# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/16/20

# “Will You Lay Down Your Life?”



Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends….I have called you friends… —[John 15:13, 15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+15%3A13%2C+15)

Jesus does not ask me to die for Him, but to lay down my life for Him. Peter said to the Lord, “I will lay down my life for Your sake,” and he meant it ([John 13:37](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:37)). He had a magnificent sense of the heroic. For us to be incapable of making this same statement Peter made would be a bad thing— our sense of duty is only fully realized through our sense of heroism. Has the Lord ever asked you, “Will you lay down your life for My sake?” ([John 13:38](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:38)). It is much easier to die than to lay down your life day in and day out with the sense of the high calling of God. We are not made for the bright-shining moments of life, but we have to walk in the light of them in our everyday ways. There was only one bright-shining moment in the life of Jesus, and that was on the Mount of Transfiguration. It was there that He emptied Himself of His glory for the second time, and then came down into the demon-possessed valley (see[Mark 9:1-29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9:1-29)). For thirty-three years Jesus laid down His life to do the will of His Father. “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” ([1 John 3:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+3:16)). Yet it is contrary to our human nature to do so.

If I am a friend of Jesus, I must deliberately and carefully lay down my life for Him. It is a difficult thing to do, and thank God that it is. Salvation is easy for us, because it cost God so much. But the exhibiting of salvation in my life is difficult. God saves a person, fills him with the Holy Spirit, and then says, in effect, “Now you work it out in your life, and be faithful to Me, even though the nature of everything around you is to cause you to be unfaithful.” And Jesus says to us, “…I have called you friends….” Remain faithful to your Friend, and remember that His honor is at stake in your bodily life.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We are in danger of being stern where God is tender, and of being tender where God is stern.  The Love of God—The Message of Invincible Consolation, 673 L

# CCEL – 6/16/20

See that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.—[EPH. 5:15,16.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.5.html" \l "Eph.5.15)

Take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.—Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.—Abstain from all appearance of evil.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.—Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if we do these things, ye shall never fall.—Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching.

[Josh. 22:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Josh.22.html" \l "Josh.22.5). -[Col. 4:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.4.html" \l "Col.4.5). -[I Thes. 5:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iThess.5.html" \l "iThess.5.22).[Matt. 25:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.5). -[Matt. 25:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.13).[II Pet. 1:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.1.html" \l "iiPet.1.10). -[Luke 12:37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.12.html" \l "Luke.12.37).

“And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” [John 10:28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.28)

The Christian should never think or speak lightly of unbelief. For a child of God to mistrust his love, his truth, his faithfulness, must be greatly displeasing to him. How can we ever grieve him by doubting his upholding grace? Christian! it is contrary to every promise of God’s precious Word that thou shouldst ever be forgotten or left to perish. If it could be so, how could he be true who has said, “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I never forget thee.” What were the value of that promise—“The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.” Where were the truth of Christ’s words—“I give unto my sheep eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” Where were the doctrines of grace? They would be all disproved if one child of God should perish. Where were the veracity of God, his honour, his power, his grace, his covenant, his oath, if any of those for whom Christ has died, and who have put their trust in him, should nevertheless be cast away? Banish those unbelieving fears which so dishonour God. Arise, shake thyself from the dust, and put on thy beautiful garments. Remember it is sinful to doubt his Word wherein he has promised thee that thou shalt never perish. Let the eternal life within thee express itself in confident rejoicing.

“The gospel bears my spirit up: A faithful and unchanging God Lays the foundation for my hope,

In oaths, and promises, and blood.”

# Word Live – 6/16/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/16/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/16/20

# God’s Steadfast Mercy

**Read:** [**Genesis 4:1–16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316)

### Cain and Abel

4 Adam[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-81a)] made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-81b)] She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-81c)] a man.” 2Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

6Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

8Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-88d)] While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

9Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. 11Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

13Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. 14Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

15But the Lord said to him, “Not so[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-95e)]; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. 16So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316" \l "fen-NIV-96f" \o "See footnote f)] east of Eden.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Genesis 4:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-81) Or The man
2. [Genesis 4:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-81) Cain sounds like the Hebrew for brought forth or acquired.
3. [Genesis 4:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-81) Or have acquired
4. [Genesis 4:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-88) Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have “Let’s go out to the field.”
5. [Genesis 4:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-95) Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew Very well
6. [Genesis 4:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4%3a1%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-96) Nod means wandering (see verses 12 and 14).

The “snowball effect” describes how one sin leads to another. For example, a child steals a cookie, then lies to her mother about it. A man gossips about his boss, then tries to cover it up. A woman cheats on her taxes, then rationalizes it by saying, “Everybody does it.” The “snowball effect” is at work in today’s story. Cain’s sin began with bad worship. His offering somehow showed a lack of faith or a lack of respect for God (vv. 3–4), leading to the sins of anger and jealousy (v. 5). God mercifully intervened to warn Cain to repent and “do what is right” (vv. 6–7).

It desires to have you, but you must rule over it. Genesis 4:7

But the “snowball effect” continued. Cain carried out the premeditated murder of his brother Abel (v. 8). God mercifully intervened again, implicitly giving Cain an opportunity to confess (v. 9). Instead, he lied (v. 10). This led to God’s just wrath and a punishment (vv. 10–12). Even then, Cain’s response was sinful. He regretted the consequences but expressed no remorse for any of his sins (vv. 13–14). Once again, God responded with mercy: He tempered the judgment so that Cain would not be murdered for revenge (v. 15).

This section of our month’s study focuses specifically on sinful failures, dealing with them from the perspective that these are occasions for God’s gifts of forgiveness and hope. If we choose to repent, He will forgive. If we stubbornly continue to choose rebellion, as Cain did, even then the faithful mercy of the Lord will be magnified and glorified! “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy” (Mic. 7:18).

**Reflect & Pray**

Pride urges us to double down on our sin. Rather than confess, we allow sin to control what happens next (v. 7). If this describes you today, don’t make things worse—turn to the Lord and let Him cleanse you from your own mess.

### Pray with Us

Is it difficult for you to repent of your sin? Remember that our sinful failures are occasions for God’s gifts of forgiveness and hope to work in our lives. Come to Him! He delights “to show mercy” (Mic. 7:18).

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/16/20

# Just-in-Case Idols

 **Read:** [**Jeremiah 11:9–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2011.9%E2%80%9313)

9Then the Lord said to me, “There is a conspiracy among the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem. 10They have returned to the sins of their ancestors, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both Israel and Judah have broken the covenant I made with their ancestors. 11Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape. Although they cry out to me, I will not listen to them. 12The towns of Judah and the people of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they burn incense, but they will not help them at all when disaster strikes. 13You, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns; and the altars you have set up to burn incenseThey have followed other gods to serve them. [Jeremiah 11:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2011.10)

Sam checks his retirement account twice each day. He saved for thirty years, and with the boost of a rising stock market, finally has enough to retire. As long as stocks don’t plunge. This fear keeps Sam worrying about his balance.

Jeremiah warned about this: “You, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns; and the altars you have set up to burn incense to that shameful god Baal are as many as the streets of Jerusalem” (11:13).

Judah’s idolatry is remarkable. They knew the Lord was God. How could they worship anyone else? They were hedging their bets. They needed the Lord for the afterlife, because only the true God could raise them from the dead. But what about now? Pagan gods promised health, wealth, and fertility, so why not pray to them too, just in case?

Can you see how Judah’s idolatry is also our temptation? It’s good to have talent, education, and money. But if we’re not careful, we might shift our confidence to them. We know we’ll need God when we die, and we’ll ask Him to bless us now. But we’ll also lean on these lesser gods, just in case.

Where is your trust? Back-up idols are still idols. Thank God for His many gifts, and tell Him you’re not relying on any of them. Your faith is riding entirely on Him.

By:  [Mike Wittmer](https://odb.org/author/mwittmer/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What good thing are you tempted to turn into an idol? How might you use this gift while still depending fully on God?

Father, all my hope is in You. Help me trust in You alone, not in my abilities and assets.

#### Insight

Because the people of Judah had persistently refused to walk in God’s ways and had rejected His instructions ([Jeremiah 11:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2011.10)), Jeremiah warned that God would bring a nation from afar to punish them for their idolatrous unfaithfulness (1:14–15; 5:15; 6:22; 25:9). They would also be exiled to Babylon for seventy years (25:11). Jeremiah witnessed the deportations of the Israelites to Babylon and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple (52:1–34). Judah’s idolatrous unfaithfulness was chronically deep-rooted. “From the time I brought your ancestors up from Egypt until today,” God said, “they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts” (11:7–8). Jeremiah called them to turn away from their idols and to worship Yahweh as their one and only true Creator God and King (10:1–11), warning that their dependence on their many gods would be punished (11:12–13).

# God Calling – 6/16/20

# Seek Me Early

Walk in My Way and trust Me.  No evil can touch you.  I am yours as truly as you are Mine.  Rest in that truth.

Rest, that is, cease all struggle.  Gain a calm, strong confidence in that certainty.  Do not only rest in Me when the world's struggles prove too much and too many for you to bear or face alone.  Rest in Me when you need perfect understanding, when you need the consciousness of tender, loving friendship and intercourse.

The world, my poor world, flies to Me when its difficulties are too great to be surmounted any other way, forgetting, or never realizing, that if, with the same eagerness, those hearts sought Me merely for companionship and loving intercourse, many of the difficulties would not arise.

The circumstances, the life, the character would be so altered - so purified, that those same difficulties would not exist.

Seek Me early, that is the way to find Me.  Early, before I get crowded out by life's troubles, and difficulties and pleasures.

But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.  Proverbs 1:33

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/17/20

# Beware of Criticizing Others



Judge not, that you be not judged. —[Matthew 7:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+7%3A1)

Jesus’ instructions with regard to judging others is very simply put; He says, “Don’t.” The average Christian is the most piercingly critical individual known. Criticism is one of the ordinary activities of people, but in the spiritual realm nothing is accomplished by it. The effect of criticism is the dividing up of the strengths of the one being criticized. The Holy Spirit is the only one in the proper position to criticize, and He alone is able to show what is wrong without hurting and wounding. It is impossible to enter into fellowship with God when you are in a critical mood. Criticism serves to make you harsh, vindictive, and cruel, and leaves you with the soothing and flattering idea that you are somehow superior to others. Jesus says that as His disciple you should cultivate a temperament that is never critical. This will not happen quickly but must be developed over a span of time. You must constantly beware of anything that causes you to think of yourself as a superior person.

There is no escaping the penetrating search of my life by Jesus. If I see the little speck in your eye, it means that I have a plank of timber in my own (see [Matthew 7:3-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:3-5)). Every wrong thing that I see in you, God finds in me. Every time I judge, I condemn myself (see [Romans 2:17-24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2:17-24)). Stop having a measuring stick for other people. There is always at least one more fact, which we know nothing about, in every person’s situation. The first thing God does is to give us a thorough spiritual cleaning. After that, there is no possibility of pride remaining in us. I have never met a person I could despair of, or lose all hope for, after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 6/17/20

In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—[PHI. 4:6.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.4.html" \l "Phil.4.6)

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.—The Spirit . . . helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.—Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

[Psa. 16:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.16.html" \l "Ps.16.1). [Matt 6:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.6.html#Matt.6.7). -[Rom. 8:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html#Rom.8.26).[I Tim. 2:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.2.html" \l "iTim.2.8). -[Eph. 6:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.6.html" \l "Eph.6.18).[Matt. 18:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.18.html" \l "Matt.18.19).

“Help, Lord.” [Psalm 12:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.12.html" \l "Ps.12.1)

The prayer itself is remarkable, for it is short, but seasonable, sententious, and suggestive. David mourned the fewness of faithful men, and therefore lifted up his heart in supplication—when the creature failed, he flew to the Creator. He evidently felt his own weakness, or he would not have cried for help; but at the same time he intended honestly to exert himself for the cause of truth, for the word “help” is inapplicable where we ourselves do nothing. There is much of directness, clearness of perception, and distinctness of utterance in this petition of two words; much more, indeed, than in the long rambling outpourings of certain professors. The Psalmist runs straight-forward to his God, with a well-considered prayer; he knows what he is seeking, and where to seek it. Lord, teach us to pray in the same blessed manner.

The occasions for the use of this prayer are frequent. In providential afflictions how suitable it is for tried believers who find all helpers failing them. Students, in doctrinal difficulties, may often obtain aid by lifting up this cry of “Help, Lord,” to the Holy Spirit, the great Teacher. Spiritual warriors in inward conflicts may send to the throne for reinforcements, and this will be a model for their request. Workers in heavenly labour may thus obtain grace in time of need. Seeking sinners, in doubts and alarms, may offer up the same weighty supplication; in fact, in all these cases, times, and places, this will serve the turn of needy souls. “Help, Lord,” will suit us living and dying, suffering or labouring, rejoicing or sorrowing. In him our help is found, let us not be slack to cry to him.

The answer to the prayer is certain, if it be sincerely offered through Jesus. The Lord’s character assures us that he will not leave his people; his relationship as Father and Husband guarantee us his aid; his gift of Jesus is a pledge of every good thing; and his sure promise stands, “Fear not, I will help thee.”

# Word Live – 6/17/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/17/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/17/20

# Suffering Consequences

**Read:** [**Numbers 14:17–38**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3a17%e2%80%9338)

17“Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: 18‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’ 19In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

20The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, 22not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— 23not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. 25Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3a17%e2%80%9338" \l "fen-NIV-4134a" \o "See footnote a)]”

26The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: 27“How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. 28So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: 29In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. 33Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. 34For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.’ 35I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die.”

36So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it— 37these men who were responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord. 38Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Numbers 14:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3a17%e2%80%9338#en-NIV-4134) Or the Sea of Reeds

Even after God forgives our sinful failures, there may be lingering consequences. On the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1995, the denomination officially lamented and repudiated its slaveholding history. Pledging to work toward racial reconciliation, they apologized “for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime; and we genuinely repent of racism of which we have been guilty.” Our sinful failures can affect others, sometimes for years to come. In today’s narrative, Joshua and Caleb were condemned to wander in the wilderness with their fellow Israelites, even though God promised to spare their lives and allow them to enter the promised land.

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. Daniel 9:9

Joshua and Caleb themselves had done nothing wrong. Their faith and obedience were exemplary. However, the other ten spies and the people made the sinful choice to decline to enter Canaan. In doing so, they disobeyed the Lord and showed a deplorable lack of faith. Joshua and Caleb, on the other hand, had argued against the nation’s decision so forcefully that they’d been threatened with death by stoning (14:10).

Joshua and Caleb did what was right. But they were members of a community that chose to do what was wrong (v. 35). As a result, they suffered consequences for the nation’s collective sin. Specifically, they, along with the next generation, spent 40 years wandering in the desert because of the people’s disobedience (v. 34). God punished the people, but less than they deserved (vv. 20–23). And He continued to faithfully protect and provide for them during their wanderings, including the daily provision of manna.

**Reflect & Pray**

Our sin, even when forgiven, can have consequences, for ourselves and for others. Daniel is another Bible character who did what was right but who was negatively affected by the sins of his community. He responded with confession and intercessory prayer (Dan. 9:1–19). How can we follow his example today?

### Pray with Us

Today’s devotional tells us of God’s provision for His people Israel during their wanderings in the desert. Think about your own “desert wanderings,” and thank the Father for His protection and deliverance.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/17/20

# Dancing Before the Lord

### Today's Devotional Read: Mark 14:1–9

### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

14 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. 2“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

3While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

4Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? 5It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24760a)] and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

6“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7The poor you will always have with you,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-24762b" \o "See footnote b)] and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. 8She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. 9Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Mark 14:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#en-NIV-24760) Greek than three hundred denarii
2. [Mark 14:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#en-NIV-24762) See Deut. 15:11.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume?” [Mark 14:4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2014.4)

A number of years ago, my wife and I visited a small church where during the worship service a woman began to dance in the aisle. She was soon joined by others. Carolyn and I looked at each other and an unspoken agreement passed between us: “Not me!” We come from church traditions that favor a serious liturgy, and this other form of worship was well beyond our comfort zone.

But if Mark’s story of Mary’s “waste” means anything at all, it suggests that our love for Jesus may express itself in ways that others find uncomfortable ([Mark 14:1–9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2014.1%E2%80%939)). A year’s wages were involved in Mary’s anointing. It was an “unwise” act that invited the disciples’ scorn. The word Mark uses to describe their reaction means “to snort” and suggests disdain and mockery. Mary may have cringed, fearing Jesus’ response. But He commended her for her act of devotion and defended her against His own disciples, for Jesus saw the love that prompted her action despite what some would consider the impractical nature of it. He said, “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me” (v. 6).

Different forms of worship—informal, formal, quiet, exuberant—represent a sincere outpouring of love for Jesus. He’s worthy of all worship that comes from a heart of love.

By:  [David H. Roper](https://odb.org/author/davidhroper/)

#### Reflect & Pray

Why do you think we’re critical of unfamiliar forms of worship? How can we change our thoughts about a form of worship that’s outside our comfort zone?

I bow before You, Almighty God, and worship You now. You’re worthy of the highest praise and adoration.

#### Insight

[Mark 13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2013) ends with Jesus urging His disciples, and everyone, to be awake rather than asleep when He returns (vv. 35–36). Chapter 14 gives us contrasting examples of what it means to be ready. Into the account of those who are conspiring to get rid of Jesus (14:1–2, 10–11), Mark inserts the story of a woman who honors His approaching death (vv. 3–9). In the spirit of her affections, she was awake even if she didn’t consciously know that she was foreshadowing Jesus’ suffering (vv. 6–9). A group of religious leaders, on the other hand, were clueless to the fact that in the secrecy of their murderous plans, they, along with Judas, were about to betray and demand the crucifixion of their long-awaited Savior. Two days before the Jewish feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread, they were sleeping in what Jesus had called the “yeast” of hypocrisy ([Luke 12:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2012.1)).

# God Calling – 6/17/20

# Dear Name

"Jesus."  Say My Name often.  It was in My Name Peter bade the lame man walk.  "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth arise and walk."

"Jesus."  The very sounding of My Name, in Love and tenderness, drives away all evil.  It is the word before which all the hosts of evil flee.

"Jesus."  My Name is the call for a life-line to rescue you from temptation.

"Jesus."  The Name banishes loneliness - dispels gloom.

"Jesus."  Summons help to conquer your faults.

I will set you on high because you have known My Name.

Yes!  My Name - "Jesus."  Use it more.  Use it tenderly.  Use it prayerfully.  Use it powerfully.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people form their sins.  Matthew 1:21

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/18/20

# Keep Recognizing Jesus



…Peter…walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid… —[Matthew 14:29-30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+14%3A29-30)

The wind really was boisterous and the waves really were high, but Peter didn’t see them at first. He didn’t consider them at all; he simply recognized his Lord, stepped out in recognition of Him, and “walked on the water.” Then he began to take those things around him into account, and instantly, down he went. Why couldn’t our Lord have enabled him to walk at the bottom of the waves, as well as on top of them? He could have, yet neither could be done without Peter’s continuing recognition of the Lord Jesus.

We step right out with recognition of God in some things, then self-consideration enters our lives and down we go. If you are truly recognizing your Lord, you have no business being concerned about how and where He engineers your circumstances. The things surrounding you are real, but when you look at them you are immediately overwhelmed, and even unable to recognize Jesus. Then comes His rebuke, “…why did you doubt?” ([Matthew 14:31](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+14:31)). Let your actual circumstances be what they may, but keep recognizing Jesus, maintaining complete reliance upon Him.

If you debate for even one second when God has spoken, it is all over for you. Never start to say, “Well, I wonder if He really did speak to me?” Be reckless immediately— totally unrestrained and willing to risk everything— by casting your all upon Him. You do not know when His voice will come to you, but whenever the realization of God comes, even in the faintest way imaginable, be determined to recklessly abandon yourself, surrendering everything to Him. It is only through abandonment of yourself and your circumstances that you will recognize Him. You will only recognize His voice more clearly through recklessness— being willing to risk your all.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Sincerity means that the appearance and the reality are exactly the same. Studies in the Sermon on the Mount, 1449 L

# CCEL – 6/18/20

Thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark, and there I will meet with thee.—[EXO. 25:21,22.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.25.html" \l "Exod.25.21)

The way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest.—Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

Having . . . brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; . . . let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.—Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation [mercy seat] through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.—Through him we have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

[Heb. 9:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.9.html" \l "Heb.9.8). -[Matt. 27:50,51](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.27.html" \l "Matt.27.50).[Heb. 10:19,20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.19),[22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.22). -[Heb. 4:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.16).[Rom. 3:24,25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.3.html" \l "Rom.3.24). -[Eph. 2:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.18).

“Thy Redeemer.” [Isaiah 54:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.54.html" \l "Isa.54.5)

Jesus, the Redeemer, is altogether ours and ours forever. All the offices of Christ are held on our behalf. He is king for us, priest for us, and prophet for us. Whenever we read a new title of the Redeemer, let us appropriate him as ours under that name as much as under any other. The shepherd’s staff, the father’s rod, the captain’s sword, the priest’s mitre, the prince’s sceptre, the prophet’s mantle, all are ours. Jesus hath no dignity which he will not employ for our exaltation, and no prerogative which he will not exercise for our defence. His fulness of Godhead is our unfailing, inexhaustible treasure-house.

His manhood also, which he took upon him for us, is ours in all its perfection. To us our gracious Lord communicates the spotless virtue of a stainless character; to us he gives the meritorious efficacy of a devoted life; on us he bestows the reward procured by obedient submission and incessant service. He makes the unsullied garment of his life our covering beauty; the glittering virtues of his character our ornaments and jewels; and the superhuman meekness of his death our boast and glory. He bequeaths us his manger, from which to learn how God came down to man; and his Cross to teach us how man may go up to God. All his thoughts, emotions, actions, utterances, miracles, and intercessions, were for us. He trod the road of sorrow on our behalf, and hath made over to us as his heavenly legacy the full results of all the labours of his life. He is now as much ours as heretofore; and he blushes not to acknowledge himself “our Lord Jesus Christ,” though he is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Christ everywhere and every way is our Christ, forever and ever most richly to enjoy. O my soul, by the power of the Holy Spirit! call him this morning, “thy Redeemer.”

# Word Live – 6/18/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/18/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/18/20

# Failure and Hidden Sin

**Read:** [**Joshua 7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7)

### Achan’s Sin

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 21When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#fen-NIV-5998c)] two hundred shekels[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#fen-NIV-5998d)] of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#fen-NIV-5998e)] I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

22So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. 23They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord.

24Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. 25Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today.”

Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. 26Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#fen-NIV-6003f)] ever since.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Joshua 7:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#en-NIV-5978) The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them; also in verses 11, 12, 13 and 15.
2. [Joshua 7:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#en-NIV-5978) See Septuagint and 1 Chron. 2:6; Hebrew Zabdi; also in verses 17 and 18.
3. [Joshua 7:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#en-NIV-5998) Hebrew Shinar
4. [Joshua 7:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#en-NIV-5998) That is, about 5 pounds or about 2.3 kilograms
5. [Joshua 7:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#en-NIV-5998) That is, about 1 1/4 pounds or about 575 grams
6. [Joshua 7:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+7#en-NIV-6003) Achor means trouble.

One of the most common “hidden” sins of our time is pornography. Research says it accounts for at least 30 percent of all data transferred across the Internet. In 2018, more than 5.5 billion hours of pornography were consumed by one website alone. Every month, these sites receive more regular traffic than Netflix, Amazon, and Twitter combined. But one day, just as happened in today’s story, God will bring all such hidden sins to light.

He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness. 1 Corinthians 4:5

In today’s passage, Achan is in the “failure” spotlight. What had he done? Following the victory at Jericho, he took for himself some of the “devoted things” (v. 1). Culturally, soldiers were entitled to the spoils of war. But spiritually, the Israelite army had been commanded not to do so in this case. The plunder belonged to God. Achan chose to disobey the Lord’s command, essentially stealing from God and concealing the evidence (v. 11). To make matters worse, he didn’t confess until it had been revealed he was the guilty man (vv. 20–21).

Achan’s sin was more than individual. God had warned beforehand against this specific sin and described the consequences for Israel (Josh. 6:18–19). Achan’s theft violated the covenant and therefore carried national consequences (v. 15). For five pounds of silver, one-and-a-quarter pounds of gold, and a Babylonian robe, he’d earned a world of trouble. He and his family (who probably knew of his crime) were justly stoned to death, a punishment that also accomplished national cleansing (vv. 25–26). Collective responsibility works both ways. Yesterday, Joshua and Caleb suffered some of the consequences of the nation’s sinful failure. Today, the nation suffered some of the consequences of an individual’s sinful failure.

**Reflect & Pray**

Today’s reading is a stern reminder to confess any hidden sins. One important thing to remember is how much God hates sin. He’s absolutely holy. Another is that these sins are not really hidden. God already knows all about them.

### Pray with Us

Today’s Scripture passage warns about the consequences of sinful failures and reminds us to confess hidden sin. As we come to God in prayer, praise Him for our freedom and forgiveness in Christ.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/18/20

# Straight Ahead

 **Read:** [**2 Kings 22:1–2**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2022.1%E2%80%932)

### The Book of the Law Found

22 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother’s name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. 2He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

**Read:** [**2 Kings 22:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2022.1%E2%80%932)[**8–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2022.8%E2%80%9313)

8Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord.” He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. 9Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: “Your officials have paid out the money that was in the temple of the Lord and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple.” 10Then 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.

11When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. 12He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: 13“Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord’s anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.”

He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord . . . , not turning aside to the right or to the left. [2 Kings 22:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2022.2)

It used to take the steady eye and the firm hand of a farmer to drive a tractor or combine down straight rows. But even the best eyes would overlap rows, and by end of day even the strongest hands would be fatigued. But now there’s autosteer—a GPS-based technology that allows for accuracy to within one inch when planting, cultivating, and spraying. It’s incredibly efficient and hands-free. Just imagine sitting in a mammoth combine and instead of gripping the wheel, you’re gripping a roast beef sandwich. An amazing tool to keep you moving straight ahead.

You may recall the name Josiah. He was crowned king when he was only “eight years old” ([2 Kings 22:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2022.1)). Years later, in his mid-twenties, Hilkiah the high priest found “the Book of the Law” in the temple (v. 8). It was then read to the young king, who tore his robes in sorrow due to his ancestors’ disobedience to God. Josiah set about to do what was “right in the eyes of the Lord” (v. 2). The book became a tool to steer the people so there would be no turning to the right or left. God’s instructions were there to set things straight.

Allowing the Scriptures to guide us day by day keeps our lives in line with knowing God and His will. The Bible is an amazing tool that, if followed, keeps us moving straight ahead.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How is Bible reading a part of your daily routine? What Scriptures has God been using to keep your life on track?

God, the Scriptures are a gift that brings truth and freedom to our lives. Help me to hunger and thirst for Your words.

To gain a high-level perspective of what the Bible is about, visit [bit.ly/2ksifCp.](https://bit.ly/2ksifCp.)

#### Insight

The young king Josiah isn’t the only one in the Bible who was so internally moved that “he tore his robes” ([2 Kings 22:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2022.11)). This practice, which is foreign to the modern West, was an indication of great anxiety and distress. The first incident in the Bible of tearing one’s clothing is found in [Genesis 37:29](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2037.29) where Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn son, tore his clothes when he discovered that his father’s favored son, Joseph, was missing. Not long afterwards, a grief-stricken Jacob “tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days” (v. 34).

# God Calling – 6/18/20

# Wait

The world has always seen service for Me to be activity.  Only those near to Me have seen that a life apart, of prayer, may, and does so often, accomplish more than all the service man can offer Me.

If man lived apart with Me and only went out to serve at My direct command, My spirit could operate more and accomplish truly mighty things.

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place ... his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray.  Luke 11:1

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/19/20

# The Service of Passionate Devotion



…do you love Me?…Tend My sheep. —[John 21:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+21%3A16)

Jesus did not say to make converts to your way of thinking, but He said to look after His sheep, to see that they get nourished in the knowledge of Him. We consider what we do in the way of Christian work as service, yet Jesus Christ calls service to be what we are to Him, not what we do for Him. Discipleship is based solely on devotion to Jesus Christ, not on following after a particular belief or doctrine. “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate…, he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26). In this verse, there is no argument and no pressure from Jesus to follow Him; He is simply saying, in effect, “If you want to be My disciple, you must be devoted solely to Me.” A person touched by the Spirit of God suddenly says, “Now I see who Jesus is!”— that is the source of devotion.

Today we have substituted doctrinal belief for personal belief, and that is why so many people are devoted to causes and so few are devoted to Jesus Christ. People do not really want to be devoted to Jesus, but only to the cause He started. Jesus Christ is deeply offensive to the educated minds of today, to those who only want Him to be their Friend, and who are unwilling to accept Him in any other way. Our Lord’s primary obedience was to the will of His Father, not to the needs of people— the saving of people was the natural outcome of His obedience to the Father. If I am devoted solely to the cause of humanity, I will soon be exhausted and come to the point where my love will waver and stumble. But if I love Jesus Christ personally and passionately, I can serve humanity, even though people may treat me like a “doormat.” The secret of a disciple’s life is devotion to Jesus Christ, and the characteristic of that life is its seeming insignificance and its meekness. Yet it is like a grain of wheat that “falls into the ground and dies”— it will spring up and change the entire landscape ([John 12:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12:24)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Jesus Christ is always unyielding to my claim to my right to myself. The one essential element in all our Lord’s teaching about discipleship is abandon, no calculation, no trace of self-interest. Disciples Indeed, 395 L

# CCEL – 6/19/20

Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.—[HEB. 12:14.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.14)

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.—There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth.—There is no spot in thee.

Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.—As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.—Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and . . . put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.—He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

[John 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.3.html" \l "John.3.3). -[Rev. 21:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.21.html" \l "Rev.21.27). -[Song 4:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.4.html" \l "Song.4.7).[Lev. 19:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lev.19.html" \l "Lev.19.2). -[I Pet. 1:14-17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.14). -[Eph. 4:22-24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.22). -[Eph. 1:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.4).

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.” **[Acts 2:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.2.html" \l "Acts.2.4)**

Rich were the blessings of this day if all of us were filled with the Holy Ghost. The consequences of this sacred filling of the soul it would be impossible to overestimate. Life, comfort, light, purity, power, peace; and many other precious blessings are inseparable from the Spirit’s benign presence. As sacred oil, he anoints the head of the believer, sets him apart to the priesthood of saints, and gives him grace to execute his office aright. As the only truly purifying water he cleanses us from the power of sin and sanctifies us unto holiness, working in us to will and to do of the Lord’s good pleasure. As the light, he manifested to us at first our lost estate, and now he reveals the Lord Jesus to us and in us, and guides us in the way of righteousness. Enlightened by his pure celestial ray, we are no more darkness but light in the Lord. As fire, he both purges us from dross, and sets our consecrated nature on a blaze. He is the sacrificial flame by which we are enabled to offer our whole souls as a living sacrifice unto God. As heavenly dew, he removes our barrenness and fertilizes our lives. O that he would drop from above upon us at this early hour! Such morning dew would be a sweet commencement for the day. As the dove, with wings of peaceful love he broods over his Church and over the souls of believers, and as a Comforter he dispels the cares and doubts which mar the peace of his beloved. He descends upon the chosen as upon the Lord in Jordan, and bears witness to their sonship by working in them a filial spirit by which they cry Abba, Father. As the wind, he brings the breath of life to men; blowing where he listeth he performs the quickening operations by which the spiritual creation is animated and sustained. Would to God, that we might feel his presence this day and every day.

# Word Live – 6/19/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/19/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/19/20

# Sins of Omission

**Read:** [**James 4:13–17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4%3a13%e2%80%9317)

### Boasting About Tomorrow

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

We tend not to regard sins of omission as real sins or real failures. But they are, as is clearly taught in the book of James. Teaching on faith and good deeds, James, the pastor of the Jerusalem church, gave a striking example: What if you knew a person who lacked basic needs such as food and clothing? You greeted them warmly, wished them well, and continued on your way. But what good did it do them? None! “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17). Notice that he doesn’t say such faith is mediocre—it is dead. Useless. A complete waste of time.

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them. James 4:17

James illustrates this example in the context of an ordinary activity— making plans (v. 13). A businessperson preparing for a profit-making business trip is perfectly normal, right? Within a biblical worldview, though, what’s missing is any acknowledgment of the brevity and unpredictability of life (v. 14). The Bible teaches that life is like a “fleeting shadow” (Ps. 144:3–4). We should acknowledge that God is sovereign over all of life, even our plans. Saying “If it is the Lord’s will” is a conscious choice to recognize and submit to that sovereignty (v. 15).

The deeper sin here is pride. When we announce our plans as if they were a sure thing, without acknowledging our limits or the sovereignty of God, it amounts to boasting (v. 16). The sin here doesn’t lie in what is said, but in what is not said. Verse 17 goes on to define a “sin of omission”: “If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.” That’s a high standard!

**Reflect & Pray**

This passage contains its own pair of applications: First, the next time you make plans, remember to take an “if it is the Lord’s will” attitude. Second, remember to confess sins of omission as part of your regular prayer times.

### Pray with Us

Looking at your life, do you submit all your plans to the Lord? Today’s passage from James teaches us to take an “if it is the Lord’s will” attitude. Ask, and He will help you trust and rely on Him more.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/19/20

# Life to the Full

# Today's Devotional Read: [John 10:7–11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2010.7%E2%80%9311)

7Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A7%E2%80%9311&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-26491a" \o "See footnote a)] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

#### Footnotes:

1. [John 10:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A7%E2%80%9311&version=NIV#en-NIV-26491) Or kept safe

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. [John 10:10–11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2010.10%E2%80%9311)

Seventeenth-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes famously wrote that human life in its natural state is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” Hobbes argued that our instincts tend toward war in a bid to attain dominance over others; thus the establishment of government would be necessary to maintain law and order.

The bleak view of humanity sounds like the state of affairs that Jesus described when He said, “All who have come before me are thieves and robbers” ([John 10:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2010.8)). But Jesus offers hope in the midst of despair. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy,” but then the good news: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (v. 10).

[Psalm 23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2023) paints a refreshing portrait of the life our Shepherd gives us. In Him, we “lack nothing” (v. 1) and are refreshed (v. 3). He leads us down the right paths of His perfect will, so that even when we face dark times, we need not be afraid; for He is present to comfort us (vv. 3–4). He causes us to triumph in the face of adversity and overwhelms us with blessings (v. 5). His goodness and love follow us every day, and we have the privilege of His presence forever (v. 6).

May we answer the Shepherd’s call and experience the full, abundant life He came to give us.

By:  [Remi Oyedele](https://odb.org/author/remioyedele/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How would you describe the life that Jesus came to give? How can you share this life with others?

Jesus, You’re the source of true life, abundant and full. Help me seek my fulfillment only in You.

#### Insight

At the time of Jesus, shepherds used two kinds of enclosures for their sheep. In the villages, shepherds often kept their sheep in communal stone-walled and gated sheep pens guarded by gatekeepers. Out in the fields, sheepfolds were often makeshift enclosures made of stones, and the shepherd would guard his sheep by sleeping across a narrow opening in front. In [John 10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2010), Jesus uses the picture of a shepherd and his sheep to assure us of His personal protection. He says He’s “the gate for the sheep” (vv. 7, 9) who “lays down his life for the sheep” (vv. 11, 15). A communal sheepfold would have included many flocks. But as the shepherd called among the mixed flocks, only his own sheep would respond to him. Recognizing the shepherd’s voice, his sheep would draw near to him and follow him out of the sheepfold to the pasture (vv. 3–5).

# God Calling – 6/19/20

# The Success You Covet

Follow the path of obedience.  It leads to the Throne of God.  Your treasure, be it success necessary on the material plane, which will further the work of My Kingdom, or the hidden spiritual wonders revealed by Me to those only who diligently seek, this treasure lies at the end of the track.

From one point (a promise of Mine or a Command) to the next, you have to follow, till finally you reach the success you covet.

All your work for the moment is in the material plane and the spiritual is only to help the material.  When your material goal is reached then the material will serve only to attain the spiritual.

For your obedience is come abroad unto all men.  Romans 16:19

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/20/20

# Have You Come to “When” Yet?



The Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. —[Job 42:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Job+42%3A10)

A pitiful, sickly, and self-centered kind of prayer and a determined effort and selfish desire to be right with God are never found in the New Testament. The fact that I am trying to be right with God is actually a sign that I am rebelling against the atonement by the Cross of Christ. I pray, “Lord, I will purify my heart if You will answer my prayer— I will walk rightly before You if You will help me.” But I cannot make myself right with God; I cannot make my life perfect. I can only be right with God if I accept the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ as an absolute gift. Am I humble enough to accept it? I have to surrender all my rights and demands, and cease from every self-effort. I must leave myself completely alone in His hands, and then I can begin to pour my life out in the priestly work of intercession. There is a great deal of prayer that comes from actual disbelief in the atonement. Jesus is not just beginning to save us— He has already saved us completely. It is an accomplished fact, and it is an insult to Him for us to ask Him to do what He has already done.

If you are not now receiving the “hundredfold” which Jesus promised (see [Matthew 19:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+19:29)), and not getting insight into God’s Word, then start praying for your friends— enter into the ministry of the inner life. “The Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends.” As a saved soul, the real business of your life is intercessory prayer. Whatever circumstances God may place you in, always pray immediately that His atonement may be recognized and as fully understood in the lives of others as it has been in yours. Pray for your friends now, and pray for those with whom you come in contact now.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We are all based on a conception of importance, either our own importance, or the importance of someone else; Jesus tells us to go and teach based on the revelation of His importance. “All power is given unto Me.… Go ye therefore ….”  So Send I You, 1325 R

# CCEL – 6/20/20

Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.—[EXO. 2:9.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.2.html" \l "Exod.2.9)

Go ye . . . into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you.—Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.—The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.—God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, . . . in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

[Matt. 20:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.20.html" \l "Matt.20.4). -[Mark 9:41](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.9.html" \l "Mark.9.41). -[Prov. 11:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.11.html" \l "Prov.11.25). -[Heb. 6:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.6.html" \l "Heb.6.10).[I Cor. 3:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.3.html" \l "iCor.3.8).[Matt. 25:37,38](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.37),[40](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.40),[34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.34).

“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.” **[Amos 9:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Amos.9.html" \l "Amos.9.9)**

Every sifting comes by divine command and permission. Satan must ask leave before he can lay a finger upon Job. Nay, more, in some sense our siftings are directly the work of heaven, for the text says, “I will sift the house of Israel.” Satan, like a drudge, may hold the sieve, hoping to destroy the corn; but the overruling hand of the Master is accomplishing the purity of the grain by the very process which the enemy intended to be destructive. Precious, but much sifted corn of the Lord’s floor, be comforted by the blessed fact that the Lord directeth both flail and sieve to his own glory, and to thine eternal profit.

The Lord Jesus will surely use the fan which is in his hand, and will divide the precious from the vile. All are not Israel that are of Israel; the heap on the barn floor is not clean provender, and hence the winnowing process must be performed. In the sieve true weight alone has power. Husks and chaff being devoid of substance must fly before the wind, and only solid corn will remain.

Observe the complete safety of the Lord’s wheat; even the least grain has a promise of preservation. God himself sifts, and therefore it is stern and terrible work; he sifts them in all places, “among all nations”; he sifts them in the most effectual manner, “like as corn is sifted in a sieve”; and yet for all this, not the smallest, lightest, or most shrivelled grain, is permitted to fall to the ground. Every individual believer is precious in the sight of the Lord, a shepherd would not lose one sheep, nor a jeweller one diamond, nor a mother one child, nor a man one limb of his body, nor will the Lord lose one of his redeemed people. However little we may be, if we are the Lord's, we may rejoice that we are preserved in Christ Jesus.

# Word Live – 6/20/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/20/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/20/20

# Against You Only

### [Psalm 51:1–17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51%3a1%e2%80%9317)[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51%3a1%e2%80%9317#fen-NIV-14693a)]

#### For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

1Have mercy on me, O God,  
    according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
    blot out my transgressions.  
2Wash away all my iniquity  
    and cleanse me from my sin.

3For I know my transgressions,  
    and my sin is always before me.  
4Against you, you only, have I sinned  
    and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
    and justified when you judge.  
5Surely I was sinful at birth,  
    sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
6Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
    you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
    wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
8Let me hear joy and gladness;  
    let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
9Hide your face from my sins  
    and blot out all my iniquity.

10Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
    and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
11Do not cast me from your presence  
    or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
12Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
    and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
    so that sinners will turn back to you.  
14Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
    you who are God my Savior,  
    and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
15Open my lips, Lord,  
    and my mouth will declare your praise.  
16You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
    you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.  
17My sacrifice, O God, is[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51%3a1%e2%80%9317#fen-NIV-14709b)] a broken spirit;  
    a broken and contrite heart  
    you, God, will not despise.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Psalm 51:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51%3a1%e2%80%9317#en-NIV-14693) In Hebrew texts 51:1-19 is numbered 51:3-21.
2. [Psalm 51:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51%3a1%e2%80%9317#en-NIV-14709) Or The sacrifices of God are

Do you ever feel torn between repentance and praise? Pondering this issue, Bible scholar Michael E. Travers explained: “It is this tension between guilty sinner and righteous God that creates the paradox of praise in the penitential psalms. When God forgives the sinner for his personal sins, it is only to be expected that the speaker should break forth in intense praise to the God who forgives him.”

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. Psalm 51:1

Psalm 51 is a great example of this tension between repentance and praise. David had failed in dramatic fashion by committing both adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11). When he finally repented (2 Samuel 12), he wrote this psalm. True repentance involves at least five ingredients seen here: (1) An acute consciousness of and sorrow over specific sins (vv. 3, 17); (2) An understanding that all sin is first and foremost against God (v. 4); (3) An understanding of and sorrow over our general sinfulness (v. 5); (4) A strong faith in and desire for God’s love and mercy as our only hope (v. 1); and (5) A strong and urgent desire to be cleansed and transformed by God (vv. 1–2, 7–12, 14).

David didn’t deserve forgiveness, but he knew he could count on God’s mercy. This joy-filled anticipation caused him to break forth in praise (vv. 13–15). David failed, but God never fails, and David desired to proclaim God’s “unfailing love” and “great compassion” or “abundant mercy” (v. 1, ESV) to all who would listen. The covenant God had made with David (June 5) looks even more amazing now. God knew that David would sin. He knew Solomon would be the son of Bathsheba. In His promises to David, then, God—though only He knew it at that time—had pre-promised to bring blessing out of David’s future failure.

**Reflect & Pray**

Do you ever include music or singing as part of your personal devotions? Today, we suggest listening to or singing the classic song, “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” (drawn from verses 10–12) as an appropriate and worshipful response to Psalm 51.

### Pray with Us

Coming to the Lord in prayer today, we ask Him to give us pure hearts, a desire for righteousness, and the ability to flee from sin. We also thank Him for His mercy to all who failed and then came to Him.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/20/20

# Is God There?

 **Read:** [**Isaiah 8:16–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%208.16%E2%80%9318)

16Bind up this testimony of warning  
    and seal up God’s instruction among my disciples.  
17I will wait for the Lord,  
    who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob.  
I will put my trust in him.

18Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.

I will wait for the Lord . . . . I will put my trust in him. [Isaiah 8:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%208.17)

Lela was dying of cancer, and her husband, Timothy, couldn’t understand why a loving God would let his wife suffer. She had served Him faithfully as a Bible teacher and mentor to many. “Why did You let this happen?” he cried. Yet Timothy continued to be faithful in his walk with God.

“So why do you still believe in God?” I asked him frankly. “What keeps you from turning away from Him?”

“Because of what has happened before,” Timothy replied. While he couldn’t “see” God now, he recalled the times when God had helped and protected him. These were signs that God was still there caring for his family. “I know the God I believe in will come through in His own way,” he said.

Timothy’s words echo Isaiah’s expression of trust in [Isaiah 8:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%208.17). Even when he couldn’t feel God’s presence as his people braced for trouble from their enemies, he would “wait for the Lord.” He trusted in God because of the signs He’d given of His continuing presence (v. 18).

There are times when we might feel as if God isn’t with us in our troubles. That’s when we depend on what we can see of His works in our lives, in the past and present. They’re the visible reminder of an invisible God—a God who is always with us and will answer in His own time and way.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What signs can you see of God working in your life? How can they remind you that you can still look to Him for hope and comfort?

Father, thank You for always being there for me. Give me the strength to trust in You even when I don’t understand what’s going on.

#### Insight

The context of Isaiah’s commitment to “wait for the Lord” ([Isaiah 8:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%208.17)) is a prophetic warning to King Ahaz, during a period referred to as the Syro-Ephraimite war. Aram (present-day Syria) and Israel were battling the kingdom of Judah to pressure Judah to join in an alliance against Assyria (7:1–2). King Ahaz of Judah had refused and instead considered forming an alliance with Assyria.

In [Isaiah 8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%208), Isaiah warned Ahaz that if he relied on an alliance with Assyria instead of on God, God would allow His people to be conquered by Assyria (vv. 4–7, 11–13). In verse 18, Isaiah points to his name and the names of his children as signs pointing to both God’s coming judgment and redemption. Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (8:3) means “plunder speedily” and Shear-Jashub (7:3) means “a remnant shall return.” Isaiah’s own name means “the Lord is salvation”—pointing to Isaiah’s emphasis that even within judgment, God promised to ultimately bring restoration and healing to His people.

To learn more about the Old Testament book of Isaiah, visit [bit.ly/Book\_of\_Isaiah.](https://bit.ly/Book_of_Isaiah.)

# God Calling – 6/20/20

# Miracles Again

Wait to hear My Will and then obey.  At all costs obey.

Do not fear.  I am a wall of protection around you.  See this.  To see this with the eyes of faith is to cause it to manifest in the material.

Remember I long to work miracles, as when on earth I wrought them, but the same condition holds good.  I cannot do many mighty works because of unbelief.

So only in response to your belief can I do miracle-works now.

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.  Psalm 91:10

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/21/20

# The Ministry of the Inner Life



You are…a royal priesthood… —[1 Peter 2:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Peter+2%3A9)

By what right have we become “a royal priesthood”? It is by the right of the atonement by the Cross of Christ that this has been accomplished. Are we prepared to purposely disregard ourselves and to launch out into the priestly work of prayer? The continual inner-searching we do in an effort to see if we are what we ought to be generates a self-centered, sickly type of Christianity, not the vigorous and simple life of a child of God. Until we get into this right and proper relationship with God, it is simply a case of our “hanging on by the skin of our teeth,” although we say, “What a wonderful victory I have!” Yet there is nothing at all in that which indicates the miracle of redemption. Launch out in reckless, unrestrained belief that the redemption is complete. Then don’t worry anymore about yourself, but begin to do as Jesus Christ has said, in essence, “Pray for the friend who comes to you at midnight, pray for the saints of God, and pray for all men.” Pray with the realization that you are perfect only in Christ Jesus, not on the basis of this argument: “Oh, Lord, I have done my best; please hear me now.”

How long is it going to take God to free us from the unhealthy habit of thinking only about ourselves? We must get to the point of being sick to death of ourselves, until there is no longer any surprise at anything God might tell us about ourselves. We cannot reach and understand the depths of our own meagerness. There is only one place where we are right with God, and that is in Christ Jesus. Once we are there, we have to pour out our lives for all we are worth in this ministry of the inner life.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The life of Abraham is an illustration of two things: of unreserved surrender to God, and of God’s complete possession of a child of His for His own highest end.  
Not Knowing Whither

# CCEL – 6/21/20

Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps.—[I Peter 2:21.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.21)

Even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.—Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

Jesus of Nazareth . . . went about doing good.—Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The meekness and gentleness of Christ.—In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do.—Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.—Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

[Mark 10:45](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.10.html" \l "Mark.10.45). -[Mark 10:44](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.10.html" \l "Mark.10.44).[Acts 10:38](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.10.html" \l "Acts.10.38). -[Gal. 6:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.6.html" \l "Gal.6.2).[II Cor. 10:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.10.html" \l "iiCor.10.1). -[Phi. 2:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.2.html" \l "Phil.2.3).[Luke 23:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.23.html" \l "Luke.23.34). -[Eph. 4:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.32).[I John 2:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.6). -[Heb. 12:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html#Heb.12.2).

“Thou art fairer than the children of men.” **[Psalm 45:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.45.html" \l "Ps.45.2)**

The entire person of Jesus is but as one gem, and his life is all along but one impression of the seal. He is altogether complete; not only in his several parts, but as a gracious all-glorious whole. His character is not a mass of fair colours mixed confusedly, nor a heap of precious stones laid carelessly one upon another; he is a picture of beauty and a breastplate of glory. In him, all the “things of good repute” are in their proper places, and assist in adorning each other. Not one feature in his glorious person attracts attention at the expense of others; but he is perfectly and altogether lovely.

Oh, Jesus! thy power, thy grace, thy justice, thy tenderness, thy truth, thy majesty, and thine immutability make up such a man, or rather such a God-man, as neither heaven nor earth hath seen elsewhere. Thy infancy, thy eternity, thy sufferings, thy triumphs, thy death, and thine immortality, are all woven in one gorgeous tapestry, without seam or rent. Thou art music without discord; thou art many, and yet not divided; thou art all things, and yet not diverse. As all the colours blend into one resplendent rainbow, so all the glories of heaven and earth meet in thee, and unite so wondrously, that there is none like thee in all things; nay, if all the virtues of the most excellent were bound in one bundle, they could not rival thee, thou mirror of all perfection. Thou hast been anointed with the holy oil of myrrh and cassia, which thy God hath reserved for thee alone; and as for thy fragrance, it is as the holy perfume, the like of which none other can ever mingle, even with the art of the apothecary; each spice is fragrant, but the compound is divine.

“Oh, sacred symmetry! oh, rare connection

Of many perfects, to make one perfection!

Oh, heavenly music, where all parts do meet

In one sweet strain, to make one perfect sweet!”

# Word Live – 6/21/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/21/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/21/20

# Failing Jesus

**Read:** [**Luke 22:31–62**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3a31%e2%80%9362)

31“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

33But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

34Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

35Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they answered.

36He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. 37It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3a31%e2%80%9362" \l "fen-NIV-25902a" \o "See footnote a)]; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

38The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”

“That’s enough!” he replied.

### Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” 43An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3a31%e2%80%9362" \l "fen-NIV-25909b" \o "See footnote b)]

45When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

### Jesus Arrested

47While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

49When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” 50And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

51But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

52Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? 53Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

### Peter Disowns Jesus

54Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. 56A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

57But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

58A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”

“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

59About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

60Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. 61The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62And he went outside and wept bitterly.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Luke 22:37](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3a31%e2%80%9362#en-NIV-25902) Isaiah 53:12
2. [Luke 22:44](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+22%3a31%e2%80%9362#en-NIV-25909) Many early manuscripts do not have verses 43 and 44.

When we think of Peter, disciple of Jesus, we often remember how he denied knowing Jesus three times after the crucifixion. But before we consider his failure, we also want to emphasize that Peter finished well. According to tradition—and as Jesus hinted in John 21:18–19—Peter was martyred for his faith by crucifixion. When the time came, Peter said he wasn’t worthy to die in the same manner as Christ, and so he asked to be nailed to his cross upside- down. What God-glorifying humility!

Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. John 21:17

As we read in today’s passage, Peter failed his Lord by denying Him three times. He failed even though Jesus had directly warned him (Luke 22:34) and prayed for him (v. 32). He failed despite specifically declaring he would remain loyal even if Jesus faced prison and death (v. 33). He failed not once but three times in a row (vv. 56–60). At the very moment the rooster crowed, his eyes met Jesus’ from across a courtyard (vv. 60–61). No wonder “he went outside and wept bitterly” (v. 62).

Why would Jesus want a disciple like that? Yet in John 21:15–19, Jesus mercifully forgave and restored Peter, despite his colossal failure. His three questions and affirmations beautifully balance Peter’s three previous denials. Peter didn’t have to earn his way back. Jesus’ love covered it all. He didn’t just restore Peter to fellowship, He called him to a lifetime of pastoral ministry!

What’s more, guided by the Spirit, Peter told his story to others. Anyone who has heard or read the Gospels—that is, the entire church through all of history!—knows how badly Peter failed, and how perfectly Christ loved him and loves us. To God be the glory!

**Reflect & Pray**

Do you ever fear that your failure is so bad that God cannot forgive you? The apostle Paul asks, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” The answer? No one, not even we ourselves, can do that! Take heart, be encouraged—we are “more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Rom. 8:35–39).

### Pray with Us

Today’s story of Jesus’ forgiving and restoring Peter reassures us of God’s love. We can indeed take heart, be encouraged, and thank our Savior. Nothing can separate us from His love!

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/21/20

# The Man in Seat 2D

 **Read:** [**1 Timothy 6:17–19**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Tim%206.17%E2%80%9319)

17Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Be rich in good deeds, and [be] generous and willing to share. [1 Timothy 6:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Tim%206.18)

Kelsey navigated the narrow airplane aisle with her eleven-month-old daughter, Lucy, and Lucy’s oxygen machine. They were traveling to seek treatment for her baby’s chronic lung disease. Shortly after settling into their shared seat, a flight attendant approached Kelsey, saying a passenger in first class wanted to switch seats with her. With tears of gratitude streaming down her face, Kelsey made her way back up the aisle to the more spacious seat, while the benevolent stranger made his way toward hers.

Kelsey’s benefactor embodied the kind of generosity Paul encourages in his letter to Timothy. Paul told Timothy to instruct those in his care with the command to “do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share” ([1 Timothy 6:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Tim%206.18)). It’s tempting, Paul says, to become arrogant and put our hope in the riches of this world. Instead, he suggests that we focus on living a life of generosity and service to others, becoming “rich” in good deeds, like the man from seat 2D on Kelsey’s flight.

Whether we find ourselves with plenty or in want, we all can experience the richness of living generously by being willing to share what we have with others. When we do, Paul says we will “take hold of the life that is truly life” (v. 19).

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

#### Reflect & Pray

Who has been “generous and willing to share” with you? With whom can you share generously today?

God, please give me a generous spirit as I renew my hope in You.

Read about learning to love like Jesus at [discoveryseries.org/q0208.](https://discoveryseries.org/q0208.)

#### Insight

The false teachers Paul previously warned the elders about ([Acts 20:29](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2020.29)) had infiltrated the Ephesian church, leading many believers in Jesus astray. Relationships were fractured; fellowship and worship were disrupted. Paul asked Timothy to help get the Ephesian believers back on the right track and wrote him this letter to help him in this difficult leadership task ([1 Timothy 1:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Tim%201.3)). Timothy was to deal decisively with the false teachers (1:3–20; 4:1–16; 6:3–20), strengthen the leadership by appointing godly people to be elders and deacons (3:1–12), and teach the members how to relate to one another (2:1–12; 3:14–16; 5:1–6:2). In the final section of the book, Timothy confronts materialism in the church. The believers are to pursue contentment as a guard against greed (6:6–10), and he warns the rich believers not to be proud or trust in their wealth but to generously use their resources to benefit others (vv. 17–19).

# God Calling – 6/21/20

# See As I See

O Lord, we praise Thee.  Bless us, we beseech Thee.

I bless you.  I promise you release.  Joy in Me.  You shall be shielded from the storm.

Wonders have unfolded.  Just to come before Me and stay for a while in My Presence - this must strengthen and help you.

Learn of Me.  The only way for so many in My poor world to keep calm, sane, is to have the mind which is in Jesus Christ.  The mind which is in Me.

That mind you can never obtain by reasoning, or by reading, but only by living with Me and sharing My Life.

Think much of Me. Speak much of Me.  See others as I see them.  Let nothing less satisfy you

.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.  For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.  Matthew 11:29-30

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/22/20

# The Unchanging Law of Judgment



With what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. —[Matthew 7:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+7%3A2)

This statement is not some haphazard theory, but it is an eternal law of God. Whatever judgment you give will be the very way you are judged. There is a difference between retaliation and retribution. Jesus said that the basis of life is retribution— “with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” If you have been shrewd in finding out the shortcomings of others, remember that will be exactly how you will be measured. The way you pay is the way life will pay you back. This eternal law works from God’s throne down to us (see [Psalm 18:25-26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+18:25-26)).

[Romans 2:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2:1) applies it in even a more definite way by saying that the one who criticizes another is guilty of the very same thing. God looks not only at the act itself, but also at the possibility of committing it, which He sees by looking at our hearts. To begin with, we do not believe the statements of the Bible. For instance, do we really believe the statement that says we criticize in others the very things we are guilty of ourselves? The reason we see hypocrisy, deceit, and a lack of genuineness in others is that they are all in our own hearts. The greatest characteristic of a saint is humility, as evidenced by being able to say honestly and humbly, “Yes, all those, as well as other evils, would have been exhibited in me if it were not for the grace of God. Therefore, I have no right to judge.”

Jesus said, “Judge not, that you be not judged” ([Matthew 7:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:1)). He went on to say, in effect, “If you do judge, you will be judged in exactly the same way.” Who of us would dare to stand before God and say, “My God, judge me as I have judged others”? We have judged others as sinners— if God should judge us in the same way, we would be condemned to hell. Yet God judges us on the basis of the miraculous atonement by the Cross of Christ.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Sincerity means that the appearance and the reality are exactly the same.  
[Studies in the Sermon on the Mount](https://dhp.org/0098.html)

# CCEL – 6/22/20

Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.—[COL. 3:3.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.3)

How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?—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.—He died for all, that they which live should not live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose again.—If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ.—As thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.—Ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.—Because I live, ye shall live also.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and wilt give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

[Rom. 6:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.6.html" \l "Rom.6.2). -[Gal. 2:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.2.html" \l "Gal.2.20). -[II Cor. 5:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.15). -[II Cor. 5:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.17).[I John 5:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.5.html" \l "iJohn.5.20). -[John 17:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.21). -[I Cor. 12:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.12.html" \l "iCor.12.27). -[John 14:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html#John.14.19).[Rev. 2:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.2.html" \l "Rev.2.17).

“He shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory.” **[Zechariah 6:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Zech.6.html" \l "Zech.6.13)**

Christ himself is the builder of his spiritual temple, and he has built it on the mountains of his unchangeable affection, his omnipotent grace, and his infallible truthfulness. But as it was in Solomon’s temple, so in this; the materials need making ready. There are the “Cedars of Lebanon,” but they are not framed for the building; they are not cut down, and shaped, and made into those planks of cedar, whose odoriferous beauty shall make glad the courts of the Lord’s house in Paradise. There are also the rough stones still in the quarry, they must be hewn thence, and squared. All this is Christ’s own work. Each individual believer is being prepared, and polished, and made ready for his place in the temple; but Christ’s own hand performs the preparation-work. Afflictions cannot sanctify, excepting as they are used by him to this end. Our prayers and efforts cannot make us ready for heaven, apart from the hand of Jesus, who fashioneth our hearts aright.

As in the building of Solomon’s temple, “there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house,” because all was brought perfectly ready for the exact spot it was to occupy—so is it with the temple which Jesus builds; the making ready is all done on earth. When we reach heaven, there will be no sanctifying us there, no squaring us with affliction, no planing us with suffering. No, we must be made meet here—all that Christ will do beforehand; and when he has done it, we shall be ferried by a loving hand across the stream of death, and brought to the heavenly Jerusalem, to abide as eternal pillars in the temple of our Lord.

“Beneath his eye and care,

The edifice shall rise,

Majestic, strong, and fair,

And shine above the skies.”

# Word Live – 6/22/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/22/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/22/20

# Failure to Live the Gospel

**Read:** [**Galatians 2:7–16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316)

7On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-29089a)] just as Peter had been to the circumcised.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-29089b)] 8For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. 9James, Cephas[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-29091c)] and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. 10All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

### Paul Opposes Cephas

11When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

14When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

15“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#fen-NIV-29098d)] Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Galatians 2:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-29089) That is, Gentiles
2. [Galatians 2:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-29089) That is, Jews; also in verses 8 and 9
3. [Galatians 2:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-29091) That is, Peter; also in verses 11 and 14
4. [Galatians 2:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3a7%e2%80%9316#en-NIV-29098) Or but through the faithfulness of … justified on the basis of the faithfulness of

Even after Peter’s life-changing restoration by Christ, he remained human. That means he was also not exempt from additional failures. One day, while Peter was praying on a roof in Joppa, God gave him a vision. Peter saw a sheet full of unclean animals being lowered from heaven and was told to eat them (see Acts 10). Horrified, he refused, and was rebuked, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” The vision repeated three times. God was communicating to him that the gospel was not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles.

They were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel. Galatians 2:14

In today’s reading, Paul confronts Peter (here called Cephas) for failing to live out the gospel. What was Peter’s sin (vv. 11–13)? He’d gone to minister to the church in Antioch, which included Gentile believers. He shared a meal with them, which was against Jewish regulations about ceremonial purity but which showed obedience to his “sheet” vision from God. As Paul summed it up: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28). When some envoys from the Jerusalem church arrived, Peter stopped having meal fellowship with Gentiles. They were legalists or at least unenlightened about God’s inclusion of the Gentiles in His plan. His fear of what these men might think was sadly influential and led others astray. In short, he failed the gospel.

Paul was compelled to confront him (vv. 14–15). Since the gospel is about justification by faith, not by law or works, Peter had made a sinful choice. We’re not told the rest of the story, but it seems safe to assume that Peter responded humbly and correctly, since their relationship remained healthy.

**Reflect & Pray**

Aren’t you thankful that our God is a God of second chances? And of third, fourth, fifth . . . ! His grace never runs out. We should never take it for granted. That doesn’t mean we should keep sinning, but we can rejoice that our failures cannot stop His love!

### Pray with Us

Praise the Lord! Even when we feel we’ve failed Him, He always gives us second chances. His grace is not limited! Pray against discouragement and Satan’s lies about God’s love for us.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/22/20

# Eternal Eyes

 **Read:** [**2 Corinthians 4:7–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.7%E2%80%9318)

7But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

13It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+4%3A7%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28873a)] Since we have that same spirit of[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+4%3A7%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28873b)] faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 14because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. 15All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

16Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

#### Footnotes:

1. [2 Corinthians 4:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+4%3A7%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-28873) Psalm 116:10 (se

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. [2 Corinthians 4:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.18)

Eternal eyes, that’s what my friend Madeline prays her children and grandchildren would have. Her family has gone through a tumultuous season that ended with the death of her daughter. As the family grieves from this horrific loss, Madeline longs for them to be less and less nearsighted—consumed by the pain of this world. And to be more and more farsighted—filled with hope in our loving God.

The apostle Paul and his co-workers experienced great suffering at the hands of persecutors and even from believers who tried to discredit them. Yet, they had their eyes fixed on eternity. Paul boldly acknowledged that “we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” ([2 Corinthians 4:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.18)).

Although they were doing God’s work, they lived with the reality of being “hard pressed on every side,” “perplexed,” “persecuted,” and “struck down” (vv. 8–9). Shouldn’t God have delivered them from these troubles? But instead of being disappointed, Paul built his hope on the “eternal glory” that supersedes momentary troubles (v. 17). He knew God’s power was at work in him and had complete assurance that “the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus” (v. 14).

When our world around us feels shaky, may we turn our eyes to God—the eternal Rock that will never be destroyed.

By:  [Estera Pirosca Escobar](https://odb.org/author/esteraescobar/)

#### Reflect & Pray

In what do you choose to hope in spite of your difficulties? How have you experienced God’s faithfulness?

I lift my eyes to You today, O God. Give me a glimpse of the security I have in You.

#### Insight

Paul was qualified to talk about struggle and hardship. He endured many things—blindness, slander, beatings, stoning, shipwreck, imprisonment, and ultimately execution for the sake of Jesus. In [2 Corinthians 4:8–9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.8%E2%80%939), Paul uses four pairs of ideas—each linked by the phrase “but not”—to express both the difficulty we may experience when we choose to follow Jesus but also the hope of our faith. “Hard pressed . . . but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” Even though we may experience difficulty or persecution, nothing can touch the eternal hope we have in Christ.

# God Calling – 6/22/20

# Your Red Sea

Go forward fearlessly.

Do not think about the Red Sea that lies ahead.

Be very sure that when you come to it the waters will part and you will pass over to your promised land of freedom.

The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion.  Proverbs 28:1