# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/9/20

# Then What’s Next To Do?



Everyone who asks receives… —[Luke 11:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+11%3A10)

**Ask if you have not received.** There is nothing more difficult than asking. We will have yearnings and desires for certain things, and even suffer as a result of their going unfulfilled, but not until we are at the limit of desperation will we ask. It is the sense of not being spiritually real that causes us to ask. Have you ever asked out of the depths of your total insufficiency and poverty? “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God…” ([James 1:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1:5)), but be sure that you do lack wisdom before you ask. You cannot bring yourself to the point of spiritual reality anytime you choose. The best thing to do, once you realize you are not spiritually real, is to ask God for the Holy Spirit, basing your request on the promise of Jesus Christ (see Luke 11:13). The Holy Spirit is the one who makes everything that Jesus did for you real in your life.

“Everyone who asks receives….” This does not mean that you will not get if you do not ask, but it means that until you come to the point of asking, you will not receive from God (see[Matthew 5:45](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:45)). To be able to receive means that you have to come into the relationship of a child of God, and then you comprehend and appreciate mentally, morally, and with spiritual understanding, that these things come from God.

“If any of you lacks wisdom….” If you realize that you are lacking, it is because you have come in contact with spiritual reality— do not put the blinders of reason on again. The word ask actually means “beg.” Some people are poor enough to be interested in their poverty, and some of us are poor enough spiritually to show our interest. Yet we will never receive if we ask with a certain result in mind, because we are asking out of our lust, not out of our poverty. A pauper does not ask out of any reason other than the completely hopeless and painful condition of his poverty. He is not ashamed to beg— blessed are the paupers in spirit (see [Matthew 5:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:3)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 6/9/20

Never man spake like this man.—[JOHN 7:46.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.7.html" \l "John.7.46)

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever.—The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.—His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend.

All bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.—He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.—The sword of the Spirit . . . is the word of God.—The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.—The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

[Psa. 45:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.45.html" \l "Ps.45.2). -[Isa. 50:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.50.html" \l "Isa.50.4). -[Song 5:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.5.html" \l "Song.5.16).[Luke 4:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.4.html" \l "Luke.4.22). -[Matt. 7:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.7.html" \l "Matt.7.29).[Col. 3:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.16). -[Eph. 6:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.6.html" \l "Eph.6.17). -[Heb. 4:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.12). -[II Cor. 10:4,5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.10.html" \l "iiCor.10.4).

“The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.” [Psalm 126:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.126.html" \l "Ps.126.3)

Some Christians are sadly prone to look on the dark side of everything, and to dwell more upon what they have gone through than upon what God has done for them. Ask for their impression of the Christian life, and they will describe their continual conflicts, their deep afflictions, their sad adversities, and the sinfulness of their hearts, yet with scarcely any allusion to the mercy and help which God has vouchsafed them. But a Christian whose soul is in a healthy state, will come forward joyously, and say, “I will speak, not about myself, but to the honour of my God. He hath brought me up out of an horrible pit, and out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings: and he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. The Lord hath done great things for me, whereof I am glad.” Such an abstract of experience as this is the very best that any child of God can present. It is true that we endure trials, but it is just as true that we are delivered out of them. It is true that we have our corruptions, and mournfully do we know this, but it is quite as true that we have an all-sufficient Saviour, who overcomes these corruptions, and delivers us from their dominion. In looking back, it would be wrong to deny that we have been in the Slough of Despond, and have crept along the Valley of Humiliation, but it would be equally wicked to forget that we have been through them safely and profitably; we have not remained in them, thanks to our Almighty Helper and Leader, who has brought us “out into a wealthy place.” The deeper our troubles, the louder our thanks to God, who has led us through all, and preserved us until now. Our griefs cannot mar the melody of our praise, we reckon them to be the bass part of our life’s song, “He hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.”

# Word Live – 6/9/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/9/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/9/20

# Failure and God’s Timing

**Read:** [**Exodus 2:11–25**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3a11%e2%80%9325)

### Moses Flees to Midian

11One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

14The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

15When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. 16Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father’s flock. 17Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

18When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, “Why have you returned so early today?”

19They answered, “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.”

20“And where is he?” Reuel asked his daughters. “Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.”

21Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3a11%e2%80%9325" \l "fen-NIV-1577a" \o "See footnote a)] saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

23During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. 24God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. 25So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Exodus 2:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3a11%e2%80%9325#en-NIV-1577) Gershom sounds like the Hebrew for a foreigner there.

The book of Hebrews identifies Moses as a hero of the faith, even though he experienced failure. After reaching a position of power and wealth in Egypt, Moses decided to give it up. He chose instead “to be mistreated along with the people of God,” and “regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt” (Heb. 11:24–28). Then, in Exodus 2:11, we see Moses react impulsively to the suffering of his people by striking and killing an Egyptian.

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Moses failed to achieve what he had hoped: “Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not” (Acts 7:25). Rather than gaining support for the liberation of his people, he was forced to flee for his life. The right time in God’s plan had not yet come, and Moses was not spiritually ready. We can imagine that he must have felt frustrated. Although he was an Israelite (v. 11), he had lived a life of palace privilege, while his people had toiled in slavery. He no doubt felt the urge to do something! But it is clear that this murder of an Egyptian did not have the result he desired. Instead, it roused Pharaoh’s anger and, humanly speaking, Moses lost everything.

At age 40, Moses ended up as a desert shepherd in the land of Midian. His “career” had crashed and burned. It is clear that God cared about the Israelites’ suffering (vv. 23–25). So why didn’t He bless Moses’ well-intentioned act? Because His ways and timing are entirely different from ours. Forty more years would pass before He even introduced Himself to Moses in the burning bush (Ex. 3:2).

**Apply the Word**

Most of us appreciate plans and goals. We tend to assume God will bless any plan we think is worthwhile. What we should do instead is to submit all our plans, goals, motives, and timing to the Lord (James 4:13–15).

### Pray with Us

Our devotional today shows us a few milestones in Moses’ journey of obedience. Ask God to show you how He worked in your life journey, and thank Him for His guidance in your life.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/9/20

# Our Reason for Joy

# Today's Devotional Read: [Psalm 149:1–5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20149.1%E2%80%935)

1Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+149%3A1%E2%80%935&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-16387a" \o "See footnote a)]

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
    his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

2Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;  
    let the people of Zion be glad in their King.  
3Let them praise his name with dancing  
    and make music to him with timbrel and harp.  
4For the Lord takes delight in his people;  
    he crowns the humble with victory.  
5Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor  
    and sing for joy on their beds.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Psalm 149:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+149%3A1%E2%80%935&version=NIV#en-NIV-16387) Hebrew Hallelu Yah; also in verse 9

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. [Psalm 149:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20149.2)

When the school year began, fourteen-year-old C.J. would hop off the bus every afternoon and dance down his driveway. His mom recorded and shared videos of C.J.’s after-school boogie time. He danced because he enjoyed life and “making people happy” with every move. One day, two garbage collectors took time out of their busy work schedule to stomp, spin, and sway with the young boy who inspires others to dance with him. This trio demonstrates the power of sincere and infectious joy.

The writer of [Psalm 149](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20149) describes the original source of enduring and unconditional joy—God. The psalmist encourages God’s people to join together and “sing to the Lord a new song” (v. 1). He invites Israel to “rejoice in their Maker” and “be glad in their King” (v. 2). He calls us to worship Him with dancing and music (vv. 1–3). Why? Because “the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory” (v. 4).

Our adoring Father created us and sustains the universe. He delights in us just because we’re His beloved children. He designed us, knows us, and invites us into a personal relationship with Him. What an honor! Our loving and living God is our reason for everlasting joy. We can rejoice in the gift of His constant presence and be grateful for every day our Maker has given us.

By:  [Xochitl Dixon](https://odb.org/author/xochitldixon/)

#### Reflect & Pray

Why does knowing God delights in us encourage joy in all circumstances? How can you express your joy in the Lord throughout the day?

Thanks for loving us, delighting in us, and knowing us, God.

To learn more about what the Christian faith teaches about God, visit [bit.ly/2k0FNyf.](https://bit.ly/2k0FNyf.)

#### Insight

Biblical scholars aren’t certain when [Psalm 149](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20149) was written or how it was used in worship, but one possibility is that it originated for use in an annual celebration of Israel’s God (YHWH, the Lord) enthroned as the King of the universe (see v. 2). [Psalm 149](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20149) is the fourth of five psalms ([Psalm 146–150](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20146%E2%80%93150)) that begin and end with the phrase “Praise the Lord.” In a way, these five psalms function as a conclusion or summary of the entire book of Psalms, ending on a resounding note of praise for God’s deliverance and presence with His people.

# God Calling – 6/9/20

# An Obstacle Race

Rise above your fears and fancies into My Joy.  It will suffice to heal all your sores and wounds.  Forget all sense of failure and shortcomings, all the painful jolts and jars, and trust Me, love Me, call upon Me.

Your discipleship is an obstacle race.  "So run that ye may obtain."  Obtain not only your hearts' desires, but obtain Me - your souls' Joy and Haven.

What would you think of the runner who threw himself on the ground in despondency at his first hurdle?

Over, and on and up.  I am your Leader and your goal.

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.  1 Corinthians 9:27

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/10/20

# And After That What’s Next To Do?



…seek, and you will find… —[Luke 11:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+11%3A9)

**Seek if you have not found.** “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss…” ([James 4:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:3)). If you ask for things from life instead of from God, “you ask amiss”; that is, you ask out of your desire for self-fulfillment. The more you fulfill yourself the less you will seek God. “…seek, and you will find….” Get to work— narrow your focus and interests to this one thing. Have you ever sought God with your whole heart, or have you simply given Him a feeble cry after some emotionally painful experience? “…seek, [focus,] and you will find….”

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters…” ([Isaiah 55:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+55:1)). Are you thirsty, or complacent and indifferent— so satisfied with your own experience that you want nothing more of God? Experience is a doorway, not a final goal. Beware of building your faith on experience, or your life will not ring true and will only sound the note of a critical spirit. Remember that you can never give another person what you have found, but you can cause him to have a desire for it.

“…knock, and it will be opened to you” ([Luke 11:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:9)). “Draw near to God…” ([James 4:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:8)). Knock— the door is closed, and your heartbeat races as you knock. “Cleanse your hands…” ([James 4:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:8)). Knock a bit louder— you begin to find that you are dirty. “…purify your hearts…” ([James 4:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:8)). It is becoming even more personal— you are desperate and serious now— you will do anything. “Lament…” ([James 4:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:9)). Have you ever lamented, expressing your sorrow before God for the condition of your inner life? There is no thread of self-pity left, only the heart-rending difficulty and amazement which comes from seeing what kind of person you really are. “Humble yourselves…” ([James 4:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:10)). It is a humbling experience to knock at God’s door— you have to knock with the crucified thief. “…to him who knocks it will be opened” ([Luke 11:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:10)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 6/10/20

The younger son took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.—[LUKE 15:13.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.15.html" \l "Luke.15.13)

Such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.—We . . . were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. If, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

[I Cor. 6:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.11). -[Eph. 2:3-6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.3).[I John 4:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.10).[Rom. 5:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.8),[10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.10).

“We live unto the Lord.” [Romans 14:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.14.html" \l "Rom.14.8)

If God had willed it, each of us might have entered heaven at the moment of conversion. It was not absolutely necessary for our preparation for immortality that we should tarry here. It is possible for a man to be taken to heaven, and to be found meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light, though he has but just believed in Jesus. It is true that our sanctification is a long and continued process, and we shall not be perfected till we lay aside our bodies and enter within the veil; but nevertheless, had the Lord so willed it, he might have changed us from imperfection to perfection, and have taken us to heaven at once. Why then are we here? Would God keep his children out of paradise a single moment longer than was necessary? Why is the army of the living God still on the battle-field when one charge might give them the victory? Why are his children still wandering hither and thither through a maze, when a solitary word from his lips would bring them into the centre of their hopes in heaven? The answer is—they are here that they may “live unto the Lord,” and may bring others to know his love. We remain on earth as sowers to scatter good seed; as ploughmen to break up the fallow ground; as heralds publishing salvation. We are here as the “salt of the earth,” to be a blessing to the world. We are here to glorify Christ in our daily life. We are here as workers for him, and as “workers together with him.” Let us see that our life answereth its end. Let us live earnest, useful, holy lives, to “the praise of the glory of his grace.” Meanwhile we long to be with him, and daily sing—

“My heart is with him on his throne,

And ill can brook delay;

Each moment listening for the voice,

‘Rise up, and come away.’”

# Word Live – 6/10/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/10/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/10/20

# The Prophet Who Disobeyed

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

### Jonah’s Anger at the Lord’s Compassion

4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

4But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

5Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. 6Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4#fen-NIV-22575a)] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

9But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

10But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. 11And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Jonah 4:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4#en-NIV-22575) The precise identification of this plant is uncertain; also in verses 7, 9 and 10.

As a professor at Moody Bible Institute, I regularly assign grades to my students. And I must admit that if Jonah was on my class roster, I’d be inclined to give him an F. After all, he failed to obey God’s direct command. Instead of doing what was asked, Jonah ran the other way (1:1–2). Even after his miraculous rescue, Jonah obeyed but preached the harshest sermon he could (3:1–4). Even when Nineveh repented, Jonah still had a negative attitude. He hoped to witness the city’s destruction and felt irritated and depressed at God’s mercy (4:1–3). The book ends with a question from the Lord that condemns Jonah’s ungodly attitude (v. 11).

In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. Jonah 2:2

Why did Jonah disobey God? Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria, Israel’s enemy. He wanted to see them obliterated! Yet God’s assignment represented an open door for His mercy. Jonah tried to slam that door shut, but he should have known better. God’s plans can never be thwarted. As I reflect on Jonah’s story, there’s one factor which causes me to reconsider my grade—the book itself. Tradition holds that it was authored by Jonah, which would demonstrate that his heart had been changed by these events. The narrative is filled with personal details that most likely come from the prophet himself, including his undersea prayer (chapter 2) and the episode with the plant (4:5–9). He recounts his story with honesty and vulnerability.

Jonah was not trying to make himself look good! If he could tell his story, magnifying the Lord’s love and compassion, then he was a man who’d been transformed by God. God is portrayed as the true Hero, and He turned all of Jonah’s failures into successes within His divine plan.

**Apply the Word**

Transparency and vulnerability with fellow believers can bring glory to God. It might be painful to share our failures honestly, but when it shows God working to conform us to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29), then it’s worth it!

### Pray with Us

Jonah, the prophet who disobeyed, makes us marvel at God’s ability to work despite our mistakes. Ask the Lord to show you what you can learn from the failures and triumphs of Jonah’s life.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/10/20

# “God Stuff”

 **Read:** [**1 Peter 3:13–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%203.13%E2%80%9318)

13Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3%3A13%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30439a)]; do not be frightened.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3%3A13%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30439b)] 15But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

#### Footnotes:

1. [1 Peter 3:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3%3A13%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-30439) Or fear what they fear

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. [1 Peter 3:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%203.15)

Most of Mike’s co-workers knew little about Christianity, nor did they seem to care. But they knew he cared. One day near the Easter season, someone casually mentioned that they’d heard Easter had something to do with Passover and wondered what the connection was. “Hey, Mike!” he said. “You know about this God stuff. What’s Passover?”

So Mike explained how God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. He told them about the ten plagues, including the death of the firstborn in every household. He explained how the death angel “passed over” the houses whose doorframes were covered by the blood of a sacrificed lamb. Then he shared how Jesus was later crucified at the Passover season as the once-and-for-all sacrificial Lamb. Suddenly Mike realized, Hey, I’m witnessing!

Peter the disciple gave advice to a church in a culture that didn’t know about God. He said, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” ([1 Peter 3:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%203.15)).

Because Mike had been open about his faith, he got the chance to share that faith naturally, and he could do so with “gentleness and respect” (v. 15).

We can too. With the help of God’s Holy Spirit, we can explain in simple terms what matters most in life—that “stuff” about God.

By:  [Tim Gustafson](https://odb.org/author/timgustafson/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How do you feel when someone wants to discuss matters of faith with you? Why does Peter add that we are to share our faith “with gentleness and respect”?

Father, help me be ready to explain the hope and purpose You can bring to life.

#### Insight

Peter’s question in [1 Peter 3:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%203.13), “Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?” is clearly rhetorical. He knows there are times when we will be harmed for doing what’s right. The apostle’s knowledge of such suffering was firsthand; he’d been jailed and beaten from the early days of the church ([Acts 5:40](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%205.40); [12:3–4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2012.3%E2%80%934)). In fact, Peter would eventually be killed for serving Christ ([John 21:19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2021.19); [2 Peter 1:13–14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Pet%201.13%E2%80%9314)).

So Peter’s encouragement is no mere pontification. Rather, it’s from his own platform of suffering that he tells a constantly threatened church, “If you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed” ([1 Peter 3:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%203.14)). And it’s in the context of suffering that Peter urges us to be ready to explain our reasons for following Jesus. Understanding this—and remembering His sufferings (v. 18)—deepens our resolve to share God’s truth in love.

# God Calling – 6/10/20

# The Day of Trouble

Offer unto Me the sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High,   
and then call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you.

To praise and thank and steadily fulfill your promises (vows) to Me are then, as it were, the placing of coin in My Bank, upon which, in your time of need, you can draw with confidence and certainty.  Remember that.

The world wonders when it sees the man who can so unexpectedly draw large and unsuspected sums from his bank for his own need, that of a friend, or for some charity.

But what the world has not seen are the countless small sums paid into that bank, earned by faithful work in many ways.

And so in My Kingdom.  The world sees the man of faith make a sudden demand upon Me, upon My stores, and lo! that demand is met.

The world thinks the man has magic power – No! the world does not see that the man has been paying in, in thanks and praise, promises fulfilled—faithfully, steadily.

So with you, My children.  "Offer to God the sacrifice of Thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High and call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you."

This is a promise for the seemingly dull days of little happenings, and a cheer for you, My children.  When you seem not able to do big things you can be storing your little acts and words of faithfulness in My Great Storehouse, ready for the day of your big demand.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/11/20

# Getting There (1)



Come to Me… —[Matthew 11:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+11%3A28)

**Where sin and sorrow stops, and the song of the saint starts.** Do I really want to get there? I can right now. The questions that truly matter in life are remarkably few, and they are all answered by these words— “Come to Me.” Our Lord’s words are not, “Do this, or don’t do that,” but— “Come to me.” If I will simply come to Jesus, my real life will be brought into harmony with my real desires. I will actually cease from sin, and will find the song of the Lord beginning in my life.

Have you ever come to Jesus? Look at the stubbornness of your heart. You would rather do anything than this one simple childlike thing— “Come to Me.” If you really want to experience ceasing from sin, you must come to Jesus.

Jesus Christ makes Himself the test to determine your genuineness. Look how He used the word come. At the most unexpected moments in your life there is this whisper of the Lord— “Come to Me,” and you are immediately drawn to Him. Personal contact with Jesus changes everything. Be “foolish” enough to come and commit yourself to what He says. The attitude necessary for you to come to Him is one where your will has made the determination to let go of everything and deliberately commit it all to Him.

“…and I will give you rest”— that is, “I will sustain you, causing you to stand firm.” He is not saying, “I will put you to bed, hold your hand, and sing you to sleep.” But, in essence, He is saying, “I will get you out of bed— out of your listlessness and exhaustion, and out of your condition of being half dead while you are still alive. I will penetrate you with the spirit of life, and you will be sustained by the perfection of vital activity.” Yet we become so weak and pitiful and talk about “suffering” the will of the Lord! Where is the majestic vitality and the power of the Son of God in that?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 6/11/20

He arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.—[LUKE 15:20.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.15.html" \l "Luke.15.20)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.—Ye who sometime were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.—Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

[Psa. 103:8-13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.8).[Rom. 8:15,16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.15). -[Eph. 2:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.13). -[Eph. 2:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.19).

“We love him because he first loved us.” **[1 John 4:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.19)**

There is no light in the planet but that which proceedeth from the sun; and there is no true love to Jesus in the heart but that which cometh from the Lord Jesus himself. From this overflowing fountain of the infinite love of God, all our love to God must spring. This must ever be a great and certain truth, that we love him for no other reason than because he first loved us. Our love to him is the fair offspring of his love to us. Cold admiration, when studying the works of God, anyone may have, but the warmth of love can only be kindled in the heart by God’s Spirit. How great the wonder that such as we should ever have been brought to love Jesus at all! How marvellous that when we had rebelled against him, he should, by a display of such amazing love, seek to draw us back. No! never should we have had a grain of love towards God unless it had been sown in us by the sweet seed of his love to us. Love, then, has for its parent the love of God shed abroad in the heart: but after it is thus divinely born, it must be divinely nourished. Love is an exotic; it is not a plant which will flourish naturally in human soil, it must be watered from above. Love to Jesus is a flower of a delicate nature, and if it received no nourishment but that which could be drawn from the rock of our hearts it would soon wither. As love comes from heaven, so it must feed on heavenly bread. It cannot exist in the wilderness unless it be fed by manna from on high. Love must feed on love. The very soul and life of our love to God is his love to us.

“I love thee, Lord, but with no love of mine,

For I have none to give;

I love thee, Lord; but all the love is thine,

For by thy love I live.

I am as nothing, and rejoice to be

Emptied, and lost, and swallowed up in thee.”

# Word Live – 6/11/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/11/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/11/20

# Failure and Revival

**Read:** [**2 Chronicles 34**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34)

### Josiah’s Reforms

34 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. 2He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

3In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols. 4Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem. 6In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, 7he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

8In the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the Lord his God.

9They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the gatekeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 10Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the Lord’s temple. These men paid the workers who repaired and restored the temple. 11They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin.

12The workers labored faithfully. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites—all who were skilled in playing musical instruments— 13had charge of the laborers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and gatekeepers.

### The Book of the Law Found

14While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord that had been given through Moses. 15Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord.” He gave it to Shaphan.

16Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him: “Your officials are doing everything that has been committed to them. 17They have paid out the money that was in the temple of the Lord and have entrusted it to the supervisors and workers.” 18Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

19When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes. 20He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#fen-NIV-11954a)] Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: 21“Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord’s anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the Lord; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.”

22Hilkiah and those the king had sent with him[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#fen-NIV-11956b)] went to speak to the prophet Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#fen-NIV-11956c)] the son of Hasrah,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#fen-NIV-11956d)] keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the New Quarter.

23She said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, 24‘This is what the Lord says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people—all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah. 25Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all that their hands have made,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34" \l "fen-NIV-11959e" \o "See footnote e)] my anger will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.’ 26Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: 27Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the Lord. 28Now I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.’”

So they took her answer back to the king.

29Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 30He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. 31The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

32Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.

33Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their ancestors.

#### Footnotes:

1. [2 Chronicles 34:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#en-NIV-11954) Also called Akbor son of Micaiah
2. [2 Chronicles 34:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#en-NIV-11956) One Hebrew manuscript, Vulgate and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts do not have had sent with him.
3. [2 Chronicles 34:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#en-NIV-11956) Also called Tikvah
4. [2 Chronicles 34:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#en-NIV-11956) Also called Harhas
5. [2 Chronicles 34:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+34#en-NIV-11959) Or by everything they have done

“Revive us again,” prays the classic hymn. “Fill each heart with Thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen.” King Josiah of Judah led one of the great spiritual revivals in Israelite history. From our human perspective, we might ask what was the point? Things were so bad that the priests had actually lost the Book of the Law (the Pentateuch), and no one even knew the commands they were failing to keep (see Deuteronomy 28). Judah was on its slide to conquest by Babylon, as richly deserved and foretold by several prophets. Nothing was going to change that, so why try?

He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. 2 Chronicles 34:2

The lesson from God is this: It’s never too late to do the right thing. Though the nation’s downward trajectory couldn’t be altered, worship and obedience mattered greatly to the Lord. Josiah’s reforms were significant. He purged the nation of idols, high places, Asherah poles, and altars to false gods (vv. 3–7). He began repairs of Solomon’s Temple with gifts collected from the people (vv. 8–9). God allowed the Book of the Law to be found, which led to heartfelt repentance and sorrow over sin (v. 19). This also raised the question of whether Judah would suffer God’s wrath, as Scripture indicated (v. 21).

The prophetess Huldah con-firmed that God would carry out the judgments written in the Book (vv. 23–25), but thanks to Josiah’s revival it wouldn’t happen in his lifetime (vv. 26–28). This delay gave more time for more widespread repentance. The king seized this opportunity and led Judah in a renewal of the covenant and a public commitment to obey the Law (vv. 29–33).

**Apply the Word**

Notice that Josiah became king at age 8 and sought the Lord at age 16. He began battling idolatry at age 20 and started the temple repair project at age 26. No matter your age, you can follow God wholeheartedly and have tremendous impact!

### Pray with Us

With so many challenges distracting us from God’s truth in today’s world, let’s pray we’ll follow the Lord wholeheartedly, delight in His Word, and impact those around us.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/11/20

# Perspectives from Above

 **Read:** [**Isaiah 48:5–11**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2048.5%E2%80%9311)

5Therefore I told you these things long ago;  
    before they happened I announced them to you  
so that you could not say,  
    ‘My images brought them about;  
    my wooden image and metal god ordained them.’  
6You have heard these things; look at them all.  
    Will you not admit them?

“From now on I will tell you of new things,  
    of hidden things unknown to you.  
7They are created now, and not long ago;  
    you have not heard of them before today.  
So you cannot say,  
    ‘Yes, I knew of them.’  
8You have neither heard nor understood;  
    from of old your ears have not been open.  
Well do I know how treacherous you are;  
    you were called a rebel from birth.  
9For my own name’s sake I delay my wrath;  
    for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you,  
    so as not to destroy you completely.  
10See, I have refined you, though not as silver;  
    I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.  
11For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.  
    How can I let myself be defamed?  
    I will not yield my glory to another.

**Read:** [**Isaiah 48:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2048.5%E2%80%9311)[**17**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isaiah%2048.17)

17This is what the Lord says—  
    your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
“I am the Lord your God,  
    who teaches you what is best for you,  
    who directs you in the way you should go.

I will not yield my glory to another. [Isaiah 48:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2048.11)

When Peter Welch was a young boy in the 1970s, using a metal detector was only a hobby. But since 1990, he’s been leading people from around the world on metal-detecting excursions. They’ve made thousands of discoveries—swords, ancient jewelry, coins. Using “Google Earth,” a computer program based on satellite imagery, they look for patterns in the landscape on farmland in the United Kingdom. It shows them where roads, buildings, and other structures may have been centuries ago. Peter says, “To have a perspective from above opens a whole new world.”

God’s people in Isaiah’s day needed “a perspective from above.” They prided themselves on being His people yet were disobedient and refused to give up their idols. God had another perspective. Despite their rebellion, He would rescue them from captivity to Babylon. Why? “For my own sake, . . . I will not yield my glory to another” ([Isaiah 48:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2048.11)). God’s perspective from above is that life is for His glory and purpose—not ours. Our attention is to be given to Him and His plans and to pointing others to praise Him too.

Having God’s glory as our own life’s perspective opens a whole new world. Only He knows what we will discover about Him and what He has for us. God will teach us what is good for us and lead us along the paths we should follow (v. 17).

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What can you praise God for today? How might you go about having God increase in your life and you decrease?

God, I want my life to be about You and not myself. Teach me and change me.

To learn about obtaining a biblical worldview, visit [bit.ly/2lBDstL](https://bit.ly/21BDstL).

#### Insight

Isaiah, prophet to the people of Judah from 740–685 bc, warned that God would discipline them for their idolatrous unfaithfulness. He prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and their temple and their seventy-year exile in Babylon ([Isaiah 39:6–7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2039.6%E2%80%937); also [Jeremiah 25:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2025.11)) some 100 years before it happened. Isaiah also prophesied that God would bring His people back, restore them, and bless them. In [Isaiah 48](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2048), Isaiah emphasized that whatever God purposed, He would bring to pass (vv. 3–6). This promise of return and restoration was not because they were deserving, but “for [his] own name’s sake” (vv. 8–9). God’s intention was to refine them, not to destroy them completely. And as the covenant-keeping God, He wouldn’t renege on His promise of restoration and thus defame His reputation (vv. 9–11).

# God Calling – 6/11/20

# My Mark!

O Lord, we thank Thee for Thy great gift of Peace.

That is the Peace, that only I can give in the midst of a restless world and surrounded by trouble and difficulty.  To know that Peace is to have received the stamp of the Kingdom - the mark of the Lord Jesus Christ.  My Mark.

When you have learned that Peace you are fit to judge of true values, the values of the Kingdom, and the values of all the world has to offer.

That Peace is loving faith at rest.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.  
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;  I have overcome the world.  John 16:33

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/12/20

# Getting There (2)



They said to Him, "Rabbi…where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." —[John 1:38-39](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+1%3A38-39)

**Where our self-interest sleeps and the real interest is awakened.** “They…remained with Him that day….” That is about all some of us ever do. We stay with Him a short time, only to wake up to our own realities of life. Our self-interest rises up and our abiding with Him is past. Yet there is no circumstance of life in which we cannot abide in Jesus.

“You are Simon….You shall be called Cephas” ([John 1:42](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1:42)). God writes our new name only on those places in our lives where He has erased our pride, self-sufficiency, and self-interest. Some of us have our new name written only in certain spots, like spiritual measles. And in those areas of our lives we look all right. When we are in our best spiritual mood, you would think we were the highest quality saints. But don’t dare look at us when we are not in that mood. A true disciple is one who has his new name written all over him— self-interest, pride, and self-sufficiency have been completely erased.

Pride is the sin of making “self” our god. And some of us today do this, not like the Pharisee, but like the tax collector (see [Luke 18:9-14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18:9-14)). For you to say, “Oh, I’m no saint,” is acceptable by human standards of pride, but it is unconscious blasphemy against God. You defy God to make you a saint, as if to say, “I am too weak and hopeless and outside the reach of the atonement by the Cross of Christ.” Why aren’t you a saint? It is either that you do not want to be a saint, or that you do not believe that God can make you into one. You say it would be all right if God saved you and took you straight to heaven. That is exactly what He will do! And not only do we make our home with Him, but Jesus said of His Father and Himself, “…We will come to him and make Our home with him” ([John 14:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14:23)). Put no conditions on your life— let Jesus be everything to you, and He will take you home with Him not only for a day, but for eternity.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

I have no right to say I believe in God unless I order my life as under His all-seeing Eye. Disciples Indeed, 385 L

# CCEL – 6/12/20

Everything that may abide the fire, ye shall make it go through the fire, and it shall be clean.—[NUM. 31:23.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Num.31.html" \l "Num.31.23)

The Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul.—He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.—Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin.—I will melt them. and try them.

Thou, O God, hast proved us; thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. We went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

[Deut. 13:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.13.html" \l "Deut.13.3). -[Mal. 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mal.3.html" \l "Mal.3.3). -[I Cor. 3:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.3.html" \l "iCor.3.13).[Isa. 1:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.1.html" \l "Isa.1.25). -[Jer. 9:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.9.html" \l "Jer.9.7).[Psa. 66:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.66.html" \l "Ps.66.10),[12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.66.html" \l "Ps.66.12).[Isa. 43:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.43.html" \l "Isa.43.2).

“Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting.” **[Daniel 5:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Dan.5.html" \l "Dan.5.27)**

It is well frequently to weigh ourselves in the scale of God’s Word. You will find it a holy exercise to read some psalm of David, and, as you meditate upon each verse, to ask yourself, “Can I say this? Have I felt as David felt? Has my heart ever been broken on account of sin, as his was when he penned his penitential psalms? Has my soul been full of true confidence in the hour of difficulty as his was when he sang of God’s mercies in the cave of Adullam, or in the holds of Engedi? Do I take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord?” Then turn to the life of Christ, and as you read, ask yourselves how far you are conformed to his likeness. Endeavour to discover whether you have the meekness, the humility, the lovely spirit which he constantly inculcated and displayed. Take, then, the epistles, and see whether you can go with the apostle in what he said of his experience. Have you ever cried out as he did—“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Have you ever felt his self-abasement? Have you seemed to yourself the chief of sinners, and less than the least of all saints? Have you known anything of his devotion? Could you join with him and say, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”? If we thus read God’s Word as a test of our spiritual condition, we shall have good reason to stop many a time and say, “Lord, I feel I have never yet been here, O bring me here! Give me true penitence, such as this I read of. Give me real faith; give me warmer zeal; inflame me with more fervent love; grant me the grace of meekness; make me more like Jesus. Let me no longer be ‘found wanting,’ when weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, lest I be found wanting in the scales of judgment.” “Judge yourselves that ye be not judged.”

# Word Live – 6/12/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/12/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/12/20

# No One Listened

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 43**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+43)

43 When Jeremiah had finished telling the people all the words of the Lord their God—everything the Lord had sent him to tell them— 2Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are lying! The Lord our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to settle there.’ 3But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+43" \l "fen-NIV-20001a" \o "See footnote a)] so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon.”

4So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the Lord’s command to stay in the land of Judah. 5Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered. 6They also led away all those whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan—the men, the women, the children and the king’s daughters. And they took Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah along with them. 7So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the Lord and went as far as Tahpanhes.

8In Tahpanhes the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 9“While the Jews are watching, take some large stones with you and bury them in clay in the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh’s palace in Tahpanhes. 10Then say to them, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will set his throne over these stones I have buried here; he will spread his royal canopy above them. 11He will come and attack Egypt, bringing death to those destined for death, captivity to those destined for captivity, and the sword to those destined for the sword. 12He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt; he will burn their temples and take their gods captive. As a shepherd picks his garment clean of lice, so he will pick Egypt clean and depart. 13There in the temple of the sun[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+43#fen-NIV-20011b)] in Egypt he will demolish the sacred pillars and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.’”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Jeremiah 43:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+43#en-NIV-20001) Or Chaldeans
2. [Jeremiah 43:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+43#en-NIV-20011) Or in Heliopolis

Anskar, called the “Apostle to the North,” was one of the first missionaries to Scandinavia. In 826 A.D. the king summoned Anskar to preach the gospel in Denmark. Three years later, Anskar and the king were expelled. Failing to find success, Anskar went to Sweden, but “converts” there were motivated by politics, not faith. After a lifetime in ministry, Anskar died and the region reverted to paganism. Was Anskar a failure? His missionary work ended with nothing to show for it.

We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty. Luke 17:10

Jeremiah could identify with that feeling. In today’s reading, he delivered a message from the Lord: The people should not run to Egypt to escape the Babylonians. They’d promised in advance to obey (42:5–6). They’d been told God would bless them if they stayed in the land (42:9–12). They’d been warned that going to Egypt would lead to violence, famine, plague, and death (42:13–18). This decision should have been a no-brainer. Nonetheless, the people fled to Egypt anyway (42:19–22; 43:4–7). They accused Jeremiah of lying (v. 2), a serious charge given that false prophecy carried the death penalty. They accused him of being manipulated by his scribe and friend, Baruch (v. 3). As final indicators of their insolence, they kidnapped Jeremiah and Baruch and brought them along to Egypt (v. 6). What was God’s comfort in this situation? Another message to deliver (vv. 8–13)!

Jeremiah had few positive results to show from his prophetic ministry. Was he a failure? Not in God’s eyes! Jeremiah’s faithfulness meant his ministry was a success by God’s standards. We should remember that only the Lord can guarantee outcomes, and that the outcomes He measures and cares about are often not the same as ours.

**Apply the Word**

God expected Jeremiah to continue obeying, no matter what. He cares for our needs, but never above His own purposes and glory. Jesus taught this same idea of “duty” (Luke 17:7–10). How might this truth change your daily walk with Him?

### Pray with Us

By today’s yardstick, Jeremiah had little to show for the success of his ministry. But Jeremiah’s faithfulness made him a success in God’s eyes. Thank God that we can trust His plans, and not our abilities.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/12/20

# Together We Win

 **Read:** [**Exodus 17:8–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2017.8%E2%80%9313)

### The Amalekites Defeated

8The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”

10So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Two are better than one . . . : If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. [Ecclesiastes 4:9–10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eccles%204.9%E2%80%9310)

In the middle of the night, Pastor Samuel Baggaga received a call asking him to come to the home of a church member. When he arrived, he found a house engulfed by fire. The father, though burned himself, had reentered the home to rescue one of his children and emerged with an unconscious daughter. The hospital, in this rural Ugandan setting, was six miles (10 kilometers) away. With no transportation available, the pastor and the father started running to the hospital with the child. When one of them tired from carrying the injured girl, the other one took over. Together they made the journey; the father and his daughter were treated and then fully recovered.

In [Exodus 17:8–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2017.8%E2%80%9313) the Lord orchestrated a great victory that included the efforts of Joshua, who led fighting men on the battlefield; and Moses, who kept his hands raised while holding the staff of God. When Moses’ hands grew weary, Aaron and Hur assisted by each holding up one of his hands until the setting of the sun and the defeat of the enemy.

The value of interdependence can never be underestimated. God, in His kindness, graciously provides people as His agents for mutual good. Listening ears and helpful hands; wise, comforting, and correcting words—these and other resources come to us and through us to others. Together we win and God gets the glory!

By:  [Arthur Jackson](https://odb.org/author/arthurjackson/)

#### Reflect & Pray

At what times in your life have you benefited from the support of others? Who might you know who needs you to run with them in this season of their life?

Father, thank You for those You’ve graciously provided in my life and for those You’ve allowed me to share life with for our mutual good and Your glory.

#### Insight

The Amalekites were one of a number of ancient tribes that persistently acted like a thorn in Israel’s side. Their name comes from the founder of this particular group, Amalek, one of the grandsons of Esau ([Genesis 36:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2036.12)). This would make the Amalekites cousins of the Israelites, who were descendants of Jacob/Israel, Esau’s twin brother. While it seems clear that Esau and Jacob had patched up their relationship with one another after years of hatred and resentment, the same can’t be said of Esau’s descendants. David fought against Amalekite raiders who’d stolen property, wives, and children from him and his men ([2 Samuel 1:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Sam%201.1)). The Amalekites are mentioned for the final time in the Old Testament in [1 Chronicles 4:43](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chron%204.43), where they’re finally defeated and destroyed by Israel. It’s a long, sad story of hatred and its destructive results.

# God Calling – 6/12/20

# House On A Rock

Be watchful to hear My Voice and instantly to obey. Obedience is your great sign of faith.  "Why call ye Me Lord, Lord and do not the things that I say" was My word when on earth to the many who followed and heard, but did not do.

I likened the man who heard and did not do to the man who built his house on the sand.  In times of storm and trouble he is overthrown, his house falls.

I likened the man who obeyed Me implicitly to the man who built his house upon a rock.  In times of storm he is steadfast, immovable.

Do not feel that by this I mean only the keeping of My Commandments, even the living My Sermon on the Mount.  I mean more than that to those who know Me intimately.  I mean the following, in all, the Inner Guiding that I give, the little injunctions I speak to each individual soul, the wish I express - and desire to have carried out.

The secure, steadfast, immovable life of My disciples, the Rock Home, is not built at a wish, in a moment, but is laid, stone by stone, foundations, walls, roof, by the acts of obedience, the daily following out of My wishes, the loving doing of My will.

He that heareth these sayings of Mine and doeth them is like unto a man who built his house upon a rock, and the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell not, for it was founded upon a Rock.

And it is in that Rock-Home, manmade but divinely inspired - the House of Obedience - the truest expression of a disciple's adoration and worship - it is there I come to dwell with My loved one.

Am I not giving you work, hope?  Work for the gray days?  Just little plain bricks of duties done and My Wishes carried out.  All strengthening you and making of your character that steadfast, immovable Christian Character of which My servant Paul spoke and which he urged his followers to have.

Therefore, now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God.  Jeremiah 26:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/13/20

# Getting There (3)



…come, follow Me. —[Luke 18:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+18%3A22)

**Where our individual desire dies and sanctified surrender lives.** One of the greatest hindrances in coming to Jesus is the excuse of our own individual temperament. We make our temperament and our natural desires barriers to coming to Jesus. Yet the first thing we realize when we do come to Jesus is that He pays no attention whatsoever to our natural desires. We have the idea that we can dedicate our gifts to God. However, you cannot dedicate what is not yours. There is actually only one thing you can dedicate to God, and that is your right to yourself (see [Romans 12:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12:1)). If you will give God your right to yourself, He will make a holy experiment out of you— and His experiments always succeed. The one true mark of a saint of God is the inner creativity that flows from being totally surrendered to Jesus Christ. In the life of a saint there is this amazing Well, which is a continual Source of original life. The Spirit of God is a Well of water springing up perpetually fresh. A saint realizes that it is God who engineers his circumstances; consequently there are no complaints, only unrestrained surrender to Jesus. Never try to make your experience a principle for others, but allow God to be as creative and original with others as He is with you.

If you abandon everything to Jesus, and come when He says, “Come,” then He will continue to say, “Come,” through you. You will go out into the world reproducing the echo of Christ’s “Come.” That is the result in every soul who has abandoned all and come to Jesus.

Have I come to Him? Will I come now?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The message of the prophets is that although they have forsaken God, it has not altered God. The Apostle Paul emphasizes the same truth, that God remains God even when we are unfaithful (see 2 Timothy 2:13). Never interpret God as changing with our changes. He never does; there is no variableness in Him.  Notes on Ezekiel, 1477 L

# CCEL – 6/13/20

**Abide in me, and I in you.**—[JOHN 15:4.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.4)

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

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. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.—If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard.

Little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.—He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

[Gal. 2:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.2.html" \l "Gal.2.20).[Rom. 7:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.18),[24,25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.24). -[Rom. 8:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.10). -[Col. 1:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.23).[I John 2:28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.28). -[I John 2:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.6).

“Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” **[Revelation 22:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.22.html" \l "Rev.22.17)**

Jesus says, “take freely.” He wants no payment or preparation. He seeks no recommendation from our virtuous emotions. If you have no good feelings, if you be but willing, you are invited; therefore come! You have no belief and no repentance,—come to him, and he will give them to you. Come just as you are, and take “Freely,” without money and without price. He gives himself to needy ones. The drinking fountains at the corners of our streets are valuable institutions; and we can hardly imagine any one so foolish as to feel for his purse, when he stands before one of them, and to cry, “I cannot drink because I have not five pounds in my pocket.” However poor the man is, there is the fountain, and just as he is he may drink of it. Thirsty passengers, as they go by, whether they are dressed in fustian or in broadcloth, do not look for any warrant for drinking; its being there is their warrant for taking its water freely. The liberality of some good friends has put the refreshing crystal there and we take it, and ask no questions. Perhaps the only persons who need go thirsty through the street where there is a drinking fountain, are the fine ladies and gentlemen who are in their carriages. They are very thirsty, but cannot think of being so vulgar as to get out to drink. It would demean them, they think, to drink at a common drinking fountain: so they ride by with parched lips. Oh, how many there are who are rich in their own good works and cannot therefore come to Christ! “I will not be saved,” they say, “in the same way as the harlot or the swearer.” What! Go to heaven in the same way as a chimney sweep. Is there no pathway to glory but the path which led the thief there? I will not be saved that way. Such proud boasters must remain without the living water; but, “Whosoever will, let him TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.”

# Word Live – 6/13/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/13/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/13/20

# The Successful Trap

**Read:** [**Daniel 6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+6)

### Daniel in the Den of Lions

6 [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+6#fen-NIV-21907a)]It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 2with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. 3Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. 5Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

6So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! 7The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. 8Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 9So King Darius put the decree in writing.

10Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

13Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” 14When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

15Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

16So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

17A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. 18Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

19At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. 20When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

21Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! 22My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

23The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

24At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

25Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

“May you prosper greatly!

26“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God  
    and he endures forever;  
his kingdom will not be destroyed,  
    his dominion will never end.  
27He rescues and he saves;  
    he performs signs and wonders  
    in the heavens and on the earth.  
He has rescued Daniel  
    from the power of the lions.”

28So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+6#fen-NIV-21934b)] the Persian.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Daniel 6:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+6#en-NIV-21907) In Aramaic texts 6:1-28 is numbered 6:2-29.
2. [Daniel 6:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+6#en-NIV-21934) Or Darius, that is, the reign of Cyrus

Daniel would not have made a very good action hero. He did nothing to avoid the plots of his enemies. Instead, he walked straight into their trap. He didn’t use his friendship with the king to help himself. He put up no resistance and defeated no one. Why not? Was he clueless? Not at all. In faith, he knew the Lord would fight his battles for him. Sometimes success means waiting on the Lord (Ps. 37:7). Though by human standards Daniel failed, by God’s criteria he succeeded because he kept his priorities in the right order and remained faithful in prayer.

Whoever leads the upright along an evil path will fall into their own trap. Proverbs 28:10

The case for Daniel’s enemies is just the opposite. By human standards, they succeeded. They were jealous of Daniel’s power and suspicious of his integrity (vv. 4–5). They were obviously prejudiced against his Jewish identity (v. 13). Therefore, they carefully crafted a shrewd plan with clear objectives—one that circumvented, by pandering to his pride, the fact that the king favored Daniel— and executed it perfectly. Success? Not in God’s eyes, for they had attacked His righteous, beloved servant.

Daniel stepped into their trap by praying at his regular time and in his regular way (v. 10). Though the king was forced to throw Daniel to the lions, he rejoiced when God saved Daniel’s life, and he quickly accomplished poetic justice by throwing Daniel’s enemies themselves to the lions (v. 24). Just as in today’s verse, they fell into their own trap! One of the results of Daniel’s “failure” was that he continued to prosper (v. 28). The main result was that the glory of the one true God was proclaimed throughout a pagan empire (vv. 25–27)!

**Apply the Word**

At the time of this story, Daniel was 82 years old. Those of us who are in the second half of life can take this as a reminder and encouragement to follow God wholeheartedly. You’re never too young or too old to serve the Lord and bring Him glory!

### Pray with Us

Daniel teaches us a great deal about failure and success. As you pray, ask the Lord to show you how lessons of Daniel’s story apply to you personally.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/13/20

# He Changed Me

 **Read:** [**Ezekiel 18:25–32**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ezek%2018.25%E2%80%9332)

25“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? 26If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. 27But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. 28Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. 29Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

30“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. 31Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? 32For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

But if a wicked person . . . does what is just and right, they will save their life. [Ezekiel 18:27](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ezek%2018.27)

When John, who ran the biggest brothel in London, was sent to prison, he falsely believed, I’m a good guy. While there, he decided to attend the Bible study at the prison because there was cake and coffee, but he was struck by how happy the other inmates seemed to be. He started to cry during the first song and later received a Bible. Reading from the prophet Ezekiel changed him, hitting him “like a thunderbolt.” He read, “But if a wicked person turns away from [their] wickedness . . . and does what is just and right, . . . that person will surely live; they will not die” (18:27–28). God’s Word came alive to him and he realized, “I wasn’t a good guy . . . I was wicked and I needed to change.” While praying with the pastor, he said, “I found Jesus Christ and He changed me.”

These words from Ezekiel were spoken to God’s people when they were in exile. Although they had turned from God, He longed that they would rid themselves of their offenses and “get a new heart and a new spirit” (v. 31). Those words helped John to “Repent and live!” (v. 32) as he followed Jesus, the One who called sinners to repentance ([Luke 5:32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%205.32)).

May we respond to the Spirit’s conviction of sin, that we too might enjoy forgiveness and freedom.

By:  [Amy Boucher Pye](https://odb.org/author/amyboucherpye/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How do you react to the question of whether or not you’re a “good person”? In what areas of life could you “repent and live”?

Father God, thank You for making me aware of my sinful behavior through Your Holy Spirit. Soften my heart to repent and to receive Your forgiveness.

#### Insight

An inclusio is a literary device in which a word, phrase, or idea is repeated at the beginning and ending of a section. While repetition often signifies an important idea in a text, the main point in an inclusio isn’t contained in the repeated words but in the idea between them. In [Ezekiel 18:25–29](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ezek%2018.25%E2%80%9329), verses 25 and 29 form the inclusio. With the exception of a few words, they’re mirror images of each other. This means that the emphatic message of the paragraph appears in verses 26–28. Here God reminds His people of the relationship between sin and death, righteousness and life. He reminds them that He’s just and doesn’t take pleasure in the death of anyone (see [2 Peter 3:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Pet%203.9)).

# God Calling – 6/13/20

# God-Inspired

You have entered now upon a mountain climb.  Steep steps lead upward, but your power to help others will be truly marvelous.

Not alone will you arise.  All towards whom you now send loving, pitying thoughts will be helped upward by you.

Looking to Me all your thoughts are God-inspired.  Act on them and you will be led on.  They are not your own impulses but the movement of My Spirit and, obeyed, will bring the answer to your prayers.

Love and Trust.  Let no unkind thoughts of any dwell in your hearts, then I can act with all My Spirit-power, with nothing to hinder.

I will lift up mine eyes until the hills, from whence cometh my help. Psalm 121:1

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/14/20

# Get Moving! (1)



Abide in Me… —[John 15:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+15%3A4)

**In the matter of determination.** The Spirit of Jesus is put into me by way of the atonement by the Cross of Christ. I then have to build my thinking patiently to bring it into perfect harmony with my Lord. God will not make me think like Jesus— I have to do it myself. I have to bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” ([2 Corinthians 10:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+10:5)). “Abide in Me”— in intellectual matters, in money matters, in every one of the matters that make human life what it is. Our lives are not made up of only one neatly confined area.

Am I preventing God from doing things in my circumstances by saying that it will only serve to hinder my fellowship with Him? How irrelevant and disrespectful that is! It does not matter what my circumstances are. I can be as much assured of abiding in Jesus in any one of them as I am in any prayer meeting. It is unnecessary to change and arrange my circumstances myself. Our Lord’s inner abiding was pure and unblemished. He was at home with God wherever His body was. He never chose His own circumstances, but was meek, submitting to His Father’s plans and directions for Him. Just think of how amazingly relaxed our Lord’s life was! But we tend to keep God at a fever pitch in our lives. We have none of the serenity of the life which is “hidden with Christ in God” ([Colossians 3:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3:3)).

Think of the things that take you out of the position of abiding in Christ. You say, “Yes, Lord, just a minute— I still have this to do. Yes, I will abide as soon as this is finished, or as soon as this week is over. It will be all right, Lord. I will abide then.” Get moving— begin to abide now. In the initial stages it will be a continual effort to abide, but as you continue, it will become so much a part of your life that you will abide in Him without any conscious effort. Make the determination to abide in Jesus wherever you are now or wherever you may be placed in the future.

**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, 1459 R

# CCEL – 6/14/20

As the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.—[II COR. 1:5.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.1.html" \l "iiCor.1.5)

The fellowship of his sufferings.—Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.—For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.—If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.—Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

[Phi. 3:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.3.html" \l "Phil.3.10). -[I Pet. 4:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.4.html" \l "iPet.4.13). -[II Tim. 2:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.2.html" \l "iiTim.2.11). -[Rom. 8:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.17).[Heb. 6:17,18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.6.html" \l "Heb.6.17). -[II Thes. 2:16,17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiThess.2.html" \l "iiThess.2.16).

“Delight thyself also in the Lord.” **[Psalm 37:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.37.html" \l "Ps.37.4)**

The teaching of these words must seem very surprising to those who are strangers to vital godliness, but to the sincere believer it is only the inculcation of a recognized truth. The life of the believer is here described as a delight in God, and we are thus certified of the great fact that true religion overflows with happiness and joy. Ungodly persons and mere professors never look upon religion as a joyful thing; to them it is service, duty, or necessity, but never pleasure or delight. If they attend to religion at all, it is either that they may gain thereby, or else because they dare not do otherwise. The thought of delight in religion is so strange to most men, that no two words in their language stand further apart than “holiness” and “delight.” But believers who know Christ, understand that delight and faith are so blessedly united, that the gates of hell cannot prevail to separate them. They who love God with all their hearts, find that his ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace. Such joys, such brimful delights, such overflowing blessednesses, do the saints discover in their Lord, that so far from serving him from custom, they would follow him though all the world cast out his name as evil. We fear not God because of any compulsion; our faith is no fetter, our profession is no bondage, we are not dragged to holiness, nor driven to duty. No, our piety is our pleasure, our hope is our happiness, our duty is our delight.

Delight and true religion are as allied as root and flower; as indivisible as truth and certainty; they are, in fact, two precious jewels glittering side by side in a setting of gold.

“'Tis when we taste thy love, Our joys divinely grow, Unspeakable like those above, And heaven begins below.”

# Word Live – 6/14/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/14/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/14/20

# The Freedom of Imprisonment

**Read:** [**Philippians 1:12–18**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3a12%e2%80%9318)

### Paul’s Chains Advance the Gospel

12Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3a12%e2%80%9318" \l "fen-NIV-29374a" \o "See footnote a)] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3a12%e2%80%9318#fen-NIV-29375b)] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

15It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

#### Footnotes:

1. [Philippians 1:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3a12%e2%80%9318#en-NIV-29374) The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in verse 14; and in 3:1, 13, 17; 4:1, 8, 21.
2. [Philippians 1:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3a12%e2%80%9318#en-NIV-29375) Or whole palace

“You may find yourself fighting against God if you fail to realize as Paul did here that the whole of your past has had the hand of God in it . . . even with failure in the past,” said author Paul Little, speaking about the apostle Paul. “You didn’t take God by surprise when that happened. God loves you and me, and He has a purpose for good in all of the providential, sovereign working of His will in all of the details of our lives.”

What has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. Philippians 1:12

From a human perspective, Paul’s imprisonment indicated failure. Here we find him in chains, at the mercy of a powerful pagan empire. He could no longer pursue his missionary and church planting work (Rom. 15:20). But from God’s perspective, Paul continued to achieve success. Why? Opposition from the world was expected and signaled that he was on the right track. In prison, he was evangelizing his prison guards, his “captive audience”! This is why he could write: “What has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel” (v. 12).

Notice that Paul’s top prayer request was not his freedom. It was the same as always—opportunities to proclaim the gospel. The palace guard that was responsible for him probably consisted of several thousand soldiers (v. 13). They became his mission field! In addition, because of Paul’s example, other Christians grew bold about preaching the gospel (v. 14). How far did this gospel-first priority stretch? Quite far. Paul wrote that even people with sinful motives were acceptable to him, as long as the true gospel was proclaimed (vv. 15–18). He was not condoning such motivations, but rather keeping his priorities in the right order and rejoicing in the spread of the gospel.

**Apply the Word**

Both Daniel and Paul kept their priorities in the right order. How about you? Are your priorities fully biblical? If they need clarifying, consider writing out a personal mission or vision statement. Then discuss it with a friend or family member.

### Pray with Us

Paul’s imprisonment and his ministry in jail bring to mind Today in the Word’s prison ministry. Your support helps provide this devotional to inmates in more than 600 U.S. jails. Remember these men and women in prayer today.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/14/20

# Made for Each Other

 **Read:** [**Genesis 2:18–24**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202.18%E2%80%9324)

18The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

19Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A18%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#fen-NIV-51a)] no suitable helper was found. 21So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A18%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#fen-NIV-52b)] and then closed up the place with flesh. 22Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A18%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#fen-NIV-53c)] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones  
    and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called ‘woman,’  
    for she was taken out of man.”

24That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Genesis 2:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A18%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-51) Or the man
2. [Genesis 2:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A18%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-52) Or took part of the man’s side

It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. [Genesis 2:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202.18)

“I take care of him. When he’s happy, I’m happy,” says Stella. Merle replies, “I’m happy when she’s around.” Merle and Stella have been married for 79 years. When Merle was recently admitted to a nursing home, he was miserable—so Stella gladly brought him home. He’s 101, and she’s 95. Though she needs a walker to get around, she lovingly does what she can for her husband, such as preparing the food he likes. But she couldn’t do it on her own. Grandchildren and neighbors help with the things Stella can’t manage.

Stella and Merle’s life together is an example of [Genesis 2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202), where God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (v. 18). None of the creatures God brought before Adam fit that description. Only in Eve, made from the rib of Adam, did Adam find a suitable helper and companion (vv. 19–24).

Eve was the perfect companion for Adam, and through them God instituted marriage. This wasn’t only for the mutual aid of individuals but also to begin a family and to care for creation, which includes other people (1:28). From that first family came a community so that, whether married or single, old or young, none of us would be alone. As a community, God has given us the privilege of sharing “each other’s burdens” ([Galatians 6:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gal%206.2)).

By:  [Alyson Kieda](https://odb.org/author/akieda/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How is it helpful to know that no matter our marital status, as believers in Jesus we’re never alone? How have you seen the body of Christ in action?

Dear God, thank You for creating man and woman for each other and for instituting community so that none of us are truly alone.

#### Insight

[Genesis 2:4–24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202.4%E2%80%9324) is the second of two creation accounts. Why two? In [Genesis 1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%201), the focus is on God and His awesome power: He speaks the universe—everything—into existence. In [Genesis 2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202), we see a very different focus. After no “suitable helper” is found for Adam among the animals (v. 20), God causes him to sleep and from his rib forms the perfect partner and friend: a woman, Eve. The fit is so perfect that the two become “one flesh” (v. 24). This second account focuses on our fundamental need for relationship as humans created in God’s image. To be made in His likeness is to not be alone. These two creation accounts reveal two wonderful aspects of God’s character: He’s the almighty God who created you and me out of nothing, and yet He’s intimately concerned that we not be alone (v. 18).

# God Calling – 6/14/20

# Face Today With Me

Our Lord and our God. Make us all Thou wouldst have us.

It is not circumstances that need altering first, but yourselves, and then the conditions will naturally alter.  Spare no effort to become all I would have you.  Follow every leading.  I am your only Guide.

Endeavor to put from you every thought of trouble.  Take each day, and with no backward look, face the day's problem with Me, and seek My Help and guidance as to what you can do.

Never look back and never leave until the morrow that on which you can get My Guidance for today.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.  Psalm 25:5

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/15/20

# Get Moving! (2)



Also…add to your faith… —[2 Peter 1:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Peter+1%3A5)

**In the matter of drudgery.** Peter said in this passage that we have become “partakers of the divine nature” and that we should now be “giving all diligence,” concentrating on forming godly habits ([2 Peter 1:4-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1:4-5)). We are to “add” to our lives all that character means. No one is born either naturally or supernaturally with character; it must be developed. Nor are we born with habits— we have to form godly habits on the basis of the new life God has placed within us. We are not meant to be seen as God’s perfect, bright-shining examples, but to be seen as the everyday essence of ordinary life exhibiting the miracle of His grace. Drudgery is the test of genuine character. The greatest hindrance in our spiritual life is that we will only look for big things to do. Yet, “Jesus…took a towel and…began to wash the disciples’ feet…” ([John 13:3-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:3-5)).

We all have those times when there are no flashes of light and no apparent thrill to life, where we experience nothing but the daily routine with its common everyday tasks. The routine of life is actually God’s way of saving us between our times of great inspiration which come from Him. Don’t always expect God to give you His thrilling moments, but learn to live in those common times of the drudgery of life by the power of God.

It is difficult for us to do the “adding” that Peter mentioned here. We say we do not expect God to take us to heaven on flowery beds of ease, and yet we act as if we do! I must realize that my obedience even in the smallest detail of life has all of the omnipotent power of the grace of God behind it. If I will do my duty, not for duty’s sake but because I believe God is engineering my circumstances, then at the very point of my obedience all of the magnificent grace of God is mine through the glorious atonement by the Cross of Christ.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 6/15/20

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those which are revealed belong unto us.—[DEUT. 29:29.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.29.html" \l "Deut.29.29)

Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him: and he will shew them his covenant.—There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets.—Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him?

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.—If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth.

[Psa. 131:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.131.html" \l "Ps.131.1).[Psa. 25:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.25.html" \l "Ps.25.14). -[Dan. 2:28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Dan.2.html" \l "Dan.2.28). -[Job 26:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.26.html" \l "Job.26.14).[John 15:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.15). -[John 14:15-17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.15).

“And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.” **[Genesis 21:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.21.html" \l "Gen.21.6)**

It was far above the power of nature, and even contrary to its laws, that the aged Sarah should be honoured with a son; and even so it is beyond all ordinary rules that I, a poor, helpless, undone sinner, should find grace to bear about in my soul the indwelling Spirit of the Lord Jesus. I, who once despaired, as well I might, for my nature was as dry, and withered, and barren, and accursed as a howling wilderness, even I have been made to bring forth fruit unto holiness. Well may my mouth be filled with joyous laughter, because of the singular, surprising grace which I have received of the Lord, for I have found Jesus, the promised seed, and he is mine forever. This day will I lift up psalms of triumph unto the Lord who has remembered my low estate, for “my heart rejoiceth in the Lord; mine horn is exalted in the Lord; my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies, because I rejoice in thy salvation.”

I would have all those that hear of my great deliverance from hell, and my most blessed visitation from on high, laugh for joy with me. I would surprise my family with my abundant peace; I would delight my friends with my ever-increasing happiness; I would edify the Church with my grateful confessions; and even impress the world with the cheerfulness of my daily conversation. Bunyan tells us that Mercy laughed in her sleep, and no wonder when she dreamed of Jesus; my joy shall not stop short of hers while my Beloved is the theme of my daily thoughts. The Lord Jesus is a deep sea of joy: my soul shall dive therein, shall be swallowed up in the delights of his society. Sarah looked on her Isaac, and laughed with excess of rapture, and all her friends laughed with her; and thou, my soul, look on thy Jesus, and bid heaven and earth unite in thy joy unspeakable.

# Word Live – 6/15/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/15/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/15/20

# The Triumph of the Cross

**Read:** [**Hebrews 12:1–3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+12%3a1%e2%80%933)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Christ’s death on the cross was an amazing act of sacrificial love. But was it joyful? Why does Hebrews 12 say that Jesus endured the cross “for the joy set before him” (v. 2)? Pastor and theology professor Geoff Holsclaw explained that in this verse joy refers to the fact that Christ was able to share with us, as believers, the delight experienced eternally within the Trinity. Through Him, we experience the joy that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share in one another’s presence.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross. Hebrews 12:2

Because of this, Jesus was willing to endure the physical and spiritual agony of crucifixion: “He endured the cross, scorning its shame.” The cross in Jesus’ day was not a religious symbol, but a tool for executing criminals. God’s purpose for the crucifixion was thus a well-hidden mystery. If “the rulers of this age,” both human and demonic, had understood, “they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2:8). When Jesus died on the cross, they thought He’d failed and they’d won, but the reverse was true!

On the cross, Jesus accomplished our salvation. That’s why He’s called the “pioneer and perfecter of faith” (v. 2). “Pioneer” has also been translated as “founder” (ESV), “author” (NKJV), and “source” (CSB). All variations of this title affirm that He is the “beginning and the firstborn from among the dead” (Col. 1:18). Jesus lived a perfect life and perfectly accomplished His mission from the Father. Therefore, He’s the perfect model for us (v. 3). Based on what He did, we should live our own lives with persevering faith, as others before us have done (v. 1). We must throw off sin and lesser priorities and fix our eyes on Jesus. Because He lives, we do not grow weary or lose heart. Because He did not fail, our victory is assured!

**Apply the Word**

If you haven’t already memorized Hebrews 12:1–3, why not learn this powerful passage by heart today? Memorizing Scripture is an important spiritual discipline. As Psalm 119:11 says: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

### Pray with Us

Today, as we read about Jesus’ victory on the cross, praise Him for His sacrifice and our salvation. Pray that we will keep our eyes on Jesus, and not on our failures and mistakes.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/15/20

# How to Rebuild

 **Read:** [**Nehemiah 2:11–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Neh%202.11%E2%80%9318)

### Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem’s Walls

11I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days 12I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

13By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+2%3A11%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12321a)] Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. 14Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; 15so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. 16The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

17Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” 18I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Nehemiah 2:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+2%3A11%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-12321) Or Serpent or Fig

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work. [Nehemiah 2:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Neh%202.18)

It was nighttime when the leader set out by horseback to inspect the work that lay ahead. As he toured the destruction all around him, he saw city walls that had been destroyed and gates that had been burned. In some areas, the vast debris made it tough for his horse to get through. Saddened, the rider turned toward home.

When it came time to report the damage to the officials of the city, he began by saying, “You see the trouble we are in” ([Nehemiah 2:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Neh%202.17)). He reported that the city was in ruins, and the protecting city wall had been rendered useless.

But then he made a statement that energized the troubled citizens: “I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me.” Immediately, the people replied, “Let us start rebuilding” (v. 18).

And they did.

With faith in God and all-out effort, despite enemy opposition and a seemingly impossible task, the people of Jerusalem—under Nehemiah’s leadership—rebuilt the wall in just fifty-two days (6:15).

As you consider your circumstances, is there something that looks difficult but that you know God wants you to do? A sin you can’t seem to get rid of? A relationship rift that’s not God-honoring? A task for Him that looks too hard?

Ask God for guidance (2:4–5), analyze the problem (vv. 11–15), and recognize His involvement (v. 18). Then start rebuilding.

By:  [Dave Branon](https://odb.org/author/davebranon/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What are a couple of “destroyed wall” situations that are troubling you? How will prayerfully asking for God’s help and guidance help you start the rebuilding process?

God, I need Your help. I can’t fix these problems alone. Help me to understand the situation, and then to seek Your help and guidance in resolving the challenges before me.

#### Insight

Unlike most of the Old Testament, the book of Nehemiah isn’t told by a narrator. This becomes clear when Nehemiah says, “I was cupbearer to the king” (1:11)—a statement that not only reveals the autobiographical nature of the book but gives us a glimpse into his life. Nehemiah was a Jew in captivity in Babylon and was cupbearer to the king. In that role, he would have been highly trusted, since poisoning was a primary means of assassination in the ancient world.

# God Calling – 6/15/20

# Glory, Glory Dawneth

I am planning for you.  Wonderful are My Ways beyond your knowledge.

Oh! Realize My Bounty and My Goodness more and more.  The wonder of being led by Me!  The beauty of a guided life!

These will enter your consciousness more and more, and bring you ever more and more Joy.

You are very nearly at the point when you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.

You have entered upon a wonderful era - your lives are planned and blessed by Me as never before.

You are overcoming.  You are counting all things but loss if you can win Me.  And the promises to him that overcometh are truly wonderful, and will always be fulfilled.

When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth ... he will show you things to come.  John 16:13