# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/30/20

# Do It Now!



Agree with your adversary quickly… —[Matthew 5:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+5%3A25)

In this verse, Jesus Christ laid down a very important principle by saying, “Do what you know you must do— now. Do it quickly. If you don’t, an inevitable process will begin to work ‘till you have paid the last penny’ ([Matthew 5:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:26)) in pain, agony, and distress.” God’s laws are unchangeable and there is no escape from them. The teachings of Jesus always penetrate right to the heart of our being.

Wanting to make sure that my adversary gives me all my rights is a natural thing. But Jesus says that it is a matter of inescapable and eternal importance to me that I pay my adversary what I owe him. From our Lord’s standpoint it doesn’t matter whether I am cheated or not, but what does matter is that I don’t cheat someone else. Am I insisting on having my own rights, or am I paying what I owe from Jesus Christ’s standpoint?

Do it quickly— bring yourself to judgment now. In moral and spiritual matters, you must act immediately. If you don’t, the inevitable, relentless process will begin to work. God is determined to have His child as pure, clean, and white as driven snow, and as long as there is disobedience in any point of His teaching, He will allow His Spirit to use whatever process it may take to bring us to obedience. The fact that we insist on proving that we are right is almost always a clear indication that we have some point of disobedience. No wonder the Spirit of God so strongly urges us to stay steadfastly in the light! (see [John 3:19-21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3:19-21)).

“Agree with your adversary quickly….” Have you suddenly reached a certain place in your relationship with someone, only to find that you have anger in your heart? Confess it quickly— make it right before God. Be reconciled to that person— do it now!

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

When a man’s heart is right with God the mysterious utterances of the Bible are spirit and life to him. Spiritual truth is discernible only to a pure heart, not to a keen intellect. It is not a question of profundity of intellect, but of purity of heart. Bringing Sons Unto Glory, 231 L

# CCEL – 6/30/20

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.—[REV. 3:19.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.19)

My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.—Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.—He maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.—Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.—I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.—He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

[Heb. 12:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.5). -[Prov. 3:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.3.html" \l "Prov.3.12). -[Job 5:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.5.html" \l "Job.5.18). -[I Pet. 5:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.6). -[Isa. 48:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.48.html" \l "Isa.48.10).[Lam. 3:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lam.3.html" \l "Lam.3.33). -[Psa. 103:10-14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.10).

“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them.” [John 17:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.22)

Behold the superlative liberality of the Lord Jesus, for he hath given us his all. Although a tithe of his possessions would have made a universe of angels rich beyond all thought, yet was he not content until he had given us all that he had. It would have been surprising grace if he had allowed us to eat the crumbs of his bounty beneath the table of his mercy; but he will do nothing by halves, he makes us sit with him and share the feast. Had he given us some small pension from his royal coffers, we should have had cause to love him eternally; but no, he will have his bride as rich as himself, and he will not have a glory or a grace in which she shall not share. He has not been content with less than making us joint-heirs with himself, so that we might have equal possessions. He has emptied all his estate into the coffers of the Church, and hath all things common with his redeemed. There is not one room in his house the key of which he will withhold from his people. He gives them full liberty to take all that he hath to be their own; he loves them to make free with his treasure, and appropriate as much as they can possibly carry. The boundless fullness of his all-sufficiency is as free to the believer as the air he breathes. Christ hath put the flagon of his love and grace to the believer’s lip, and bidden him drink on forever; for could he drain it, he is welcome to do so, and as he cannot exhaust it, he is bidden to drink abundantly, for it is all his own. What truer proof of fellowship can heaven or earth afford?

“When I stand before the throne

Dressed in beauty not my own;

When I see thee as thou art,

Love thee with unsinning heart;

Then, Lord, shall I fully know—

Not till then—how much I owe.”

# Word Live – 6/30/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/30/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/30/20

# God Never Fails

**Read:** [**Genesis 50:1–21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+50%3a1%e2%80%9321)

50 Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. 2Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him, 3taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

4When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh’s court, “If I have found favor in your eyes, speak to Pharaoh for me. Tell him, 5‘My father made me swear an oath and said, “I am about to die; bury me in the tomb I dug for myself in the land of Canaan.” Now let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.’”

6Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do.”

7So Joseph went up to bury his father. All Pharaoh’s officials accompanied him—the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt— 8besides all the members of Joseph’s household and his brothers and those belonging to his father’s household. Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen. 9Chariots and horsemen[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+50%3a1%e2%80%9321#fen-NIV-1516a)] also went up with him. It was a very large company.

10When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan, they lamented loudly and bitterly; and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning for his father. 11When the Canaanites who lived there saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning.” That is why that place near the Jordan is called Abel Mizraim.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+50%3a1%e2%80%9321" \l "fen-NIV-1518b" \o "See footnote b)]

12So Jacob’s sons did as he had commanded them: 13They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite. 14After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father.

### Joseph Reassures His Brothers

15When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” 16So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: 17‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

19But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Genesis 50:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+50%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1516) Or charioteers
2. [Genesis 50:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+50%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1518) Abel Mizraim means mourning of the Egyptians.

Do we truly believe that God never fails? Our view of success and failure ultimately depends on what we believe about God and His sovereignty. If God is sovereign, we can trust the good and bad moments of our lives to Him. Joseph modeled this rock-solid trust in God. He’d suffered and endured much! First, he’d been sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Then as a slave in Egypt, he’d been falsely accused and imprisoned. Though he interpreted Pharaoh’s dream and gained royal favor, Joseph continued to live in exile, uncertain of how his family was doing or if his father was still alive. These events were difficult and painful.

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good. Genesis 50:20

Throughout all this, though, Joseph held onto his faith in the Lord. When he interpreted the king’s dream, he gave God the glory (Gen. 41:16). In Genesis 50, he summed up his story in terms of God’s sovereignty, love, and saving purposes. He didn’t claim to understand everything, but he did know this: “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (v. 20).

Joseph’s brothers thought in human terms. They wondered if perhaps he’d been biding his time out of respect for their father, and now that Jacob was dead Joseph would take his revenge (v. 15). Joseph’s response demonstrated forgiveness, faith, and submission to the Lord. Not only does God’s love never fail (see yesterday’s study), neither does His sovereignty or His power or any of His other attributes. He can and will perfectly accomplish all His perfect plans. There’s no drama or suspense about this. We can stand firm in faith and rest in this truth, assured of the future (Heb. 11:1).

**Apply the Word**

What are the key lessons you’ve learned during this study? What have you learned about how God works through failure? How has He done it in your life? How has your idea of success been biblically changed? What will you do differently as a result?

### Pray with Us

As we conclude our study this month, we ask the Lord to help us remember the lessons He has taught us about failure, sin, His love, and His forgiveness and mercy. Thank you for studying God’s Word and praying with us!

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/30/20

# Navigating Life’s Rapids

 **Read:** [**Psalm 32:5–11**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032.5%E2%80%9311)

5Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
    and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, “I will confess  
    my transgressions to the Lord.”  
And you forgave  
    the guilt of my sin.

6Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
    while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
    will not reach them.  
7You are my hiding place;  
    you will protect me from trouble  
    and surround me with songs of deliverance.

8I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
    I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.  
9Do not be like the horse or the mule,  
    which have no understanding  
but must be controlled by bit and bridle  
    or they will not come to you.  
10Many are the woes of the wicked,  
    but the Lord’s unfailing love  
    surrounds the one who trusts in him.

11Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;  
    sing, all you who are upright in heart!

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. [Psalm 32:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032.8)

“Everybody on the left, give me three strong forward strokes!” our whitewater raft guide shouted. Those on the left dug in, pulling our raft away from a churning vortex. For several hours, we’d learned the importance of listening to our guide’s instructions. His steady voice enabled six people with little rafting experience to work together to plot the safest course down a raging river.

Life has its share of whitewater rapids, doesn’t it? One moment, it’s smooth sailing. Then, in a flash, we’re paddling like mad to avoid suddenly swirling whirlpools. Those tense moments make us keenly aware of our need for a skilled guide, a trusted voice to help us navigate turbulent times.

In [Psalm 32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032), God promises to be that voice: “I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go” (v. 8). Backing up, we see that confessing our sins (v. 5) and prayerfully seeking Him (v. 6) play a role in hearing Him too. Still, I take comfort in the fact that God promises, “I will counsel you with my loving eye on you” (v. 8), a reminder that His guidance flows from His love. Near the end of the chapter, the psalmist concludes, “The Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts him” (v. 10). And as we trust Him, we can rest in His promise to guide us through life’s rockiest passages.

By:  [Adam R. Holz](https://odb.org/author/adamholz/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What circumstances in your life right now feel like whitewater rapids? How might you seek God’s guiding voice about how to respond?

Father, thank You for Your promise to be my Guide. Help me to seek You and listen to You as You direct the course of my life.

 For help in navigating the storms of life, read [discoveryseries.org/hp061.](https://discoveryseries.org/hp061.)

#### Insight

[Psalm 32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032) is one of seven penitential psalms (also [Psalms 6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%206); [38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%2038); [51](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%2051); [102](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%20102); [130](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%20130); [143](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%20143)), so-named because they contain confession of sins and a plea for God’s mercy and forgiveness. Many scholars believe David wrote [Psalm 32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032) after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. For about a year afterward, he refused to repent of his sins of covetousness, adultery, deceit, bearing false testimony, and murder. Then the prophet Nathan confronted him ([2 Samuel 11–12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Sam%2011%E2%80%9312)).

In [Psalm 32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032) David speaks of the heavy burden of guilt he experienced when he denied his sins (vv. 3–4) and the joy of receiving God’s forgiveness when he confessed and repented (v. 5) and became receptive to God’s rule in his life (vv. 7–11). David contrasts the blessedness of repentance (vv. 1–2) with the anguish of refusing to confess his sin (vv. 3–5).

# God Calling – 6/30/20

# Understand Them

Take joy wherever you go.  You have been much blessed.  You are being much blessed.

Such stores of blessing are awaiting you in the months and years that lie ahead.  Pass every blessing on.

Love can and does go round the world, passed on the God-currents from one to the other.

Shed a little sunshine in the heart of one, that one is cheered to pass it on, and so My vitalizing joy-giving message goes.

Be transmitters these days. Love and Laugh. Cheer all. Love all.

Always seek to understand others and you cannot fail to love them.

See Me in the dull, the uninteresting, the sinful, the critical, the miserable.

See Me in the laughter of children and the sweetness of old age, in the courage of youth and the patience of man and womanhood.

The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure ... the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.  Matthew 13:44

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/1/20

# The Inevitable Penalty



You will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. —[Matthew 5:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+5%3A26)

There is no heaven that has a little corner of hell in it. God is determined to make you pure, holy, and right, and He will not allow you to escape from the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit for even one moment. He urged you to come to judgment immediately when He convicted you, but you did not obey. Then the inevitable process began to work, bringing its inevitable penalty. Now you have been “thrown into prison, [and]…you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny” ([5:25-26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=5:25-26)). Yet you ask, “Is this a God of mercy and love?” When seen from God’s perspective, it is a glorious ministry of love. God is going to bring you out pure, spotless, and undefiled, but He wants you to recognize the nature you were exhibiting— the nature of demanding your right to yourself. The moment you are willing for God to change your nature, His recreating forces will begin to work. And the moment you realize that God’s purpose is to get you into the right relationship with Himself and then with others, He will reach to the very limits of the universe to help you take the right road. Decide to do it right now, saying, “Yes, Lord, I will write that letter,” or, “I will be reconciled to that person now.”

These sermons of Jesus Christ are meant for your will and your conscience, not for your head. If you dispute these verses from the Sermon on the Mount with your head, you will dull the appeal to your heart.

If you find yourself asking, “I wonder why I’m not growing spiritually with God?”— then ask yourself if you are paying your debts from God’s standpoint. Do now what you will have to do someday. Every moral question or call comes with an “ought” behind it— the knowledge of knowing what we ought to do.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The Bible is a relation of facts, the truth of which must be tested. Life may go on all right for a while, when suddenly a bereavement comes, or some crisis; unrequited love or a new love, a disaster, a business collapse, or a shocking sin, and we turn up our Bibles again and God’s word comes straight home, and we say, “Why, I never saw that there before.” Shade of His Hand, 1223 L

# CCEL – 7/1/20

The fruit of the Spirit is goodness.—[GAL. 5:22.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.5.html" \l "Gal.5.22)

Be ye . . . followers of God, as dear children.—Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.—Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

After that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.—The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.—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?

[Eph. 5:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.5.html" \l "Eph.5.1). -[Matt. 5:44,45](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.5.html" \l "Matt.5.44). -[Luke 6:36](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.6.html" \l "Luke.6.36).[Eph. 5:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.5.html" \l "Eph.5.9).[Tit. 3:4-6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Titus.3.html" \l "Titus.3.4). -[Psa. 145:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.145.html" \l "Ps.145.9). -[Rom. 8:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.32).

“In summer and in winter shall it be.” [Zechariah 14:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Zech.14.html" \l "Zech.14.8)

The streams of living water which flow from Jerusalem are not dried up by the parching heats of sultry midsummer any more than they were frozen by the cold winds of blustering winter. Rejoice, O my soul, that thou art spared to testify of the faithfulness of the Lord. The seasons change and thou changest, but thy Lord abides evermore the same, and the streams of his love are as deep, as broad and as full as ever. The heats of business cares and scorching trials make me need the cooling influences of the river of His grace; I may go at once and drink to the full from the inexhaustible fountain, for in summer and in winter it pours forth its flood. The upper springs are never scanty, and blessed be the name of the Lord, the nether springs cannot fail either. Elijah found Cherith dry up, but Jehovah was still the same God of providence. Job said his brethren were like deceitful brooks, but he found his God an overflowing river of consolation. The Nile is the great confidence of Egypt, but its floods are variable; our Lord is evermore the same. By turning the course of the Euphrates, Cyrus took the city of Babylon, but no power, human or infernal, can divert the current of divine grace. The tracks of ancient rivers have been found all dry and desolate, but the streams which take their rise on the mountains of divine sovereignty and infinite love shall ever be full to the brim. Generations melt away, but the course of grace is unaltered. The river of God may sing with greater truth than the brook in the poem—

“Men may come, and men may go,

But I go on forever.”

How happy art thou, my soul, to be led beside such still waters! never wander to other streams, lest thou hear the Lord’s rebuke, “What hast thou to do in the way of Egypt to drink of the muddy river?”

# Word Live – 7/1/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/1/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/1/20

# https://www.todayintheword.org/contentassets/2257902960f84ecd8804313b2dd1fc63/titw_july_desktop_1200x400.jpgBeginning Again

**Read:** [**Deuteronomy 34:1–12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3a1%e2%80%9312)

### The Death of Moses

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

5And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. 6He buried him[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3a1%e2%80%9312#fen-NIV-5846a)] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. 7Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. 8The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

9Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3a1%e2%80%9312#fen-NIV-5849b)] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

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

#### Footnotes:

1. [Deuteronomy 34:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3a1%e2%80%9312#en-NIV-5846) Or He was buried
2. [Deuteronomy 34:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3a1%e2%80%9312#en-NIV-5849) Or Spirit

If you were asked to name a famous basketball player, Michael Jordan might immediately come to mind. Jordan helped the Chicago Bulls claim 6 championships in 8 years and become one of the greatest basketball dynasties of all time. In 1998, Jordan decided it was time to step down. Then head coach, Phil Jackson, departed, and other players were traded or resigned. For the Bulls, it was the end of an era.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Psalm 143:10

The conclusion of Deuteronomy marks the end of an era for God’s people. Moses had successfully led the Jewish people out of Egyptian captivity, across treacherous deserts, and to the Promised Land. However, The Lord prohibited Moses to enter, and he died in Moab (v. 5). The end of Moses’ leadership must have been a gut-punch to the Israelites. After the appropriate time of mourning (v. 8), they were ready to fulfill their God-given destiny and enter the Promised Land, but who would lead them? While the answer may have been unclear to them, God knew who would continue their quest. Joshua was filled with “the spirit of wisdom” which was passed down from his mentor (v. 9). He was now qualified to govern the people because he had been chosen by Moses through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord would continue to be with His people and with Joshua, just as He had been with Moses.

This must have been an exhilarating, yet unsettling time for the Israelites. They stood on the banks of the Jordan waiting and watching. The other side was uncharted territory. They had made it to the edge of the Promised Land, but how would they go forward? Would their new leader be up for the quest?

**Apply the Word**

Have you ever had to continue on after your beloved boss, pastor, or co-worker retired? Sometimes the Lord places us in predicaments we are unsure if we can handle. We invite you to journey with us through the amazing and exhilarating quest found in the book of Joshua.

### Pray with Us

As we follow the Israelites’ quest to reach the Promised Land, we pray that the Lord will show us what we need to take away from the book of Joshua this month.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/1/20

# The Favorite

 **Read:** [**Genesis 37:2–4**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2037.2%E2%80%934)

2This is the account of Jacob’s family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

3Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37%3A2%E2%80%934+%2C+17%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1087a)] robe for him. 4When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Genesis 37:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37%3A2%E2%80%934+%2C+17%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-1087) The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain; also in verses 23 and 32.

**Read:** [**Genesis 37:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2037.2%E2%80%934)[**17–24**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Genesis%2037.17%E2%80%9324)

17“They have moved on from here,” the man answered. “I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’”

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. 18But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

19“Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. 20“Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

21When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. 22“Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

23So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [John 13:34](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.34)

My husband’s brother lives about 1,200 miles away in the mountains of Colorado. Despite the distance, Gerrits has always been a beloved family member because of his great sense of humor and kind heart. As long as I can remember, however, his siblings have good-naturedly joked about his favored status in their mother’s eyes. Several years ago, they even presented him with a T-shirt sporting the words, “I’m Mom’s Favorite.” While we all enjoyed the silliness of our siblings, true favoritism is no joking matter.

In [Genesis 37](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2037), we read about Jacob who gave his son Joseph an ornate coat—an indication to his other children that Joseph was special (v. 3). Without a hint of subtlety, the coat’s message shouted: “Joseph is my favorite son.”

Displaying favoritism can be crippling in a family. Jacob’s mother, Rebekah, had favored him over her son Esau, leading to conflict between the two brothers (25:28). The dysfunction was perpetuated when Jacob favored his wife Rachel (Joseph’s mother) over his wife Leah, creating discord and heartache (29:30–31). No doubt this pattern was the unhealthy basis for Joseph’s brothers to despise their younger brother, even plotting his murder (37:18).

When it comes to our relationships, we may sometimes find it tricky to be objective. But our goal must be to treat everyone without favoritism and to love every person in our life as our Father loves us ([John 13:34](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.34)).

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

#### Reflect & Pray

When have you struggled with showing favoritism? How is God helping you to treat everyone equally?

Loving God, as I interact with others help me to avoid showing unhealthy preferences. Help me to see others as You do and to treat everyone fairly and without favoritism.

#### Insight

When Joseph's story began, he was just seventeen years old ([Genesis 37:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2037.2)), and when he entered into Pharaoh’s service he was thirty (41:46). During the thirteen intervening years, he spent perhaps ten or so in slavery (first as a laborer and then as a household manager) before spending another two to three in prison. Later, following seven years of plenty (41:53), there are two of famine (45:6) before Joseph’s brothers arrive and they reconcile. Imagine—twenty-two years from slavery to reconciliation!

# God Calling – 7/1/20

# Attack Fear

I learn daily the sublime lesson of trust and calm in the midst of storm.  Whatever of sorrow or difficulty the day may bring My tender command to you is still the same --  Love and laugh.

Love and Laughter, not a sorrowful resignation, mark real acceptances of My Will.  Leave every soul the braver and happier for having met you.  For children or youth, middle or old age, for sorrow, for sin, for all you may encounter in others, this should be your attitude. Love and Laugh.

Do not fear. Remember how I faced the devil in the wilderness, and how I conquered with "the sword of the spirit which is the word of God."  You too have your quick answer to every fear that evil may present -- an answer of faith and confidence in me.  Where possible say it aloud.

The spoken word has power.  Look on every fear, not as a weakness on your part due to illness or worry, but as a very real temptation to be attacked and overthrown.

And Moses said ... Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today.  Exodus 14:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/2/20

# The Conditions of Discipleship



If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also….And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me….So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. —[Luke 14:26-27, 33](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+14%3A26-27%2C+33)

If the closest relationships of a disciple’s life conflict with the claims of Jesus Christ, then our Lord requires instant obedience to Himself. Discipleship means personal, passionate devotion to a Person— our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a vast difference between devotion to a person and devotion to principles or to a cause. Our Lord never proclaimed a cause— He proclaimed personal devotion to Himself. To be a disciple is to be a devoted bondservant motivated by love for the Lord Jesus. Many of us who call ourselves Christians are not truly devoted to Jesus Christ. No one on earth has this passionate love for the Lord Jesus unless the Holy Spirit has given it to him. We may admire, respect, and revere Him, but we cannot love Him on our own. The only One who truly loves the Lord Jesus is the Holy Spirit, and it is He who has “poured out in our hearts” the very “love of God” ([Romans 5:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5:5)). Whenever the Holy Spirit sees an opportunity to glorify Jesus through you, He will take your entire being and set you ablaze with glowing devotion to Jesus Christ.

The Christian life is a life characterized by true and spontaneous creativity. Consequently, a disciple is subject to the same charge that was leveled against Jesus Christ, namely, the charge of inconsistency. But Jesus Christ was always consistent in His relationship to God, and a Christian must be consistent in his relationship to the life of the Son of God in him, not consistent to strict, unyielding doctrines. People pour themselves into their own doctrines, and God has to blast them out of their preconceived ideas before they can become devoted to Jesus Christ.

**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 – 7/2/20

This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof.—[EXO. 12:43.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.12.html" \l "Exod.12.43)

We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.—Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.—At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise. But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometime were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, . . . having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

[Heb. 13:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.10). -[John 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.3.html" \l "John.3.3). -[Eph. 2:12,13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.12).[Eph. 2:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.14).[Eph. 2:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.19).[Rev. 3:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.20).

“Our heart shall rejoice in Him.” **[Psalm 33:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.33.html" \l "Ps.33.21)**

Blessed is the fact that Christians can rejoice even in the deepest distress; although trouble may surround them, they still sing; and, like many birds, they sing best in their cages. The waves may roll over them, but their souls soon rise to the surface and see the light of God’s countenance; they have a buoyancy about them which keeps their head always above the water, and helps them to sing amid the tempest, “God is with me still.” To whom shall the glory be given? Oh! to Jesus—it is all by Jesus. Trouble does not necessarily bring consolation with it to the believer, but the presence of the Son of God in the fiery furnace with him fills his heart with joy. He is sick and suffering, but Jesus visits him and makes his bed for him. He is dying, and the cold chilly waters of Jordan are gathering about him up to the neck, but Jesus puts His arms around him, and cries, “Fear not, beloved; to die is to be blessed; the waters of death have their fountain-head in heaven; they are not bitter, they are sweet as nectar, for they flow from the throne of God.” As the departing saint wades through the stream, and the billows gather around him, and heart and flesh fail him, the same voice sounds in his ears, “Fear not; I am with thee; be not dismayed; I am thy God.” As he nears the borders of the infinite unknown, and is almost affrighted to enter the realm of shades, Jesus says, “Fear not, it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Thus strengthened and consoled, the believer is not afraid to die; nay, he is even willing to depart, for since he has seen Jesus as the morning star, he longs to gaze upon Him as the sun in his strength. Truly, the presence of Jesus is all the heaven we desire. He is at once

“The glory of our brightest days;

The comfort of our nights.”

# Word Live – 7/2/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/2/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/2/20

# A Confident Young Spy

**Read:** [**Numbers 14:1–9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3a1%e2%80%939)

### The People Rebel

14 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” 4And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

5Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

We first meet Joshua as a young spy. Moses sent Joshua and 11 other leaders, each one from his ancestral tribe, to explore the land of Canaan. But their report back left everyone in dismay. Powerful warriors occupied the land, and fear swept from tent to tent as the people cried: “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?” (vv. 2–3). They even suggested leaving Moses, choosing a new leader, and returning to slavery in Egypt.

If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land. Numbers 14:8

Would their journey be all for nothing: the miracles performed, the miles trekked, and the desert obstacles overcome? Then, while the whole assembly watched, a young spy and his friend spoke up offering a different and godly perspective. Joshua and Caleb pled with the people that the land they explored, an “exceedingly good” land, could be theirs because the Lord would be with them (vv. 7–9).

Joshua’s and Caleb’s confidence could only come from the Lord. It probably took as much courage to raise their voices against their family and friends as was needed to scout out the land. Nonetheless, they spoke truth because they were confident that the Lord was bringing them on their quest for a purpose.

More time would pass before the people were fully prepared to enter into the Promised Land, but young Joshua and Caleb stood their ground when everyone else was ready to walk away. Joshua’s confidence in the Lord is one of the many reasons why Moses would mentor him and the Lord chose him to be the people’s leader for the most challenging quest they ever faced, entering into the Promised Land.

**Apply the Word**

If you were in Joshua’s sandals what would you have done? Would you have the courage to speak up for what was right and godly? Standing up for what is right may be challenging because of what others will think or say. But true confidence comes from the Lord.

### Pray with Us

In today’s reading, Joshua and Caleb give us an inspiring example of courage and reliance on God. May we stay strong and faithful to the Lord even in the most adverse circumstances.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/2/20

# Talking Bananas

 **Read:** [**Acts 11:19–26**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2011.19%E2%80%9326)

### The Church in Antioch

19Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

[Barnabas] encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. [Acts 11:23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2011.23)

Never give up. Be the reason someone smiles. You’re amazing. It isn’t where you came from—it’s where you’re going that counts. Some schoolchildren in Virginia Beach, Virginia, found these messages and more written on bananas in their lunchroom. Cafeteria manager Stacey Truman took the time to write the encouraging notes on the fruit, which the kids dubbed “talking bananas.”

This caring outreach reminds me of Barnabas’ heart for the “spiritual youngsters” in the ancient city of Antioch ([Acts 11:22–24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2011.22%E2%80%9324)). Barnabas was famous for his ability to inspire people. Known as a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, he prompted the new believers to “remain true to the Lord with all their hearts” (v. 23). I imagine he spent time with those he wanted to help, saying things like: Keep praying. Trust the Lord. Stay close to God when life is hard.

New believers, like children, need loads of encouragement. They’re full of potential. They’re discovering what they’re good at. They may not fully realize what God wants to do in and through them, and often the enemy works overtime to prevent their faith from flourishing.

Those of us who’ve walked with Jesus for a while understand how hard living for Jesus can be. May all of us be able to give and receive encouragement as God’s Spirit guides us and reminds us of spiritual truth.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How has God encouraged you in the past? How might God want to work through you to inspire someone?

Heavenly Father, give me someone to encourage today. Show me what to say and how to meet this person’s needs so that You’ll be glorified.

#### Insight

Barnabas, whose real name was Joses (or Joseph), was a wealthy Levite from the island of Cyprus ([Acts 4:36–37](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%204.36%E2%80%9337)). Barnabas lived up to his name, which means “Son of Encouragement.” It was through him that Saul (Paul) was accepted and trusted by the Jerusalem Christians ([Acts 9:26–30](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%209.26%E2%80%9330)), thereby opening up Paul’s extensive preaching ministry. In today’s passage, Barnabas was sent to Antioch to encourage the gentile believers (v. 22). He then encouraged Paul to come teach these new believers. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians (v. 26). Barnabas also encouraged John Mark, a young man deemed a failure by Paul ([Acts 13:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2013.13); [15:36–39](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2015.36%E2%80%9339)), and played a critical role in restoring him to effective ministry ([Colossians 4:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%204.10); [2 Timothy 4:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Tim%204.11)).

# God Calling – 7/2/20

# The Child-Spirit

Does the way seem a stony one?  Not one stone can impede your progress. Courage.  Face the future, but face it only with a brave and happy heart.  Do not seek to see it.  YOU are robbing Faith of her sublime sweetness if you do this.

Just know that all is well and that Faith, not seeing, but believing, is the barque that will bear you to safety, over the stormy waters. "According to your faith be it unto you" was My injunction to those who sought healing of Me.

If for wonder-working, if for healing, if for salvation faith was so necessary then the reason is clear why I urged that all who sought entrance to My Kingdom must become as little children.  Faith is the child-attitude.

Seek in every way to become child-like. Seek, seek, seek until you find, until the years have added to your nature that of the trusting child.  Not only for its simple trust must you copy the child-spirit, but for its joy in life, it's ready laughter, its lack of criticism, its desire to share all with all men.  Ask much that you may become as little children, friendly and loving towards all -- not critical, not fearful.

"Except ye...become as little children ye cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

And Jesus called a little child unto him...And said... Except  ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.  Matthew 18:2,3

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/3/20

# The Concentration of Personal Sin



Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips… —[Isaiah 6:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Isaiah+6%3A5)

When I come into the very presence of God, I do not realize that I am a sinner in an indefinite sense, but I suddenly realize and the focus of my attention is directed toward the concentration of sin in a particular area of my life. A person will easily say, “Oh yes, I know I am a sinner,” but when he comes into the presence of God he cannot get away with such a broad and indefinite statement. Our conviction is focused on our specific sin, and we realize, as Isaiah did, what we really are. This is always the sign that a person is in the presence of God. There is never any vague sense of sin, but a focusing on the concentration of sin in some specific, personal area of life. God begins by convicting us of the very thing to which His Spirit has directed our mind’s attention. If we will surrender, submitting to His conviction of that particular sin, He will lead us down to where He can reveal the vast underlying nature of sin. That is the way God always deals with us when we are consciously aware of His presence.

This experience of our attention being directed to our concentration of personal sin is true in everyone’s life, from the greatest of saints to the worst of sinners. When a person first begins climbing the ladder of experience, he might say, “I don’t know where I’ve gone wrong,” but the Spirit of God will point out some definite and specific thing to him. The effect of Isaiah’s vision of the holiness of the Lord was the directing of his attention to the fact that he was “a man of unclean lips.” “He touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged’ ” ([Isaiah 6:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+6:7)). The cleansing fire had to be applied where the sin had been concentrated.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The main characteristic which is the proof of the indwelling Spirit is an amazing tenderness in personal dealing, and a blazing truthfulness with regard to God’s Word. Disciples Indeed, 386 R

# CCEL – 7/3/20

If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.—[ROM. 8:17.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.17)

If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.—Thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.—Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me.

He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him I will give power over the nations.—To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

[Gal. 3:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.3.html" \l "Gal.3.29).[I John 3:l](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.1). -[Gal. 4:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.4.html" \l "Gal.4.7). -[Eph. 1:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.5).[John 17:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.24).[Rev. 2:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.2.html" \l "Rev.2.26). -[Rev. 3:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.21).

“The ill favoured and leanfleshed cows did eat up the seven wellfavoured and fat cows.”

**[Genesis 41:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.41.html" \l "Gen.41.4)**

Pharaoh’s dream has too often been my waking experience. My days of sloth have ruinously destroyed all that I had achieved in times of zealous industry; my seasons of coldness have frozen all the genial glow of my periods of fervency and enthusiasm; and my fits of worldliness have thrown me back from my advances in the divine life. I had need to beware of lean prayers, lean praises, lean duties, and lean experiences, for these will eat up the fat of my comfort and peace. If I neglect prayer for never so short a time, I lose all the spirituality to which I had attained; if I draw no fresh supplies from heaven, the old corn in my granary is soon consumed by the famine which rages in my soul. When the caterpillars of indifference, the cankerworms of worldliness, and the palmerworms of self-indulgence, lay my heart completely desolate, and make my soul to languish, all my former fruitfulness and growth in grace avails me nothing whatever. How anxious should I be to have no lean-fleshed days, no ill-favoured hours! If every day I journeyed towards the goal of my desires I should soon reach it, but backsliding leaves me still far off from the prize of my high calling, and robs me of the advances which I had so laboriously made. The only way in which all my days can be as the “fat cows,” is to feed them in the right meadow, to spend them with the Lord, in His service, in His company, in His fear, and in His way. Why should not every year be richer than the past, in love, and usefulness, and joy?—I am nearer the celestial hills, I have had more experience of my Lord, and should be more like Him. O Lord, keep far from me the curse of leanness of soul; let me not have to cry, “My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me!” but may I be well-fed and nourished in thy house, that I may praise thy name.

# Word Live – 7/3/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/3/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/3/20

# Be Strong and Courageous

**Read:** [**Joshua 1:1–9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1%3a1%e2%80%939)

### Joshua Installed as Leader

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: 2“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Imagine you heard on the evening news that a band of nomads was attempting to take over a fortified city. Nobody would think they stood a chance, especially if their experienced leader had just died. As Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, it wasn’t just them against the world. We know that God was with them every step of the way (vv. 6, 9).

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Nevertheless, their journey would not be easy. That is why three times in today’s passage, you read the phrase “be strong and courageous” (vv. 6, 7, 9). It doesn’t seem like Joshua lacked confidence. After all, he had volunteered to be a spy, and raised his hand when everyone wanted to turn back. Moses even handpicked the young man to be his personal aide. Rather, the Lord knew that the quest Joshua and the Israelites were about to embark on was going to be challenging physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Not only would it take all of their might, resilience, and composure, it would take all of their courage.

The key to success for Joshua and the Israelites came not from strength and courage but from a relationship with the God whose laws and commandments went with them wherever they roamed. The Law taught God’s people how to live righteously in obedience to Him. It also showed them their need for God’s grace and forgiveness. Unlike the barbaric and vicious living of their contemporaries, God called His people to be different. Their quest was tough. The road was long. Would they be able to find God’s power to be strong and courageous? Stay tuned.

**Apply the Word**

Finding strength and courage in difficult situations does not always come from within. Rather, it comes from finding God even in the midst of your circumstances. God promises to give you the strength you need. What situation are you facing today? The courage you need is there for asking!

### Pray with Us

Are you going through difficulties right now? Today’s passage shows us that to endure, we need to find God in the midst of trials. Ask Him to give you the strength you need.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/3/20

# Just a Spark

 **Read:** [**James 3:1–6**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/James%203.1%E2%80%936)

### Taming the Tongue

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

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

The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. [James 3:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/James%203.5)

“We’re in the library, and we can see the flames right outside!” She was scared. We could hear it in her voice. We know her voice—the voice of our daughter. At the same time we knew her college campus was the safest place for her and her almost 3,000 fellow students. The 2018 Woolsey Fire spread more quickly than anyone anticipated—most of all fire personnel. The record heat and dry conditions in the California canyon, along with the legendary Santa Ana winds, were all the rather small sparks needed to ultimately burn 97,000 acres, destroy more than 1,600 structures, and kill three people. In the photos taken after the fire was contained, the usual lush coastline resembled the barren surface of the moon.

In the book of James, the author names some small but powerful things: “bits [in] the mouths of horses” and the rudders of ships (3:3–4). And while familiar, these examples are somewhat removed from us. But then he names something a little closer to home, something small that every human being possesses—a tongue. And while this chapter is first directed specifically to teachers (v. 1), the application quickly spreads to each of us. The tongue, small as it is, can lead to disastrous results.

Our small tongues are powerful, but our big God is more powerful. His help on a daily basis provides the strength to rein in and guide our words.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

When was the last time your tongue got away from you? What will help you keep a tight rein on your words in God’s strength?

Jesus, I’ve been on the receiving end of words that burn. And my words have hurt others. Help me to keep a tight rein on my tongue.

To learn more about the book of James, visit [christianuniversity.org/nt336.](https://christianuniversity.org/nt336.)

#### Insight

In the New Testament letter of James, the author describes as useless a religion that can’t control the tongue (1:26), but later he adds that no one can tame the tongue (3:8). What is James saying? Because he’s writing as a servant of Christ (1:1), he may be recalling what Jesus said when He reminded the religious leaders of His day that it’s out of the heart that the mouth speaks ([Matthew 12:34](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2012.34)). It’s our hearts, not just our words, that need to come under the control of a Source beyond ourselves. At the end of chapter 3, he contrasts a wisdom of self-centeredness with wisdom that is peace-loving, gentle, considerate, merciful, and good—a spirituality of heart, word, and action resonating from the life-changing Spirit of Jesus (3:17–18).

# God Calling – 7/3/20

# Spiritual Fullness

Our Lord, we love Thee and desire to live for Thee in all things.

My children,  "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."  That is satisfaction.

Only in the fullness of spiritual things can the heartsick and faint and weary be satisfied, healed, and rested.  "Lord," we cry, "to whom shall we go but to Thee."  "Thou preparest the table before us."  Bread of Life, Food from Heaven.

How few realize that the feeding of the four thousand and the five thousand was in each case but an illustration of the way in which I should one day be the Food of My people.

Think of the wonder of revelation still to be seen by those who live with Me.  All these hundreds of years, and much of what I said and did is still mystery, much of My Life on earth is still spiritually unexplored country.  Only to the simple and loving heart that walks with me can these things be revealed.  I have carefully hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them unto babes.

Do not weigh your spirits down with the sins and sorrows of the world.  Only a Christ can do that and live.  Look for the loving, the true, the kindly, the brave in the many all around you.

As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.  Psalm 42:1

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/4/20

# One of God’s Great “Don’ts”



Do not fret— it only causes harm. —[Psalm 37:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Psalm+37%3A8)

Fretting means getting ourselves “out of joint” mentally or spiritually. It is one thing to say, “Do not fret,” but something very different to have such a nature that you find yourself unable to fret. It’s easy to say, “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him” ([Psalm 37:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+37:7)) until our own little world is turned upside down and we are forced to live in confusion and agony like so many other people. Is it possible to “rest in the Lord” then? If this “Do not” doesn’t work there, then it will not work anywhere. This “Do not” must work during our days of difficulty and uncertainty, as well as our peaceful days, or it will never work. And if it will not work in your particular case, it will not work for anyone else. Resting in the Lord is not dependent on your external circumstances at all, but on your relationship with God Himself.

Worrying always results in sin. We tend to think that a little anxiety and worry are simply an indication of how wise we really are, yet it is actually a much better indication of just how wicked we are. Fretting rises from our determination to have our own way. Our Lord never worried and was never anxious, because His purpose was never to accomplish His own plans but to fulfill God’s plans. Fretting is wickedness for a child of God.

Have you been propping up that foolish soul of yours with the idea that your circumstances are too much for God to handle? Set all your opinions and speculations aside and “abide under the shadow of the Almighty” ([Psalm 91:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+91:1)). Deliberately tell God that you will not fret about whatever concerns you. All our fretting and worrying is caused by planning without God.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

To those who have had no agony Jesus says, “I have nothing for you; stand on your own feet, square your own shoulders. I have come for the man who knows he has a bigger handful than he can cope with, who knows there are forces he cannot touch; I will do everything for him if he will let Me. Only let a man grant he needs it, and I will do it for him.”  
The Shadow of an Agony

# CCEL – 7/4/20

Leaning on Jesus' bosom.—[JOHN 13:23.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.13.html" \l "John.13.23)

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.—They brought young children to him, that he should touch them. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.—Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.—A high Priest . . . touched with the feeling of our infirmities.—In his love and in his pity he redeemed them.

I will not leave you comfortless: (marg. orphans) I will come to you.—Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

[Isa. 66:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.66.html" \l "Isa.66.13). -[Mark 10:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.10.html" \l "Mark.10.13),[16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.10.html" \l "Mark.10.16). -[Matt. 15:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.15.html" \l "Matt.15.32). -[Heb. 4:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html#Heb.4.15). -[Isa. 63:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.63.html" \l "Isa.63.9).[John 14:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.18). -[Isa. 49:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.49.html" \l "Isa.49.15).[Rev. 7:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.7.html" \l "Rev.7.17).

“Sanctify them through thy truth.” **[John 17:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.17)**

Sanctification begins in regeneration. The Spirit of God infuses into man that new living principle by which he becomes “a new creature” in Christ Jesus. This work, which begins in the new birth, is carried on in two ways—mortification, whereby the lusts of the flesh are subdued and kept under; and vivification, by which the life which God has put within us is made to be a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. This is carried on every day in what is called “perseverance,” by which the Christian is preserved and continued in a gracious state, and is made to abound in good works unto the praise and glory of God; and it culminates or comes to perfection, in “glory,” when the soul, being thoroughly purged, is caught up to dwell with holy beings at the right hand of the Majesty on high. But while the Spirit of God is thus the author of sanctification, yet there is a visible agency employed which must not be forgotten. “Sanctify them,” said Jesus, “through thy truth: thy word is truth.” The passages of Scripture which prove that the instrument of our sanctification is the Word of God are very many. The Spirit of God brings to our minds the precepts and doctrines of truth, and applies them with power. These are heard in the ear, and being received in the heart, they work in us to will and to do of God’s good pleasure. The truth is the sanctifier, and if we do not hear or read the truth, we shall not grow in sanctification. We only progress in sound living as we progress in sound understanding. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Do not say of any error, “It is a mere matter of opinion.” No man indulges an error of judgment, without sooner or later tolerating an error in practice. Hold fast the truth, for by so holding the truth shall you be sanctified by the Spirit of God.

# Word Live – 7/4/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/4/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/4/20

# Stand United

**Read:** [**Joshua 1:10-18**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1%3a10-18)

10So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: 11“Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.’”

12But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, 13“Remember the command that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you after he said, ‘The Lord your God will give you rest by giving you this land.’ 14Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them 15until the Lord gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the Lord your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

16Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. 18Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!”

Where did we get the phrase “United we stand, divided we fall”? The concept is a biblical one (Mark 3:25), but the phrase was penned in 1768 by John Dickinson, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. In “The Liberty Song” Dickinson expressed the magnitude of the quest for the young nation and the importance of unity and collaboration: “Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall!”

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

In today’s passage, Joshua and his officers were preparing the people to gather supplies for their quest. In a few days, they would cross the Jordan River and attempt to take possession of the Promised Land which the Lord was giving them (vv. 10–11). This involved not just one person, but everyone. In verse 11, Joshua used the second person pronoun five times. Every single person needed to be on board for this treacherous campaign. In verses 12 to 16, Joshua stresses the value of unity with those who had already received their inheritance east of the Jordan. The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had no compelling reason to leave their families or risk their lives. However, they could not sit on the sidelines while their neighbors went off to battle. This was a testimony to the Jewish value of companionship. German theologian Otto Eissfeldt observed, “To Israelite thought, unity is prior to diversity, the community is prior to the individual.”

The tribes’ response (vv. 16–18) demonstrated that they were loyal to Moses, faithful to one another, but more importantly, they were devoted to God. Did God need them to fight His battles? No. Were their lives more purposeful, complete, and honoring to the Lord because of their willingness to stand with their neighbors? Absolutely!

**Apply the Word**

Today we celebrate the U.S. Independence Day. We remember the courage and unity of those who fought to establish this nation. How can we promote a commitment to unity within the body of Christ? Consider how you can strengthen unity with fellow believers.

### Pray with Us

Let’s pray according to the apostle Paul’s exhortation in today’s key verse to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” May we strengthen our unity with fellow believers!

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/4/20

# The Kindness Man

 **Read:** [**Luke 7:11–17**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%207.11%E2%80%9317)

### Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son

11Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

14Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

16They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” 17This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her. [Luke 7:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%207.13)

Disillusioned and wanting a more meaningful life, Leon quit his job in finance. Then one day he saw a homeless man holding up this sign at a street corner: KINDNESS IS THE BEST MEDICINE. Leon says, “Those words rammed straight into me. It was an epiphany.”

Leon decided to begin his new life by creating an international organization to promote kindness. He travels around the world, relying on strangers to provide him with food, gas, and a place to stay. Then he rewards them, through his organization, with good deeds such as feeding orphans or building on to a school for underprivileged children. He says, “It’s sometimes seen as being soft. But kindness is a profound strength.”

Christ’s very essence as God is goodness, so kindness naturally flowed from Him. I love the story of what Jesus did when He came upon the funeral procession of a widow’s only son ([Luke 7:11–17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%207.11%E2%80%9317)). The grieving woman most likely was dependent on her son for financial support. We don’t read in the story that anyone asked Jesus to intervene. Purely from the goodness of His nature (v. 13), He was concerned and brought her son back to life. The people said of Christ, “God has come to help his people” (v. 16).

By:  [Anne Cetas](https://odb.org/author/annecetas/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What kindnesses does Jesus pour out on you? List them and thank Him.

You, God, are always showering me with Your gifts of love. I praise You for caring for me.

#### Insight

In the entire Bible, the town of Nain is only mentioned here in [Luke 7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%207). It was located more than twenty miles southwest of Capernaum (Jesus’ northern ministry headquarters on the Sea of Galilee) and about seven miles south of Nazareth (Jesus’ boyhood home). As such, it’s right in the middle of Christ’s home territory. As the site of a miracle of life out of death, however, Nain has even more significance. It was close to the ancient site of Shunem, a city that no longer existed except in the memory of the people. Why was it remembered? At Shunem, Elisha the prophet raised a woman’s son from the dead ([2 Kings 4:8–36](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%204.8%E2%80%9336)). No wonder, then, that when Jesus raised the widow of Nain’s son from the dead, the people responded by declaring, “A great prophet has appeared among us” ([Luke 7:16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%207.16)). They still remembered what Elisha had done!

# God Calling – 7/4/20

# Friend of Mine

What man calls conversion is often only the discovery of the Great Friend.  What man calls religion is the knowledge of the Great Friend.  What man calls holiness is the imitation of the Great Friend

Perfection, that perfection I enjoined on all, the being perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect, is the being like the Great Friend and in turn becoming to others a Great Friend too

I am your Friend.  Think again of all that means -- Friend and Savior.  A friend is ready to help, anticipating every want, hand outstretched to help and encourage, or to ward off danger, voice of tenderness to soothe tired nerves and speak peace to restlessness and fear.

Think of what, to you, your friend is and then from that, try to see a little of what the Perfect Friend, the tireless, self-less, all-conquering, all miracle-working Friend would be.  That Friend, and more even than your heart can imagine, that Friend am I.

Were I to read My Kingdom -- My Kingdom of the Child Hearts -- the doctrines of your churches, so often there would be no response.  But the simple rules I gave My followers are known, loved, and lived by them all.

In all things seek simplicity.

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.  Proverbs 18:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/5/20

# Don’t Plan Without God



Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. —[Psalm 37:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Psalm+37%3A5)

**Don’t plan without God.** God seems to have a delightful way of upsetting the plans we have made, when we have not taken Him into account. We get ourselves into circumstances that were not chosen by God, and suddenly we realize that we have been making our plans without Him— that we have not even considered Him to be a vital, living factor in the planning of our lives. And yet the only thing that will keep us from even the possibility of worrying is to bring God in as the greatest factor in all of our planning.

In spiritual issues it is customary for us to put God first, but we tend to think that it is inappropriate and unnecessary to put Him first in the practical, everyday issues of our lives. If we have the idea that we have to put on our “spiritual face” before we can come near to God, then we will never come near to Him. We must come as we are.

**Don’t plan with a concern for evil in mind.** Does God really mean for us to plan without taking the evil around us into account? “Love…thinks no evil” ([1 Corinthians 13:4-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13:4-5)). Love is not ignorant of the existence of evil, but it does not take it into account as a factor in planning. When we were apart from God, we did take evil into account, doing all of our planning with it in mind, and we tried to reason out all of our work from its standpoint.

**Don’t plan with a rainy day in mind.** You cannot hoard things for a rainy day if you are truly trusting Christ. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled…” ([John 14:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14:1)). God will not keep your heart from being troubled. It is a command— “Let not….” To do it, continually pick yourself up, even if you fall a hundred and one times a day, until you get into the habit of putting God first and planning with Him in mind.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

There is no condition of life in which we cannot abide in Jesus. We have to learn to abide in Him wherever we are placed. Our Brilliant Heritage

# CCEL – 7/5/20

We have known and believed the love that God hath to us.—[I JOHN 4:16.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.16)

God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—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?—The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

We love him, because he first loved us.

Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

[Eph. 2:4-7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.4).[John 3:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.3.html" \l "John.3.16). -[Rom. 8:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html#Rom.8.32). -[Psa. 145:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.145.html#Ps.145.9).[I John 4:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.19).[Luke 1:45](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.1.html" \l "Luke.1.45).

“Called to be saints.” **[Romans 1:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.1.html" \l "Rom.1.7)**

We are very apt to regard the apostolic saints as if they were “saints” in a more especial manner than the other children of God. All are “saints” whom God has called by His grace, and sanctified by His Spirit; but we are apt to look upon the apostles as extraordinary beings, scarcely subject to the same weaknesses and temptations as ourselves. Yet in so doing we are forgetful of this truth, that the nearer a man lives to God the more intensely has he to mourn over his own evil heart; and the more his Master honours him in his service, the more also doth the evil of the flesh vex and tease him day by day. The fact is, if we had seen the apostle Paul, we should have thought him remarkably like the rest of the chosen family: and if we had talked with him, we should have said, “We find that his experience and ours are much the same. He is more faithful, more holy, and more deeply taught than we are, but he has the selfsame trials to endure. Nay, in some respects he is more sorely tried than ourselves.” Do not, then, look upon the ancient saints as being exempt either from infirmities or sins; and do not regard them with that mystic reverence which will almost make us idolaters. Their holiness is attainable even by us. We are “called to be saints” by that same voice which constrained them to their high vocation. It is a Christian’s duty to force his way into the inner circle of saintship; and if these saints were superior to us in their attainments, as they certainly were, let us follow them; let us emulate their ardour and holiness. We have the same light that they had, the same grace is accessible to us, and why should we rest satisfied until we have equalled them in heavenly character? They lived with Jesus, they lived for Jesus, therefore they grew like Jesus. Let us live by the same Spirit as they did, “looking unto Jesus,” and our saintship will soon be apparent.

# Word Live – 7/5/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/5/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/5/20

# No Turning Back

**Read:** [**Joshua 2:1–14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2%3a1%e2%80%9314)

### Rahab and the Spies

2 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

2The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” 3So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

4But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” 6(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2%3a1%e2%80%9314#fen-NIV-5880a)] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2%3a1%e2%80%9314#fen-NIV-5880b)] 11When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

12“Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

14“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 2:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2%3a1%e2%80%9314#en-NIV-5880) Or the Sea of Reeds
2. [Joshua 2:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2%3a1%e2%80%9314#en-NIV-5880) The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them.

The day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence must have been a surreal moment for the Founding Fathers. They knew the real battle had only begun. There was no turning back. And in our text today, there was no turning back for Joshua and the Israelites. In his first move as the nation’s leader, Joshua sent two spies to scout out their enemies. Little did the spies know that help would come from an unlikely place.

For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Joshua 2:11

The spies entered the land, although not undetected, and hid in the home of Rahab, a prostitute (v. 1). We will look at Rahab’s life more closely tomorrow, but her conversation with the spies is significant. Even though they were the first Israelites to ever set foot inside the walls of Jericho, the testimony and reputation of Yahweh was clearly well known. Rahab stated that the hearts of her entire country had “melted in fear” when they heard of what happened in Egypt and to Sihon and Og (v. 11). This phrase refers to one who is utterly distressed with fear and anxiety. Israel’s God had a powerful reputation!

Even though Rahab was an outsider and knew very little about their history, she confessed her belief that their God was indeed the one true God (v. 11). She agreed to shelter the spies in exchange for her security and the safety of her family (v. 13). What bravery they all showed at the start of this quest: not just Joshua and the spies, but Rahab too. There was no turning back. They would be okay if they were on God’s side.

**Apply the Word**

You are probably inspired when you hear about God working in the lives of others. God works in people’s lives so that His name and renown will be widespread and glorified. Today, tell someone—or share on social media—about a way God has worked in your life.

### Pray with Us

The story of Rahab in today’s reading gives us a glimpse into God’s guidance in people’s lives. Remember, the same God is sovereign in your life! Praise Him for His love, grace, and mercy.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/5/20

# Renewed Strength

**Read:** [**Psalm 103:1–5**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20103.1%E2%80%935)

#### Of David.

1Praise the Lord, my soul;  
    all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
2Praise the Lord, my soul,  
    and forget not all his benefits—  
3who forgives all your sins  
    and heals all your diseases,  
4who redeems your life from the pit  
    and crowns you with love and compassion,  
5who satisfies your desires with good things  
    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Praise the Lord . . . who satisfies your desires with good things. [Psalm 103:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20103.1), [5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalm%20103.5)

Psychiatrist Robert Coles once noticed a pattern in those who burn out while serving others. The first warning sign is weariness. Next comes cynicism about things ever improving, then bitterness, despair, depression, and finally burnout.

After writing a book about recovering from broken dreams, I once entered a busy season of conference speaking. Helping people find hope after disappointment was richly rewarding, but came at a cost. One day, about to step on stage, I thought I was going to faint. I hadn’t slept well, a vacation hadn’t fixed my weariness, and the thought of hearing another person’s problems afterward filled me with dread. I was following Coles’ pattern.

Scripture gives two strategies for beating burnout. In [Isaiah 40](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2040), the weary soul is renewed when it hopes in the Lord (vv. 29–31). I needed to rest in God, trusting Him to work, rather than pushing on in my own dwindling strength. And [Psalm 103](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20103) says God renews us by satisfying our desires with good things (v. 5). While this includes forgiveness and redemption (vv. 3–4), provisions of joy and play come from Him too. When I reworked my schedule to include more prayer, rest, and hobbies like photography, I began to feel healthy again.

Burnout begins with weariness. Let’s stop it from going further. We serve others best when our lives include both worship and rest.

By:  [Sheridan Voysey](https://odb.org/author/svoysey/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What burdens do you need to offload to God right now? How are you renewing your strength through prayer, Scripture, and healthy play?

Loving God, I want to rise in strength like the eagle today. I trust You to work in my exhausting situation, and receive Your soul-filling gifts with gladness.

#### Insight

Renewal is one of the themes in [Psalm 103](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20103) (see vv. 3–5). It’s also a prominent theme in other Old Testament Scriptures: “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles” ([Isaiah 40:31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2040.31)); “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” ([Psalm 51:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2051.10)), and “Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old” ([Lamentations 5:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Lam%205.21)). In the New Testament, we learn that the final renewal of all things will come when Jesus returns: “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” ([Matthew 19:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2019.28)). Meanwhile, believers in Jesus are being daily renewed by the Holy Spirit at work in their lives ([Romans 12:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2012.2); [2 Corinthians 4:16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.16)).

# God Calling – 7/5/20

# You Are Invincible

I am with you all the time controlling, blessing, and helping you.  No man or woman can stand against My Will for you.  A whole world of men and women cannot do this -- if you trust Me and place your affairs in My Hands.

To the passenger it may seem as if each wave would overwhelm the ship, or turn it aside from its course.  The captain knows by experience that, in spite of wind and wave, he steers a straight course to the haven where he would be.

So trust Me, the Captain of your salvation.

And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven; there shall no man be able to stand before thee.  Deuteronomy 7:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/6/20

# Visions Becoming Reality



The parched ground shall become a pool… —[Isaiah 35:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Isaiah+35%3A7)

We always have a vision of something before it actually becomes real to us. When we realize that the vision is real, but is not yet real in us, Satan comes to us with his temptations, and we are inclined to say that there is no point in even trying to continue. Instead of the vision becoming real to us, we have entered into a valley of humiliation.

Life is not as idle ore,  
But iron dug from central gloom,  
And battered by the shocks of doom  
To shape and use.

God gives us a vision, and then He takes us down to the valley to batter us into the shape of that vision. It is in the valley that so many of us give up and faint. Every God-given vision will become real if we will only have patience. Just think of the enormous amount of free time God has! He is never in a hurry. Yet we are always in such a frantic hurry. While still in the light of the glory of the vision, we go right out to do things, but the vision is not yet real in us. God has to take us into the valley and put us through fires and floods to batter us into shape, until we get to the point where He can trust us with the reality of the vision. Ever since God gave us the vision, He has been at work. He is getting us into the shape of the goal He has for us, and yet over and over again we try to escape from the Sculptor’s hand in an effort to batter ourselves into the shape of our own goal.

The vision that God gives is not some unattainable castle in the sky, but a vision of what God wants you to be down here. Allow the Potter to put you on His wheel and whirl you around as He desires. Then as surely as God is God, and you are you, you will turn out as an exact likeness of the vision. But don’t lose heart in the process. If you have ever had a vision from God, you may try as you will to be satisfied on a lower level, but God will never allow it.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We must keep ourselves in touch, not with theories, but with people, and never get out of touch with human beings, if we are going to use the word of God skilfully amongst them.  Workmen of God, 1341 L

# CCEL – 7/6/20

Let your speech be always with grace.—[COL. 4:6.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.4.html" \l "Col.4.6)

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.—Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.—A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.—By thy words thou shalt be justified.—The tongue of the wise is health.

They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

If thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth.—Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, . . . see that ye abound in this grace also.

[Prov. 25:11,12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.25.html" \l "Prov.25.11). -[Eph. 4:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.29). -[Matt. 12:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.12.html" \l "Matt.12.35). -[Matt. 12:37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.12.html" \l "Matt.12.37). -[Prov. 12:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.12.html" \l "Prov.12.18).[Mal. 3:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mal.3.html" \l "Mal.3.16).[Jer. 15:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.15.html" \l "Jer.15.19). -[II Cor. 8:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.8.html" \l "iiCor.8.7).

“Whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.” **[Proverbs 1:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.1.html" \l "Prov.1.33)**

Divine love is rendered conspicuous when it shines in the midst of judgments. Fair is that lone star which smiles through the rifts of the thunder clouds; bright is the oasis which blooms in the wilderness of sand; so fair and so bright is love in the midst of wrath. When the Israelites provoked the Most High by their continued idolatry, he punished them by withholding both dew and rain, so that their land was visited by a sore famine; but while he did this, he took care that his own chosen ones should be secure. If all other brooks are dry, yet shall there be one reserved for Elijah; and when that fails, God shall still preserve for him a place of sustenance; nay, not only so, the Lord had not simply one “Elijah,” but he had a remnant according to the election of grace, who were hidden by fifties in a cave, and though the whole land was subject to famine, yet these fifties in the cave were fed, and fed from Ahab’s table too by His faithful, God-fearing steward, Obadiah. Let us from this draw the inference, that come what may, God’s people are safe. Let convulsions shake the solid earth, let the skies themselves be rent in twain, yet amid the wreck of worlds the believer shall be as secure as in the calmest hour of rest. If God cannot save his people under heaven, he will save them in heaven. If the world becomes too hot to hold them, then heaven shall be the place of their reception and their safety. Be ye then confident, when ye hear of wars, and rumours of wars. Let no agitation distress you, but be quiet from fear of evil. Whatsoever cometh upon the earth, you, beneath the broad wings of Jehovah, shall be secure. Stay yourself upon his promise; rest in his faithfulness, and bid defiance to the blackest future, for there is nothing in it direful for you. Your sole concern should be to show forth to the world the blessedness of hearkening to the voice of wisdom.

# Word Live – 7/6/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/6/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/6/20

# A Scarlet Rope

**Read:** [**Joshua 2:15–24**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2%3a15%e2%80%9324)

15So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. 16She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

17Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us 18unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. 19If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. 20But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

21“Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.”

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

22When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. 23Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

In Nathaniel Hawthorne’s classic, The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne was required to wear a scarlet “A” to signify her shame for having a baby out of wedlock. Humiliation and social stigmatizing were thought to be an appropriate punishment for a woman who committed adultery. If this had taken place in Joshua’s time, Rahab might have been forced to wear a scarlet letter as well. She was the town’s prostitute, the infamous adulteress of Jericho.

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. Hebrews 11:31

But the Israelite spies believed her place would be the perfect hideout. What happened next would change the trajectory of her life. In our text today, perhaps for the first time in her life, Rahab became a hero. She saved the spies and, in due time, her family as well. Rahab agreed not to say a word about the spies and to tie a scarlet cord, or rope, outside the window where she let the men down (v. 18). This way, when they returned, they would know which home to spare from destruction.

It must have taken tremendous courage for Rahab to let the spies leave. If the Jericho king and his men discovered her betrayal, Rahab would most likely have been tortured and murdered. Nonetheless, she kept her promise and did everything just as they agreed. Perhaps she was searching not just for a way out of Jericho, but a way out of her old way of living. Rahab’s brave act is remembered by the author of Hebrews, in the passage often referred to as the Hall of Faith (Heb. 11:31). As she obediently tied that scarlet rope (Josh. 2:21), her faith triumphed over her fear. God used that scarlet rope as a symbol of faith.

**Apply the Word**

Have you ever been given a label? Maybe you’ve been called slow, failure, old, or even a mistake? No matter what label people have given you, God calls you loved. He sees your faith. You are His child. He replaces the world’s false labels with the new identity He alone can give (1 John 3:1).

### Pray with Us

As we continue to read Rahab’s story, we see a woman at the bottom of the social hierarchy becoming a hero for God. Ask the Lord to show you how you can be a hero of faith no matter what.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/6/20

# A Flourishing Tree

 **Read:** [**Proverbs 11:24–30**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2011.24%E2%80%9330)

24One person gives freely, yet gains even more;  
    another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

25A generous person will prosper;  
    whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

26People curse the one who hoards grain,  
    but they pray God’s blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

27Whoever seeks good finds favor,  
    but evil comes to one who searches for it.

28Those who trust in their riches will fall,  
    but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

29Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind,  
    and the fool will be servant to the wise.

30The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
    and the one who is wise saves lives.

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. [Proverbs 11:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2011.28)

I’ve always had a collector’s heart. As a kid, I collected stamps. Baseball cards. Comics. Now, as a parent, I see the same impulse in my kids. Sometimes I wonder, Do you really need another teddy bear?

Of course, it’s not about need. It’s about the allure of something new. Or sometimes the tantalizing draw of something old, something rare. Whatever captivates our imagination, we’re tempted to believe that if we only had “X,” our lives would be better. We’d be happy. Content.

Except those things never deliver the goods. Why? Because God created us to be filled by Him, not by the things that the world around us often insists will satisfy our longing hearts.

This tension is hardly new. Proverbs contrasts two ways of life: a life spent pursuing riches versus a life grounded in loving God and giving generously. In The Message, Eugene Peterson paraphrases [Proverbs 11:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2011.28) like this: “A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree.”

What a picture! Two ways of life: one flourishing and fruitful, one hollow and barren. The world insists that material abundance equals “the good life.” In contrast, God invites us to be rooted in Him, to experience His goodness, and to flourish fruitfully. And as we’re shaped by our relationship with Him, God reshapes our hearts and desires, transforming us from the inside out.

By:  [Adam R. Holz](https://odb.org/author/adamholz/)

#### Reflect & Pray

When has an undue focus on material things become a major spiritual struggle for you? What helps you keep your desires in proper perspective?

Father, thank You for the good gifts You give. Help me to keep putting my trust in You rather than the stuff of this world.

#### Insight

The word thrive in [Proverbs 11:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2011.28) is a translation of the Hebrew verb parach. It can mean “to break forth” as with a bud or blossom; or grow, spread, and spring up. “Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.” This positive growth dynamic characterizes those who are rightly related to God (“the righteous”). We also see this word in [Psalm 92](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2092): “The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God” (vv. 12–13).

# God Calling – 7/6/20

# Riches

Never let yourselves think "we cannot afford this," or "shall never be able to do that."  Say "the supply for it is not here yet, but it will come if we should have it.  It will surely come."

Persevere in saying that and gradually a feeling of being plentifully supplied and of being surrounded by riches will possess you.  That feeling is your faith claiming My Supply, and according to your faith it shall be unto you.

But it is not the faith expressed in moments of prayer and exaltation I look for but the faith that lays immediately to rest the doubts of the day as they arise, that attacks and conquers the sense of limitation.

"Ask and ye shall receive."

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.  Psalm 112:3