# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/7/20

# All Efforts of Worth and Excellence Are Difficult



Enter by the narrow gate….Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life…. —[Matthew 7:13-14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+7%3A13-14)

If we are going to live as disciples of Jesus, we have to remember that all efforts of worth and excellence are difficult.  The Christian life is gloriously difficult, but its difficulty does not make us faint and cave in— it stirs us up to overcome.  Do we appreciate the miraculous salvation of Jesus Christ enough to be our utmost for His highest— our best for His glory?

God saves people by His sovereign grace through the atonement of Jesus, and “it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” ([Philippians 2:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2:13)). But we have to “work out” that salvation in our everyday, practical living (Philippians 2:12). If we will only start on the basis of His redemption to do what He commands, then we will find that we can do it. If we fail, it is because we have not yet put into practice what God has placed within us. But a crisis will reveal whether or not we have been putting it into practice. If we will obey the Spirit of God and practice in our physical life what God has placed within us by His Spirit, then when a crisis does come we will find that our own nature, as well as the grace of God, will stand by us.

Thank God that He does give us difficult things to do! His salvation is a joyous thing, but it is also something that requires bravery, courage, and holiness. It tests us for all we are worth. Jesus is “bringing many sons to glory” ([Hebrews 2:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2:10)), and God will not shield us from the requirements of sonship. God’s grace produces men and women with a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ, not pampered, spoiled weaklings. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to live the worthy and excellent life of a disciple of Jesus in the realities of life. And it is always necessary for us to make an effort to live a life of worth and excellence.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 7/7/20

Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.—[MATT. 4:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.4.html" \l "Matt.4.1)

In the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.—We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.—My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

[Heb. 5:7-9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.5.html" \l "Heb.5.7). -[Heb. 4:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.15).[I Cor. 10:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.10.html" \l "iCor.10.13). -[II Cor. 12:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.12.html" \l "iiCor.12.9).

“Brethren, pray for us.” [1 Thessalonians 5:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iThess.5.html" \l "iThess.5.25)

This one morning in the year we reserved to refresh the reader’s memory upon the subject of prayer for ministers, and we do most earnestly implore every Christian household to grant the fervent request of the text first uttered by an apostle and now repeated by us. Brethren, our work is solemnly momentous, involving weal or woe to thousands; we treat with souls for God on eternal business, and our word is either a savour of life unto life, or of death unto death. A very heavy responsibility rests upon us, and it will be no small mercy if at the last we be found clear of the blood of all men. As officers in Christ’s army, we are the especial mark of the enmity of men and devils; they watch for our halting, and labour to take us by the heels. Our sacred calling involves us in temptations from which you are exempt, above all it too often draws us away from our personal enjoyment of truth into a ministerial and official consideration of it. We meet with many knotty cases, and our wits are at a non plus; we observe very sad backslidings, and our hearts are wounded; we see millions perishing, and our spirits sink. We wish to profit you by our preaching; we desire to be blest to your children; we long to be useful both to saints and sinners; therefore, dear friends, intercede for us with our God. Miserable men are we if we miss the aid of your prayers, but happy are we if we live in your supplications. You do not look to us but to our Master for spiritual blessings, and yet how many times has He given those blessings through His ministers; ask then, again and again, that we may be the earthen vessels into which the Lord may put the treasure of the gospel. We, the whole company of missionaries, ministers, city missionaries, and students, do in the name of Jesus beseech you

“Brethren, pray for us.”

# Word Live – 7/7/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/7/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/7/20

# God is Still With Us

**Read:** [**Joshua 3:1–17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+3%3a1%e2%80%9317)

### Crossing the Jordan

3 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. 4Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+3%3a1%e2%80%9317#fen-NIV-5898a)] between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

5Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”

6Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

7And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. 8Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

9Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. 10This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. 11See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. 12Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. 13And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

14So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, 16the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 3:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+3%3a1%e2%80%9317#en-NIV-5898) That is, about 3,000 feet or about 900 meters

A leadership transition can be difficult. In times of uncertainty, a myriad of questions flood people’s minds: How will we make it? What will our future be like? How will our new leader treat us? Churches and ministries can be especially challenged by the complexity of transition. But the ones who seem to thrive during those challenging times remember that the Lord is still with them.

I am with you as I was with Moses. Joshua 3:7

When Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea in Exodus 14, it was the unofficial start of their quest. In today’s text, the crossing of the Jordan marks the unofficial completion of their wilderness wanderings and the beginning of their conquest of the Promised Land. A new chapter had begun for Joshua and the Israelites. And, while the location and leadership changed, the Lord and His presence remained the same.

This was an exciting and important time for God’s people. Here Joshua gives instructions for this part of the journey: “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you” (v. 5). Verse 7 is the key verse in this chapter’s narrative. The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses.” As they embarked on a new chapter, the Lord was still the author and protector of their lives. God would go before them, just as He had in the past.

We may have times when we wonder if God is really with us. It is possible this same thought raced through the minds of Joshua, the priests, and the Israelites. That is why the Lord reminded them that He had been with Moses and their parents and grandparents (v. 7).

**Apply the Word**

What transitions are you facing? Is your church making changes you don’t agree with? Is your household becoming smaller or bigger? Perhaps you are changing jobs or neighborhoods? Whatever quest the Lord is taking you on, He is with you.

### Pray with Us

Our passage from Joshua 3 reminds us of the vital importance of godly leadership. Will you pray for leaders in your church, at the workplace, and in our government?

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/7/20

# Prayer Eggs

 **Read:** [**Habakkuk 2:1–3**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%202.1%E2%80%933)

2 I will stand at my watch  
    and station myself on the ramparts;  
I will look to see what he will say to me,  
    and what answer I am to give to this complaint.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2%3A1%E2%80%933&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22750a)]

### The Lord’s Answer

2Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation  
    and make it plain on tablets  
    so that a herald[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2%3A1%E2%80%933&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22751b)] may run with it.  
3For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
    it speaks of the end  
    and will not prove false.  
Though it linger, wait for it;  
    it[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2%3A1%E2%80%933&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22752c)] will certainly come  
    and will not delay.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Habakkuk 2:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2%3A1%E2%80%933&version=NIV#en-NIV-22750) Or and what to answer when I am rebuked
2. [Habakkuk 2:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2%3A1%E2%80%933&version=NIV#en-NIV-22751) Or so that whoever reads it
3. [Habakkuk 2:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2%3A1%E2%80%933&version=NIV#en-NIV-22752) Or Though he linger, wait for him; / he

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. [Habakkuk 2:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%202.3)

Just outside my kitchen window, a robin built her nest under the eaves of our patio roof. I loved watching her tuck grasses into a safe spot and then hunker down to incubate the eggs. Each morning I checked her progress; but each morning, there was nothing. Robin eggs take two weeks to hatch.

Such impatience isn’t new for me. I’ve always strained against the work of waiting, especially in prayer. My husband and I waited nearly five years to adopt our first child. Decades ago, author Catherine Marshall wrote, “Prayers, like eggs, don’t hatch as soon as we lay them.”

The prophet Habakkuk wrestled with waiting in prayer. Frustrated at God’s silence with Babylon’s brutal mistreatment of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Habakkuk commits to “stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts,” to “look to see what he will say to me” ([Habakkuk 2:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%202.1)). God replies that Habakkuk is to wait for the “appointed time” (v. 3) and directs Habakkuk to “write down the revelation” so the word can be spread as soon as it’s given (v. 2).

What God doesn’t mention is that the “appointed time” when Babylon falls is six decades away, creating a long gap between promise and fulfillment. Like eggs, prayers often don’t hatch immediately but rather incubate in God’s overarching purposes for our world and our lives.

By:  [Elisa Morgan](https://odb.org/author/elisamorgan/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How difficult do you find it to wait while God works? While you wait, how can you obey God in what He has already given you to do?

Dear God, help me to trust You to work while I’m waiting.

To learn more about the prophet Habakkuk, visit [bit.ly/35b7xTE.](https://bit.ly/35b7xTE.)

#### Insight

We know very little about the prophet Habakkuk. Some have speculated he was the son of the Shunammite woman who Elisha raised from the dead ([2 Kings 4:8–37](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%204.8%E2%80%9337)). As to his prophecy, the only historical element we have is the reference to the Babylonians (or Chaldeans, see [Habakkuk 1:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hab%201.6)). Habakkuk’s prophecy is normally dated around the seventh century bc. The New Bible Commentary says that the purpose of the book “deals with the moral problem of God’s raising up of the Chaldeans to inflict his judgment upon Judah.” Perhaps the key feature of Habakkuk is found in 2:4: “but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.” This statement is quoted in [Romans 1:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%201.17), [Galatians 3:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gal%203.11), and [Hebrews 10:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%2010.38), making it a core New Testament value, although it was first expressed in the minor prophets of the Old Testament.

# God Calling – 7/7/20

# Painful Preparation

Help and peace and joy are here.  Your courage will be rewarded.

Painful as this time is you will both one day see the reason of it, and see too that it was not cruel testing, but tender preparation for the wonderful life-work you are both to do.

Try to realize that your own prayers are being most wonderfully answered. Answered in a way that seems painful to you, but that just now is the only way.

Success in the temporal world would not satisfy you.

Great success, in both temporal and spiritual worlds, awaits you.

I know you will see this had to be.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, ... But rejoice, in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings.  1 Peter 4:12

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/8/20

# Will To Be Faithful



…choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve… —[Joshua 24:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Joshua+24%3A15)

A person’s will is embodied in the actions of the whole person. I cannot give up my will— I must exercise it, putting it into action. I must will to obey, and I must will to receive God’s Spirit. When God gives me a vision of truth, there is never a question of what He will do, but only of what I will do. The Lord has been placing in front of each of us some big proposals and plans. The best thing to do is to remember what you did before when you were touched by God. Recall the moment when you were saved, or first recognized Jesus, or realized some truth. It was easy then to yield your allegiance to God. Immediately recall those moments each time the Spirit of God brings some new proposal before you.

“…choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve….” Your choice must be a deliberate determination— it is not something into which you will automatically drift. And everything else in your life will be held in temporary suspension until you make a decision. The proposal is between you and God— do not “confer with flesh and blood” about it ([Galatians 1:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+1:16)). With every new proposal, the people around us seem to become more and more isolated, and that is where the tension develops. God allows the opinion of His other saints to matter to you, and yet you become less and less certain that others really understand the step you are taking. You have no business trying to find out where God is leading— the only thing God will explain to you is Himself.

Openly declare to Him, “I will be faithful.” But remember that as soon as you choose to be faithful to Jesus Christ, “You are witnesses against yourselves…” ([Joshua 24:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+24:22)). Don’t consult with other Christians, but simply and freely declare before Him, “I will serve You.” Will to be faithful— and give other people credit for being faithful too.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 7/8/20

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—[I JOHN 1:9.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.1.html" \l "iJohn.1.9)

I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.—I have blotted out as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.—Your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.—God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—That he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean.—They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ: not by water only, but by water and blood.

[Psa. 51:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.51.html" \l "Ps.51.3).[Luke 15:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.15.html" \l "Luke.15.20). -[Isa. 44:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.44.html" \l "Isa.44.22). -[I John 2:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.12). -[Eph. 4:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.32). -[Rom. 3:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.3.html" \l "Rom.3.26).[Eze. 36:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ezek.36.html" \l "Ezek.36.25). -[Rev. 3:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.4).[I John 5:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.5.html" \l "iJohn.5.6).

“Tell me I pray thee wherein thy great strength lieth.” [Judges 16:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Judg.16.html" \l "Judg.16.6)

Where lies the secret strength of faith? It lies in the food it feeds on; for faith studies what the promise is—an emanation of divine grace, an overflowing of the great heart of God; and faith says, “My God could not have given this promise, except from love and grace; therefore it is quite certain his Word will be fulfilled.” Then faith thinketh, “Who gave this promise?” It considereth not so much its greatness, as, “Who is the author of it?” She remembers that it is God who cannot lie—God omnipotent, God immutable; and therefore concludeth that the promise must be fulfilled; and forward she advances in this firm conviction. She remembereth, why the promise was given,—namely, for God’s glory, and she feels perfectly sure that God’s glory is safe, that he will never stain his own escutcheon, nor mar the lustre of his own crown; and therefore the promise must and will stand. Then faith also considereth the amazing work of Christ as being a clear proof of the Father’s intention to fulfil his word. “He that spared not his own Son, but freely delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Moreover faith looks back upon the past, for her battles have strengthened her, and her victories have given her courage. She remembers that God never has failed her; nay, that he never did once fail any of his children. She recollecteth times of great peril, when deliverance came; hours of awful need, when as her day her strength was found, and she cries, “No, I never will be led to think that he can change and leave his servant now. Hitherto the Lord hath helped me, and he will help me still.” Thus faith views each promise in its connection with the promise-giver, and, because she does so, can with assurance say, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!”

# Word Live – 7/8/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/8/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/8/20

# Remember the Past

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

4 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, 3and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

4So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 5and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

8So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. 9Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+4#fen-NIV-5920a)] in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

10Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, 11and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. 12The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. 13About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war.

14That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.

15Then the Lord said to Joshua, 16“Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.”

17So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”

18And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

19On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. 20And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. 21He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ 23For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+4#fen-NIV-5934b)] when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 24He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 4:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+4#en-NIV-5920) Or Joshua also set up twelve stones
2. [Joshua 4:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+4#en-NIV-5934) Or the Sea of Reeds

Churches and workplaces often publicize their vision or plan for the future. And, as individuals, we are encouraged to be forward-thinking. Financial advisors and health care professionals remind us to live in a way now that will benefit us in years to come. But it is also important to consider our past.

The hand of the Lord is powerful. Joshua 4:24

After the entire nation passed through the rocky bed of the Jordan River and landed safely on the other side, the only thing that stood in the way of the land promised to them was an all-out war (3:17; 4:1). We can imagine the warriors sharpening their swords, tightening their belts, and strategizing their combat tactics with one another. However, before the Lord instructed them to move forward, He wanted them to take a step back and remember.

A leader was selected from each of the 12 tribes. They were told to go into the dried riverbed where the priests remained with the Ark of the Covenant, choose a large stone, and carry it back to the camp (v. 2). In Gilgal, Joshua built an altar to the Lord and declared that the stones would serve as a reminder for all the Israelites for generations to come (v. 7). When children would ask their parents the meaning and purpose of the stones, Joshua instructed them to pass on the miraculous story of their river crossing. They were to emphasize the presence of Yahweh as they stepped into their promised territory (vv. 21–24). Their mission was not only to occupy the Promised Land but also to remind their descendants that the Lord was and had been with them.

**Apply the Word**

Is there something that can remind you of God’s guidance and grace in your life? Maybe it is a special necklace, a newly planted tree, a sticky note, or even a stone. Use this object as a reminder of what God has done in your life. One day, your grandkids might ask, “What does that mean?”

### Pray with Us

Today’s devotional prompts us to thank God for His guidance and grace in our lives. During your prayer time, remember specific instances of God leading you and praise Him for His care for you.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/8/20

# A Friend in Failure

 **Read: Acts 15:36–16:5**

### Disagreement Between Paul and Barnabas

36Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” 37Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. 41He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

### Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

16 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. 2The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them. [Acts 15:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2015.38)

On November 27, 1939, three treasure hunters accompanied by film crews dug through the asphalt outside of the Hollywood Bowl amphitheater in Southern California. They were looking for the Cahuenga Pass treasure, consisting of gold, diamonds, and pearls rumored to have been buried there seventy-five years earlier.

They never found it. After twenty-four days of digging, they struck a boulder and stopped. All they accomplished was a nine-foot-wide, forty-two-foot-deep hole in the ground. They walked away dejected.

To err is human—we all fail sometimes. Scripture tells us that young Mark walked away from Paul and Barnabas on a missionary trip “and had not continued with them in the work.” Because of this, “Paul did not think it wise to take him” on his next trip ([Acts 15:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2015.38)), which resulted in a strong disagreement with Barnabas. But in spite of his initial failings, Mark shows up years later in surprising ways. When Paul was lonely and in prison toward the end of his life, he asked for Mark and called him “helpful to me in my ministry” ([2 Timothy 4:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Tim%204.11)). God even inspired Mark to write the gospel that bears his name.

Mark’s life shows us that God won’t leave us to face our errors and failures alone. We have a Friend who’s greater than every mistake. As we follow our Savior, He’ll provide the help and strength we need.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What mistakes or failures have you faced recently? In what ways have you discovered God’s strength as you shared them with Him in prayer?

Jesus, thank You for being there whenever I want to talk to You. I praise You for the comfort and hope only You can give!

#### Insight

Why does the detail about circumcision appear in Acts 16:3? To the Jewish people, the circumcision of all males was a symbol of their identification as God’s chosen people (see Genesis 17:9–14). It’s vital to note, however, that Paul didn’t have Timothy circumcised because of his identification as a believer in Jesus. Elsewhere Paul wrote, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Galatians 5:6). In this instance, Paul had Timothy circumcised so that he wouldn't offend the Jewish people residing in southern Galatia (now part of Turkey). Paul was displaying great cultural sensitivity so that the good news about Jesus could reach more people.

# God Calling – 7/8/20

# My Secret

You are being guided but remember that I said "I will guide thee with Mine Eye."

And My Eye is My set purpose -- My Will.

To guide with My Will is to bring all your desires into one-ness with My Will, My desires.

To make My Will your only will.  Then My Will guides you.

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.  John 4:34

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/9/20

# Will You Examine Yourself?



Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord…" —[Joshua 24:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Joshua+24%3A19)

Do you have even the slightest reliance on anything or anyone other than God? Is there a remnant of reliance left on any natural quality within you, or on any particular set of circumstances? Are you relying on yourself in any manner whatsoever regarding this new proposal or plan which God has placed before you? Will you examine yourself by asking these probing questions? It really is true to say, “I cannot live a holy life,” but you can decide to let Jesus Christ make you holy. “You cannot serve the Lord…”— but you can place yourself in the proper position where God’s almighty power will flow through you. Is your relationship with God sufficient for you to expect Him to exhibit His wonderful life in you?

“The people said to Joshua, ‘No, but we will serve the Lord!’ ” ([Joshua 24:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+24:21)). This is not an impulsive action, but a deliberate commitment. We tend to say, “But God could never have called me to this. I’m too unworthy. It can’t mean me.” It does mean you, and the more weak and feeble you are, the better. The person who is still relying and trusting in anything within himself is the last person to even come close to saying, “I will serve the Lord.”

We say, “Oh, if only I really could believe!” The question is, “Will I believe?” No wonder Jesus Christ placed such emphasis on the sin of unbelief. “He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief” ([Matthew 13:58](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13:58)). If we really believed that God meant what He said, just imagine what we would be like! Do I really dare to let God be to me all that He says He will be?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We are apt to think that everything that happens to us is to be turned into useful teaching; it is to be turned into something better than teaching, viz. into character. We shall find that the spheres God brings us into are not meant to teach us something but to make us something. The Love of God—The Ministry of the Unnoticed, 664 L

# CCEL – 7/9/20

I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.—[ZECH. 3:4.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Zech.3.html" \l "Zech.3.4)

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.—We are all as an unclean thing.—I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.—Ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.—Not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but . . . the righteousness which is of God by faith.

Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him.—The fine linen is the righteousness of saints.—I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.

[Psa. 32:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.32.html" \l "Ps.32.1). -[Isa. 64:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.64.html" \l "Isa.64.6). -[Rom. 7:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.18).[Gal. 3:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.3.html" \l "Gal.3.27). -[Col. 3:9,10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.9). -[Phi. 3:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.3.html" \l "Phil.3.9).[Luke 15:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.15.html" \l "Luke.15.22). -[Rev. 19:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.19.html" \l "Rev.19.8). -[Isa. 61:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.61.html" \l "Isa.61.10).

“Forget not all His benefits.” **[Psalm 103:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.2)**

It is a delightful and profitable occupation to mark the hand of God in the lives of ancient saints, and to observe his goodness in delivering them, his mercy in pardoning them, and his faithfulness in keeping his covenant with them. But would it not be even more interesting and profitable for us to remark the hand of God in our own lives? Ought we not to look upon our own history as being at least as full of God, as full of his goodness and of his truth, as much a proof of his faithfulness and veracity, as the lives of any of the saints who have gone before? We do our Lord an injustice when we suppose that he wrought all his mighty acts, and showed himself strong for those in the early time, but doth not perform wonders or lay bare his arm for the saints who are now upon the earth. Let us review our own lives. Surely in these we may discover some happy incidents, refreshing to ourselves and glorifying to our God. Have you had no deliverances? Have you passed through no rivers, supported by the divine presence? Have you walked through no fires unharmed? Have you had no manifestations? Have you had no choice favours? The God who gave Solomon the desire of his heart, hath he never listened to you and answered your requests? That God of lavish bounty of whom David sang, “Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things,” hath he never satiated you with fatness? Have you never been made to lie down in green pastures? Have you never been led by the still waters? Surely the goodness of God has been the same to us as to the saints of old. Let us, then, weave his mercies into a song. Let us take the pure gold of thankfulness, and the jewels of praise and make them into another crown for the head of Jesus. Let our souls give forth music as sweet and as exhilarating as came from David’s harp, while we praise the Lord whose mercy endureth forever.

# Word Live – 7/9/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/9/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/9/20

# An Important Tradition

**Read:** [**Joshua 5:1–12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312)

5 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#fen-NIV-5936a)] had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

### Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal

2At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” 3So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312" \l "fen-NIV-5938b" \o "See footnote b)]

4Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. 5All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. 6The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

9Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#fen-NIV-5944c)] to this day.

10On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12The manna stopped the day after[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#fen-NIV-5947d)] they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 5:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#en-NIV-5936) Another textual tradition we
2. [Joshua 5:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#en-NIV-5938) Gibeath Haaraloth means the hill of foreskins.
3. [Joshua 5:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#en-NIV-5944) Gilgal sounds like the Hebrew for roll.
4. [Joshua 5:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a1%e2%80%9312#en-NIV-5947) Or the day

Growing up, my family had the same meal on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. My wife and I have chosen to continue several of our family’s traditions while creating new ones for our children. Traditions help us honor and remember the past. As this new generation of Israelites was about to enter the land they had been promised, Joshua made them pause to look back at what God had done and to honor important traditions.

Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord. Leviticus 22:31

Notice the connection between verses 1 and 2. After hearing about the timidity and fear of the Amorite and Canaanite kings, the Lord and Joshua commanded the Israelites to be circumcised (vv. 1–3). Verses 4 through 7 detail the rationale behind this command—“Now this is why he did so” (v. 4). The place was named Gilgal (a word which sounded like the Hebrew word for “to roll”) because the Lord told Joshua that with this important tradition He had “rolled away the reproach of Egypt” (v. 9). In the Hebrew language, this could also be translated, “removed the shame of Egypt from you.” It had been 400 years since God promised the land to their forefathers, and 38 years since they left Egypt. The tradition of circumcision was the Lord’s reminder to them that they were His covenant people. And this obedient generation would enter the land.

They could not eliminate what had happened in their past. With God’s help, however, they could remove the emotional and spiritual burdens they had carried on their flight from Egypt. Verses 10–12 describe another important tradition, the Passover. The next day, they tasted food from their long-awaited Promised Land.

**Apply the Word**

Just as tradition played an important role for the nation of Israel, traditions hold an important place in our lives today. What traditions do you have that are special to you and your family? Do you have any that remind you of what the Lord has done in your life? If not, now is a great time to start a faith tradition!

### Pray with Us

Our Scripture reading today shows the importance of following God’s commandments and praising Him in prayer. Let’s pray we will do both of these things in our own walk with Him.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/9/20

# The Foolish Way of New Life

 **Read:** [**1 Corinthians 1:20–31**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%201.20%E2%80%9331)

20Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

26Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29so that no one may boast before him. 30It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1%3A20%E2%80%9331&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28395a)]

#### Footnotes:

1. [1 Corinthians 1:31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1%3A20%E2%80%9331&version=NIV#en-NIV-28395) Jer. 9:24

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [1 Corinthians 1:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%201.18)

Some things just don’t make sense until you experience them. When I was pregnant with my first child, I read multiple books about childbirth and listened to dozens of women tell their stories of labor and delivery. But I still couldn’t really imagine what the experience would be like. What my body was going to do seemed impossible!

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians that birth into God’s kingdom, the salvation that God offers us through Christ, seems equally incomprehensible to those who haven’t experienced it. It sounds like “foolishness” to say that salvation could come through a cross—a death marked by weakness, defeat, and humiliation. Yet this “foolishness” was the salvation that Paul preached!

It wasn’t what anyone could have imagined it would be like. Some people thought that salvation would come through a strong political leader or a miraculous sign. Others thought that their own academic or philosophical achievements would be their salvation ([1 Corinthians 1:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%201.22)). But God surprised everyone by bringing salvation in a way that would only make sense to those who believed, to those who experienced it.

God took something shameful and weak—death on a cross—and made it the foundation of wisdom and power. God does the unimaginable. He chooses the weak and foolish things of the world to shame the wise (v. 27).

And His surprising, confounding ways are always the best ways.

By:  [Amy Peterson](https://odb.org/author/petersonamy/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How is God surprising you today? Why is it true that God’s ways are better than your ways?

God, with Isaiah I pray, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are Your ways higher than my ways.

#### Insight

Writers of the New Testament were themselves students of Scripture, and their writings reflect knowledge of the Old Testament. Occasionally they preface their use of the Old Testament with words like “to fulfill” ([Matthew 1:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%201.22)) or “it is written” ([1 Corinthians 1:19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%201.19), [31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Corinthians%201.31)). Paul bookends his teaching in [1 Corinthians 1:19–31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%201.19%E2%80%9331) about the wisdom and power of God that are inherent in the preaching of the gospel with quotes from Isaiah and Jeremiah. The section begins with a citation from [Isaiah 29:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2029.14) and ends with words based on [Jeremiah 9:24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%209.24), “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

# God Calling – 7/9/20

# Why Doubt?

Joy in Me. Joy is infectious. Trust and pray. It is not sin for one who knows Me only as God, as Creator, to doubt Me, to question my Love and purposes.

But for one who knows Me as you do, as Friend and Savior, and who knows the world's God as Father -- for that one to doubt My purpose and saving Power and tender Love is wrong indeed.

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them; let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.  Psalm 5:11

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/10/20

# The Spiritually Lazy Saint



Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together… —[Hebrews 10:24-25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Hebrews+10%3A24-25)

We are all capable of being spiritually lazy saints. We want to stay off the rough roads of life, and our primary objective is to secure a peaceful retreat from the world. The ideas put forth in these verses from Hebrews 10 are those of stirring up one another and of keeping ourselves together. Both of these require initiative— our willingness to take the first step toward Christ-realization, not the initiative toward self-realization. To live a distant, withdrawn, and secluded life is diametrically opposed to spirituality as Jesus Christ taught it.

The true test of our spirituality occurs when we come up against injustice, degradation, ingratitude, and turmoil, all of which have the tendency to make us spiritually lazy. While being tested, we want to use prayer and Bible reading for the purpose of finding a quiet retreat. We use God only for the sake of getting peace and joy. We seek only our enjoyment of Jesus Christ, not a true realization of Him. This is the first step in the wrong direction. All these things we are seeking are simply effects, and yet we try to make them causes.

“Yes, I think it is right,” Peter said, “…to stir you up by reminding you…” ([2 Peter 1:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1:13)). It is a most disturbing thing to be hit squarely in the stomach by someone being used of God to stir us up— someone who is full of spiritual activity. Simple active work and spiritual activity are not the same thing. Active work can actually be the counterfeit of spiritual activity. The real danger in spiritual laziness is that we do not want to be stirred up— all we want to hear about is a spiritual retirement from the world. Yet Jesus Christ never encourages the idea of retirement— He says, “Go and tell My brethren…” ([Matthew 28:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28:10)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The great word of Jesus to His disciples is Abandon. When God has brought us into the relationship of disciples, we have to venture on His word; trust entirely to Him and watch that when He brings us to the venture, we take it.  
Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

# CCEL – 7/10/20

The disciple is not above his master.—[MATT. 10:24.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.10.html" \l "Matt.10.24)

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord.—If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.—I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.—Forasmuch . . . as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind.

[John 13:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.13.html" \l "John.13.13).[Matt. 10:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.10.html" \l "Matt.10.25). -[John 15:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.20). -[John 17:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.14).[Heb. 12:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.3).[Heb. 12:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.1). -[I Pet. 4:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.4.html" \l "iPet.4.1).

“Fellow citizens with the saints.” **[Ephesians 2:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.19)**

What is meant by our being citizens in heaven? It means that we are under heaven’s government. Christ the king of heaven reigns in our hearts; our daily prayer is, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The proclamations issued from the throne of glory are freely received by us: the decrees of the Great King we cheerfully obey. Then as citizens of the New Jerusalem, we share heaven’s honours. The glory which belongs to beatified saints belongs to us, for we are already sons of God, already princes of the blood imperial; already we wear the spotless robe of Jesus’ righteousness; already we have angels for our servitors, saints for our companions, Christ for our Brother, God for our Father, and a crown of immortality for our reward. We share the honours of citizenship, for we have come to the general assembly and Church of the first-born whose names are written in heaven. As citizens, we have common rights to all the property of heaven. Ours are its gates of pearl and walls of chrysolite; ours the azure light of the city that needs no candle nor light of the sun; ours the river of the water of life, and the twelve manner of fruits which grow on the trees planted on the banks thereof; there is nought in heaven that belongeth not to us. “Things present, or things to come,” all are ours. Also as citizens of heaven we enjoy its delights. Do they there rejoice over sinners that repent—prodigals that have returned? So do we. Do they chant the glories of triumphant grace? We do the same. Do they cast their crowns at Jesus’ feet? Such honours as we have we cast there too. Are they charmed with his smile? It is not less sweet to us who dwell below. Do they look forward, waiting for his second advent? We also look and long for his appearing. If, then, we are thus citizens of heaven, let our walk and actions be consistent with our high dignity.

# Word Live – 7/10/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/10/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/10/20

# The Holy Warrior

**Read:** [**Joshua 5:13–15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a13%e2%80%9315)

### The Fall of Jericho

13Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

14“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a13%e2%80%9315#fen-NIV-5949a)] have for his servant?”

15The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 5:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5%3a13%e2%80%9315#en-NIV-5949) Or lord

Throughout history, alliances have been essential for victory. The Allies in WWII and the 32-nation coalition in the 1990s Gulf War are just two examples of how countries band together in a time of conflict. In today’s reading, our hero Joshua was preparing to face off with an unexpected opponent. With sweaty hands and adrenaline pumping, he lifted his sword and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” (v. 13).

What message does my Lord have for his servant? Joshua 5:14

The warrior instead gave an alternative answer: “Neither” (v. 14). And then, the mysterious figure revealed his true identity and reason for stopping Joshua; he was a “commander of the army of the Lord” (v. 14). Immediately, Joshua fell facedown in reverence and respect. He did not know who this warrior was, but he recognized that whoever he was, he was sent from the Lord. Joshua revealed his own identity and instead of referring to himself as the “Successor of Moses” or “Leader of the Israelites” he identifies himself as the Lord’s “servant” (v. 14) Then he asked what message this commander was bringing.

The commander replied with a request that may seem odd to modern readers. He asked Joshua to remove his sandals, which represented his humanity and contact with a “filthy” world. The place he was standing was set apart by God and holy (v. 15). Because Joshua knew about Moses’ encounters with Yahweh (see Ex. 3:4–6), he would have been aware that the man standing before him was none other than the same one who appeared to Moses in the burning bush. Both leaders, chosen by God, had a similar experience. The text concludes simply, “And Joshua did so” (v. 15). He was in total submission to the Lord.

**Apply the Word**

It is probably unlikely that the Commander of the Lord’s army will stop you in your tracks today. However, his question should probe our hearts. Instead of asking if God is on our side, we should ask, “Are we on God’s side?”

### Pray with Us

Lord, we thank you for today’s devotional that shows us the qualities of a true warrior for God! Give us wisdom and determination to follow you wherever you lead us.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/10/20

# Not Taking Advantage

 **Read:** [**Acts 16:22–34**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2016.22%E2%80%9334)

22The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. 27The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

29The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” 32Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Don’t harm yourself! We are all here! [Acts 16:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2016.28)

Several inmates were collecting roadside garbage to reduce their jail time when their supervisor, James, collapsed. They rushed to his aid and realized he was having a medical emergency. One inmate borrowed James’ phone to call for help. The sheriff’s department later thanked the inmates for helping get their supervisor prompt medical attention, especially because they could have instead neglected him—to his great detriment as he was having a stroke—or used the situation to their own advantage to escape.

The kindness of the inmates’ actions is not unlike those of Paul and Silas when they were imprisoned. After they’d been stripped, beaten, and thrown into prison, an earthquake struck so violently that it loosed their chains and shook the prison doors off their hinges ([Acts 16:23–26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2016.23%E2%80%9326)). When the jailer awoke, he naturally assumed the prisoners had fled, so he prepared to take his own life (to preempt what would’ve been his punishment for their escape). When Paul shouted, “We are all here!” (v. 28) the jailer was so moved by their actions—uncharacteristic of prisoners—that he became curious about the God they worshiped, ultimately coming to believe in Him too (vv. 29–34).

The way we treat others reveals what we believe and value. When we choose to do good instead of harm, our actions might just prompt them to wonder about the God we know and love.

By:  [Kirsten Holmberg](https://odb.org/author/kirstenholmberg/)

#### Reflect & Pray

In what situation can you choose to not take advantage for your own gain? How might that decision benefit someone else?

Loving God, help me to make choices that will draw others to You.

#### Insight

The jailer’s story in [Acts 16:19–34](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2016.19%E2%80%9334) is intriguing. It’s possible he was a slave tasked with guarding the prison. According to Roman law, a jailer who let prisoners escape was to be executed (see 12:19). Evidently suicide was preferable to execution. But Paul stopped the jailer just in time (16:28). As a result, the guard asked about how he could be saved. He and his household placed their faith in God for salvation and were baptized (vv. 31–34).

# God Calling – 7/10/20

# Expect Many Miracles

My guardianship is so wonderful.

Expect not one miracle but many.

Each day's happenings, if of My working, and under My control, are miracle-works.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifest forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.  John 2:11

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/11/20

# The Spiritually Vigorous Saint



…that I may know Him… —[Philippians 3:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Philippians+3%3A10)

A saint is not to take the initiative toward self-realization, but toward knowing Jesus Christ. A spiritually vigorous saint never believes that his circumstances simply happen at random, nor does he ever think of his life as being divided into the secular and the sacred. He sees every situation in which he finds himself as the means of obtaining a greater knowledge of Jesus Christ, and he has an attitude of unrestrained abandon and total surrender about him. The Holy Spirit is determined that we will have the realization of Jesus Christ in every area of our lives, and He will bring us back to the same point over and over again until we do. Self-realization only leads to the glorification of good works, whereas a saint of God glorifies Jesus Christ through his good works. Whatever we may be doing— even eating, drinking, or washing disciples’ feet— we have to take the initiative of realizing and recognizing Jesus Christ in it. Every phase of our life has its counterpart in the life of Jesus. Our Lord realized His relationship to the Father even in the most menial task. “Jesus, knowing…that He had come from God and was going to God,…took a towel…and began to wash the disciples’ feet…” ([John 13:3-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:3-5)).

The aim of a spiritually vigorous saint is “that I may know Him…” Do I know Him where I am today? If not, I am failing Him. I am not here for self-realization, but to know Jesus Christ. In Christian work our initiative and motivation are too often simply the result of realizing that there is work to be done and that we must do it. Yet that is never the attitude of a spiritually vigorous saint. His aim is to achieve the realization of Jesus Christ in every set of circumstances.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The emphasis to-day is placed on the furtherance of an organization; the note is, “We must keep this thing going.” If we are in God’s order the thing will go; if we are not in His order, it won’t.  Conformed to His Image, 357 R

# CCEL – 7/11/20

I am with thee to save thee.—[JER. 15:20.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.15.html" \l "Jer.15.20)

Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee. And all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.—Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my rightousness.

We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.—In that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.—The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

[Isa. 49:24-26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.49.html" \l "Isa.49.24). -[Isa. 41:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.41.html" \l "Isa.41.10).[Heb. 4:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html#Heb.4.15). -[Heb. 2:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.2.html" \l "Heb.2.18). -[Psa. 37:23,24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.37.html" \l "Ps.37.23).

“After that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” **[1 Peter 5:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.10)**

You have seen the arch of heaven as it spans the plain: glorious are its colours, and rare its hues. It is beautiful, but, alas, it passes away, and lo, it is not. The fair colours give way to the fleecy clouds, and the sky is no longer brilliant with the tints of heaven. It is not established. How can it be? A glorious show made up of transitory sun-beams and passing rain-drops, how can it abide? The graces of the Christian character must not resemble the rainbow in its transitory beauty, but, on the contrary, must be stablished, settled, abiding. Seek, O believer, that every good thing you have may be an abiding thing. May your character not be a writing upon the sand, but an inscription upon the rock! May your faith be no “baseless fabric of a vision,” but may it be builded of material able to endure that awful fire which shall consume the wood, hay, and stubble of the hypocrite. May you be rooted and grounded in love. May your convictions be deep, your love real, your desires earnest. May your whole life be so settled and established, that all the blasts of hell, and all the storms of earth shall never be able to remove you. But notice how this blessing of being “stablished in the faith” is gained. The apostle’s words point us to suffering as the means employed—“After that ye have suffered awhile.” It is of no use to hope that we shall be well rooted if no rough winds pass over us. Those old gnarlings on the root of the oak tree, and those strange twistings of the branches, all tell of the many storms that have swept over it, and they are also indicators of the depth into which the roots have forced their way. So the Christian is made strong, and firmly rooted by all the trials and storms of life. Shrink not then from the tempestuous winds of trial, but take comfort, believing that by their rough discipline God is fulfilling this benediction to you.

# Word Live – 7/11/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/11/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/11/20

# The Walls Tumbled Down

**Read:** [**Joshua 6:1-16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+6)

6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

6So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” 7And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

8When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord’s covenant followed them. 9The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. 10But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” 11So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

12Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. 14So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

15On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!

I remember learning about the battle of Jericho as a child in Sunday School. I don’t recall if the story was told using a video, felt board, or reenactment, but I do remember thinking, “How could this be possible?” While I believed God was capable of performing miracles and that the fortified walls of Jericho were no problem for Him, I thought there must be something I was missing. How did simply walking around walls make them crumble?

See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands. Joshua 6:2

At the time I thought that the actions of Joshua and the Israelites appeased the Lord and, as a direct result, the walls tumbled down. What seems obvious now, the crucial point I clearly missed as a child, is found in the very first words the Lord spoke to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands” (v. 2). The Israelites’ obedience to Yahweh’s commands was not to earn God’s favor or His help. Rather, it would show their obedience because Yahweh already showed them favor and had delivered Jericho into their hands.

We can imagine there may have been some of that same skepticism in the minds of some Israelites, as they walked around the walls for a week. They had witnessed the Lord’s power over the waters of the Jordan River. They had tasted the Lord’s miracles in the harsh elements in the desert. However, now they were going up against mighty warriors. Surely, doubt had crept in, but not for Joshua. He was assured that the city was theirs because they were on God’s side. All that was required of him was to “see” (v. 2). Jericho was already delivered.

**Apply the Word**

So often we forget that God has already declared us victors. Instead, we fix our minds on our obstacles. We feel they are too big or strong for us to defeat. When we are on God’s side, no wall is too tall, no quest is too difficult. Today, ask God to help you see every obstacle through His perspective.

### Pray with Us

During your prayer time, ask yourself: Am I on God’s side? Do I see obstacles in my life from God’s perspective? What the Lord did for Joshua, He can do for you. The walls of your “Jericho” will fall!

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/11/20

# A Parade of Colors

 **Read:** [**Revelation 5:7–14**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%205.7%E2%80%9314)

7He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. 9And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll  
    and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
    and with your blood you purchased for God  
    persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
10You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
    and they will reign[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+5%3A7%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30790a)] on the earth.”

11Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
    to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
    and honor and glory and praise!”

13Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
    be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”

14The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Revelation 5:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+5%3A7%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#en-NIV-30790) Some manuscripts they reign

With your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. [Revelation 5:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%205.9)

For decades, London has been one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. In 1933, journalist Glyn Roberts wrote of England’s great capital, “I still think the parade of peoples and colours and tongues is just about the best thing in London.” That “parade” is still in evidence today with the blended smells, sounds, and sights of a global community. The beauty of diversity is part of the breathtaking appeal of one of the world’s greatest cities.

As with any city inhabited by human beings, however, London is not without its problems. Change brings challenges. Cultures sometimes clash. And that is one of the reasons no city built by human hands can compare to the wonder of our eternal home.

When the apostle John was transported into the presence of God, diversity was one of the elements of heavenly worship, as the redeemed sang, “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” ([Revelation 5:9–10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%205.9%E2%80%9310)).

Imagine heaven: a parade of every people group in the world celebrating the wonder of being children of the living God—together! As believers in Jesus, may we celebrate that diversity today.

By:  [Bill Crowder](https://odb.org/author/billcrowder/)

**Reflect & Pray**

What are the best things about the church being so diverse? What can make that diversity occasionally challenging?

Father, I thank You that no people group is excluded from Your great love. Teach us to truly love one another, as You have so generously loved us.

#### Insight

In [Revelation 4–5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%204%E2%80%935) we’re given a dramatic scene that occurs in the throne room of God. As the scene unfolds, the elders and living creatures are worshiping Him. Yet in these two chapters we see two different roles of God that motivate worship. In 4:11, His role as Creator prompts the worship, as the people say, “for you created all things, and by your will they were created.” In 5:9, the Lamb is declared worthy because He’s our Savior who “[was] slain, and with [His] blood [He] purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.” As Creator and Savior, God is worthy of all praise.

# God Calling – 7/11/20

# Guardian Angels

You are Mine.  Once I have set on you My stamp and seal of ownership all My Hosts throng to serve and protect you.

Remember that you are daughters of a King.

Try to picture a bodyguard of My servitors in the Unseen waiting, longing, efficient, to do all that is necessary for your well-being.

Feel this as you go through the day.  Feel this and all is well.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  Psalm 139:14

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/12/20

# The Spiritually Self-Seeking Church



…till we all come…to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ… —[Ephesians 4:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Ephesians+4%3A13)

Reconciliation means the restoring of the relationship between the entire human race and God, putting it back to what God designed it to be. This is what Jesus Christ did in redemption. The church ceases to be spiritual when it becomes self-seeking, only interested in the development of its own organization. The reconciliation of the human race according to His plan means realizing Him not only in our lives individually, but also in our lives collectively. Jesus Christ sent apostles and teachers for this very purpose— that the corporate Person of Christ and His church, made up of many members, might be brought into being and made known. We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy a quiet spiritual retreat. We are here to have the full realization of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of building His body.

Am I building up the body of Christ, or am I only concerned about my own personal development? The essential thing is my personal relationship with Jesus Christ— “…that I may know Him…” ([Philippians 3:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3:10)). To fulfill God’s perfect design for me requires my total surrender— complete abandonment of myself to Him. Whenever I only want things for myself, the relationship is distorted. And I will suffer great humiliation once I come to acknowledge and understand that I have not really been concerned about realizing Jesus Christ Himself, but only concerned with knowing what He has done for me.

My goal is God Himself, not joy nor peace,  
Nor even blessing, but Himself, my God.

Am I measuring my life by this standard or by something less?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Defenders of the faith are inclined to be bitter until they learn to walk in the light of the Lord. When you have learned to walk in the light of the Lord, bitterness and contention are impossible.  
Biblical Psychology

# CCEL – 7/12/20

My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.—[EXO. 33:14.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.33.html" \l "Exod.33.14)

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. The Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.—Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.—In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.—Our sufficiency is of God.

Lead us not into temptation.—O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.—My times are in thy hand.

[Deut. 31:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.31.html" \l "Deut.31.6),[8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.31.html" \l "Deut.31.8). -[Josh. 1:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Josh.1.html" \l "Josh.1.9). -[Prov. 3:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.3.html" \l "Prov.3.6).[Heb. 13:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.5). -[II Cor. 3:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.3.html" \l "iiCor.3.5).[Matt. 6:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.6.html" \l "Matt.6.13). -[Jer. 10:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.10.html" \l "Jer.10.23). -[Psa. 31:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.31.html" \l "Ps.31.15).

“Sanctified by God the Father.” **[Jude 1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jude.1.html" \l "Jude.1.1)**

“Sanctified in Christ Jesus.” **[1 Corinthians 1:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.1.html" \l "iCor.1.2)**

“Through sanctification of the Spirit.” **[1 Peter 1:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.2)**

Mark the union of the Three Divine Persons in all their gracious acts. How unwisely do those believers talk who make preferences in the Persons of the Trinity; who think of Jesus as if he were the embodiment of everything lovely and gracious, while the Father they regard as severely just, but destitute of kindness. Equally wrong are those who magnify the decree of the Father, and the atonement of the Son, so as to depreciate the work of the Spirit. In deeds of grace none of the Persons of the Trinity act apart from the rest. They are as united in their deeds as in their essence. In their love towards the chosen they are one, and in the actions which flow from that great central source they are still undivided. Specially notice this in the matter of sanctification. While we may without mistake speak of sanctification as the work of the Spirit, yet we must take heed that we do not view it as if the Father and the Son had no part therein. It is correct to speak of sanctification as the work of the Father, of the Son, and of the Spirit. Still doth Jehovah say, “Let us make man in our own image after our likeness,” and thus we are “his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” See the value which God sets upon real holiness, since the Three Persons in the Trinity are represented as co-working to produce a Church without “spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.” And you, believer, as the follower of Christ, must also set a high value on holiness—upon purity of life and godliness of conversation. Value the blood of Christ as the foundation of your hope, but never speak disparagingly of the work of the Spirit which is your meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. This day let us so live as to manifest the work of the Triune God in us.

# Word Live – 7/12/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/12/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/12/20

# Saved from Destruction

**Read:** [**Joshua 6:17–25**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+6%3a17%e2%80%9325)

17The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+6#fen-NIV-5967a)] to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. 18But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.”

20When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. 21They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

22Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” 23So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

24Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord’s house. 25But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 6:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+6#en-NIV-5967) The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them; also in verses 18 and 21.

Imagine the bedlam that occurred after the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. As bricks crumbled and dust clouded the air, the Israelite army rushed into the city. The enemies fled for their lives as Jericho was overtaken. Rahab and her family were in hiding, probably clinging together in fear as they awaited their fate.

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. I Timothy 2:3, 4

Although today’s reading is part of yesterday’s text, this narrative deserves a closer look. We encountered Rahab a few chapters ago when we read how she heroically sheltered the Israelite spies. After Rahab revealed her faith in the God “over heaven above and earth below” (2:11), she made a deal to be spared Jericho’s inevitable doom. She helped the spies escape and now it was their turn. Would they honor their agreement?

Joshua ordered that everything inside the city would now be devoted to the Lord (v. 17). The Hebrew word for “devoted” used here refers to the irrevocable giving to the Lord by total destruction. But Joshua also honored the promises made to Rahab and her family. This act of mercy displayed Joshua’s commitment to justice and revealed the Lord’s character. The lives of Rahab and her family were spared because God always fulfills His promises.

Rahab’s story has a parallel to the gospel. We are taught in the New Testament, that God desires every person to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). Just as God did not reject Rahab because of her past failures, the Lord receives all who surrender their lives to Him. The same mercy given to Rahab has been offered to us as well. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and victory over the grave, we are able to be saved from inevitable destruction. God saves all who trust in Him.

**Apply the Word**

God knows your story . . . all of it. Despite your imperfections, He loves you and wants you to be part of His family. Through Jesus, He made a way for that to be possible. Surrender your life to Him, today! It is a life-changing decision that only you can make.

### Pray with Us

Let’s ask the Father to help us grow in our love for Him and for each other. Let us also thank Jesus for His salvation that brought us into His family of faith.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/12/20

# United in Separation

 **Read:** [**Genesis 13:1–9**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2013.1%E2%80%939)

### Abram and Lot Separate

13 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. 2Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

3From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier 4and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

5Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7And quarreling arose between Abram’s herders and Lot’s. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

8So Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. 9Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.”

Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me . . . for we are close relatives. [Genesis 13:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2013.8)

Thrown into a project with his colleague Tim, Alvin faced a major challenge: he and Tim had very different ideas of how to go about it. While they respected each other’s opinions, their approaches were so different that conflict seemed imminent. Before conflict broke out, however, the two men agreed to discuss their differences with their boss, who put them on separate teams. It turned out to be a wise move. That day, Alvin learned this lesson: Being united doesn’t always mean doing things together.

Abraham must have realized this truth when he suggested that he and Lot go their separate ways in Bethel ([Genesis 13:5–9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2013.5%E2%80%939)). Seeing that there wasn’t enough space for both their flocks, Abraham wisely suggested parting company. But first, he stressed that they were “close relatives” (v. 8), reminding Lot of their relationship. Then, with the greatest humility, he let his nephew have the first choice (v. 9) even though he, Abraham, was the senior man. It was, as one pastor described it, a “harmonious separation.”

Being made uniquely by God, we may find that we sometimes work better separately to achieve the same goal. There’s a unity in diversity. May we never forget, however, that we’re still brothers and sisters in the family of God. We may do things differently, but we remain united in purpose.

By:  [Leslie Koh](https://odb.org/author/lesliekoh/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How can humility help in a “harmonious separation”? How can you remain united in purpose even when you disagree with someone on a disputable matter? ([Romans 14:1–10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2014.1%E2%80%9310)).

God, help me to work together with others in unity, and help me to discern when it’s best to serve separately.

#### Insight

Both Abram and Lot were wealthy, possessing flocks, herds, and herdsmen. The land that provided enough to support them before was no longer adequate. Apparently their time in Egypt had grown their holdings significantly so that the land could no longer support both of them. Abram, as the older man and leader of the entire party, had the right to choose, yet he deferred to Lot. Why?   
  
Perhaps Abram was already acting in faith, as would mark the remainder of his life (see the story of the sacrifice of Isaac in [Genesis 22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2022)). He was leaving the decision in God’s hands, trusting that what had been promised—that his descendants would receive the land—would be fulfilled. Knowing his descendants would receive the inheritance meant that he wouldn’t. Perhaps immediate possession wasn’t necessary from his perspective. He could wait in faith.

# God Calling – 7/12/20

# Savior and Savior

If you believe it is My Hand that has saved you, then you must believe that I am meaning to save you yet more, and to keep you in the way that you should go.

Even a human rescuer does not save a man from drowning only to place him in other deep and dangerous waters.  But rather to place him on dry land -- and more -- there to restore him to animation and health, and to see him to his home.

From this parable learn what I your Rescuer would do, and even more.  Is the Lord's Hand shortened that it cannot perform and cannot save?

My cry on the cross of "It is finished" is My Cry of Salvation for the whole world.

I complete every task committed to Me. So trust and be not afraid.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.  Philippians 1:6

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/13/20

# The Price of the Vision



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord… —[Isaiah 6:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Isaiah+6%3A1)

Our soul’s personal history with God is often an account of the death of our heroes. Over and over again God has to remove our friends to put Himself in their place, and that is when we falter, fail, and become discouraged. Let me think about this personally— when the person died who represented for me all that God was, did I give up on everything in life? Did I become ill or disheartened? Or did I do as Isaiah did and see the Lord?

My vision of God is dependent upon the condition of my character. My character determines whether or not truth can even be revealed to me. Before I can say, “I saw the Lord,” there must be something in my character that conforms to the likeness of God. Until I am born again and really begin to see the kingdom of God, I only see from the perspective of my own biases. What I need is God’s surgical procedure— His use of external circumstances to bring about internal purification.

Your priorities must be God first, God second, and God third, until your life is continually face to face with God and no one else is taken into account whatsoever. Your prayer will then be, “In all the world there is no one but You, dear God; there is no one but You.”

Keep paying the price. Let God see that you are willing to live up to the vision.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else. “Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord”;…  The Highest Good—The Pilgrim’s Song Book, 537 L

# CCEL – 7/13/20

I am my Beloved's, and His desire is toward me.—[SONG 7:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.7.html" \l "Song.7.10)

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.—I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of then is lost.

The Lord taketh pleasure in his people.—My delights were with the sons of men.—His great love wherewith he loved us.—Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.—Whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

[II Tim. 1:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.1.html" \l "iiTim.1.12). -[Rom. 8:38,39](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.38). -[John 17:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.12).[Psa. 149:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.149.html" \l "Ps.149.4). -[Prov. 8:31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.8.html" \l "Prov.8.31). -[Eph. 2:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.4). -[John 15:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.13).[I Cor. 6:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.20). -[Rom. 14:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.14.html" \l "Rom.14.8).

“God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry?” **[Jonah 4:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jonah.4.html" \l "Jonah.4.9)**

Anger is not always or necessarily sinful, but it has such a tendency to run wild that whenever it displays itself, we should be quick to question its character, with this enquiry, “Doest thou well to be angry?” It may be that we can answer, “YES.” Very frequently anger is the madman’s firebrand, but sometimes it is Elijah’s fire from heaven. We do well when we are angry with sin, because of the wrong which it commits against our good and gracious God; or with ourselves because we remain so foolish after so much divine instruction; or with others when the sole cause of anger is the evil which they do. He who is not angry at transgression becomes a partaker in it. Sin is a loathsome and hateful thing, and no renewed heart can patiently endure it. God himself is angry with the wicked every day, and it is written in His Word, “Ye that love the Lord, hate evil.” Far more frequently it is to be feared that our anger is not commendable or even justifiable, and then we must answer, “NO.” Why should we be fretful with children, passionate with servants, and wrathful with companions? Is such anger honourable to our Christian profession, or glorifying to God? Is it not the old evil heart seeking to gain dominion, and should we not resist it with all the might of our newborn nature? Many professors give way to temper as though it were useless to attempt resistance; but let the believer remember that he must be a conqueror in every point, or else he cannot be crowned. If we cannot control our tempers, what has grace done for us? Someone told Mr. Jay that grace was often grafted on a crab-stump. “Yes,” said he, “but the fruit will not be crabs.” We must not make natural infirmity an excuse for sin, but we must fly to the cross and pray the Lord to crucify our tempers, and renew us in gentleness and meekness after His own image.

# Word Live – 7/13/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/13/20

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

# Today in the Word – 7/13/20

# The Sin Within

**Read:** [**Joshua 7:1–19**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7%3a1%e2%80%9319)

### Achan’s Sin

7 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7%3a1%e2%80%9319#fen-NIV-5978a)]; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7%3a1%e2%80%9319" \l "fen-NIV-5978b" \o "See footnote b)] the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.

2Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.” 4So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, 5who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.

6Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. 7And Joshua said, “Alas, Sovereign Lord, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! 8Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 9The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?”

10The Lord said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. 12That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

13“Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

14“‘In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the Lord chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the Lord chooses shall come forward man by man. 15Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the Lord and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!’”

16Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. 17The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. 18Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen.

19Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 7:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7%3a1%e2%80%9319#en-NIV-5978) The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them; also in verses 11, 12, 13 and 15.
2. [Joshua 7:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7%3a1%e2%80%9319#en-NIV-5978) See Septuagint and 1 Chron. 2:6; Hebrew Zabdi; also in verses 17 and 18.

Joy filled the air. The Israelites were swapping stories about the destruction of Jericho when they received awful news. The nearly 3,000 men who had been sent to overtake the city of Ai had been routed. This had to be a stunning turnaround for the recent victors. After what God had done in Jericho and the promising reports from the spies, the capture of Ai seemed like it would be a walk in the park for the Israelite army.

Give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Joshua 7:19

This particular conquest ended with them running for their lives and around three dozen killed (vv. 3–5). Joshua and the other leaders were beside themselves (v. 6). Joshua questioned the Lord’s motives, promises, and actions (vv. 7–8). He concluded his “blame game” by putting the ball in God’s court and in verse 9 essentially asks, “What are you going to do about it?” The Lord refused to play Joshua’s game. He bluntly tells Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?” (v. 10). He explains that it was Israel who had broken their side of the covenant. Then He gave Joshua and the Israelites an ultimatum: Remove what was supposed to be destroyed. “I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction” (v. 12).

The Lord does not say that just one person had sinned, but the entire nation (vv. 1, 11). While it is clear that one man, Achan, had disobeyed, the Lord was teaching a hard and valuable lesson. One person’s disobedience can have devastating consequences. The Lord ordered Joshua to weed out the sin from within, so the whole nation would not be infested.

**Apply the Word**

The sin of one person affected the lives of many. It is naïve to think that we alone will be affected by our sinful actions. My sin and yours affects those around us. If there is unconfessed sin in your life, confess it today, and with strength from the Holy Spirit, remove it completely.

### Pray with Us

Today’s Scripture is a somber reminder of the destructiveness of sin. The sin of one person affects many. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there’s sin in your life and to give you the courage to confess it.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/13/20

# Look Up!

 **Read:** [**Psalm 8:3–4**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.3%E2%80%934)

3When I consider your heavens,  
    the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
    which you have set in place,  
4what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
    human beings that you care for them?[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8%3A3%E2%80%934+%3B+Revelation+21%3A22%E2%80%932&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-14017a" \o "See footnote a)]

#### Footnotes:

1. [Psalm 8:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8%3A3%E2%80%934+%3B+Revelation+21%3A22%E2%80%932&version=NIV#en-NIV-14017) Or what is a human being that you are mindful of him, / a son of man that you care for him?

**Read:** [**Revelation 21**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%2021.22%E2%80%9325)

### A New Heaven and a New Earth

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-31055a" \o "See footnote a)] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-31058b" \o "See footnote b)] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

### The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

9One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31070c)] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31071d)] thick.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-31071e" \o "See footnote e)] 18The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31074f)] 21The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

22I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Revelation 21:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#en-NIV-31055) Isaiah 65:17
2. [Revelation 21:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#en-NIV-31058) Isaiah 25:8
3. [Revelation 21:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#en-NIV-31070) That is, about 1,400 miles or about 2,200 kilometers
4. [Revelation 21:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#en-NIV-31071) That is, about 200 feet or about 65 meters
5. [Revelation 21:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#en-NIV-31071) Or high
6. [Revelation 21:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#en-NIV-31074) The precise identification of some of these precious stones is uncertain.

There will be no night there. [Revelation 21:25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%2021.25)

When filmmaker Wylie Overstreet showed strangers a live picture of the moon as seen through his powerful telescope, they were stunned at the up-close view, reacting with whispers and awe. To see such a glorious sight, Overstreet explained, “fills us with a sense of wonder that there’s something much bigger than ourselves.”

The psalmist David also marveled at God’s heavenly light. “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” ([Psalm 8:3–4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.3%E2%80%934)).

David’s humbling question puts our awe in perspective when we learn that, after God creates His new heaven and earth, we’ll no longer need the moon or the sun. Instead, said John the apostle, God’s shimmering glory will provide all necessary light. “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. . . . There will be no night there” ([Revelation 21:23–25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%2021.23%E2%80%9325)).

What an amazing thought! Yet we can experience His heavenly light now—simply by seeking Christ, the Light of the world. In Overstreet’s view, “We should look up more often.” As we do, may we see God.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What does God’s heavenly light teach you about Him? When you praise the glory of God, what do you experience?

Our wondrous God, I’m awed by Your holy glory, and I praise You for Your marvelous Light.

#### Insight

[Psalm 8:3–4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.3%E2%80%934) express King David’s amazement that the Creator of the cosmos would pay any mind to the human race. Much of the rest of the psalm, however, reviews what is remarkable about human beings. We’ve been created “a little lower than the angels,” powerful servants of God (v. 5; 104:4; [Hebrews 1:7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%201.7)). We’ve been “crowned” by our Maker “with glory and honor” ([Psalm 8:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.5)). And He’s charged us from the beginning of human history with caring for this wonderful planet ([Genesis 1:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%201.28)). The psalmist notes that God made us “rulers over the works of [His] hands,” including every living creature on earth ([Psalm 8:6–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.6%E2%80%938)). Ultimately, though, the glory isn’t ours at all. David rightfully begins and ends his psalm with this declaration of praise: “Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

# God Calling – 7/13/20

# Expect the Good

Can you get the expectant attitude of faith?

Not waiting for the next evil to befall you but awaiting with a child's joyful trust the next good in store?

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.  Romans 10:17