John 9:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+9:25)).

Jesus must appear to you and to your friend individually; no one can see Jesus with your eyes. And division takes place when one has seen Him and the other has not. You cannot bring your friend to the point of seeing; God must do it. Have you seen Jesus? If so, you will want others to see Him too. “And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either” ([Mark 16:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+16:13)). When you see Him, you must tell, even if they don’t believe.

O could I tell, you surely would believe it!  
O could I only say what I have seen!  
How should I tell or how can you receive it,  
How, till He bringeth you where I have been?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Christianity is not consistency to conscience or to convictions; Christianity is being true to Jesus Christ.  Biblical Ethics, 111 L

# CCEL – 4/9/20

Fear not; for I have redeemed thee.—[ISA. 43:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.43.html" \l "Isa.43.1)

Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel.—I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.—With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts is his name: he shall throughly plead their cause.—My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

[Isa. 54:4,5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.54.html" \l "Isa.54.4)-[Isa. 44:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.44.html" \l "Isa.44.22). -[I Pet. 1:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html#iPet.1.19).[Jer. 50:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.50.html#Jer.50.34). -[John 10:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.29).[Gal. 1:3-5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.1.html" \l "Gal.1.3).

“And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.” [Luke 23:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.23.html" \l "Luke.23.27)

Amid the rabble rout which hounded the Redeemer to his doom, there were some gracious souls whose bitter anguish sought vent in wailing and lamentations—fit music to accompany that march of woe. When my soul can, in imagination, see the Saviour bearing his cross to Calvary, she joins the godly women and weeps with them; for, indeed, there is true cause for grief—cause lying deeper than those mourning women thought. They bewailed innocence maltreated, goodness persecuted, love bleeding, meekness about to die; but my heart has a deeper and more bitter cause to mourn. My sins were the scourges which lacerated those blessed shoulders, and crowned with thorn those bleeding brows: my sins cried “Crucify him! crucify him!” and laid the cross upon his gracious shoulders. His being led forth to die is sorrow enough for one eternity: but my having been his murderer, is more, infinitely more, grief than one poor fountain of tears can express.

Why those women loved and wept it were not hard to guess: but they could not have had greater reasons for love and grief than my heart has. Nain’s widow saw her son restored—but I myself have been raised to newness of life. Peter’s wife’s mother was cured of the fever—but I of the greater plague of sin. Out of Magdalene seven devils were cast—but a whole legion out of me. Mary and Martha were favoured with visits—but he dwells with me. His mother bare his body—but he is formed in me the hope of glory. In nothing behind the holy women in debt, let me not be behind them in gratitude or sorrow.

“Love and grief my heart dividing,

With my tears his feet I'll lave—

Constant still in heart abiding,

Weep for him who died to save.”

# Word Live – 4/9/20

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

# Scripture Union – 4/9/20

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# Today in the Word – 4/9/20

# David's Prayer (Part 2)

[**1 Chronicles 29:14–20**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+29%3a14%e2%80%9320)

14“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 15We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 17I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 18Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. 19And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”

20Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the Lord your God.” So they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the king.

In his New York Times bestselling book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey tells people to imagine what they want said at their funeral. When we think about how we want to be remembered we should begin with the end in mind. Did you know that your life will shape your legacy? How we live will determine how people will remember us. And how we steward the things God has given us will influence the way people think of us long after we are gone. King David never read Covey’s book, but he knew that the life he leads would ultimately shape his legacy. It is no wonder then that in one of his final prayers he declares before the Lord that everything comes directly from God.

Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 1 Chronicles 29:14

David recognized that all of the wealth the Israelites were able to provide for the building of the Temple was actually from God’s hands (vv.14, 16). This raw, humble sentiment is the bedrock of biblical stewardship. Through David’s prayer, he teaches his son, his people, and us that God is beyond generous. The right response on our part is to be generous. David also reminds his people that even though they were living in the land, they were still “foreigners and strangers,” and that the only right to the land was through God’s provision and sovereignty. David said that at the heart of generosity ought to be integrity and honesty. For him, the motive dictated the motion (v. 17).

David concludes by getting to the heart of the matter which is ultimately a matter of the heart. He requested that the Lord help his son’s heart, and the Israelites’ hearts, to be fixed on Yahweh.

**Apply the Word**

Look at your life and ask, “What is mine and what is the Lord’s?” As you reflect, I hope you come to the similar conclusion David did, that everything comes from the Lord.

### **Pray with Us**

Everything we have is from you, Father. As we teach our children to practice generosity, help them understand that everything we have and give belongs to you; we are the sons and daughters of a God who gives abundantly.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/9/20

# Refuge for the Rejected

 **Read:** [**Psalm 57**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2057)**[**[**a**](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+57&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14770a)**]**

#### For the director of music. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” Of David. A miktam.[[b](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+57&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-14770b" \o "See footnote b)] When he had fled from Saul into the cave.

1Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,  
    for in you I take refuge.  
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings  
    until the disaster has passed.

2I cry out to God Most High,  
    to God, who vindicates me.  
3He sends from heaven and saves me,  
    rebuking those who hotly pursue me—[[c](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+57&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14772c)]  
    God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

4I am in the midst of lions;  
    I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—  
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
    whose tongues are sharp swords.

5Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
    let your glory be over all the earth.

6They spread a net for my feet—  
    I was bowed down in distress.  
They dug a pit in my path—  
    but they have fallen into it themselves.

7My heart, O God, is steadfast,  
    my heart is steadfast;  
    I will sing and make music.  
8Awake, my soul!  
    Awake, harp and lyre!  
    I will awaken the dawn.

9I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
    I will sing of you among the peoples.  
10For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
    your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

11Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
    let your glory be over all the earth.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Psalm 57:1](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+57&version=NIV#en-NIV-14770) In Hebrew texts 57:1-11 is numbered 57:2-12.
2. [Psalm 57:1](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+57&version=NIV#en-NIV-14770) Title: Probably a literary or musical term
3. [Psalm 57:3](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+57&version=NIV#en-NIV-14772) The Hebrew has Selah (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the end of verse 6.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. [Psalm 57:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2057.1)

George Whitefield (1714–1770) was one of the most gifted and effective preachers in history, leading thousands to faith in Jesus. But his life wasn’t without controversy. His practice of preaching outdoors (to accommodate large crowds) was sometimes criticized by those who questioned his motives and felt he should speak only within the four walls of a church building. Whitefield’s epitaph sheds light on his response to others’ harsh words: “I am content to wait till the Day of Judgment for the clearing up of my character; and after I am dead, I desire no other epitaph than this, ‘Here lies George Whitefield—what sort of a man he was, the great day will discover.’ ”

In the Old Testament, when David faced harsh criticism from others, he too entrusted himself to God. When Saul falsely accused David of leading a rebellion and he was forced to hide from Saul’s approaching army in a cave, David described being “in the midst of lions,” among “men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords” ([Psalm 57:4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2057.4)). But even in that difficult place, he turned to God and found comfort in Him: “For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies” (v. 10).

When others misunderstand or reject us, God is our “refuge” (v. 1). May He be forever praised for His unfailing and merciful love!

By:  [James Banks](https://odb.org/author/jamesbanks/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How does dwelling on God’s mercy help you when you’re discouraged? How can you demonstrate His love to another?

Abba Father, I praise You that I can be accepted by You forever because of Your Son. I take refuge in Your perfect love today.

#### **Insight**

[Psalm 57](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2057) vividly contrasts the psalmist’s sense of vulnerability, as if among beasts of prey (v. 4), with a growing awareness of and confidence in God’s far-surpassing greatness. A deep awareness of God’s powerful care allows for a steady confidence in harrowing circumstances. Like [Psalm 17:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2017.8) and [36:7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalm%2036.7), [Psalm 57:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2057.1) uses the metaphor of the protection of a mother bird to capture God’s tender, protective care. This metaphor was also used in ancient Egyptian and Assyrian literature as an image of divine protection for the king. But in [Psalm 36:7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2036.7), the psalmist emphasizes that “all humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings” (nlt). Through celebrating God’s glory (57:5, 11; Hebrew kebod), the psalmist experiences God’s breathing new life into his own soul (v. 8). David is saying that God’s glory is now his glory as he looks to God for deliverance and protection.

# God Calling – 4/9/20

# Risen Life

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1

The Call comes on this My Day for all who love Me, to arise from earth-bands, from sin, and sloth and depression, distrust, fear, all that hinders the Risen Life. To arise to Beauty, to Holiness, to Joy, to Peace, to work inspired by Love and Joy, to rise from death to Life.

Remember that death was the last enemy I destroyed. So with death My Victory was complete. You have nothing then to fear. Sin, too, is conquered and forgiven, as you live and move and work with Me. All that depresses you, all that you fear, are powerless to harm you. They are but phantoms. The real forces I conquered in the wilderness, the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Cross, in the Tomb.

Let nothing hinder your Risen Life. "Risen with Christ," said My servant Paul. Seek to know more and more of that Risen Life. That is the Life of Conquest. Of that Risen Life was it truly said: "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Fear and despair and tears come as you stand by the empty Tomb. "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

Rise from your fears and go out into the sunlight to meet Me, your Risen Lord.

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." Philippians 3:10

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/10/20

# Complete and Effective Decision About Sin



…our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. —[Romans 6:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Romans+6%3A6)

**Co-Crucifixion.** Have you made the following decision about sin—that it must be completely killed in you? It takes a long time to come to the point of making this complete and effective decision about sin. It is, however, the greatest moment in your life once you decide that sin must die in you– not simply be restrained, suppressed, or counteracted, but crucified— just as Jesus Christ died for the sin of the world. No one can bring anyone else to this decision. We may be mentally and spiritually convinced, but what we need to do is actually make the decision that Paul urged us to do in this passage.

Pull yourself up, take some time alone with God, and make this important decision, saying, “Lord, identify me with Your death until I know that sin is dead in me.” Make the moral decision that sin in you must be put to death.

This was not some divine future expectation on the part of Paul, but was a very radical and definite experience in his life. Are you prepared to let the Spirit of God search you until you know what the level and nature of sin is in your life— to see the very things that struggle against God’s Spirit in you? If so, will you then agree with God’s verdict on the nature of sin— that it should be identified with the death of Jesus? You cannot “reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin” ([Romans 6:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:11)) unless you have radically dealt with the issue of your will before God.

Have you entered into the glorious privilege of being crucified with Christ, until all that remains in your flesh and blood is His life? “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me…” ([Galatians 2:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2:20)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

It is impossible to read too much, but always keep before you why you read. Remember that “the need to receive, recognize, and rely on the Holy Spirit” is before all else. Approved Unto God, 11 L

# CCEL – 4/10/20

I am black, but comely.—[SONG 1:5.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.1.html" \l "Song.1.5)

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.—Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.

I am a sinful man, O Lord.—Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair.

I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.—Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.

When I would do good, evil is present with me.—Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing—Ye are complete in him.—Perfect in Christ Jesus.

Ye are washed, . . . ye are sanctified, . . . ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.—That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

[Psa. 51:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.51.html" \l "Ps.51.5). -[Ezek. 16:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ezek.16.html" \l "Ezek.16.14).[Luke 5:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.5.html" \l "Luke.5.8). -[Song 4:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.4.html" \l "Song.4.1).[Job 42:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.42.html" \l "Job.42.6). -[Song 4:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.4.html" \l "Song.4.7).[Rom. 7:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.21). -[Matt. 9:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.9.html" \l "Matt.9.2).[Rom. 7:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html#Rom.7.18). -[Col. 2:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.2.html" \l "Col.2.10). -[Col. 1:28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.28).[I Cor. 6:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.11). -[I Pet. 2:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.9).

“The place which is called Calvary.” [Luke 23:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.23.html" \l "Luke.23.33)

The hill of comfort is the hill of Calvary; the house of consolation is built with the wood of the cross; the temple of heavenly blessing is founded upon the riven rock—riven by the spear which pierced his side. No scene in sacred history ever gladdens the soul like Calvary’s tragedy.

“Is it not strange, the darkest hour

That ever dawned on sinful earth,

Should touch the heart with softer power,

For comfort, than an angel’s mirth?

That to the Cross the mourner’s eye should turn,

Sooner than where the stars of Bethlehem burn?”

Light springs from the midday-midnight of Golgotha, and every herb of the field blooms sweetly beneath the shadow of the once accursed tree. In that place of thirst, grace hath dug a fountain which ever gusheth with waters pure as crystal, each drop capable of alleviating the woes of mankind. You who have had your seasons of conflict, will confess that it was not at Olivet that you ever found comfort, not on the hill of Sinai, nor on Tabor; but Gethsemane, Gabbatha, and Golgotha have been a means of comfort to you. The bitter herbs of Gethsemane have often taken away the bitters of your life; the scourge of Gabbatha has often scourged away your cares, and the groans of Calvary have put all other groans to flight. Thus Calvary yields us comfort rare and rich. We never should have known Christ’s love in all its heights and depths if he had not died; nor could we guess the Father’s deep affection if he had not given his Son to die. The common mercies we enjoy all sing of love, just as the sea-shell, when we put it to our ears, whispers of the deep sea whence it came; but if we desire to hear the ocean itself, we must not look at every-day blessings, but at the transactions of the crucifixion. He who would know love, let him retire to Calvary and see the Man of sorrows die.

# Word Live – 4/10/20

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

# Scripture Union – 4/10/20

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

# Today in the Word – 4/10/20

# Solomon Prays for Wisdom

**Read:** [**1 Kings 3:1–15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Kings+3%3a1%e2%80%9315)

### **Solomon Asks for Wisdom**

3 Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the Lord, and the wall around Jerusalem. 2The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the Lord. 3Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

4The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

6Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

7“Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

10The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. 13Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. 14And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” 15Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

Aristotle is quoted as saying, “Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.” However, better advice came from King Solomon, who wrote centuries earlier: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov.  
9:10). In our text today, we see that Solomon knew he deeply needed wisdom from God because he knew himself and he feared the Lord.

Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. 1 Kings 3:9

Solomon was now king of Israel but had not yet finished building the Temple. Solomon, like other Israelites at the time, went to the most important high place in Gibeon to make sacrifices to the Lord (v.4). While there, the Lord came to Solomon in a dream, saying, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you”(v. 5). Can you imagine what your reaction would be if God asked you that question? What would you ask for? Wealth? Healing? Longevity?

Solomon began his response by praising God: “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David.” Then he acknowledged the continued kindness God had shown to him (v. 6). Solomon acknowledged the Davidic covenant was continuing to be fulfilled through him. But he also recognized his youthfulness and inexperience (v. 7). He was barely out of his teens when he took the throne so it is no surprise that he felt overwhelmed with the responsibilities of governing the nation.

Solomon continued and did not ask for wealth or a happy life but rather he gave a mature request, “Give your servant a discerning heart” (v. 9). The word discerning can also be translated “hearing” or “obedient.” Solomon was asking for the capacity to obey God’s law and distinguish between right and wrong (v. 9). He recognized that the best thing for him to do was to stay in step with the law of God. In return, God richly blessed him for humbling himself and seeking wisdom.

**Apply the Word**

We all need a little reminding to stay in step with the Spirit. So here is your reminder today, take this moment to pray and ask God for His wisdom and an obedient heart.

### **Pray with Us**

Grant us your wisdom, Lord, to discern the false wisdom of the world. Give us hearts that follow you, love your Word, and delight in obeying you.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/10/20

# Finding Joy in Praise

 **Read:** [**Habakkuk 3:6**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%203.6)

6He stood, and shook the earth;  
    he looked, and made the nations tremble.  
The ancient mountains crumbled  
    and the age-old hills collapsed—  
    but he marches on forever.

**Read:** [**Habakkuk 3:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%203.6)[**16–19**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Habakkuk%203.16%E2%80%9319)

16I heard and my heart pounded,  
    my lips quivered at the sound;  
decay crept into my bones,  
    and my legs trembled.  
Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity  
    to come on the nation invading us.  
17Though the fig tree does not bud  
    and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails  
    and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
    and no cattle in the stalls,  
18yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
    I will be joyful in God my Savior.

19The Sovereign Lord is my strength;  
    he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
    he enables me to tread on the heights.

For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. [Habakkuk 3:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%203.18)

When the famous British writer C. S. Lewis first gave his life to Jesus, he initially resisted praising God. In fact, he called it “a stumbling block.” His struggle was “in the suggestion that God Himself demanded it.” Yet Lewis finally realized “it is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence” to His people. Then we, “in perfect love with God,” find joy in Him no more separable “than the brightness a mirror receives” from the “brightness it sheds.”

The prophet Habakkuk arrived at this conclusion centuries earlier. After complaining to God about evils aimed at the people of Judah, Habakkuk came to see that praising Him leads to joy—not in what God does, but in who He is. Thus, even in a national or world crisis, God is still great. As the prophet declared:

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord” ([Habakkuk 3:17–18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%203.17%E2%80%9318)). “I will be joyful in God my Savior,” he added.

As C. S. Lewis realized, “The whole world rings with praise.” Habakkuk, likewise, surrendered to praising God always, finding rich joy in the One who “marches on forever” (v. 6).

By:  [Patricia Raybon](https://odb.org/author/patriciaraybon/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

When you praise God, what’s the impact on your spirit? Reflecting on God’s goodness, name three things you can praise Him for today.

Loving God, even during hard times, stir in my heart—and on my lips—the rich spirit of joyful praise to You.

To learn more about the book of Habakkuk, visit [ChristianUniversity.org/OT314](https://ChristianUniversity.org/OT314).

#### **Insight**

The book of Habakkuk describes a prophet’s complaint about the injustice that’s oppressing his people. In his exchange with God, Habakkuk has to come to terms with the methods and timing of God. This leads him to sing a powerful song celebrating His strength and power. Creation itself quakes at the approach of the Creator. Some of the pictures of this powerful God are indeed fear-inducing: plague goes before Him and pestilence follows Him ([Habakkuk 3:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%203.5)); the earth shakes when He stands and the ancient mountains and hills crumble (v. 6). But this picture of God as a warrior inspires a joy and confidence in Habakkuk that finds expression in the final verses. Despite the circumstances that surround the prophet, he’ll “rejoice in the Lord” (v. 18) because this mighty God is his strength (v. 19).

# God Calling – 4/10/20

# Pride Bars the Way

Obedience is one of the keys unlocking the door into My Kingdom, so love and obey. No man can obey Me implicitly without in time realizing My Love, in his turn responding by love to that Love, and then experiencing the joy won of the beloved, and the lover.

The rough stone steps of obedience lead up to the mosaic of Joy and Love that floor My Heaven. As one on earth who loves another says, "Where you are is home," so it is in relation with Me. Where I am is My Home -- is Heaven.

Heaven may be in a sordid slum or a palace, and I can make My Home in the humblest heart. I can only dwell with the humble. Pride stands sentinel at the door of the heart to shut out the lowly, humble Christ.

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." 1 John 3:22

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/11/20

# Complete and Effective Divinity



If we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection… —[Romans 6:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Romans+6%3A5)

**Co-Resurrection.** The proof that I have experienced crucifixion with Jesus is that I have a definite likeness to Him. The Spirit of Jesus entering me rearranges my personal life before God. The resurrection of Jesus has given Him the authority to give the life of God to me, and the experiences of my life must now be built on the foundation of His life. I can have the resurrection life of Jesus here and now, and it will exhibit itself through holiness.

The idea all through the apostle Paul’s writings is that after the decision to be identified with Jesus in His death has been made, the resurrection life of Jesus penetrates every bit of my human nature. It takes the omnipotence of God— His complete and effective divinity— to live the life of the Son of God in human flesh. The Holy Spirit cannot be accepted as a guest in merely one room of the house— He invades all of it. And once I decide that my “old man” (that is, my heredity of sin) should be identified with the death of Jesus, the Holy Spirit invades me. He takes charge of everything. My part is to walk in the light and to obey all that He reveals to me. Once I have made that important decision about sin, it is easy to “reckon” that I am actually “dead indeed to sin,” because I find the life of Jesus in me all the time ([Romans 6:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:11)). Just as there is only one kind of humanity, there is only one kind of holiness— the holiness of Jesus. And it is His holiness that has been given to me. God puts the holiness of His Son into me, and I belong to a new spiritual order.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Always keep in contact with those books and those people that enlarge your horizon and make it possible for you to stretch yourself mentally. The Moral Foundations of Life, 721 R

# CCEL – 4/11/20

**In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.**—[PROV. 10:19.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.10.html" \l "Prov.10.19)

My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.—He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty: and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body.—By thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.—Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Christ . . . suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.—Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

[Jas. 1:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.1.html" \l "Jas.1.19). -[Prov. 16:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.16.html" \l "Prov.16.32). -[Jas. 3:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.3.html" \l "Jas.3.2). -[Matt. 12:37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.12.html" \l "Matt.12.37). -[Psa. 141:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.141.html" \l "Ps.141.3).[I Pet. 2:21-23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.21). -[Heb. 12:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.3).[Rev. 14:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.14.html" \l "Rev.14.5).

“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.” **[Psalm 22:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.14)**

Did earth or heaven ever behold a sadder spectacle of woe! In soul and body, our Lord felt himself to be weak as water poured upon the ground. The placing of the cross in its socket had shaken him with great violence, had strained all the ligaments, pained every nerve, and more or less dislocated all his bones. Burdened with his own weight, the august sufferer felt the strain increasing every moment of those six long hours. His sense of faintness and general weakness were overpowering; while to his own consciousness he became nothing but a mass of misery and swooning sickness. When Daniel saw the great vision, he thus describes his sensations, “There remained no strength in me, for my vigour was turned into corruption, and I retained no strength:” how much more faint must have been our greater Prophet when he saw the dread vision of the wrath of God, and felt it in his own soul! To us, sensations such as our Lord endured would have been insupportable, and kind unconsciousness would have come to our rescue; but in his case, he was wounded, and felt the sword; he drained the cup andtasted every drop.

“O King of Grief! (a title strange, yet true

To thee of all kings only due)

O King of Wounds! how shall I grieve for thee,

Who in all grief preventest me!”

As we kneel before our now ascended Saviour’s throne, let us remember well the way by which he prepared it as a throne of grace for us; let us in spirit drink of his cup, that we may be strengthened for our hour of heaviness whenever it may come. In his natural body every member suffered, and so must it be in the spiritual; but as out of all his griefs and woes his body came forth uninjured to glory and power, even so shall his mystical body come through the furnace with not so much as the smell of fire upon it.

# Word Live – 4/11/20

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

# Scripture Union – 4/11/20

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# Today in the Word – 4/11/20

# Solomon's Prayer at the Temple

**Read:** [**1 Kings 8:22–53**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Kings+8%3a22%e2%80%9353)

### **Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication**

22Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven 23and said:

“Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. 24You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today.

25“Now Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.’ 26And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.

27“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! 28Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. 29May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, ‘My Name shall be there,’ so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. 30Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

31“When anyone wrongs their neighbor and is required to take an oath and they come and swear the oath before your altar in this temple, 32then hear from heaven and act. Judge between your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing down on their heads what they have done, and vindicating the innocent by treating them in accordance with their innocence.

33“When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back to you and give praise to your name, praying and making supplication to you in this temple, 34then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors.

35“When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and when they pray toward this place and give praise to your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them, 36then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land you gave your people for an inheritance.

37“When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when an enemy besieges them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come, 38and when a prayer or plea is made by anyone among your people Israel—being aware of the afflictions of their own hearts, and spreading out their hands toward this temple— 39then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act; deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know every human heart), 40so that they will fear you all the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.

41“As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— 42for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, 43then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

44“When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name, 45then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause.

46“When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you become angry with them and give them over to their enemies, who take them captive to their own lands, far away or near; 47and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors and say, ‘We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly’; 48and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; 49then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause. 50And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their captors to show them mercy; 51for they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out of Egypt, out of that iron-smelting furnace.

52“May your eyes be open to your servant’s plea and to the plea of your people Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they cry out to you. 53For you singled them out from all the nations of the world to be your own inheritance, just as you declared through your servant Moses when you, Sovereign Lord, brought our ancestors out of Egypt.”

There is nothing quite like completing a huge project, whether it is home renovation or an all-day feast. The feeling of accomplishment is satisfying. That’s what Solomon and the Israelites experienced as they laid the last brick at the Temple project. The altars were assembled in all the right places. The ark was positioned perfectly in the holy of holies. The only thing left was Solomon’s prayer of dedication to Yahweh.

But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. 1 Kings 8:27

In our text today, Solomon begins by acknowledging the matchlessness and faithfulness of the Lord (vv. 23– 26). In his prayer, he emphasizes God’s power and magnitude. The Israelites built a Temple for Yahweh, but there is no human-made structure that could possibly contain God’s greatness (v. 27). Even so, Solomon prays that the people’s supplications will be received by the ears and eyes of the Lord (vv. 28–30).

Solomon intercedes on behalf of the nation and reiterates their relationship to the Lord. Yahweh would stand as the arbitrator of disputes between neighbors (vv. 31– 32). He would be the One whom they would ask for mercy when the nation sinned, was defeated in battle, or when other atrocities came their way (vv. 33–37). Even while celebrating this magnificent Temple, Solomon’s prayer emphasized the need for forgiveness. He prays for Israel’s relationship with non-Jewish people (vv. 41–45), with a warning that foreshadowed the future exile (vv. 45–49).

Even though the Temple was built by human hands, Yahweh was the chief architect. Solomon’s prayer reminded his people that all of them had sinned against God (vv. 35, 46–49). The good news is that God not only forgives sins but also delights in dwelling with His people (v. 50).

**Apply the Word**

When you pray with others in corporate prayer, make sure your heart, mind, and soul are echoing the words that are spoken. The Lord sees and listens to you, even if you aren’t the one speaking.

### **Pray with Us**

Father, help us understand the corporate nature of prayer. Teach us to pray in unity with our fellow believers and center our desires on the truth of your Word.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/11/20

# Imperfect Plans

 **Read:** [**Proverbs 19:20–23**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2019.20%E2%80%9323)

20Listen to advice and accept discipline,  
    and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

21Many are the plans in a person’s heart,  
    but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.

22What a person desires is unfailing love[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+19%3A20%E2%80%9323&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16948a)];  
    better to be poor than a liar.

23The fear of the Lord leads to life;  
    then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Proverbs 19:22](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+19%3A20%E2%80%9323&version=NIV#en-NIV-16948) Or Greed is a person’s shame

Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails. [Proverbs 19:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2019.21)

I was exploring a library on the bottom floor of a new community center when an overhead crash suddenly shook the room. A few minutes later it happened again, and then again. An agitated librarian finally explained that a weight-lifting area was positioned directly above the library, and the noise occurred every time someone dropped a weight. Architects and designers had carefully planned many aspects of this state-of-the-art facility, yet someone had forgotten to locate the library away from all the action.

In life as well, our plans are often flawed. We overlook important considerations. Our plans don’t always account for accidents or surprises. Although planning helps us avoid financial shortfalls, time crunches, and health issues, even the most thorough strategies can’t eliminate all problems from our lives. We live in a post-Eden world.

With God’s help, we can find the balance between prudently considering the future ([Proverbs 6:6–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%206.6%E2%80%938)) and responding to difficulties. God often has a purpose for the trouble He allows into our lives. He may use it to develop patience in us, to increase our faith, or simply to bring us closer to Him. The Bible reminds us, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails” ([Proverbs 19:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2019.21)). As we submit our goals and hopes for the future to Jesus, He’ll show us what He wants to accomplish in us and through us.

By:  [Jennifer Benson Schuldt](https://odb.org/author/jenniferbschuldt/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How do you respond when your plans don’t work out or when your expectations are unmet? What might God want you to learn through those experiences?

God, I believe You’re in control of everything. Help me to live wisely in this world, committing all my plans to You.

#### **Insight**

The verses of [Proverbs 19:20–23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2019.20%E2%80%9323) are connected by key words that suggest both the importance of God’s people seeking wisdom and of acknowledging that God’s plans are authoritative. In verse 20, the Hebrew word esa is translated as “advice,” but in verse 21, the same word is translated as “purpose.” Both word usages are correct, but the repetition of the word shows a correlation between the verses. In other words, a person who listens to advice is wise, but God’s purposes and plans are still above the plans of the wise. As verse 22 states, desiring God’s unfailing love is necessary to gain this kind of wisdom. Further, the wise person fears God and “rests content, untouched by trouble” (v. 23). It’s important to remember, however, that the book of Proverbs offers general guidelines for living; it’s not guaranteed that one who lives in this way will be immune to difficulties (see the book of Job).

# God Calling – 4/11/20

# Hold Your Fort

Remember that My followers are to be a peculiar people, separated from among others. Different ways, a different standard of living, different customs, actuated by different motives. Pray for Love.

Pray for My Spirit of Love to be showered on all you meet. Deal with yourself severely. Learn to love discipline.

Never yield one point that you have already won. Discipline, discipline. Love it and rejoice -- rejoice. Mountains can be removed by thought -- by desire.

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/12/20

# Complete and Effective Dominion



Death no longer has dominion over Him.…the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God… —[Romans 6:9-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Romans+6%3A9-11)

**Co-Eternal Life.** Eternal life is the life which Jesus Christ exhibited on the human level. And it is this same life, not simply a copy of it, which is made evident in our mortal flesh when we are born again. Eternal life is not a gift from God; eternal life is the gift of God. The energy and the power which was so very evident in Jesus will be exhibited in us by an act of the absolute sovereign grace of God, once we have made that complete and effective decision about sin.

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you…” (Acts 1:8)— not power as a gift from the Holy Spirit; the power is the Holy Spirit, not something that He gives us. The life that was in Jesus becomes ours because of His Cross, once we make the decision to be identified with Him. If it is difficult to get right with God, it is because we refuse to make this moral decision about sin. But once we do decide, the full life of God comes in immediately. Jesus came to give us an endless supply of life— “…that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” ([Ephesians 3:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3:19)). Eternal life has nothing to do with time. It is the life which Jesus lived when He was down here, and the only Source of life is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even the weakest saint can experience the power of the deity of the Son of God, when he is willing to “let go.” But any effort to “hang on” to the least bit of our own power will only diminish the life of Jesus in us. We have to keep letting go, and slowly, but surely, the great full life of God will invade us, penetrating every part. Then Jesus will have complete and effective dominion in us, and people will take notice that we have been with Him.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

It is perilously possible to make our conceptions of God like molten lead poured into a specially designed mould, and when it is cold and hard we fling it at the heads of the religious people who don’t agree with us. Disciples Indeed, 388 R

# CCEL – 4/12/20

**What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.**—[ROM. 8:3.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.3)

The law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered?—By him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Forasmuch . . . as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren.

[Heb. 10:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.1). -[Acts 13:39](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.13.html" \l "Acts.13.39).[Heb. 2:14-17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.2.html" \l "Heb.2.14).

“My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.” **[Psalm 22:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.14)**

Our blessed Lord experienced a terrible sinking and melting of soul. “The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear?” Deep depression of spirit is the most grievous of all trials; all besides is as nothing. Well might the suffering Saviour cry to his God, “Be not far from me,” for above all other seasons a man needs his God when his heart is melted within him because of heaviness. Believer, come near the cross this morning, and humbly adore the King of glory as having once been brought far lower, in mental distress and inward anguish, than any one among us; and mark his fitness to become a faithful High Priest, who can be touched with a feeling of our infirmities. Especially let those of us whose sadness springs directly from the withdrawal of a present sense of our Father’s love, enter into near and intimate communion with Jesus. Let us not give way to despair, since through this dark room the Master has passed before us. Our souls may sometimes long and faint, and thirst even to anguish, to behold the light of the Lord’s countenance: at such times let us stay ourselves with the sweet fact of the sympathy of our great High Priest. Our drops of sorrow may well be forgotten in the ocean of his griefs; but how high ought our love to rise! Come in, O strong and deep love of Jesus, like the sea at the flood in spring tides, cover all my powers, drown all my sins, wash out all my cares, lift up my earth-bound soul, and float it right up to my Lord’s feet, and there let me lie, a poor broken shell, washed up by his love, having no virtue or value; and only venturing to whisper to him that if he will put his ear to me, he will hear within my heart faint echoes of the vast waves of his own love which have brought me where it is my delight to lie, even at his feet forever.

# Word Live – 4/12/20

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# Scripture Union – 4/12/20

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# Today in the Word – 4/12/20

# Jabez's Prayer

**Read:** [**1 Chronicles 4:9–10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+4%3a9%e2%80%9310)

9Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez,[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+4%3a9%e2%80%9310" \l "fen-NIV-10395a" \o "See footnote a)] saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” 10Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [1 Chronicles 4:9](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+4%3a9%e2%80%9310#en-NIV-10395) Jabez sounds like the Hebrew for pain.

Born into poverty, Walt Disney grew up to create what he envisioned as the “happiest place on earth.” We all love to read stories about men and women who overcame hardship and went on to bless others. Even more, we can be encouraged to know that God can even use difficult things in our lives for His purpose and glory.

Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! 1 Chronicles 4:10

First Chronicles chapter 4 contains a genealogy list. However, the author breaks slightly to communicate to the reader that there was a man named Jabez, a descendant of Judah, who was “more honorable than his brothers” (v. 9). Jabez was held in high esteem by the Lord because of his ability to rely on God even in the midst of struggle and pain

His name comes from the Hebrew word that sounds like pain and the author lets us know that his mother named him this because he was born in pain. Every mother will tell you that childbirth is painful. The pain is a direct result of the Fall. The Lord said to Eve, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor, you will give birth to children” (Gen. 3:16). However, the pain from Jabez’s childbirth stuck with him and he lived a life of pain. In his prayer, Jabez asks God to “bless” him, “keep” him, and “free” him. His prayer is meant to exemplify the power and greatness of God. Jabez shows us that the name we are given or the circumstances we are born into do not define us or determine our destiny. What matters is that God is sovereign, and God is in control (v. 10).

**Apply the Word**

Are you in pain today? We have all been born into sin, cursed from birth, and live in a world of suffering, whether physical, spiritual, or emotional. But Jesus says, “Take heart, for I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Pray and ask God to deliver you today.

### **Pray with Us**

We cry out to you in our pain. Lord, shelter us from despair, hold us back from hatred, and give us strong faith. Deliver us from evil and bless us, we pray.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 4/12/20

# Serving the Least

 **Read:** [**Matthew 25:31–40**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2025.31%E2%80%9340)

### **The Sheep and the Goats**

31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” [Matthew 25:40](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2025.40)

His name is Spencer. But everybody calls him “Spence.” He was a state track champion in high school; then he went on to attend a prestigious university on a full academic scholarship. He lives now in one of America’s largest cities and is highly respected in the field of chemical engineering. But if you were to ask Spence his greatest achievements to date, he wouldn’t mention any of those things. He would excitedly tell you about the trips he makes to Nicaragua every few months to check in on the kids and teachers in the tutoring program he helped establish in one of the poorest areas of the country. And he’d tell you how enriched his life has been by serving them.

“The least of these.” It’s a phrase people use in a variety of ways, yet Jesus used it to describe those who, according to the world’s standards, have little or nothing to offer us in return for our service. They are the men and women and children the world often overlooks—if not forgets completely. Yet it’s exactly those people Jesus elevates to such a beautiful status by saying, “Whatever you did [for them], you did for me” ([Matthew 25:40](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2025.40)). You don’t have to have a degree from a prestigious university to understand Christ’s meaning: serving “the least” is the same as serving Him. All it really takes is a willing heart.

By:  [John Blase](https://odb.org/author/johnblase/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Who comes to mind when you hear the phrase “the least of these”? What’s something you could do for them?

King Jesus, I’m afraid I make serving You harder than it is. Your words are clear—You call me to the least and the littlest, perhaps in Nicaragua or maybe in my neighborhood. Give me courage to serve.

#### **Insight**

[Matthew 25:31–40](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2025.31%E2%80%9340) opens with Jesus’ words about the time of judgment when the sheep (believers in Jesus) will be separated from the goats (unbelievers): “He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left” (v. 33). What does this parable represent? The Expositor’s Bible Commentary offers this explanation: “In the countryside, sheep and goats mingled during the day. At night they were often separated. Sheep tolerate the cool air, but goats have to be herded together for warmth. In sparse grazing areas the animals might be separated during the day as well. But now these well-known, simple, pastoral details are freighted with symbolism. The right hand is the place of power and honor.”

# God Calling – 4/12/20

# Golden Opportunity

I am your Guide. Strength and help will come to you; just trust Me wholly.

Fear not. I am evermore ready to hear than you to ask. Walk in My ways, and know that help will come.

Man's need is God's chance to help. I love to help and save. Man's need is God's golden opportunity for him of letting his faith find expression. That expression of faith is all that God needs to manifest His Power. Faith is the Key that unlocks the storehouse of God's resources.

My faithful servants, you long for perfection and see your bitter failures. I see faithfulness, and as a mother takes the soiled, imperfect work of her child and invests it with perfection because of the sweet love, so I take your poor faithfulness and crown it with perfection.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20