# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/3/22

# Vital Intercession



…praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit… —[Ephesians 6:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Ephesians+6%3A18)

As we continue on in our intercession for others, we may find that our obedience to God in interceding is going to cost those for whom we intercede more than we ever thought. The danger in this is that we begin to intercede in sympathy with those whom God was gradually lifting up to a totally different level in direct answer to our prayers. Whenever we step back from our close identification with God’s interest and concern for others and step into having emotional sympathy with them, the vital connection with God is gone. We have then put our sympathy and concern for them in the way, and this is a deliberate rebuke to God.

It is impossible for us to have living and vital intercession unless we are perfectly and completely sure of God. And the greatest destroyer of that confident relationship to God, so necessary for intercession, is our own personal sympathy and preconceived bias. Identification with God is the key to intercession, and whenever we stop being identified with Him it is because of our sympathy with others, not because of sin. It is not likely that sin will interfere with our intercessory relationship with God, but sympathy will. It is sympathy with ourselves or with others that makes us say, “I will not allow that thing to happen.” And instantly we are out of that vital connection with God.

Vital intercession leaves you with neither the time nor the inclination to pray for your own “sad and pitiful self.” You do not have to struggle to keep thoughts of yourself out, because they are not even there to be kept out of your thinking. You are completely and entirely identified with God’s interests and concerns in other lives. God gives us discernment in the lives of others to call us to intercession for them, never so that we may find fault with them.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

God engineers circumstances to see what we will do. Will we be the children of our Father in heaven, or will we go back again to the meaner, common-sense attitude? Will we stake all and stand true to Him? “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” The crown of life means I shall see that my Lord has got the victory after all, even in me.  The Highest Good—The Pilgrim’s Song Book, 530 L

# CCEL – 5/3/22

Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.—[MATT. 5:48.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.5.html" \l "Matt.5.48)

I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.—Ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.—Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity.—Be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.—Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.—Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

[Gen. 17:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.17.html" \l "Gen.17.1). -[Lev. 20:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lev.20.html" \l "Lev.20.26).[I Cor. 6:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.20).[Col. 2:l0](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.2.html" \l "Col.2.10). -[Tit. 2:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Titus.2.html" \l "Titus.2.14). –[II Pet. 3:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.3.html" \l "iiPet.3.14).[Psa. 119:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.119.html" \l "Ps.119.1). –[Jas.1:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.1.html" \l "Jas.1.25). -[Psa. 139:23,24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.139.html" \l "Ps.139.23).

“In the world ye shall have tribulation.” **[John 16:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.16.html" \l "John.16.33)**

Art thou asking the reason of this, believer? Look upward to thy heavenly Father, and behold him pure and holy. Dost thou know that thou art one day to be like him? Wilt thou easily be conformed to his image? Wilt thou not require much refining in the furnace of affliction to purify thee? Will it be an easy thing to get rid of thy corruptions, and make thee perfect even as thy Father which is in heaven is perfect? Next, Christian, turn thine eye downward. Dost thou know what foes thou hast beneath thy feet? Thou wast once a servant of Satan, and no king will willingly lose his subjects. Dost thou think that Satan will let thee alone? No, he will be always at thee, for he “goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” Expect trouble, therefore, Christian, when thou lookest beneath thee. Then look around thee. Where art thou? Thou art in an enemy’s country, a stranger and a sojourner. The world is not thy friend. If it be, then thou art not God’s friend, for he who is the friend of the world is the enemy of God. Be assured that thou shalt find foe-men everywhere. When thou sleepest, think that thou art resting on the battlefield; when thou walkest, suspect an ambush in every hedge. As mosquitoes are said to bite strangers more than natives, so will the trials of earth be sharpest to you. Lastly, look within thee, into thine own heart and observe what is there. Sin and self are still within. Ah! if thou hadst no devil to tempt thee, no enemies to fight thee, and no world to ensnare thee, thou wouldst still find in thyself evil enough to be a sore trouble to thee, for “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” Expect trouble then, but despond not on account of it, for God is with thee to help and to strengthen thee. He hath said, “I will be with thee in trouble; I will deliver thee and honour thee.”

# Word Live – 5/3/22

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

# Scripture Union – 5/3/22

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# Today in the Word – 5/3/22

# The ABCs of Praise

### **Read: Psalms 111**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15795a)]**-112**

1Praise the Lord.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15795b)]

I will extol the Lord with all my heart  
    in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

2Great are the works of the Lord;  
    they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
3Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
    and his righteousness endures forever.  
4He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
    the Lord is gracious and compassionate.  
5He provides food for those who fear him;  
    he remembers his covenant forever.

6He has shown his people the power of his works,  
    giving them the lands of other nations.  
7The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
    all his precepts are trustworthy.  
8They are established for ever and ever,  
    enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.  
9He provided redemption for his people;  
    he ordained his covenant forever—  
    holy and awesome is his name.

10The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
    all who follow his precepts have good understanding.  
    To him belongs eternal praise.

### **Read: Psalm 112[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15805c)**]**

1Praise the Lord.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15805d)]

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,  
    who find great delight in his commands.

2Their children will be mighty in the land;  
    the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
3Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
    and their righteousness endures forever.  
4Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,  
    for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.  
5Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,  
    who conduct their affairs with justice.

6Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
    they will be remembered forever.  
7They will have no fear of bad news;  
    their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.  
8Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;  
    in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.  
9They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,  
    their righteousness endures forever;  
    their horn[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15813e)] will be lifted high in honor.

10The wicked will see and be vexed,  
    they will gnash their teeth and waste away;  
    the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 111:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#en-NIV-15795) This psalm is an acrostic poem, the lines of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
2. [Psalm 111:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#en-NIV-15795) Hebrew Hallelu Yah
3. [Psalm 112:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#en-NIV-15805) This psalm is an acrostic poem, the lines of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
4. [Psalm 112:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#en-NIV-15805) Hebrew Hallelu Yah
5. [Psalm 112:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+111-112&version=NIV#en-NIV-15813) Horn here symbolizes dignity.

Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands.-Psalm 112:1

In the original Hebrew, Psalms 111 and 112 are alphabetic acrostics. Each line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet from A to Z. This structure communicated the idea of completeness. The psalmist wanted to praise God from A to Z. Psalms 111 and 112 both begin with "Hallelujah," which means “praise the Lord!" Psalm 111 reflects on the mighty works of God from the Bible, but especially on Israel's deliverance from Egypt. God provided manna and quail for them to eat (v. 5). He was "gracious and compassionate" (v. 4), Because God has been faithful, we can trust His word (v. 7). The psalmist reminds us that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (v. 10). The word ‘fear’ here does not mean terror or fright. Rather it refers to trusting in the Lord and obeying His commands. Remembering what God has done should lead us to trusting our lives to Him in the present.

Psalm 112 portrays someone who has decided to live in fear of the Lord (v. 1). This person's life and character is modeled after God's. They are "gracious and compassionate" to others (v. 4). They delight in God's word (v. 1). Because of their steadfast trust in the Lord, they don' t fear trials. They can take bad news in stride (v.7). They are generous to the poor (vv.5, 9). Because of this, they will have "wealth and riches" and victory over their enemies (w. 3, 8). While some will experience economic prosperity, for many this promise will only be fulfilled at Christ's return. At that time those who trust in the Lord will be vindicated and the " longings of the wicked will come to nothing" (v. 10).

**Apply the Word**

Try your hand at praising God from “A" to “Z". This can be a fun game to play with children as well. Name one thing that begins with each letter for which you can thank God. And if you follow our Facebook page, share your answers with us!

**Pray with Us**

Thank You for preserving the beauty of nature, even after the Fall. Thank You for granting us direct access to You. Thank You for the friends and family You have given us. Thank You for the eternal paradise that You have promised us.

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/3/22

# Longing for a Home

### Today's Devotional**Read:** [**Psalm 62:1–8**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2062.1%E2%80%938) **[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+62%3A1%E2%80%938&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14829a)**]**

#### **For the director of music. For Jeduthun. A psalm of David.**

1Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
    my salvation comes from him.  
2Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
    he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

3How long will you assault me?  
    Would all of you throw me down—  
    this leaning wall, this tottering fence?  
4Surely they intend to topple me  
    from my lofty place;  
    they take delight in lies.  
With their mouths they bless,  
    but in their hearts they curse.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+62%3A1%E2%80%938&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14832b)]

5Yes, my soul, find rest in God;  
    my hope comes from him.  
6Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
    he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.  
7My salvation and my honor depend on God[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+62%3A1%E2%80%938&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14835c)];  
    he is my mighty rock, my refuge.  
8Trust in him at all times, you people;  
    pour out your hearts to him,  
    for God is our refuge.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 62:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+62%3A1%E2%80%938&version=NIV#en-NIV-14829) In Hebrew texts 62:1-12 is numbered 62:2-13.
2. [Psalm 62:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+62%3A1%E2%80%938&version=NIV#en-NIV-14832) The Hebrew has Selah (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the end of verse 8.
3. [Psalm 62:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+62%3A1%E2%80%938&version=NIV#en-NIV-14835) Or / God Most High is my salvation and my honor

Pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. [Psalm 62:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2062.8)

Anne, the lead character in the Anne of Green Gables stories, longed for a family. Orphaned, she had lost hope of ever finding a place to call home. But then she learned that an older man named Matthew and his sister Marilla would take her in. On the buggy ride to their home, Anne apologized for chattering on and on, but Matthew, a quiet man, said, “You can talk as much as you like. I don’t mind.” This was music to Anne’s ears. She felt no one had ever wanted her around, much less wanted to hear her chatter. After arriving, her hopes were dashed when she learned the siblings had thought they were getting a boy to help as a farmhand. She feared being returned, but Anne’s longing for a loving home was met when they made her a part of their family.

We’ve all had times when we felt unwanted or alone. But when we become a part of God’s family through salvation in Jesus, He becomes for us a secure home ([Psalm 62:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2062.2)). He delights in us and invites us to talk with Him about everything: our worries, temptations, sorrows, and hopes. The psalmist tells us we can “find rest in God” and “pour out [our] hearts to him” (vv. 5, 8).

Don’t hesitate. Talk to God as much as you like. He won’t mind. He delights in our hearts. In Him you’ll find a home.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What circumstances have caused you to make God your home? What do you want to talk to Him about?

Help me, God, not to hold back in talking with You when I’ve got something on my heart. Thank You for Your listening ear.

#### **Insight**

David uses four different words in [Psalm 62](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2062) to describe God’s protective power: rock, salvation, fortress, and refuge. While these words all evoke the idea of defense and deliverance, their specific meanings create a much fuller picture. The main meaning of the Hebrew word tsur, translated “rock,” is that of a rocky wall or cliff, a place that’s difficult to access. The word for salvation is yeshuah. Jesus (Iēsous in Greek, Yeshua in Hebrew) means “the Lord is salvation” (see [Matthew 1:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%201.21)). While yeshuah is most often translated “salvation,” it can also be translated “deliverance,” which makes God the one who brings us out of threats, which, for the psalmist, were both physical and spiritual. “Fortress” translates the word misgav and refers to a place of retreat; God offers us a safe place when trouble threatens. Finally, machseh is translated “refuge” and refers to a place of hope and trust.

Learn more about [">reading the Psalms](https://odbu.org/courses/ot020/?utm_source=May+3+ODB+insight+&utm_medium=email%2C+app%2C+web&utm_campaign=Reading+the+Psalms+ODBU-ODB+%3c/a%3e%3ca%20href=).

By: [**J.R. Hudberg**](https://odb.org/author/jrhudberg/)

# God Calling – 5/3/22

# Kill Self Now

Self dethroned - that is the lesson, but in its place put Love for Me, knowledge of Me.

Self, not only dethroned, but dead. A dead self is not an imprisoned self.  An imprisoned self is more potent to harm. In all training - (in Mine of you, and in yours of others) - let self die.

But for each blow to the life of self you must at the same time embrace and hold fast the new Life, Life with Me.

It is not a dead self that men have to fear, but a thwarted, captive, imprisoned self.  That self is infinitely more self-centered than the self allowed full play.  But to you, My children, I teach a higher science-law than even freedom of the self.  I teach death to the self.  No repressions, just death.  Petty self-life exchanged for Divine Life

And now I can make more clear to you what I would say about forgiveness of injuries.

But what you do not see is that you, the self in you, can never forgive injuries.  The very thought of them means self in the foreground, then the injury, instead of appearing less, appears greater. It is one of My commands that as you seek My forgiveness, so you must forgive.

No, My children, as all true Love is of God and is God, so all true forgiveness is of God and is God. The self cannot forgive. Kill self.

Cease trying to forgive those who fretted or wronged you.  It is a mistake to think about it.  Aim at killing the self now - in your daily life, and then, and not until then, you will find there is nothing that even remembers injury, because the only one injured, the self, is dead.

As long as it recurs to your mind you deceive yourself if you think it forgiven.

Many deceive themselves in this.

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.  Romans 6:6

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/4/22

# Vicarious Intercession



…having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus… —[Hebrews 10:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Hebrews+10%3A19)

Beware of thinking that intercession means bringing our own personal sympathies and concerns into the presence of God, and then demanding that He do whatever we ask. Our ability to approach God is due entirely to the vicarious, or substitutionary, identification of our Lord with sin. We have “boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.”

Spiritual stubbornness is the most effective hindrance to intercession, because it is based on a sympathetic “understanding” of things we see in ourselves and others that we think needs no atonement. We have the idea that there are certain good and virtuous things in each of us that do not need to be based on the atonement by the Cross of Christ. Just the sluggishness and lack of interest produced by this kind of thinking makes us unable to intercede. We do not identify ourselves with God’s interests and concerns for others, and we get irritated with Him. Yet we are always ready with our own ideas, and our intercession becomes only the glorification of our own natural sympathies. We have to realize that the identification of Jesus with sin means a radical change of all of our sympathies and interests. Vicarious intercession means that we deliberately substitute God’s interests in others for our natural sympathy with them.

Am I stubborn or substituted? Am I spoiled or complete in my relationship to God? Am I irritable or spiritual? Am I determined to have my own way or determined to be identified with Him?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The sympathy which is reverent with what it cannot understand is worth its weight in gold.  Baffled to Fight Better, 69 L

# CCEL – 5/4/22

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.—[ISA. 59:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.59.html" \l "Isa.59.1)

In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.—While I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help, leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.—Be not thou far from me, O Lord, O my strength, haste thee to help me.

Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.—Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.—Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

[Psa. 138:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.138.html" \l "Ps.138.3)-[Dan. 9:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Dan.9.html" \l "Dan.9.21).[Psa. 27:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.9). -[Psa. 22:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.19).[Jer. 32:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.32.html" \l "Jer.32.17). -[II Cor. 1:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.1.html" \l "iiCor.1.10). -[Luke 18:7,8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.18.html" \l "Luke.18.7).

“Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods.” **[Jeremiah 16:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.16.html" \l "Jer.16.20)**

One great besetting sin of ancient Israel was idolatry, and the spiritual Israel are vexed with a tendency to the same folly. Remphan’s star shines no longer, and the women weep no more for Tammuz, but Mammon still intrudes his golden calf, and the shrines of pride are not forsaken. Self in various forms struggles to subdue the chosen ones under its dominion, and the flesh sets up its altars wherever it can find space for them. Favourite children are often the cause of much sin in believers; the Lord is grieved when he sees us doting upon them above measure; they will live to be as great a curse to us as Absalom was to David, or they will be taken from us to leave our homes desolate. If Christians desire to grow thorns to stuff their sleepless pillows, let them dote on their dear ones.

It is truly said that “they are no gods,” for the objects of our foolish love are very doubtful blessings, the solace which they yield us now is dangerous, and the help which they can give us in the hour of trouble is little indeed. Why, then, are we so bewitched with vanities? We pity the poor heathen who adore a god of stone, and yet worship a god of gold. Where is the vast superiority between a god of flesh and one of wood? The principle, the sin, the folly is the same in either case, only that in ours the crime is more aggravated because we have more light, and sin in the face of it. The heathen bows to a false deity, but the true God he has never known; we commit two evils, inasmuch as we forsake the living God and turn unto idols. May the Lord purge us all from this grievous iniquity!

“The dearest idol I have known,

Whate'er that idol be;

Help me to tear it from thy throne,

And worship only thee.”

# Word Live – 5/4/22

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# Scripture Union – 5/4/22

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# Today in the Word – 5/4/22

# Who Is Like the Lord?

**Read: Psalms 113-114**

1Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+113-114&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15815a)]

Praise the Lord, you his servants;  
    praise the name of the Lord.  
2Let the name of the Lord be praised,  
    both now and forevermore.  
3From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,  
    the name of the Lord is to be praised.

4The Lord is exalted over all the nations,  
    his glory above the heavens.  
5Who is like the Lord our God,  
    the One who sits enthroned on high,  
6who stoops down to look  
    on the heavens and the earth?

7He raises the poor from the dust  
    and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
8he seats them with princes,  
    with the princes of his people.  
9He settles the childless woman in her home  
    as a happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord.

### **Read: Psalm 114**

1When Israel came out of Egypt,  
    Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,  
2Judah became God’s sanctuary,  
    Israel his dominion.

3The sea looked and fled,  
    the Jordan turned back;  
4the mountains leaped like rams,  
    the hills like lambs.

5Why was it, sea, that you fled?  
    Why, Jordan, did you turn back?  
6Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,  
    you hills, like lambs?

7Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
    at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
8who turned the rock into a pool,  
    the hard rock into springs of water.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 113:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+113-114&version=NIV#en-NIV-15815) Hebrew Hallelu Yah; also in verse 9

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.-Psalm 113:3

Ready for some praise? Psalm 113 opens with a rousing call to praise God "from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets" (v. 3). Should the Lord be praised in Philistia? Yes, even in Philistia. Should the Lord be praised in Egypt? Yes, in Egypt. Should the Lord be praised in Iowa? Brazil? Bangladesh? Yes, from the east to the west! The Lord is worthy of worship from all people because there is no one like Him (v. 5). One of the things that makes God so unique is that even though He is more powerful and exulted than anyone in the universe, "he raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap" (v. 7). He cares deeply about people that we are often quick to ignore. The powerless and broken are especially noticed by Him. Psalm 113 begins a series of psalms that are traditionally used at Passover to celebrate Israel's exodus from Egypt. It is likely that Jesus and His disciples sang Psalms 113-118 as a part of the Last Supper (Matt. 26:30). God heard the cries of His people and delivered them. He humbled Pharaoh and made the needy rejoice. This theme comes to its fulfillment in the gospel. The apostle Paul said, "Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong" (1 Cor. 1:26-27). If God notices the weak and vulnerable, that is a perspective that we should have as well. Praise God today for His provision and care!

**Apply the Word**

Today's Psalm provides another fun activity you can try. Take a roam around the house or the neighborhood, asking in each location if God should be praised. "Should God be praised in the kitchen?" "Should God be praised in the den?" Yes!

**Pray with Us**

Wherever we are-the verdant Appalachians, the great Midwestern plains, the majestic Sierra Nevada-nature praises You, the Creator. We lift our voices with the hills, proclaiming Your greatness.

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/4/22

# A Heart for Service

 **Read:** [**2 Corinthians 9:12–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%209.12%E2%80%9313)

12This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God. [2 Corinthians 9:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%209.13)

A ministry in Carlsbad, New Mexico, supports their community by offering more than 24,000 pounds of free food each month to local residents. The leader of the ministry shared, “People can come here, and we will accept them and meet them right where they are. Our goal is . . . to meet their practical needs to get to their spiritual needs.” As believers in Christ, God desires for us to use what we’ve been given to bless others, drawing our communities closer to Him. How can we develop a heart for service that brings glory to God?

We develop a heart for service by asking God to show us how to use the gifts He’s given us to benefit others ([1 Peter 4:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%204.10)). In this way, we offer “many expressions of thanks to God” for the abundance He’s blessed us with ([2 Corinthians 9:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%209.12)).

Serving others was an important part of Jesus’ ministry. When He healed the sick and fed the hungry, many were introduced to God’s goodness and love. By caring for our communities, we’re following His model of discipleship. God’s wisdom reminds us that when we demonstrate God’s love through our actions, “others will praise God” (v. 13). Service isn’t about self-gratification but about showing others the extent of God’s love and the miraculous ways He works through those who are called by His name.

By:  [Kimya Loder](https://odb.org/author/kimyaloder/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What’s motivated your service to the community? How might you be more intentional about using your gifts to bring glory to God?

Heavenly Father, I desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Please give me a heart for service. May it be an act of praise and gratitude to You.

Read Compassion: Learning to Love Like Jesus at [DiscoverySeries.org/Q0208](https://DiscoverySeries.org/Q0208).

#### **Insight**

In [2 Corinthians 9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%209), Paul’s encouragement to the Corinthian believers to serve wasn’t merely an empty platitude; Paul knew the cost of serving. As proof, the apostle outlined the things he’d done and what he’d endured in Jesus’ name and for the welfare of the people of God (11:16–33). In addition, in Paul’s three missionary journeys he traveled more than ten thousand miles (most of that, no doubt, on foot), planting at least fourteen churches, including the church at Corinth to whom he wrote. Like Jesus, Paul not only talked about service and sacrifice, he practiced it as well—although his sacrifices were of a drastically different nature than those of Christ.

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

# God Calling – 5/4/22

# Share With Me

Delight in My Love. Try to live in the rapture of the Kingdom.

Claim big things. Claim great things. Claim Joy and Peace and freedom from care. Joy in Me.

I am your Lord, your Creator. Remember too that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever. Your Creator, when My thought about the world called it into being - your Creator as much, too, today, when I can, by loving thought for you, call into being all you need on the material plane.

Joy in Me, trust in Me, share all life with Me, see Me in everything, rejoice in me. Share all with Me as a child shares its pains and cuts and griefs and newfound treasures of joys and little work with its Mother.

And give Me the joy of sharing all with you.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment.  1 John 4:18

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/5/22

# Judgment and the Love of God



The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God… —[1 Peter 4:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Peter+4%3A17)

The Christian servant must never forget that salvation is God’s idea, not man’s; therefore, it has an unfathomable depth. Salvation is the great thought of God, not an experience. Experience is simply the door through which salvation comes into the conscious level of our life so that we are aware of what has taken place on a much deeper level. Never preach the experience— preach the great thought of God behind the experience. When we preach, we are not simply proclaiming how people can be saved from hell and be made moral and pure; we are conveying good news about God.

In the teachings of Jesus Christ the element of judgment is always brought out— it is the sign of the love of God. Never sympathize with someone who finds it difficult to get to God; God is not to blame. It is not for us to figure out the reason for the difficulty, but only to present the truth of God so that the Spirit of God will reveal what is wrong. The greatest test of the quality of our preaching is whether or not it brings everyone to judgment. When the truth is preached, the Spirit of God brings each person face to face with God Himself.

If Jesus ever commanded us to do something that He was unable to equip us to accomplish, He would be a liar. And if we make our own inability a stumbling block or an excuse not to be obedient, it means that we are telling God that there is something which He has not yet taken into account. Every element of our own self-reliance must be put to death by the power of God. The moment we recognize our complete weakness and our dependence upon Him will be the very moment that the Spirit of God will exhibit His power.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 5/5/22

Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.—[MATT. 6:31,32.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.6.html" \l "Matt.6.31)

O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.—No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

I would have you without carefulness.—Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.—Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?—Have faith in God.

[Psa. 34:9,10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.34.html" \l "Ps.34.9). -[Psa. 84:11,12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.84.html" \l "Ps.84.11).[I Cor. 7:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.7.html" \l "iCor.7.32). -[Phi. 4:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.4.html" \l "Phil.4.6).[Matt. 10:29-31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.10.html" \l "Matt.10.29). -[Mark 4:40](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.4.html" \l "Mark.4.40). -[Mark 11:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.11.html" \l "Mark.11.22)

“I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” [2 Corinthians 6:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.16)

What a sweet title: “My people!” What a cheering revelation: “Their God!” How much of meaning is couched in those two words, “My people!” Here is speciality. The whole world is God's; the heaven, even the heaven of heavens is the Lord's, and he reigneth among the children of men; but of those whom he hath chosen, whom he hath purchased to himself, he saith what he saith not of others—“My people.” In this word there is the idea of proprietorship. In a special manner the “Lord’s portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.” All the nations upon earth are his; the whole world is in his power; yet are his people, his chosen, more especially his possession; for he has done more for them than others; he has bought them with his blood; he has brought them nigh to himself; he has set his great heart upon them; he has loved them with an everlasting love, a love which many waters cannot quench, and which the revolutions of time shall never suffice in the least degree to diminish. Dear friends, can you, by faith, see yourselves in that number? Can you look up to heaven and say, “My Lord and my God: mine by that sweet relationship which entitles me to call thee Father; mine by that hallowed fellowship which I delight to hold with thee when thou art pleased to manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world?” Canst thou read the Book of Inspiration, and find there the indentures of thy salvation? Canst thou read thy title writ in precious blood? Canst thou, by humble faith, lay hold of Jesus’ garments, and say, “My Christ”? If thou canst, then God saith of thee, and of others like thee, “My people;” for, if God be your God, and Christ your Christ, the Lord has a special, peculiar favour to you; you are the object of his choice, accepted in his beloved Son.

# Word Live – 5/5/22

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

# Scripture Union – 5/5/22

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# Today in the Word – 5/5/22

# Trust in the Lord!

**Read: Psalm 115**

1Not to us, Lord, not to us  
    but to your name be the glory,  
    because of your love and faithfulness.

2Why do the nations say,  
    “Where is their God?”  
3Our God is in heaven;  
    he does whatever pleases him.  
4But their idols are silver and gold,  
    made by human hands.  
5They have mouths, but cannot speak,  
    eyes, but cannot see.  
6They have ears, but cannot hear,  
    noses, but cannot smell.  
7They have hands, but cannot feel,  
    feet, but cannot walk,  
    nor can they utter a sound with their throats.  
8Those who make them will be like them,  
    and so will all who trust in them.

9All you Israelites, trust in the Lord—  
    he is their help and shield.  
10House of Aaron, trust in the Lord—  
    he is their help and shield.  
11You who fear him, trust in the Lord—  
    he is their help and shield.

12The Lord remembers us and will bless us:  
    He will bless his people Israel,  
    he will bless the house of Aaron,  
13he will bless those who fear the Lord—  
    small and great alike.

14May the Lord cause you to flourish,  
    both you and your children.  
15May you be blessed by the Lord,  
    the Maker of heaven and earth.

16The highest heavens belong to the Lord,  
    but the earth he has given to mankind.  
17It is not the dead who praise the Lord,  
    those who go down to the place of silence;  
18it is we who extol the Lord,  
    both now and forevermore.

Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+115&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15849a)]

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 115:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+115&version=NIV#en-NIV-15849) Hebrew Hallelu Yah

Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory. - Psalm 115:1

Most people do not like working for an employer who micromanages them. This may be, in part, because we don't like to be told what to do. But another reason is that micromanagement communicates a lack of trust. These managers do not trust their employees, they want to control them. Today's reading vividly describes an idol. These images of gods were everywhere in the ancient world. The reason people created idols was that they wanted to have some control over the gods. If they could be assured of the gods presence in idol form, they could make offerings to it, move it where they wanted it to go, and generally exert some control over it. But.there's a problem! When you make a god that you can control, the god can only do what the human created it to do. It is limited by its maker. These "gods" look like they have eyes, ears, noses, mouths, hands, and feet but they cannot use them (vv. 4-7). The tragic outcome of the worship of these gods is that the worshipers become like the idols that they have made - spiritually dead (v. 8). The psalm opens with the words "not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory" (v. 1). This is a reminder that worshiping God begins in humility. Three times this psalm calls Israel to " trust in the Lord" (vv.9-11). The Lord is the living God who can act. He remembers and will bless His people (vv. 12-13). Israel did not create the Lord, rather He created the heavens and the earth (v. 15).

**Apply the Word**

In our own relationship with God, we may be tempted to believe we can control Him. You may have heard prayers like, "God if I do this for you, will you do X for me?" Instead, God calls us to trust Him. He desires to bless His people. With the Psalmist let's “extol the LORD both now and forevermore" (v. 18).

**Pray with Us**

" It is not the dead who praise the LORO, those who go down to the place of silence; it is we who extol the LORO, both now and forevermore" (Ps.115:17-18). Lord, You brought us from death to life. We extol Your name!

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/5/22

# Our Father

 **Read:** [**Matthew 6:5–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%206.5%E2%80%9313)

### **Prayer**

5“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9“This, then, is how you should pray:

“‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
10your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
11Give us today our daily bread.  
12And forgive us our debts,  
    as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
13And lead us not into temptation,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A5%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23296a)]  
    but deliver us from the evil one.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A5%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23296b)]’

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Matthew 6:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A5%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-23296) The Greek for temptation can also mean testing.
2. [Matthew 6:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A5%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-23296) Or from evil; some late manuscripts one, / for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father . . .” [Matthew 6:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%206.9)

Most mornings I recite the Lord’s Prayer. I’m not worth much for the new day until I’ve grounded myself in those words. Recently I’d said only the first two words—“Our Father”—when my phone rang. It startled me as it was 5:43 a.m. Guess who? The phone display read “Dad.” Before I had a chance to answer, the call quickly ended. I guessed my dad had called by mistake. Sure enough, he had. Random coincidence? Maybe, but I believe we live in a world awash in the mercy of God. That particular day I needed that reassurance of our Father’s presence.

Think about that for a minute. Of all the ways Jesus could have taught His disciples to begin their prayers, He chose those two words—“Our Father” ([Matthew 6:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%206.9)) as the starting point. Random? No, Jesus was never less than intentional with His words. We all have different relationships with our earthly fathers—some good, some far less than that. However, praying in the way we should is not addressing “my” father or “your” father, but “our” Father, the One who sees us and hears us, and who knows what we need before we even ask Him (v. 8).

What an amazing reassurance, especially on those days when we might feel forgotten, alone, abandoned, or simply just not worth much. Remember, regardless of where we are and what time of day or night it might be, our Father in heaven is always near.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How can you make the Lord’s Prayer a part of your prayer life? What feelings do those two words—“Our Father”—stir in you?

Father, thank You for Your promise to hear me when I pray, regardless of where I may be.

To learn more about prayer, visit <https://odbu.org/courses/sf120/?utm_source=May+5+ODB+article+&utm_medium=email%2C+app%2C+web&utm_campaign=Prayer+Basics+ODBU-ODB+>

#### **Insight**

A shorter version of what we call the Lord’s Prayer ([Matthew 6:9–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%206.9%E2%80%9313)) appears in [Luke 11:2–4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2011.2%E2%80%934). The Matthew account doesn’t include the disciples’ request: “Lord, teach us to pray” ([Luke 11:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2011.1)). Yet it’s clear in Matthew that Jesus is doing just that: teaching His disciples (then and now) how to pray. [Matthew 6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%206) is in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount (chs. 5–7), the discourse Jesus gave as He sat down on a mountainside and taught His disciples and the vast crowd following Him (4:25) what it meant to be His disciple. Along with Jesus’ instructions on prayer are the Beatitudes (5:3–12) and teachings on anger, lust, divorce, oaths, loving one’s enemies, giving, fasting, judging others, and not being anxious. When He was finished speaking, “the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority” (7:28–29).

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

# God Calling – 5/5/22

# Let Me Choose

My loved ones. Yes, with the heart, not the head, men should think of Me, and then worship would be instinctive.

Breathe in My very Spirit in pure air and fervent desire.

Keep the eye of your spirit ever upon Me, the window of your soul open towards Me. You have ever to know that all things are yours - that what is lovely I delight to give you.

Empty your mind of all that limits. Whatever is beautiful you can have. Leave more and more the choice to Me. You will have no regrets.

Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God.  Psalm 123:2

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/6/22

# Liberty and the Standards of Jesus



Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free… —[Galatians 5:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Galatians+5%3A1)

A spiritually-minded person will never come to you with the demand— “Believe this and that”; a spiritually-minded person will demand that you align your life with the standards of Jesus. We are not asked to believe the Bible, but to believe the One whom the Bible reveals (see [John 5:39-40](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5:39-40)). We are called to present liberty for the conscience of others, not to bring them liberty for their thoughts and opinions. And if we ourselves are free with the liberty of Christ, others will be brought into that same liberty— the liberty that comes from realizing the absolute control and authority of Jesus Christ.

Always measure your life solely by the standards of Jesus. Submit yourself to His yoke, and His alone; and always be careful never to place a yoke on others that is not of Jesus Christ. It takes God a long time to get us to stop thinking that unless everyone sees things exactly as we do, they must be wrong. That is never God’s view. There is only one true liberty— the liberty of Jesus at work in our conscience enabling us to do what is right.

Don’t get impatient with others. Remember how God dealt with you— with patience and with gentleness. But never water down the truth of God. Let it have its way and never apologize for it. Jesus said, “Go…and make disciples…” ([Matthew 28:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28:19)), not, “Make converts to your own thoughts and opinions.”

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

“I have chosen you” (John 15:16). Keep that note of greatness in your creed. It is not that you have got God, but that He has got you.  My Utmost for His Highest, October 25, 837 R

# CCEL – 5/6/22

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.—[PSA. 85:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.85.html" \l "Ps.85.10)

A just God and a Saviour.

The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.—Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forebearance of God; to declare I say at this time his righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.—He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes, we are healed.—Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.—To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly; his faith is counted for righteousness.

[Isa. 45:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.45.html" \l "Isa.45.21).[Isa. 42:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.42.html" \l "Isa.42.21).[II Cor. 5:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.19). -[Rom. 3:25,26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.3.html" \l "Rom.3.25). -[Isa. 53:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.5). -[Rom. 8:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.33). -[Rom. 4:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.4.html" \l "Rom.4.5).

“We dwell in him.” [1 John 4:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.13)

Do you want a house for your soul? Do you ask, “What is the purchase?” It is something less than proud human nature will like to give. It is without money and without price. Ah! you would like to pay a respectable rent! You would love to do something to win Christ? Then you cannot have the house, for it is “without price.” Will you take my Master’s house on a lease for all eternity, with nothing to pay for it, nothing but the ground-rent of loving and serving him forever? Will you take Jesus and “dwell in him?” See, this house is furnished with all you want, it is filled with riches more than you will spend as long as you live. Here you can have intimate communion with Christ and feast on his love; here are tables well-stored with food for you to live on forever; in it, when weary, you can find rest with Jesus; and from it you can look out and see heaven itself. Will you have the house? Ah! if you are houseless, you will say, “I should like to have the house; but may I have it?” Yes; there is the key—the key is, “Come to Jesus.” “But,” you say, “I am too shabby for such a house.” Never mind; there are garments inside. If you feel guilty and condemned, come; and though the house is too good for you, Christ will make you good enough for the house by-and-by. He will wash you and cleanse you, and you will yet be able to sing, “We dwell in him.” Believer: thrice happy art thou to have such a dwelling-place! Greatly privileged thou art, for thou hast a “strong habitation” in which thou art ever safe. And “dwelling in him,” thou hast not only a perfect and secure house, but an everlasting one. When this world shall have melted like a dream, our house shall live, and stand more imperishable than marble, more solid than granite, self-existent as God, for it is God himself—“We dwell in him.”

# Word Live – 5/6/22

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

# Scripture Union – 5/6/22

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

# Today in the Word – 5/6/22

# Can I Get a Witness?

**Read: Psalm 116**

1I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
    he heard my cry for mercy.  
2Because he turned his ear to me,  
    I will call on him as long as I live.

3The cords of death entangled me,  
    the anguish of the grave came over me;  
    I was overcome by distress and sorrow.  
4Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
    “Lord, save me!”

5The Lord is gracious and righteous;  
    our God is full of compassion.  
6The Lord protects the unwary;  
    when I was brought low, he saved me.

7Return to your rest, my soul,  
    for the Lord has been good to you.

8For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,  
    my eyes from tears,  
    my feet from stumbling,  
9that I may walk before the Lord  
    in the land of the living.

10I trusted in the Lord when I said,  
    “I am greatly afflicted”;  
11in my alarm I said,  
    “Everyone is a liar.”

12What shall I return to the Lord  
    for all his goodness to me?

13I will lift up the cup of salvation  
    and call on the name of the Lord.  
14I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
    in the presence of all his people.

15Precious in the sight of the Lord  
    is the death of his faithful servants.  
16Truly I am your servant, Lord;  
    I serve you just as my mother did;  
    you have freed me from my chains.

17I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
    and call on the name of the Lord.  
18I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
    in the presence of all his people,  
19in the courts of the house of the Lord—  
    in your midst, Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+116&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15868a)]

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 116:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+116&version=NIV#en-NIV-15868) Hebrew Hallelu Yah

I love the LORO, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.- Psalm 116:1

When I was a child, our church held services on Sunday evening. The service had a unique element in it. Often, the pastor would ask if anyone would like to share how God had been at work in their life. Listening to respected adults share about God in such a personal way made a huge impact on me. They would tell of answered prayers or how God had comforted them during a troubled time. Psalm 116 is a testimony. We do not know exactly what kind of trouble the Psalmist was facing, but he describes his desperate situation with great emotion, “The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow" (v. 3). Death seemed like a real possibility. But when the Psalmist cried out to God for help, God answered. God was true to His character. The Psalmist rehearses the attributes of God from Exodus 34:6-7 (v. 5). In contrast to God's faithfulness, people are often untrustworthy (v. 11). But God hears prayer and responds. God's deliverance prompted the Psalmist to publicly proclaim what He had done (vv.13-14). In this context, verse 15 stands out as a bit odd. It says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants." You might say to yourself, "Didn't he just pray for deliverance from death?" The word “precious" here is better understood as "costly." That is, the Lord understands the cost to the community of faith when a believer dies. This is one of the reasons God spared him in this situation.

**Apply the Word**

God may not always answer our prayers in the way we would want. When that happens, his psalm is a good reminder that God's ways are higher than our own. Consider how you can let people know what the Lord has done, so their faith can be encouraged.

**Pray with Us**

Today we remember the ways Your plans have proven to be a blessing to us, even when we thought we needed something else. Remind us not to keep these things to ourselves, but to proclaim Your goodness to our fellow believers.

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/6/22

# He Knows

 **Read:** [**Psalm 139:1–5**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20139.1%E2%80%935)

#### **For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.**

1You have searched me, Lord,  
    and you know me.  
2You know when I sit and when I rise;  
    you perceive my thoughts from afar.  
3You discern my going out and my lying down;  
    you are familiar with all my ways.  
4Before a word is on my tongue  
    you, Lord, know it completely.  
5You hem me in behind and before,  
    and you lay your hand upon me.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. [Psalm 139:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20139.1)

Lea was about to start a job as a nurse in Taiwan. She’d be able to better provide for her family, more than she could in Manila, where job opportunities were limited. On the night before her departure, she gave instructions to her sister, who’d be taking care of her five-year-old daughter. “She’ll take her vitamins if you also give her a spoonful of peanut butter,” Lea explained, “And, remember, she’s shy. She’ll play with her cousins eventually. And she’s afraid of the dark . . .”

While looking out the plane window the next day, Lea prayed: Lord, no one knows my daughter like I do. I can’t be with her, but You can.

We know the people we love, and we notice all the details about them because they’re precious to us. When we can’t be with them due to various circumstances, we’re often anxious that since no one knows them as well as we do they’ll be more vulnerable to harm.

In [Psalm 139](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20139), David reminds us that God knows us more than anyone does. In the same way, He knows our loved ones intimately (vv. 1–4). He’s their Creator (vv. 13–15), so He understands their needs. He knows what will happen each day of their lives (v. 16), and He’s with them and will never leave them (vv. 5, 7–10).

When you’re anxious for others, entrust them to God for He knows them best and loves them the most.

By:  [Karen Huang](https://odb.org/author/karenhuang/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Who can you entrust to God’s care? How can you show your trust in Him in this area?

Father in heaven, though I can’t always be with those I love, I entrust them to Your loving care, remembering that You know them the best and love them the most.

#### **Insight**

While [Psalm 139](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20139) is well known for its description of the greatness of God, there’s a subtle irony in its final verses: “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (vv. 23–24). In a song that in part celebrates the all-knowing nature of God (His omniscience), the irony is that David asked God to search his heart after acknowledging in verse 1 that He’d already searched and known him. And in verse 3 he said, “You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.” Perhaps the key point isn’t God’s ability to know, but the psalmist’s willingness to be exposed before Him and His full knowledge.

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

# God Calling – 5/6/22

# Sublime Audacity

The way is long and weary. It is a weary world. So many today are weary. "Come unto Me, ... and I will give you rest."

My children, who range yourselves under My flag, you must see that on it are inscribed those words "The Son of Man."

Whatever the world is feeling, I must feel, I - the son of Man. You are My followers - so the weariness of man today must be shared by you - the weary and heavy-laden must come to you, and find that rest that you found in Me.

My children, My followers must be prepared not to sit on My right hand and My left, but to drink of the cup that I drink of.

Poor world - teach it that there is only one cure for all its ills - Union with Me. Dare to suffer, dare to conquer, be filled with My sublime audacity.  Remember that. Claim the unclaimable.

Just what the world would think impossible can always be yours.  Remember, My children, sublime audacity.

And whosever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water ... verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.  Matthew 10:42

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/7/22

# Building For Eternity



Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it… —[Luke 14:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+14%3A28)

Our Lord was not referring here to a cost which we have to count, but to a cost which He has already counted. The cost was those thirty years in Nazareth, those three years of popularity, scandal, and hatred, the unfathomable agony He experienced in Gethsemane, and the assault upon Him at Calvary— the central point upon which all of time and eternity turn. Jesus Christ has counted the cost. In the final analysis, people are not going to laugh at Him and say, “This man began to build and was not able to finish” ([Luke 14:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:30)).

The conditions of discipleship given to us by our Lord in verses 26, 27, and 33 mean that the men and women He is going to use in His mighty building enterprises are those in whom He has done everything. “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple ” ([Luke 14:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:26)). This verse teaches us that the only men and women our Lord will use in His building enterprises are those who love Him personally, passionately, and with great devotion— those who have a love for Him that goes far beyond any of the closest relationships on earth. The conditions are strict, but they are glorious.

All that we build is going to be inspected by God. When God inspects us with His searching and refining fire, will He detect that we have built enterprises of our own on the foundation of Jesus? (see [1 Corinthians 3:10-15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+3:10-15)). We are living in a time of tremendous enterprises, a time when we are trying to work for God, and that is where the trap is. Profoundly speaking, we can never work for God. Jesus, as the Master Builder, takes us over so that He may direct and control us completely for His enterprises and His building plans; and no one has any right to demand where he will be put to work.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Defenders of the faith are inclined to be bitter until they learn to walk in the light of the Lord. When you have learned to walk in the light of the Lord, bitterness and contention are impossible. Biblical Psychology, 199 R

# CCEL – 5/7/22

Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled.—[MATT. 24:6.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.24.html" \l "Matt.24.6)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.—Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.—In the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.—Your life is hid with Christ in God.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting the Lord.

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

[Psa. 46:1-3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.46.html" \l "Ps.46.1). -[Isa. 26:20,21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.26.html" \l "Isa.26.20). -[Psa. 57:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.57.html" \l "Ps.57.1). -[Col. 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.3).[Psa. 112:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.112.html" \l "Ps.112.7).[John 16:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.16.html#John.16.33).

“Great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all.” [Matthew 12:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.12.html" \l "Matt.12.15)

What a mass of hideous sickness must have thrust itself under the eye of Jesus! Yet we read not that he was disgusted, but patiently waited on every case. What a singular variety of evils must have met at his feet! What sickening ulcers and putrefying sores! Yet he was ready for every new shape of the monster evil, and was victor over it in every form. Let the arrow fly from what quarter it might, he quenched its fiery power. The heat of fever, or the cold of dropsy; the lethargy of palsy, or the rage of madness; the filth of leprosy, or the darkness of ophthalmia—all knew the power of his word, and fled at his command. In every corner of the field he was triumphant over evil, and received the homage of delivered captives. He came, he saw, he conquered everywhere. It is even so this morning. Whatever my own case may be, the beloved Physician can heal me; and whatever may be the state of others whom I may remember at this moment in prayer, I may have hope in Jesus that he will be able to heal them of their sins. My child, my friend, my dearest one, I can have hope for each, for all, when I remember the healing power of my Lord; and on my own account, however severe my struggle with sins and infirmities, I may yet be of good cheer. He who on earth walked the hospitals, still dispenses his grace, and works wonders among the sons of men: let me go to him at once in right earnest.

Let me praise him, this morning, as I remember how he wrought his spiritual cures, which bring him most renown. It was by taking upon himself our sicknesses. “By his stripes we are healed.” The Church on earth is full of souls healed by our beloved Physician; and the inhabitants of heaven itself confess that “He healed them all.” Come, then, my soul, publish abroad the virtue of his grace, and let it be “to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign which shall not be cut off.”

# Word Live – 5/7/22

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

# Scripture Union – 5/7/22

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

# Today in the Word – 5/7/22

# He Is Good!

**Read: Psalms 117-118**

1Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
    extol him, all you peoples.  
2For great is his love toward us,  
    and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15870a)]

### **Read: Psalm 118**

1Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
    his love endures forever.

2Let Israel say:  
    “His love endures forever.”  
3Let the house of Aaron say:  
    “His love endures forever.”  
4Let those who fear the Lord say:  
    “His love endures forever.”

5When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;  
    he brought me into a spacious place.  
6The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.  
    What can mere mortals do to me?  
7The Lord is with me; he is my helper.  
    I look in triumph on my enemies.

8It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
    than to trust in humans.  
9It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
    than to trust in princes.  
10All the nations surrounded me,  
    but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.  
11They surrounded me on every side,  
    but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.  
12They swarmed around me like bees,  
    but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;  
    in the name of the Lord I cut them down.  
13I was pushed back and about to fall,  
    but the Lord helped me.  
14The Lord is my strength and my defense[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15884b)];  
    he has become my salvation.

15Shouts of joy and victory  
    resound in the tents of the righteous:  
“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!  
16    The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;  
    the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”  
17I will not die but live,  
    and will proclaim what the Lord has done.  
18The Lord has chastened me severely,  
    but he has not given me over to death.  
19Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
    I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
20This is the gate of the Lord  
    through which the righteous may enter.  
21I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
    you have become my salvation.

22The stone the builders rejected  
    has become the cornerstone;  
23the Lord has done this,  
    and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
24The Lord has done it this very day;  
    let us rejoice today and be glad.

25Lord, save us!  
    Lord, grant us success!

26Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
    From the house of the Lord we bless you.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15896c)]  
27The Lord is God,  
    and he has made his light shine on us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
    up[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15897d)] to the horns of the altar.

28You are my God, and I will praise you;  
    you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
    his love endures forever.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 117:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#en-NIV-15870) Hebrew Hallelu Yah
2. [Psalm 118:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#en-NIV-15884) Or song
3. [Psalm 118:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#en-NIV-15896) The Hebrew is plural.
4. [Psalm 118:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+117-118&version=NIV#en-NIV-15897) Or Bind the festal sacrifice with ropes / and take it

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.-Psalm 118:1

The Hallel Psalms are a set of six psalms, 113-118. These psalms of praise were sung by God's people on joyous occasions. Psalm 118 is the final song in the collection and was sung to celebrate Passover. In fact, this was probably the hymn which Jesus and His disciples sang al their last Passover supper together. In this song of thanksgiving, the worship leader calls Israel to confess that God's faithful love endures forever (Ps. 118:1-5). Israel was not delivered from Egyptian slavery because they had a powerful army or brilliant military tactics. Rather, they were delivered because they trusted in our great and powerful God. The psalm reminds Israel that " It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes" (vv. 8-9). As Israel streamed toward the Temple to celebrate Passover, they would remember not only God's deliverance from Egypt but also His work in saving them from their foes in their past: the Philistines, Midianites, and the Amalekites to name just a few (w. 10-14). Remembering what God had done in the past encouraged Israel to trust Him with their present and future. As the psalm celebrates what God has done in the past, it also looks forward to a future deliverer (vv. 22-26). When Jesus was faced with the unbelief and opposition of the teachers of the law and priests, He reminded of them of this psalm: "Haven't you read this passage of Scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" (Mark 12:10-11). God's salvation demands a response of faith and gratitude. **•**

**Apply the Word**

The same words start and end our reading: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (w. 1, 29). Pause today to thank God for what He has done in your past and what He has promised to do in the future.

**Pray with Us**

God, You show us the meaning of faithfulness. You have promised to redeem us from our sins, to give us new life, and to return to take us home. We give thanks for the already fulfilled promises that assure us You will fulfill others.

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/7/22

# Love Like Mom

 **Read:** [**1 Thessalonians 2:1–9**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Thess%202.1%E2%80%939)

### **Paul’s Ministry in Thessalonica**

2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. 2We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 6We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7Instead, we were like young children[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+2%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29578a)] among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [1 Thessalonians 2:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+2%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#en-NIV-29578) Some manuscripts were gentle

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. [1 Thessalonians 2:7–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Thess%202.7%E2%80%938)

Juanita told her nephew about growing up during the Great Depression. Her poor family only had apples to eat, plus whatever wild game her dad might provide. Whenever he bagged a squirrel for dinner, her mom would say, “Give me that squirrel head. That’s all I want to eat. It’s the best piece of meat.” Years later Juanita realized there wasn’t any meat on a squirrel’s head. Her mom didn’t eat it. She only pretended it was a delicacy “so us kids could get more to eat and we wouldn’t worry about her.”

As we celebrate Mother’s Day tomorrow, may we also recount stories of our mothers’ devotion. We thank God for them and strive to love more like them.

Paul served the Thessalonian church “as a nursing mother cares for her children” ([1 Thessalonians 2:7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Thess%202.7)). He loved fiercely, fighting through “strong opposition” to tell them about Jesus and to share his own life with them (vv. 2, 8). He “worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while [he] preached the gospel of God to [them]” (v. 9). Just like Mom.

Few can resist a mother’s love, and Paul modestly said his efforts were “not without results” (v. 1). We can’t control how others respond, but we can choose to show up, day after day, to serve them in a sacrificial way. Mom would be proud, and so will our heavenly Father.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Who has loved you sacrificially? Who are you loving as your heavenly Father loves you?

Father, no one could love me more than You.

#### **Insight**

First Thessalonians was most likely the earliest of Paul’s letters, written about ad 50 to the church formed in Thessalonica during Paul’s second missionary journey ([Acts 17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2017)). In response to a mob protesting Paul and Silas’ claim that Jesus—not Caesar—is the true king (v. 7), Paul and Silas were forced to leave the city to protect the church from being persecuted. Leaving the young faith community was so painful that Paul describes his separation as being “orphaned . . . for a short time” ([1 Thessalonians 2:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Thess%202.17)). Later, Timothy was sent to minister to the community of new believers there (3:1–5). After hearing Timothy’s good report of their faith growing and thriving (v. 6), Paul reconnected with and encouraged the Thessalonian believers through this letter.

By: [**Monica La Rose**](https://odb.org/author/monicalarose/)

# God Calling – 5/7/22

# Against the Tide

The oarsman, trusting in Me, does not lean on his oars and drift with the tide, trusting to the current.

Nay, more often - once I have shown the way - it is against the tide you must direct all your effort.  And even when difficulties come, it is by your effort that they will be surmounted.  But always strength and the Joy in the doing you can have through Me.

My fishermen-disciples did not find the fishes ready on the shore in their nets.  I take man's efforts and bless that.  I need man's effort - he needs My blessing. This partnership it is that means success.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.  Philippians 2:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/8/22

# The Faith to Persevere



Because you have kept My command to persevere… —[Revelation 3:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Revelation+3%3A10)

Perseverance means more than endurance— more than simply holding on until the end. A saint’s life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, but our Lord continues to stretch and strain, and every once in a while the saint says, “I can’t take any more.” Yet God pays no attention; He goes on stretching until His purpose is in sight, and then He lets the arrow fly. Entrust yourself to God’s hands. Is there something in your life for which you need perseverance right now? Maintain your intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the perseverance of faith. Proclaim as Job did, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” ([Job 13:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+13:15)).

Faith is not some weak and pitiful emotion, but is strong and vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. And even though you cannot see Him right now and cannot understand what He is doing, you know Him. Disaster occurs in your life when you lack the mental composure that comes from establishing yourself on the eternal truth that God is holy love. Faith is the supreme effort of your life— throwing yourself with abandon and total confidence upon God.

God ventured His all in Jesus Christ to save us, and now He wants us to venture our all with total abandoned confidence in Him. There are areas in our lives where that faith has not worked in us as yet— places still untouched by the life of God. There were none of those places in Jesus Christ’s life, and there are to be none in ours. Jesus prayed, “This is eternal life, that they may know You…” ([John 17:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:3)). The real meaning of eternal life is a life that can face anything it has to face without wavering. If we will take this view, life will become one great romance— a glorious opportunity of seeing wonderful things all the time. God is disciplining us to get us into this central place of power.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Am I becoming more and more in love with God as a holy God, or with the conception of an amiable Being who says, “Oh well, sin doesn’t matter much”?  Disciples Indeed, 389 L

# CCEL – 5/8/22

It pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.—[ISA. 53:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.10)

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.—Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.—Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.—For I came down from heaven, not to do mine will, but the will of him that sent me.—The cup which my father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.—My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,—Mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth.

[John 12:27,28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.12.html" \l "John.12.27). -[Luke 22:42,43](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.22.html" \l "Luke.22.42).[Phi. 2:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.2.html" \l "Phil.2.8). -[John 10:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.17). -[John 6:38](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.38). -[John 18:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.18.html" \l "John.18.11).[John 8:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.8.html" \l "John.8.29). -[Matt. 3:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.3.html" \l "Matt.3.17). -[Isa. 42:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.42.html" \l "Isa.42.1).

“He that was healed wist not who it was.” [John 5:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.5.html" \l "John.5.13)

Years are short to the happy and healthy; but thirty-eight years of disease must have dragged a very weary length along the life of the poor impotent man. When Jesus, therefore, healed him by a word, while he lay at the pool of Bethesda, he was delightfully sensible of a change. Even so the sinner who has for weeks and months been paralysed with despair, and has wearily sighed for salvation, is very conscious of the change when the Lord Jesus speaks the word of power, and gives joy and peace in believing. The evil removed is too great to be removed without our discerning it; the life imparted is too remarkable to be possessed and remain inoperative; and the change wrought is too marvellous not to be perceived. Yet the poor man was ignorant of the author of his cure; he knew not the sacredness of his person, the offices which he sustained, or the errand which brought him among men. Much ignorance of Jesus may remain in hearts which yet feel the power of his blood. We must not hastily condemn men for lack of knowledge; but where we can see the faith which saves the soul, we must believe that salvation has been bestowed. The Holy Spirit makes men penitents long before he makes them divines; and he who believes what he knows, shall soon know more clearly what he believes. Ignorance is, however, an evil; for this poor man was much tantalized by the Pharisees, and was quite unable to cope with them. It is good to be able to answer gainsayers; but we cannot do so if we know not the Lord Jesus clearly and with understanding. The cure of his ignorance, however, soon followed the cure of his infirmity, for he was visited by the Lord in the temple; and after that gracious manifestation, he was found testifying that “it was Jesus who had made him whole.” Lord, if thou hast saved me, show me thyself, that I may declare thee to the sons of men.

# Word Live – 5/8/22

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

# Scripture Union – 5/8/22

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# Today in the Word – 5/8/22

# Precious Words

### **Read Psalm 119:1-88** [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A1-88&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15900a)]

#### א Aleph

1Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
    who walk according to the law of the Lord.  
2Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
    and seek him with all their heart—  
3they do no wrong  
    but follow his ways.  
4You have laid down precepts  
    that are to be fully obeyed.  
5Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
    in obeying your decrees!  
6Then I would not be put to shame  
    when I consider all your commands.  
7I will praise you with an upright heart  
    as I learn your righteous laws.  
8I will obey your decrees;  
    do not utterly forsake me.

#### ב Beth

9How can a young person stay on the path of purity?  
    By living according to your word.  
10I seek you with all my heart;  
    do not let me stray from your commands.  
11I have hidden your word in my heart  
    that I might not sin against you.  
12Praise be to you, Lord;  
    teach me your decrees.  
13With my lips I recount  
    all the laws that come from your mouth.  
14I rejoice in following your statutes  
    as one rejoices in great riches.  
15I meditate on your precepts  
    and consider your ways.  
16I delight in your decrees;  
    I will not neglect your word.

#### ג Gimel

17Be good to your servant while I live,  
    that I may obey your word.  
18Open my eyes that I may see  
    wonderful things in your law.  
19I am a stranger on earth;  
    do not hide your commands from me.  
20My soul is consumed with longing  
    for your laws at all times.  
21You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed,  
    those who stray from your commands.  
22Remove from me their scorn and contempt,  
    for I keep your statutes.  
23Though rulers sit together and slander me,  
    your servant will meditate on your decrees.  
24Your statutes are my delight;  
    they are my counselors.

#### ד Daleth

25I am laid low in the dust;  
    preserve my life according to your word.  
26I gave an account of my ways and you answered me;  
    teach me your decrees.  
27Cause me to understand the way of your precepts,  
    that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.  
28My soul is weary with sorrow;  
    strengthen me according to your word.  
29Keep me from deceitful ways;  
    be gracious to me and teach me your law.  
30I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
    I have set my heart on your laws.  
31I hold fast to your statutes, Lord;  
    do not let me be put to shame.  
32I run in the path of your commands,  
    for you have broadened my understanding.

#### ה He

33Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,  
    that I may follow it to the end.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A1-88&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15932b)]  
34Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law  
    and obey it with all my heart.  
35Direct me in the path of your commands,  
    for there I find delight.  
36Turn my heart toward your statutes  
    and not toward selfish gain.  
37Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  
    preserve my life according to your word.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A1-88&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15936c)]  
38Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
    so that you may be feared.  
39Take away the disgrace I dread,  
    for your laws are good.  
40How I long for your precepts!  
    In your righteousness preserve my life.

#### ו Waw

41May your unfailing love come to me, Lord,  
    your salvation, according to your promise;  
42then I can answer anyone who taunts me,  
    for I trust in your word.  
43Never take your word of truth from my mouth,  
    for I have put my hope in your laws.  
44I will always obey your law,  
    for ever and ever.  
45I will walk about in freedom,  
    for I have sought out your precepts.  
46I will speak of your statutes before kings  
    and will not be put to shame,  
47for I delight in your commands  
    because I love them.  
48I reach out for your commands, which I love,  
    that I may meditate on your decrees.

#### ז Zayin

49Remember your word to your servant,  
    for you have given me hope.  
50My comfort in my suffering is this:  
    Your promise preserves my life.  
51The arrogant mock me unmercifully,  
    but I do not turn from your law.  
52I remember, Lord, your ancient laws,  
    and I find comfort in them.  
53Indignation grips me because of the wicked,  
    who have forsaken your law.  
54Your decrees are the theme of my song  
    wherever I lodge.  
55In the night, Lord, I remember your name,  
    that I may keep your law.  
56This has been my practice:  
    I obey your precepts.

#### ח Heth

57You are my portion, Lord;  
    I have promised to obey your words.  
58I have sought your face with all my heart;  
    be gracious to me according to your promise.  
59I have considered my ways  
    and have turned my steps to your statutes.  
60I will hasten and not delay  
    to obey your commands.  
61Though the wicked bind me with ropes,  
    I will not forget your law.  
62At midnight I rise to give you thanks  
    for your righteous laws.  
63I am a friend to all who fear you,  
    to all who follow your precepts.  
64The earth is filled with your love, Lord;  
    teach me your decrees.

#### ט Teth

65Do good to your servant  
    according to your word, Lord.  
66Teach me knowledge and good judgment,  
    for I trust your commands.  
67Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
    but now I obey your word.  
68You are good, and what you do is good;  
    teach me your decrees.  
69Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,  
    I keep your precepts with all my heart.  
70Their hearts are callous and unfeeling,  
    but I delight in your law.  
71It was good for me to be afflicted  
    so that I might learn your decrees.  
72The law from your mouth is more precious to me  
    than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

#### י Yodh

73Your hands made me and formed me;  
    give me understanding to learn your commands.  
74May those who fear you rejoice when they see me,  
    for I have put my hope in your word.  
75I know, Lord, that your laws are righteous,  
    and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.  
76May your unfailing love be my comfort,  
    according to your promise to your servant.  
77Let your compassion come to me that I may live,  
    for your law is my delight.  
78May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging me without cause;  
    but I will meditate on your precepts.  
79May those who fear you turn to me,  
    those who understand your statutes.  
80May I wholeheartedly follow your decrees,  
    that I may not be put to shame.

#### כ Kaph

81My soul faints with longing for your salvation,  
    but I have put my hope in your word.  
82My eyes fail, looking for your promise;  
    I say, “When will you comfort me?”  
83Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke,  
    I do not forget your decrees.  
84How long must your servant wait?  
    When will you punish my persecutors?  
85The arrogant dig pits to trap me,  
    contrary to your law.  
86All your commands are trustworthy;  
    help me, for I am being persecuted without cause.  
87They almost wiped me from the earth,  
    but I have not forsaken your precepts.  
88In your unfailing love preserve my life,  
    that I may obey the statutes of your mouth.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 119:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A1-88&version=NIV#en-NIV-15900) This psalm is an acrostic poem, the stanzas of which begin with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet; moreover, the verses of each stanza begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
2. [Psalm 119:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A1-88&version=NIV#en-NIV-15932) Or follow it for its reward
3. [Psalm 119:37](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A1-88&version=NIV#en-NIV-15936) Two manuscripts of the Masoretic Text and Dead Sea Scrolls; most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text life in your way

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. Psalm 119:14

Imagine that you spent your entire life studying Scripture and trying to live it faithfully. What would your life look like? How would you relate to God and others? Psalm 119 shows us, in this carefully and lovingly crafted poem, what it looks like to love the Lord and His Word. Psalm 119 mentions God's Word 176 times: “I remember, LORD, your ancient laws, and I find comfort in them" (v. 52). The Psalmist uses eight different words to refer to Scripture: Law, statutes, ordinances, commands, words, decrees, promises, and judgments. The Psalmist also refers to himself 176 times. But there is one more important repetition. The word “You" is used to reference God 232 times. The Psalmist is celebrating His relationship with God through the gift of His Word. "Teach me knowledge and good judgment for I trust your commands· (v. 66). Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, and it's carefully constructed. Each stanza starts with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. So, the first eight lines all start with the equivalent of the letter "A". The next with the letter “B and so on. This is a celebration of God's Word from A to Z! As the Psalmist immersed himself in Scripture, he discovered that God's Word is righteous (w. 7, 62, 75), faithful (v. 30), good (v. 39), trustworthy (v. 66), true (v. 69), and precious (v. 72). Because of this, he values Scripture above all things. "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold" (v. 72). Certainly, the gift of God's Word is something to treasure!

**Apply the Word**

Do you consider your Bible the most valuable thing you own? Give thanks to God today for the gift of His written word. Tomorrow we will examine the impact that a lifetime of meditation on Scripture had on the Psalmist.

**Pray with Us**

"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word" (Ps. 119:35-37).

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/8/22

# How Great Is Our God!

### Today's Devotional**Read:** [**Psalm 111:1–10**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20111.1%E2%80%9310) **[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+111%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15795a)**]**

1Praise the Lord.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+111%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15795b)]

I will extol the Lord with all my heart  
    in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

2Great are the works of the Lord;  
    they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
3Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
    and his righteousness endures forever.  
4He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
    the Lord is gracious and compassionate.  
5He provides food for those who fear him;  
    he remembers his covenant forever.

6He has shown his people the power of his works,  
    giving them the lands of other nations.  
7The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
    all his precepts are trustworthy.  
8They are established for ever and ever,  
    enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.  
9He provided redemption for his people;  
    he ordained his covenant forever—  
    holy and awesome is his name.

10The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
    all who follow his precepts have good understanding.  
    To him belongs eternal praise.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 111:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+111%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-15795) This psalm is an acrostic poem, the lines of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
2. [Psalm 111:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+111%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-15795) Hebrew Hallelu Yah

Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. [Psalm 111:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20111.2)

Fingerprints have long been used to identify people, but they can be faked by creating copies. Similarly, the pattern of the iris in the human eye is a reliable source for ID—until someone alters the pattern with a contact lens to skew the results. The use of biometrics to identify individuals can be defeated. So, what qualifies as a unique identifying characteristic? It turns out that everyone’s blood-vessel patterns are unique and virtually impossible to counterfeit. Your own personal “vein map” is a one-of-a-kind identifier, setting you apart from everyone else on the planet.

Pondering such complexities of human beings should prompt a sense of worship and wonder for the Creator who made us. David reminded us that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” ([Psalm 139:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20139.14)), and that is certainly worth celebrating. In fact, [Psalm 111:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20111.2) reminds us, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.”

Even more worthy of our attention is the divine Maker Himself. While celebrating God’s great deeds, we also must celebrate Him! His deeds are great, but He’s even greater, prompting the psalmist to pray, “For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God” (86:10).

Today, as we consider the greatness of what God does, may we also marvel at the greatness of who He is.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What things instill a sense of awe and wonder in you? How will you make time to praise God for His marvelous works today?

Father, I can easily be sidetracked into thinking too much about creation without truly considering You—the One who made all of creation. Help me to marvel at You.

Read Get Outside: Knowing God through His Creation at [DiscoverySeries.org/Q1128](https://DiscoverySeries.org/Q1128).

#### **Insight**

[Psalms 111](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20111) and [112](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%20112) are written in a similar poetic form. As alphabetical acrostics, each subsequent line begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The care with which the structure is developed seems to have been designed not only for its poetic beauty but to make it easier to memorize and to be remembered for its “A to Z” completeness of thought.

In [Psalm 111](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20111), the reader is called to remember the description of God’s nature and works. In [Psalm 112](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20112), the focus is on the hearts and actions of those who believe in such a God. [Psalm 111](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20111) focuses on what God has done for His people in power and compassion. [Psalm 112](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20112) offers a poetic description of how the people of such a God live, so that in ways from “A to Z” they reflect the power, goodness, and mercy of Him.

By: [**Mart DeHaan**](https://odb.org/author/martdehaan-2/)

# God Calling – 5/8/22

# The Rest of God

I lead you. The way is clear. Go forward unafraid. I am beside you. Listen, listen, listen to My Voice. My Hand is controlling all.

Remember that I can work through you better when you are at rest. Go very slowly, very quietly from one duty to the next - taking the time to rest and pray between.

Do not be too busy. Take all in order as I say. The Rest of God is in a realm beyond all man's activities. Venture there often, and you will indeed find Peace and Joy.

All work that results from resting with God is miracle-work.  Claim the power to work miracles, both of you.

Know that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Nay, more, know that you can do all things through Christ who rests you.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse ... and his rest shall be glorious.  Isaiah 11:10

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/9/22



Where there is no revelation [or prophetic vision], the people cast off restraint… —[Proverbs 29:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Proverbs+29%3A18)

There is a difference between holding on to a principle and having a vision. A principle does not come from moral inspiration, but a vision does. People who are totally consumed with idealistic principles rarely do anything. A person’s own idea of God and His attributes may actually be used to justify and rationalize his deliberate neglect of his duty. Jonah tried to excuse his disobedience by saying to God, “…I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm” ([Jonah 4:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4:2)). I too may have the right idea of God and His attributes, but that may be the very reason why I do not do my duty. But wherever there is vision, there is also a life of honesty and integrity, because the vision gives me the moral incentive.

Our own idealistic principles may actually lull us into ruin. Examine yourself spiritually to see if you have vision, or only principles.

Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp,  
Or what’s a heaven for?

“Where there is no revelation [or prophetic vision]….” Once we lose sight of God, we begin to be reckless. We cast off certain restraints from activities we know are wrong. We set prayer aside as well and cease having God’s vision in the little things of life. We simply begin to act on our own initiative. If we are eating only out of our own hand, and doing things solely on our own initiative without expecting God to come in, we are on a downward path. We have lost the vision. Is our attitude today an attitude that flows from our vision of God? Are we expecting God to do greater things than He has ever done before? Is there a freshness and a vitality in our spiritual outlook?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The vital relationship which the Christian has to the Bible is not that he worships the letter, but that the Holy Spirit makes the words of the Bible spirit and life to him.  The Psychology of Redemption, 1066 L

# CCEL – 5/9/22

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—[HEB. 11:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.1)

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.—After that ye believed ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

We walk by faith, not by sight.—Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

[I Cor. 15:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.19).[I Cor. 2:9,10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.2.html" \l "iCor.2.9). -[Eph. 1:13,14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.13). -[John 20:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.20.html" \l "John.20.29). -[I Pet. 1:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.8).[II Cor. 5:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.7). -[Heb. 10:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.35).

“Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings.” [Ephesians 1:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.3)

All the goodness of the past, the present, and the future, Christ bestows upon his people. In the mysterious ages of the past the Lord Jesus was his Father’s first elect, and in his election he gave us an interest, for we were chosen in him from before the foundation of the world. He had from all eternity the prerogatives of Sonship, as his Father’s only-begotten and well-beloved Son, and he has, in the riches of his grace, by adoption and regeneration, elevated us to sonship also, so that to us he has given “power to become the sons of God.” The eternal covenant, based upon suretiship and confirmed by oath, is ours, for our strong consolation and security. In the everlasting settlements of predestinating wisdom and omnipotent decree, the eye of the Lord Jesus was ever fixed on us; and we may rest assured that in the whole roll of destiny there is not a line which militates against the interests of his redeemed. The great betrothal of the Prince of Glory is ours, for it is to us that he is affianced, as the sacred nuptials shall ere long declare to an assembled universe. The marvellous incarnation of the God of heaven, with all the amazing condescension and humiliation which attended it, is ours. The bloody sweat, the scourge, the cross, are ours forever. Whatever blissful consequences flow from perfect obedience, finished atonement, resurrection, ascension, or intercession, all are ours by his own gift. Upon his breastplate he is now bearing our names; and in his authoritative pleadings at the throne he remembers our persons and pleads our cause. His dominion over principalities and powers, and his absolute majesty in heaven, he employs for the benefit of them who trust in him. His high estate is as much at our service as was his condition of abasement. He who gave himself for us in the depths of woe and death, doth not withdraw the grant now that he is enthroned in the highest heavens.

# Word Live – 5/9/22

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

# Scripture Union – 5/9/22

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

# Today in the Word – 5/9/22

# Words of Life

**Read: Psalm 119:89-176**

#### ל Lamedh

89Your word, Lord, is eternal;  
    it stands firm in the heavens.  
90Your faithfulness continues through all generations;  
    you established the earth, and it endures.  
91Your laws endure to this day,  
    for all things serve you.  
92If your law had not been my delight,  
    I would have perished in my affliction.  
93I will never forget your precepts,  
    for by them you have preserved my life.  
94Save me, for I am yours;  
    I have sought out your precepts.  
95The wicked are waiting to destroy me,  
    but I will ponder your statutes.  
96To all perfection I see a limit,  
    but your commands are boundless.

#### מ Mem

97Oh, how I love your law!  
    I meditate on it all day long.  
98Your commands are always with me  
    and make me wiser than my enemies.  
99I have more insight than all my teachers,  
    for I meditate on your statutes.  
100I have more understanding than the elders,  
    for I obey your precepts.  
101I have kept my feet from every evil path  
    so that I might obey your word.  
102I have not departed from your laws,  
    for you yourself have taught me.  
103How sweet are your words to my taste,  
    sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
104I gain understanding from your precepts;  
    therefore I hate every wrong path.

#### נ Nun

105Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
    a light on my path.  
106I have taken an oath and confirmed it,  
    that I will follow your righteous laws.  
107I have suffered much;  
    preserve my life, Lord, according to your word.  
108Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth,  
    and teach me your laws.  
109Though I constantly take my life in my hands,  
    I will not forget your law.  
110The wicked have set a snare for me,  
    but I have not strayed from your precepts.  
111Your statutes are my heritage forever;  
    they are the joy of my heart.  
112My heart is set on keeping your decrees  
    to the very end.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A89-176&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16011a)]

#### ס Samekh

113I hate double-minded people,  
    but I love your law.  
114You are my refuge and my shield;  
    I have put my hope in your word.  
115Away from me, you evildoers,  
    that I may keep the commands of my God!  
116Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live;  
    do not let my hopes be dashed.  
117Uphold me, and I will be delivered;  
    I will always have regard for your decrees.  
118You reject all who stray from your decrees,  
    for their delusions come to nothing.  
119All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross;  
    therefore I love your statutes.  
120My flesh trembles in fear of you;  
    I stand in awe of your laws.

#### ע Ayin

121I have done what is righteous and just;  
    do not leave me to my oppressors.  
122Ensure your servant’s well-being;  
    do not let the arrogant oppress me.  
123My eyes fail, looking for your salvation,  
    looking for your righteous promise.  
124Deal with your servant according to your love  
    and teach me your decrees.  
125I am your servant; give me discernment  
    that I may understand your statutes.  
126It is time for you to act, Lord;  
    your law is being broken.  
127Because I love your commands  
    more than gold, more than pure gold,  
128and because I consider all your precepts right,  
    I hate every wrong path.

#### פ Pe

129Your statutes are wonderful;  
    therefore I obey them.  
130The unfolding of your words gives light;  
    it gives understanding to the simple.  
131I open my mouth and pant,  
    longing for your commands.  
132Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
    as you always do to those who love your name.  
133Direct my footsteps according to your word;  
    let no sin rule over me.  
134Redeem me from human oppression,  
    that I may obey your precepts.  
135Make your face shine on your servant  
    and teach me your decrees.  
136Streams of tears flow from my eyes,  
    for your law is not obeyed.

#### צ Tsadhe

137You are righteous, Lord,  
    and your laws are right.  
138The statutes you have laid down are righteous;  
    they are fully trustworthy.  
139My zeal wears me out,  
    for my enemies ignore your words.  
140Your promises have been thoroughly tested,  
    and your servant loves them.  
141Though I am lowly and despised,  
    I do not forget your precepts.  
142Your righteousness is everlasting  
    and your law is true.  
143Trouble and distress have come upon me,  
    but your commands give me delight.  
144Your statutes are always righteous;  
    give me understanding that I may live.

#### ק Qoph

145I call with all my heart; answer me, Lord,  
    and I will obey your decrees.  
146I call out to you; save me  
    and I will keep your statutes.  
147I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
    I have put my hope in your word.  
148My eyes stay open through the watches of the night,  
    that I may meditate on your promises.  
149Hear my voice in accordance with your love;  
    preserve my life, Lord, according to your laws.  
150Those who devise wicked schemes are near,  
    but they are far from your law.  
151Yet you are near, Lord,  
    and all your commands are true.  
152Long ago I learned from your statutes  
    that you established them to last forever.

#### ר Resh

153Look on my suffering and deliver me,  
    for I have not forgotten your law.  
154Defend my cause and redeem me;  
    preserve my life according to your promise.  
155Salvation is far from the wicked,  
    for they do not seek out your decrees.  
156Your compassion, Lord, is great;  
    preserve my life according to your laws.  
157Many are the foes who persecute me,  
    but I have not turned from your statutes.  
158I look on the faithless with loathing,  
    for they do not obey your word.  
159See how I love your precepts;  
    preserve my life, Lord, in accordance with your love.  
160All your words are true;  
    all your righteous laws are eternal.

#### ש Sin and Shin

161Rulers persecute me without cause,  
    but my heart trembles at your word.  
162I rejoice in your promise  
    like one who finds great spoil.  
163I hate and detest falsehood  
    but I love your law.  
164Seven times a day I praise you  
    for your righteous laws.  
165Great peace have those who love your law,  
    and nothing can make them stumble.  
166I wait for your salvation, Lord,  
    and I follow your commands.  
167I obey your statutes,  
    for I love them greatly.  
168I obey your precepts and your statutes,  
    for all my ways are known to you.

#### ת Taw

169May my cry come before you, Lord;  
    give me understanding according to your word.  
170May my supplication come before you;  
    deliver me according to your promise.  
171May my lips overflow with praise,  
    for you teach me your decrees.  
172May my tongue sing of your word,  
    for all your commands are righteous.  
173May your hand be ready to help me,  
    for I have chosen your precepts.  
174I long for your salvation, Lord,  
    and your law gives me delight.  
175Let me live that I may praise you,  
    and may your laws sustain me.  
176I have strayed like a lost sheep.  
    Seek your servant,  
    for I have not forgotten your commands.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 119:112](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+119%3A89-176&version=NIV#en-NIV-16011) Or decrees / for their enduring reward

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!- Psalm 119:103

Relationships change us. If we have a close friend or spouse that we share life with, it is inevitable that they will impact how we think and behave. In Psalm 119, the author has had a close relationship with God through studying His Word. He has immersed himself in Scripture and now crafts a poem testifying the enormous impact Scripture has had on him. How has he been changed? The Psalmist recognizes his deep dependence upon God for all things, even asking God to help him understand His Word. He declares, "I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes" (v. 125). As he grew in his knowledge of God's Word, his dependence upon God for understanding grew as well (v. 105). The Psalmist delighted in and loved Scripture. Ten times he uses the word "delight" in reference to God's Word. He regularly confesses that he loves Scripture, “Oh how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long" (v.97). Or, "their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law" (v. 70). The wicked here are described as unfeeling, while the Psalmist is filled with delight. Apart from God, people tend to love the wrong things. One of the benefits of meditating on God's Word is that we grow to love what God loves and hate what He hates. The author expresses a wholehearted devotion to Scripture. This means that he does not just crack it open once in a while, but it is his persistent meditation. He reflects on it at night (v. 55), midnight (v. 62), all day long (v. 97), and even seven times a day (v. 164).

**Apply the Word**

When you are devoted to someone, you spend time with them, listen carefully to them, and really seek to understand them. That is the kind of devotion the Psalmist expresses here . May we also grow in our love for God's Word and allow it to change us!

**Pray with Us**

We are awed by the Psalmist's devotion to Your Word. Lord, we ask for the same passion and intimate knowledge of Scripture. Teach us to meditate on Your Word day and night, internalizing the truths of Scripture.

### BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/9/22

# The Sunflower Battle

**Read:** [**Colossians 2:6–14**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.6%E2%80%9314)

### **Spiritual Fullness in Christ**

6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

8See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29503a)] of this world rather than on Christ.

9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29506b)] was put off when you were circumcised by[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29506c)] Christ, 12having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29508d)] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Colossians 2:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#en-NIV-29503) Or the basic principles; also in verse 20
2. [Colossians 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#en-NIV-29506) In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.
3. [Colossians 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#en-NIV-29506) Or put off in the circumcision of
4. [Colossians 2:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#en-NIV-29508) Some manuscripts us

In Christ you have been brought to fullness. [Colossians 2:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.10)

The deer in our neighborhood and I have two different opinions about sunflowers. When I plant sunflowers each spring, I’m looking forward to the beauty of their blooms. My deer friends, however, don’t care about the finished product. They simply want to chew the stems and leaves until there’s nothing left. It’s an annual summertime battle as I try to see the sunflowers to maturity before my four-hoofed neighbors devour them. Sometimes I win; sometimes they win.

When we think about our lives as believers in Jesus, it’s easy to see a similar battle being waged between us and our enemy—Satan. Our goal is continual growth leading to spiritual maturity that helps our lives stand out for God’s honor. The devil wants to devour our faith and keep us from growing. But Jesus has dominion over “every power” and can bring us “to fullness” ([Colossians 2:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.10)), which means He makes us “complete.” Christ’s victory on the cross allows us to stand out in the world like those beautiful sunflowers.

When Jesus nailed the “record of the charges against us” (the penalty for our sins) to the cross (v. 14 nlt), He destroyed the powers that controlled us. We became “rooted and built up” (v. 7) and made “alive with Christ” (v. 13). In Him we have the power (v. 10) to resist the enemy’s spiritual attacks and to flourish in Jesus—displaying a life of true beauty.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

In what areas does the enemy try to nibble away at your growing spiritual maturity? Why is it vital for you to call out to God when you experience spiritual attacks?

Loving God, make my life beautiful for You. Help me to resist the enemy through Your power because I can’t do it on my own. Thank You for Jesus’ death and resurrection—my source of hope, power, and courage.

#### **Insight**

In [Colossians 2:6–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.6%E2%80%9313), Paul highlights the idea of fullness. In verse 9, he uses the word plērōma, which refers to filling to capacity, to describe the extent to which Christ exemplifies and demonstrates deity. There’s no part of Jesus in which God doesn’t dwell; He’s fully God (see [Colossians 1:15–20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%201.15%E2%80%9320); [Hebrews 1:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%201.3)).

Conversely, in [Colossians 2:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.10), Paul uses the verb plēroō to describe our being brought to fullness in Christ. Rather than fullness being something we have, it’s something that’s done to us and in us; we’re completed in Jesus. This word is often used to describe the fulfillment of prophecies about Christ—they were fulfilled—giving the word the sense of completion or accomplishment.

By: [**J.R. Hudberg**](https://odb.org/author/jrhudberg/)

# God Calling – 5/9/22

# Harmony Within

Follow My Guidance.  Be afraid to venture on your own as a child fears to leave its mother's side. Doubt of your own wisdom, and reliance on Mine, will teach you humility.

Humility is not the belittling of the self.  It is forgetting the self.  Nay more, forgetting the self, because you are remembering Me.

You must not expect to live in a world where all is harmony.  You must not expect to live where others are in unbroken accord with you.  It is your task to maintain your own heart peace in adverse circumstances. Harmony is always yours when you strain your ear to catch Heaven's music.

Doubt always your power or wisdom to put things right, ask Me to right all as you leave it to Me, and go on your way loving and laughing. I am wisdom. Only My wisdom can rightly decide anything - settle any problem. So rely on Me. All is well.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.  1 Peter 5:6