# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/26/20

# Thinking of Prayer as Jesus Taught



Pray without ceasing… —[1 Thessalonians 5:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Thessalonians+5%3A17)

Our thinking about prayer, whether right or wrong, is based on our own mental conception of it. The correct concept is to think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts. Our blood flows and our breathing continues “without ceasing”; we are not even conscious of it, but it never stops. And we are not always conscious of Jesus keeping us in perfect oneness with God, but if we are obeying Him, He always is. Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life of the saint. Beware of anything that stops the offering up of prayer. “Pray without ceasing…”— maintain the childlike habit of offering up prayer in your heart to God all the time.

Jesus never mentioned unanswered prayer. He had the unlimited certainty of knowing that prayer is always answered. Do we have through the Spirit of God that inexpressible certainty that Jesus had about prayer, or do we think of the times when it seemed that God did not answer our prayer? Jesus said, “…everyone who asks receives…” ([Matthew 7:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:8)). Yet we say, “But…, but….” God answers prayer in the best way— not just sometimes, but every time. However, the evidence of the answer in the area we want it may not always immediately follow. Do we expect God to answer prayer?

The danger we have is that we want to water down what Jesus said to make it mean something that aligns with our common sense. But if it were only common sense, what He said would not even be worthwhile. The things Jesus taught about prayer are supernatural truths He reveals to us.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 5/26/20

Our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep.—[HEB. 13:20.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.20)

The chief Shepherd.—I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.—I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.—I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick.—Ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

[I Pet. 5:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.4). -[John 10:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.14),[27,28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.27).[Psa. 23:1-3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.23.html" \l "Ps.23.1).[Isa. 53:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.6). -[John 10:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.11). -[Ezek. 34:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ezek.34.html" \l "Ezek.34.16). -[I Pet. 2:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.25).

“Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.” **[Psalm 55:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.55.html" \l "Ps.55.22)**

Care, even though exercised upon legitimate objects, if carried to excess, has in it the nature of sin. The precept to avoid anxious care is earnestly inculcated by our Saviour, again and again; it is reiterated by the apostles; and it is one which cannot be neglected without involving transgression: for the very essence of anxious care is the imagining that we are wiser than God, and the thrusting ourselves into his place to do for him that which he has undertaken to do for us. We attempt to think of that which we fancy he will forget; we labour to take upon ourselves our weary burden, as if he were unable or unwilling to take it for us. Now this disobedience to his plain precept, this unbelief in his Word, this presumption in intruding upon his province, is all sinful. Yet more than this, anxious care often leads to acts of sin. He who cannot calmly leave his affairs in God’s hand, but will carry his own burden, is very likely to be tempted to use wrong means to help himself. This sin leads to a forsaking of God as our counsellor, and resorting instead to human wisdom. This is going to the “broken cistern” instead of to the “fountain;” a sin which was laid against Israel of old. Anxiety makes us doubt God’s lovingkindness, and thus our love to him grows cold; we feel mistrust, and thus grieve the Spirit of God, so that our prayers become hindered, our consistent example marred, and our life one of self-seeking. Thus want of confidence in God leads us to wander far from him; but if through simple faith in his promise, we cast each burden as it comes upon him, and are “careful for nothing” because he undertakes to care for us, it will keep us close to him, and strengthen us against much temptation. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee.”

# Word Live – 5/26/20

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

# Scripture Union – 5/26/20

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

# Today in the Word – 5/26/20

# Suffering for Godliness

# Read: [2 Timothy 3:10–13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3a10%e2%80%9313)

10You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.On his first missionary journey, Paul stopped at Lystra, a rural outpost in modern-day Turkey (Acts 14:8–20). Arriving in the city, he encountered a man who had been lame from birth. The Lord used him to heal this man, and this healing amazed the whole town. Paul and Barnabas had the chance to share the gospel with many who had never heard before. But, just when it looked like there was an open door for ministry, opponents arrived in the city and “stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city” (Acts. 14:19). Left for dead, Paul fled the next day.

For Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

Paul knew that being a faithful Christian did not mean victory after victory. In addition to seeing God work powerfully to change hearts and lives, he experienced beatings, harassment by the government, and trials of every kind. Writing from a Roman prison where he faced his impending death, Paul reminded Timothy of his experiences in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (v. 11). At each place he encountered fierce opposition.

Following Christ wasn’t going to get easier. Paul states bluntly, “everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (v. 12). We live in a fallen world full of sinful and broken people (v. 13). Of course, these are the very people who need to hear the message of the gospel. But we should not be surprised when that message sparks hostility. Paul encouraged Timothy to meet these trials, as he did, with “faith, patience, love” and most of all “endurance” (v. 10). Paul could look back and see how the “Lord rescued me from all of them” (v. 11). Paul didn’t mean that the Lord kept him from persecution, he was saying that the Lord had given him the power to faithfully endure.

>> When we pursue a faithful life we should expect opposition of some kind. Are we willing to endure insults, slights, or the condescension of others? The 20th-century martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, “Suffering . . . is the badge of true discipleship.”

### Pray with Us

Thank the Lord in prayer for Paul’s example of perseverance in faith, patience, endurance, and willingness to suffer for Christ. Do we have faith and courage to follow this example?

## BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/26/20

# Sweeter Than Honey

 **Read:** [**Proverbs 16:1–2**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2016.1%E2%80%932)

16 To humans belong the plans of the heart,  
    but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue.

2All a person’s ways seem pure to them,  
    but motives are weighed by the Lord.

**Read:** [**Proverbs 16:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2016.1%E2%80%932)[**21–24**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Proverbs%2016.21%E2%80%9324)

21The wise in heart are called discerning,  
    and gracious words promote instruction.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+16%3A1%E2%80%932+%2C+21%E2%80%9324&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-16862a" \o "See footnote a)]

22Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent,  
    but folly brings punishment to fools.

23The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent,  
    and their lips promote instruction.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+16%3A1%E2%80%932+%2C+21%E2%80%9324&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-16864b" \o "See footnote b)]

24Gracious words are a honeycomb,  
    sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Proverbs 16:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+16%3A1%E2%80%932+%2C+21%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-16862) Or words make a person persuasive
2. [Proverbs 16:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+16%3A1%E2%80%932+%2C+21%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-16864) Or prudent / and make their lips persuasive

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. [Proverbs 16:24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2016.24)

His topic was racial tension. Yet the speaker remained calm and collected. Standing on stage before a large audience, he spoke boldly—but with grace, humility, kindness, and even humor. Soon the tense audience visibly relaxed, laughing along with the speaker about the dilemma they all faced: how to resolve their hot issue, but cool down their feelings and words. Yes, how to tackle a sour topic with sweet grace.

King Solomon advised this same approach for all of us: “Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” ([Proverbs 16:24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2016.24)). In this way, “The hearts of the wise make . . . their lips promote instruction” (v. 23).

Why would a powerful king like Solomon devote time to addressing how we speak? Because words can destroy. During Solomon’s time, kings relied on messengers for information about their nations, and calm and reliable messengers were highly valued. They used prudent words and reasoned tongues, not overreacting or speaking harshly, no matter the issue.

We all can benefit by gracing our opinions and thoughts with godly and prudent sweetness. In Solomon’s words, “To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue” (v. 1).

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What is your way of speaking when talking about a hot and divisive topic? When you allow God’s Spirit to sweeten your tongue, what changes in your words?

Our holy God, when we speak on hard topics, soften our hearts and words with Your sweet Spirit.

#### Insight

Why does [Proverbs 16:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2016.1) contrast “plans of the heart” with “the proper answer of the tongue”? Consider Jesus’ response when the Pharisees asked Him why His disciples broke rabbinical tradition by not washing their hands ([Matthew 15:1–2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2015.1%E2%80%932)). Jesus knew that our problem isn’t in keeping rules, but in making our hearts pure. He reminded them, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me’ ” (vv. 7–8; see also [Isaiah 29:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2029.13)). Jesus added, “The things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts” ([Matthew 15:18–19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2015.18%E2%80%9319)). Proverbs tells us that “motives are weighed by the Lord” (16:2) who sees our heart. Verses 21 and 23 note the close connection between heart and speech. Our true nature will reveal itself in our words.

# God Calling – 5/26/20

# Claim More

You are doing your claiming as I have said, and soon you will see the result.  You cannot do this long without it being seen in the material.  It is an undying law.

You are at present children practicing a new lesson.  Practice - practice - soon you will be able to do it so readily.

You see others manifesting so easily, so readily demonstrating My Power.  But you have not seen the discipline that went before.  Discipline absolutely necessary before this Power is given to My disciples.  It is a further initiation.

You are feeling you have learnt so much that life cannot be a failure.  That is right, but others have to wait to see the outward manifestation in your lives before they realize this Spiritual Truth.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.  John 16:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/27/20

# The Life To Know Him



…tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. —[Luke 24:49](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+24%3A49)

The disciples had to tarry, staying in Jerusalem until the day of Pentecost, not only for their own preparation but because they had to wait until the Lord was actually glorified. And as soon as He was glorified, what happened? “Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear” ([Acts 2:33](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2:33)). The statement in [John 7:39](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7:39)— “…for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified”— does not pertain to us. The Holy Spirit has been given; the Lord is glorified— our waiting is not dependent on the providence of God, but on our own spiritual fitness.

The Holy Spirit’s influence and power were at work before Pentecost, but He was not here. Once our Lord was glorified in His ascension, the Holy Spirit came into the world, and He has been here ever since. We have to receive the revealed truth that He is here. The attitude of receiving and welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives is to be the continual attitude of a believer. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive reviving life from our ascended Lord.

It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit that changes people, but the power of the ascended Christ coming into their lives through the Holy Spirit. We all too often separate things that the New Testament never separates. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not an experience apart from Jesus Christ— it is the evidence of the ascended Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit does not make you think of time or eternity— it is one amazing glorious now. “This is eternal life, that they may know You…” ([John 17:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:3)). Begin to know Him now, and never finish.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

It is perilously possible to make our conceptions of God like molten lead poured into a specially designed mould, and when it is cold and hard we fling it at the heads of the religious people who don’t agree with us. Disciples Indeed

# CCEL – 5/27/20

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.—[NAH. 1:7.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Nah.1.html" \l "Nah.1.7)

Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.—Who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency!—As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. For who is God, save the Lord? and who is a rock, save our God?

If any man love God, the same is known of him.—The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.—TheLord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.—Thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

[Jer. 33:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.33.html" \l "Jer.33.11). -[Psa. 46:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.46.html" \l "Ps.46.1). -[Psa. 91:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.91.html" \l "Ps.91.2). -[Deut. 33:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.33.html" \l "Deut.33.29). -[II Sam. 22:31,32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiSam.22.html" \l "iiSam.22.31).[I Cor. 8:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.8.html" \l "iCor.8.3). -[II Tim. 2:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.2.html" \l "iiTim.2.19). -[Psa. 1:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.1.html" \l "Ps.1.6). -[Exo. 33:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.33.html" \l "Exod.33.17).

“So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king’s table; and was lame on both his feet.” **[2 Samuel 9:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiSam.9.html" \l "iiSam.9.13)**

Mephibosheth was no great ornament to a royal table, yet he had a continual place at David’s board, because the king could see in his face the features of the beloved Jonathan. Like Mephibosheth, we may cry unto the King of Glory, “What is thy servant, that thou shouldst look upon such a dead dog as I am?” but still the Lord indulges us with most familiar intercourse with himself, because he sees in our countenances the remembrance of his dearly-beloved Jesus. The Lord’s people are dear for another’s sake. Such is the love which the Father bears to his only begotten, that for his sake he raises his lowly brethren from poverty and banishment, to courtly companionship, noble rank, and royal provision. Their deformity shall not rob them of their privileges. Lameness is no bar to sonship; the cripple is as much the heir as if he could run like Asahel. Our right does not limp, though our might may. A king’s table is a noble hiding-place for lame legs, and at the gospel feast we learn to glory in infirmities, because the power of Christ resteth upon us. Yet grievous disability may mar the persons of the best-loved saints. Here is one feasted by David, and yet so lame in both his feet that he could not go up with the king when he fled from the city, and was therefore maligned and injured by his servant Ziba. Saints whose faith is weak, and whose knowledge is slender, are great losers; they are exposed to many enemies, and cannot follow the king whithersoever he goeth. This disease frequently arises from falls. Bad nursing in their spiritual infancy often causes converts to fall into a despondency from which they never recover, and sin in other cases brings broken bones. Lord, help the lame to leap like an hart, and satisfy all thy people with the bread of thy table!

# Word Live – 5/27/20

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

# Scripture Union – 5/27/20

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

# Today in the Word – 5/27/20

# Built on the Word

**Read:** [**2 Timothy 3:14–17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3a14%e2%80%9317)

14But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the servant of God[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3a14%e2%80%9317#fen-NIV-29871a)] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### Footnotes:

1. [2 Timothy 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3a14%e2%80%9317#en-NIV-29871) Or that you, a man of God,

On the first day of training camp in 1961, the Green Bay Packers started a new season. The previous year, they had lost a heartbreaking championship game. Their coach, Vince Lombardi, gathered the weary team around him. “Gentlemen,” he said, holding a football high in the air . . . “This is a football.” Lombardi took the team back to the fundamentals of the game.

All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

Paul had been warning Timothy about the trials he was sure to face in ministry. “Everyone,” he said, “who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (3:12). How should Timothy prepare for these difficulties? By going back to the fundamentals. Paul encouraged Timothy to “continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of” (v. 14). Most of all, he should rely on Scripture in all aspects of ministry (v. 15).

In verses 16–17 Paul clearly describes the nature and function of Scripture. “All Scripture,” Paul declares, “is God-breathed” (v. 16). Paul here refers specifically to the Old Testament, as the New Testament was in the process of being written. Paul clarifies that the Bible is not just a wonderful collection of human wisdom, but it has its source in God Himself. The word “God-breathed” is one Paul coined. The image comes from breathing, as God exhaled His Word. This image does not negate human involvement in the process, but it affirms that God is fully responsible for Scripture.

Scripture was given by God not to satisfy our curiosity or give us special, insider information. Scripture “is useful” for all aspects of ministry (v. 16). It is a gift God has given to equip us for the work He has called us to do (v. 17).

>> The Bible is a wonderful gift! We have “God-breathed” words to read, to meditate upon, and to guide our lives. Be sure to thank the Lord for the perfect gift of His Word. Reflect on how you can share this wonderful gift with others.

### Pray with Us

Paul instructs Timothy on how to persevere in the faith and the importance of Scripture. Let’s pray that we would accept this charge as ours, to be “thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17).

## BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/27/20

# Why Me?

 **Read:** [**Job 7:17–21**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Job%207.17%E2%80%9321)

17“What is mankind that you make so much of them,  
    that you give them so much attention,  
18that you examine them every morning  
    and test them every moment?  
19Will you never look away from me,  
    or let me alone even for an instant?  
20If I have sinned, what have I done to you,  
    you who see everything we do?  
Why have you made me your target?  
    Have I become a burden to you?[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+7%3A17%E2%80%9321&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-13029a" \o "See footnote a)]  
21Why do you not pardon my offenses  
    and forgive my sins?  
For I will soon lie down in the dust;  
    you will search for me, but I will be no more.”

#### Footnotes:

1. [Job 7:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+7%3A17%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#en-NIV-13029) A few manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, an ancient Hebrew scribal tradition and Septuagint; most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text I have become a burden to myself.

Why have you made me your target? Have I become a burden to you? [Job 7:20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Job%207.20)

The Book of Odds says that one in a million people are struck by lightning. It also says that one in 25,000 experiences a medical condition called “broken heart syndrome” in the face of overwhelming shock or loss. In page after page the odds of experiencing specific problems pile up without answering: What if we’re the one?

Job defied all odds. God said of him, “There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil” ([Job 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Job%201.8)). Yet Job was chosen to suffer a series of losses that defied all odds. Of all people on earth, Job had reason to beg for an answer. It’s all there for us to read in chapter after chapter of his desperate struggle to understand, “Why me?”

Job’s story gives us a way of responding to the mystery of unexplained pain and evil. By describing the suffering and confusion of one of God’s best examples of goodness and mercy (ch. 25), we gain an alternative to the inflexible rule of sowing and reaping (4:7–8). By providing a backstory of satanic mayhem (ch. 1) and an afterword (42:7–17) from the God who would one day allow His Son to bear our sins, the story of Job gives us reason to live by faith rather than sight.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How do you feel about a God who sometimes allows suffering without explanation? How does the story of Job help you understand this?

God of creation, Giver of life, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, please help us to trust You more than our own eyes and hearts.

#### Insight

[Job 7:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Job%207.17) reads much like [Psalm 8:4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.4), “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” But the similarity between these two passages ends there. David in [Psalm 8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208) extols God for caring for humans so much that He set them over all other creatures and “made them a little lower than the angels” (vv. 5–8). Job, on the other hand, bemoans God’s attention: “What is mankind that you make so much of them, . . . that you examine them every morning and test them every moment?” (7:17–18). Job feels as if God targeted and relentlessly pursued him (vv. 11–21). Yet after God finally speaks (chs. 38–41), we see a shift in Job’s attitude: “Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know” (42:3). Once again, we see a parallel to [Psalm 8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208).

# God Calling – 5/27/20

# Roots and Fruits

Remember the lesson of the seed too in its sending a shoot down so that it may be rooted and grounded, while at the same time it sends a shoot up to be the plant and flower that shall gladden the world.

The two growths are necessary.  Without the strong root it would soon wither, as much activity fails for lack of growth in Me.  The higher the growth up the deeper must be the enrooting.

Many forget this and thus their work ceases to be permanent for Me.  Beware of the leaves and flowers without the strong root.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him; Rooted and built up in him.  Colossians 2:6,7

[](http://www.sage-usa.net/acorn.html)

[The Acorn and The Tree](http://www.sage-usa.net/acorn.html)

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/28/20

# Unquestioned Revelation



In that day you will ask Me nothing. —[John 16:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+16%3A23)

When is “that day”? It is when the ascended Lord makes you one with the Father. “In that day” you will be one with the Father just as Jesus is, and He said, “In that day you will ask Me nothing.” Until the resurrection life of Jesus is fully exhibited in you, you have questions about many things. Then after a while you find that all your questions are gone— you don’t seem to have any left to ask. You have come to the point of total reliance on the resurrection life of Jesus, which brings you into complete oneness with the purpose of God. Are you living that life now? If not, why aren’t you?

“In that day” there may be any number of things still hidden to your understanding, but they will not come between your heart and God. “In that day you will ask Me nothing”— you will not need to ask, because you will be certain that God will reveal things in accordance with His will. The faith and peace of John 14:1 has become the real attitude of your heart, and there are no more questions to be asked. If anything is a mystery to you and is coming between you and God, never look for the explanation in your mind, but look for it in your spirit, your true inner nature— that is where the problem is. Once your inner spiritual nature is willing to submit to the life of Jesus, your understanding will be perfectly clear, and you will come to the place where there is no distance between the Father and you, His child, because the Lord has made you one. “In that day you will ask Me nothing.”

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 5/28/20

We look for the Saviour.—[PHI. 3:20.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.3.html" \l "Phil.3.20)

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.—We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.—And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

[Tit. 2:11-14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Titus.2.html" \l "Titus.2.11). -[II Pet. 3:13,14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.3.html" \l "iiPet.3.13).[Heb 9:28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.9.html" \l "Heb.9.28). -[Isa. 25:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.25.html" \l "Isa.25.9).

“Whom he justified, them he also glorified.” [Romans 8:30](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.30)

Here is a precious truth for thee, believer. Thou mayest be poor, or in suffering, or unknown, but for thine encouragement take a review of thy “calling” and the consequences that flow from it, and especially that blessed result here spoken of. As surely as thou art God’s child today, so surely shall all thy trials soon be at an end, and thou shalt be rich to all the intents of bliss. Wait awhile, and that weary head shall wear the crown of glory, and that hand of labour shall grasp the palm-branch of victory. Lament not thy troubles, but rather rejoice that ere long thou wilt be where “there shall be neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.” The chariots of fire are at thy door, and a moment will suffice to bear thee to the glorified. The everlasting song is almost on thy lip. The portals of heaven stand open for thee. Think not that thou canst fail of entering into rest. If he hath called thee, nothing can divide thee from his love. Distress cannot sever the bond; the fire of persecution cannot burn the link; the hammer of hell cannot break the chain. Thou art secure; that voice which called thee at first, shall call thee yet again from earth to heaven, from death’s dark gloom to immortality’s unuttered splendours. Rest assured, the heart of him who has justified thee beats with infinite love towards thee. Thou shalt soon be with the glorified, where thy portion is; thou art only waiting here to be made meet for the inheritance, and that done, the wings of angels shall waft thee far away, to the mount of peace, and joy, and blessedness, where,

“Far from a world of grief and sin,

With God eternally shut in,”

thou shalt rest forever and ever.

# Word Live – 5/28/20

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

# Scripture Union – 5/28/20

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

# Today in the Word – 5/28/20

# Preach the Word

**Read:** [**2 Timothy 4:1–5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a1%e2%80%935)

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Exercise has many benefits, including controlling our weight, preventing diseases, improving our mood, increasing energy, and helping us get a good night’s sleep. Even so, we neglect it. One reason? We don’t stay focused on long-term goals. When we don’t see an immediate payoff, we often stop trying.

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season. 2 Timothy 4:1

In today’s reading, Paul recognizes a similar danger for Christians. We know that one day Jesus will return and judge the living and the dead. But we cannot see Jesus now, so we lose focus. In light of this, Paul encourages Timothy to keep Christ’s return clearly in mind (v. 1). We must also recognize that He is present with us now. Paul begins his final charge to Timothy reminding him of this important reality: “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge” (v. 1).

This solemn opening serves as a preamble to Paul’s primary charge to “preach the word” (v. 2). Timothy should faithfully teach Scripture at every opportunity, “in season and out of season” (v. 2). “For the time will come,” Paul warns, “when people will not put up with sound doctrine” (v. 3). Timothy needed to stay grounded in Scripture, because the people around him would want a different message (vv. 3–4). Timothy should remember that he will be judged by God one day, not by them. Timothy’s calling was to “endure hardship” (v. 5), teaching his congregation “with great patience and careful instruction” (v. 2).

>> The hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” expresses our longing for Christ’s return.

“O Come, Thou King of nations bring  
An end to all our suffering  
Bid every pain and sorrow cease  
And reign now as our Prince of Peace  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come again with us to dwell.”

Reflect on these lyrics as a reminder of Christ’s return.

### Pray with Us

As we are coming to the end of our Bible study, review the Scripture lessons we’ve learned. How were you encouraged by the books of 1 and 2 Timothy? Was there anything new and unexpected the Lord revealed to you?

## BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/28/20

# Good Measure

 **Read:** [**Luke 6:32–38**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%206.32%E2%80%9338)

32“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

### Judging Others

37“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Give, and it will be given to you. [Luke 6:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%206.38)

At a gas station one day, Staci encountered a woman who had left home without her bank card. Stranded with her baby, she was asking passersby for help. Although unemployed at the time, Staci spent $15 to put gas in the stranger’s tank. Days later, Staci came home to find a gift basket of children’s toys and other presents waiting on her porch. Friends of the stranger had reciprocated Staci’s kindness and converted her $15 blessing into a memorable Christmas for her family.

This heartwarming story illustrates the point Jesus made when he said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” ([Luke 6:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%206.38)).

It can be tempting to hear this and focus on what we get out of giving, but doing so would miss the point. Jesus preceded that statement with this one: “Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked” (v. 35).

We don’t give to get things; we give because God delights in our generosity. Our love for others reflects His loving heart toward us.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

In what ways have you experienced God’s generosity in your life? How can you extend generosity to others?

Gracious Father, help me to give generously to others because You’ve been so generous to me.

#### Insight

Of all the difficult sayings of Jesus, this is one of the hardest: “Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back” ([Luke 6:35](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%206.35)). How can Christ expect this? Actually, He’s asking us to emulate the love of our Father in heaven, who loved us despite our animosity toward Him. The apostle Paul explains, “While we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son” ([Romans 5:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%205.10)). God loved us despite the ugly reality of our rejection of Him and His loving directives. Now, having been forgiven, we have every incentive to give to others at every opportunity, especially to those who hate us. Jesus’ concluding words here can frighten or encourage us, depending on how we live our lives: “For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”—by God Himself ([Luke 6:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%206.38)).

# God Calling – 5/28/20

# Test Your Love

A great Love knows that in every difficulty, every trial, every failure, the presence of the loved one suffices.  Test your Love for Me by this.

Just to be with Me, just to know I am beside you - does that bring you Joy and Peace?  If not, then your Love for Me, and your realization of My Love, are at fault.

Then, if this be so, pray for more Love.

And be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.  Hebrews 13:5

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/29/20

# Untroubled Relationship



In that day you will ask in My name…for the Father Himself loves you… —[John 16:26-27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+16%3A26-27)

“In that day you will ask in My name…,” that is, in My nature. Not “You will use My name as some magic word,” but— “You will be so intimate with Me that you will be one with Me.” “That day” is not a day in the next life, but a day meant for here and now. “…for the Father Himself loves you…”— the Father’s love is evidence that our union with Jesus is complete and absolute. Our Lord does not mean that our lives will be free from external difficulties and uncertainties, but that just as He knew the Father’s heart and mind, we too can be lifted by Him into heavenly places through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, so that He can reveal the teachings of God to us.

“…whatever you ask the Father in My name…” ([John 16:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16:23)). “That day” is a day of peace and an untroubled relationship between God and His saint. Just as Jesus stood unblemished and pure in the presence of His Father, we too by the mighty power and effectiveness of the baptism of the Holy Spirit can be lifted into that relationship— “…that they may be one just as We are one…” ([John 17:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:22)).

“…He will give you” ([John 16:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16:23)). Jesus said that because of His name God will recognize and respond to our prayers. What a great challenge and invitation— to pray in His name! Through the resurrection and ascension power of Jesus, and through the Holy Spirit He has sent, we can be lifted into such a relationship. Once in that wonderful position, having been placed there by Jesus Christ, we can pray to God in Jesus’ name— in His nature. This is a gift granted to us through the Holy Spirit, and Jesus said, “…whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” The sovereign character of Jesus Christ is tested and proved by His own statements.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Christianity is not consistency to conscience or to convictions; Christianity is being true to Jesus Christ.  Biblical Ethics, 111 L

# CCEL – 5/29/20

The life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.—[LEV. 17:11.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lev.17.html" \l "Lev.17.11)

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.—The blood of the Lamb.—The precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.—Without shedding of blood is no remission.—The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.—Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

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

[John 1:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.1.html" \l "John.1.29). -[Rev. 7:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.7.html" \l "Rev.7.14). -[I Pet. 1:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.19). -[Heb. 9:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.9.html" \l "Heb.9.22). -[I John 1:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.1.html" \l "iJohn.1.7).[Heb. 9:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.9.html" \l "Heb.9.12). -[Heb. 10:19,20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.19),[22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.22).[I Cor. 6:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.20).

“Thou hatest wickedness.” **[Psalm 45:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.45.html" \l "Ps.45.7)**

“Be ye angry, and sin not.” There can hardly be goodness in a man if he be not angry at sin; he who loves truth must hate every false way. How our Lord Jesus hated it when the temptation came! Thrice it assailed him in different forms, but ever he met it with, “Get thee behind me, Satan.” He hated it in others; none the less fervently because he showed his hate oftener in tears of pity than in words of rebuke; yet what language could be more stern, more Elijah-like, than the words, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer.” He hated wickedness, so much that he bled to wound it to the heart; he died that it might die; he was buried that he might bury it in his tomb; and he rose that he might forever trample it beneath his feet. Christ is in the Gospel, and that Gospel is opposed to wickedness in every shape. Wickedness arrays itself in fair garments, and imitates the language of holiness; but the precepts of Jesus, like his famous scourge of small cords, chase it out of the temple, and will not tolerate it in the Church. So, too, in the heart where Jesus reigns, what war there is between Christ and Belial! And when our Redeemer shall come to be our Judge, those thundering words, “Depart, ye cursed” which are, indeed, but a prolongation of his life-teaching concerning sin, shall manifest his abhorrence of iniquity. As warm as is his love to sinners, so hot is his hatred of sin; as perfect as is his righteousness, so complete shall be the destruction of every form of wickedness. O thou glorious champion of right, and destroyer of wrong, for this cause hath God, even thy God, anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

# Word Live – 5/29/20

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

# Scripture Union – 5/29/20

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

# Today in the Word – 5/29/20

# Heavenly Reward

**Read:** [**2 Timothy 4:6–8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a6%e2%80%938)

6For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Bonnie Ware spent years caring for patients in the last weeks of their lives. The nurse wrote a blog post titled “The Top Five Regrets of the Dying,” which went viral and was later turned into a book. Among those regrets were: “I wish I had the courage to live a life true to myself” and “I wish I hadn’t worked so hard.”

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. Revelation 2:10

In today’s reading, the apostle Paul realized the end of his life was near. But instead of reflecting upon regrets, he faced his death with confidence and hope. This hope was grounded in three truths. First, he described his impending death this way: “I am already being poured out like a drink offering” (v. 6). He knew his suffering and death had purpose. He compared his suffering to a “drink offering,” which was a type of sacrifice described in the Pentateuch (Num. 15:5). The Lord received his suffering as an act of worship.

Second, Paul was confident that he had lived his life well. The Lord had called him to be an apostle to the Gentiles and to suffer for his witness (Acts 9:15–16). Paul declared, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (v. 7). Like a marathon runner crossing the finish line, he had done his part.

Finally, Paul knew this life is not all there is. He could look forward to standing before the Lord justified because of what Christ had done. He proclaimed, “There is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day” (v. 8). Unlike an Olympic race where only one winner can be crowned, at the final judgment the victor’s crown can go to any one “who have longed for his appearing” (v. 8).

>> Some people make a list of things they want to experience before they die. What is on your spiritual bucket list? Are there ways your life needs to change so you can look back on it and say with Paul, “I have kept the faith”?

### Pray with Us

Having read Paul’s inspiring words, as he sums up his life, we pray that we would live in such a way that, like Paul, we will say at the end: “I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). Amen!

## BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/29/20

# The Maker of the Moon

 **Read:** [**Jeremiah 31:33–37**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2031.33%E2%80%9337)

33“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
    after that time,” declares the Lord.  
“I will put my law in their minds  
    and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
    and they will be my people.  
34No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
    or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’  
because they will all know me,  
    from the least of them to the greatest,”  
declares the Lord.  
“For I will forgive their wickedness  
    and will remember their sins no more.”

35This is what the Lord says,

he who appoints the sun  
    to shine by day,  
who decrees the moon and stars  
    to shine by night,  
who stirs up the sea  
    so that its waves roar—  
    the Lord Almighty is his name:  
36“Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,”  
    declares the Lord,  
“will Israel ever cease  
    being a nation before me.”

37This is what the Lord says:

“Only if the heavens above can be measured  
    and the foundations of the earth below be searched out  
will I reject all the descendants of Israel  
    because of all they have done,”  
declares the Lord.

[The Lord said,] “I will be their God and they will be my people.” [Jeremiah 31:33](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2031.33)

After astronauts set the Eagle down in the Sea of Tranquility, Neil Armstrong said, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” He was the first human to walk on the surface of the moon. Other space travelers followed, including the commander of the last Apollo mission, Gene Cernan. “There I was, and there you are, the Earth—dynamic, overwhelming, and I felt . . . it was just too beautiful to happen by accident,” Cernan said. “There has to be somebody bigger than you and bigger than me.” Even from their unique view in deep space, these men understood their smallness in comparison to the vastness of the universe.

The prophet Jeremiah also considered the immensity of God as Creator and Sustainer of the earth and beyond. The Maker of all promised to reveal Himself intimately as He offered His people love, forgiveness, and hope ([Jeremiah 31:33–34](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2031.33%E2%80%9334)). Jeremiah affirms God’s enormity as He who “appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night” (v. 35). Our Creator and Lord Almighty will reign above all as He works to redeem all of His people (vv. 36–37).

We’ll never finish exploring the immeasurable vastness of the heavens and depths of the earth’s foundations. But we can stand in awe at the complexity of the universe and trust the maker of the moon—and everything else.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How does imagining God’s bigness as Creator and Sustainer of the universe help you trust Him with the obstacles that come your way? How does the complexity of the universe help you trust God with the details of your life?

Creator and Sustainer of all, thanks for inviting us to know You and trust You today and forever.

#### Insight

The Noahic covenant is one of the earliest recorded covenants in the Scriptures. The rainbow is the sign of God’s promise never again to destroy the earth with a flood ([Genesis 9:8–17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%209.8%E2%80%9317)). God made a covenant with Abraham when he called him to the land of Canaan and promised to make him a great nation, give him the land, and bless all nations through him (12:1–3; 15:5–16; 17:6–8). God sealed the Abrahamic covenant with the sign of circumcision (17:10–11). In the Davidic covenant, God promised David, Abraham’s descendant, that each king who sits on the throne of Israel would be his direct descendant ([2 Samuel 7:8–16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Sam%207.8%E2%80%9316); [1 Chronicles 17:11–14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chron%2017.11%E2%80%9314)). The sign is the promised Son of David ([Matthew 1:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%201.1); [Acts 13:23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2013.23)). The writer of Hebrews quotes [Jeremiah 31:31–34](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2031.31%E2%80%9334) and declares that Christ, the promised Son of David, is now the “mediator of a new covenant” ([Hebrews 8:6–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%208.6%E2%80%9313); [9:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hebrews%209.15); [12:24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Hebrews%2012.24)).

# God Calling – 5/29/20

# Forget

Regret nothing. Not even the sins and failures.  When a man views earth's wonders from some mountain height he does not spend his time in dwelling on the stones and stumbles, the faints and failures, that marked his upward path.

So with you.  Breathe in the rich blessings of each new day - forget all that lies behind you.

Man is so made that he can carry the weight of twenty-four hours, no more.  Directly he weighs down with the years behind, and the days ahead, his back breaks.  I have promised to help you with the burden of today only, the past I have taken from you and if you, foolish hearts, choose to gather again that burden and bear it, then, indeed, you mock Me to expect Me to share it.

For weal or woe each day is ended.  What remains to be lived, the coming twenty-four hours, you must face as you awake.

A man on a march on earth carries only what he needs for that march.  Would you pity him if you saw him bearing too the overwhelming weight of the worn-out shoes and uniforms of past marches and years?  And yet, in the mental and spiritual life, man does these things.  Small wonder My poor world is heartsick and weary.

Not so must you act.

runnerThis one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind ... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.  Philippians 3:13,14

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/30/20

# “Yes—But…!”



Lord, I will follow You, but… —[Luke 9:61](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+9%3A61)

Suppose God tells you to do something that is an enormous test of your common sense, totally going against it. What will you do? Will you hold back? If you get into the habit of doing something physically, you will do it every time you are tested until you break the habit through sheer determination. And the same is true spiritually. Again and again you will come right up to what Jesus wants, but every time you will turn back at the true point of testing, until you are determined to abandon yourself to God in total surrender. Yet we tend to say, “Yes, but— suppose I do obey God in this matter, what about…?” Or we say, “Yes, I will obey God if what He asks of me doesn’t go against my common sense, but don’t ask me to take a step in the dark.”

Jesus Christ demands the same unrestrained, adventurous spirit in those who have placed their trust in Him that the natural man exhibits. If a person is ever going to do anything worthwhile, there will be times when he must risk everything by his leap in the dark. In the spiritual realm, Jesus Christ demands that you risk everything you hold on to or believe through common sense, and leap by faith into what He says. Once you obey, you will immediately find that what He says is as solidly consistent as common sense.

By the test of common sense, Jesus Christ’s statements may seem mad, but when you test them by the trial of faith, your findings will fill your spirit with the awesome fact that they are the very words of God. Trust completely in God, and when He brings you to a new opportunity of adventure, offering it to you, see that you take it. We act like pagans in a crisis— only one out of an entire crowd is daring enough to invest his faith in the character of God.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

To those who have had no agony Jesus says, “I have nothing for you; stand on your own feet, square your own shoulders. I have come for the man who knows he has a bigger handful than he can cope with, who knows there are forces he cannot touch; I will do everything for him if he will let Me. Only let a man grant he needs it, and I will do it for him.” The Shadow of an Agony, 1166 R

# CCEL – 5/30/20

Let us labour to enter into that rest.—[HEB. 4:11.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.11)

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction: . . . strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.—The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.—Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you.—Give diligence to make your calling and election sure: . . . for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.—The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

[Matt. 7:13,14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.7.html" \l "Matt.7.13). -[Matt. 11:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.11.html" \l "Matt.11.12). -[John 6:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.27). –[II Pet. 1:10,11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.1.html" \l "iiPet.1.10). -[I Cor. 9:24,25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.9.html" \l "iCor.9.24).[Heb. 4:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.10). -[Isa. 60:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.60.html" \l "Isa.60.19).

“Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines.” **[Song of Solomon 2:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.2.html" \l "Song.2.15)**

A little thorn may cause much suffering. A little cloud may hide the sun. Little foxes spoil the vines; and little sins do mischief to the tender heart. These little sins burrow in the soul, and make it so full of that which is hateful to Christ, that he will hold no comfortable fellowship and communion with us. A great sin cannot destroy a Christian, but a little sin can make him miserable. Jesus will not walk with his people unless they drive out every known sin. He says, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” Some Christians very seldom enjoy their Saviour’s presence. How is this? Surely it must be an affliction for a tender child to be separated from his father. Art thou a child of God, and yet satisfied to go on without seeing thy Father’s face? What! thou the spouse of Christ, and yet content without his company! Surely, thou hast fallen into a sad state, for the chaste spouse of Christ mourns like a dove without her mate, when he has left her. Ask, then, the question, what has driven Christ from thee? He hides his face behind the wall of thy sins. That wall may be built up of little pebbles, as easily as of great stones. The sea is made of drops; the rocks are made of grains: and the sea which divides thee from Christ may be filled with the drops of thy little sins; and the rock which has well nigh wrecked thy barque, may have been made by the daily working of the coral insects of thy little sins. If thou wouldst live with Christ, and walk with Christ, and see Christ, and have fellowship with Christ, take heed of “the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes.” Jesus invites you to go with him and take them. He will surely, like Samson, take the foxes at once and easily. Go with him to the hunting.

# Word Live – 5/30/20

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

# Scripture Union – 5/30/20

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

# Today in the Word – 5/30/20

# God Is Faithful

**Read:** [**2 Timothy 4:9–18**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a9%e2%80%9318)

### Personal Remarks

9Do your best to come to me quickly, 10for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. 11Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 12I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 13When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

14Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

16At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. 18The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned for 14 years in Romania for his faith in Christ. He was eventually ransomed and immigrated to America. Upon arriving, he founded a ministry called Voice of the Martyrs. The purpose was not only to raise awareness about Christians around the world who were persecuted but also to encourage and help those who were suffering. He wanted them to know they were not alone.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:18

In today’s reading, Paul urges Timothy to “do your best to come to me quickly” (v. 9). One reason is that Paul is feeling isolated and alone. Many of his associates had left him for various reasons. Crescens and Titus were both traveling for ministry purposes (v. 10). Demas, who had once been a close ministry partner of Paul’s, abandoned him “because he loved this world” (v. 10).

Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark (v. 11). This is the same Mark whom Paul did not want to bring on his second missionary journey because he had previously abandoned them (Acts 15:36–40). We do not know the whole story, but Mark had been rehabilitated in Paul’s eyes. He was now “helpful to me in my ministry” (v. 11).

In spite of his feeling of isolation, Paul knew he was not really alone. At his first defense, “the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength” (v. 16). Paul’s ultimate desire in his trial was not his acquittal, but that “through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it” (v. 17). To the very end, Paul had a clear-eyed focus on his mission to proclaim Jesus as Lord.

>> It is possible to feel isolated as a Christian even if we are not in prison for the faith. When we are in that situation, we can follow Paul’s example. He asked for help. He understood that he needed fellowship. He also reminded himself that God was present with him at all times. He was not alone.

### Pray with Us

Today’s Scripture shows us the heartbreak of isolation and the importance of community. Praise God for the people around you, your church, your work community, and your friends. Ask Him to be with you in times of loneliness.

## BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/30/20

# Do Whatever

 **Read:** [**Ecclesiastes 2:17–25**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eccles%202.17%E2%80%9325)

### Toil Is Meaningless

17So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 18I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. 19And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. 20So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. 21For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. 22What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? 23All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

24A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, 25for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

For without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? [Ecclesiastes 2:25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eccles%202.25)

In a recent film, a self-proclaimed “genius” rants to the camera about the world’s “horror, corruption, ignorance, and poverty,” declaring life to be godless and absurd. While such thinking isn’t unusual in many modern film scripts, what’s interesting is where it leads. In the end, the lead character turns to the audience and implores us to do whatever it takes to find a little happiness. For him, this includes leaving traditional morality behind.

But will “do whatever” work? Facing his own despair at life’s horrors, the Old Testament writer of Ecclesiastes gave it a try long ago, searching for happiness through pleasure ([Ecclesiastes 2:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eccles%202.1), [10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ecclesiastes%202.10)), grand work projects (vv. 4–6), riches (vv. 7–9), and philosophical inquiry (vv. 12–16). And his assessment? “All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind” (v. 17). None of these things is immune to death, disaster, or injustice (5:13–17).

Only one thing brings the writer of Ecclesiastes back from despair. Despite life’s trials, we can find fulfillment when God is part of our living and working: “for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?” (2:25). Life will at times feel meaningless, but “remember your Creator” (12:1). Don’t exhaust yourself trying to figure life out, but “fear God and keep his commandments” (v. 13).

Without God as our center, life’s pleasures and sorrows lead only to disillusionment.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How much do you seek happiness through things that won’t last? Since the writer of Ecclesiastes didn’t know the hope of resurrection, how would you consider his search in light of [Romans 8:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%208.11), [18–25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Romans%208.18%E2%80%9325)?

God, today I place You anew at the center of my living, working, joys, and disappointments, for without You nothing will satisfy or make sense.

#### Insight

[Ecclesiastes 2:17–25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eccles%202.17%E2%80%9325) is a good example of why the book of Ecclesiastes is sometimes viewed as depressing. The author bemoans the futility of work because in the end we leave what we’ve worked for to someone else who hasn’t worked for it. In addition, we don’t know how the inheritor will use it—wisely or foolishly.

It’s fascinating to read the author’s conclusion after his realization of the futility of working. He says to eat and drink and find satisfaction in our own toil (v. 24). The focus is on finding satisfaction in the work itself, not in the results or the benefits gained from it. But the culmination of this passage brings us back to God. Without Him, there can be no enjoyment in anything (v. 25).

# God Calling – 5/30/20

# The Devil's Death Knell

Our Lord, we praise Thee.

Praise is the devil's death knell.  Resignation, acceptance of My Will, obedience to it, have not the power to vanquish evil that praise has.

The joyful heart is my best weapon against all evil.  Oh! pray and praise.

You are learning your lesson.  You are being led out into a large place.  Go with songs of rejoicing.  Rejoice evermore.  Happy indeed if each day has its thrill of joy.

Talk to Me more during the day.  Look up into My Face - a look of Love, a feeling of security, a thrill of Joy at the sense of the nearness of My Presence - these are your best prayers.

Let these smooth the day's work, then fear will vanish, and fear is the grim figure that turns aside success.

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me. Psalm 50:23

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/31/20

# Put God First



Jesus did not commit Himself to them…for He knew what was in man. —[John 2:24-25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+2%3A24-25)

**Put Trust in God First.** Our Lord never put His trust in any person. Yet He was never suspicious, never bitter, and never lost hope for anyone, because He put His trust in God first. He trusted absolutely in what God’s grace could do for others. If I put my trust in human beings first, the end result will be my despair and hopelessness toward everyone. I will become bitter because I have insisted that people be what no person can ever be— absolutely perfect and right. Never trust anything in yourself or in anyone else, except the grace of God.

**Put God’s Will First.** “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God” ([Hebrews 10:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+10:9)).

A person’s obedience is to what he sees to be a need— our Lord’s obedience was to the will of His Father. The rallying cry today is, “We must get to work! The heathen are dying without God. We must go and tell them about Him.” But we must first make sure that God’s “needs” and His will in us personally are being met. Jesus said, “…tarry…until you are endued with power from on high” ([Luke 24:49](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24:49)). The purpose of our Christian training is to get us into the right relationship to the “needs” of God and His will. Once God’s “needs” in us have been met, He will open the way for us to accomplish His will, meeting His “needs” elsewhere.

**Put God’s Son First.** “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me” ([Matthew 18:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18:5)).

God came as a baby, giving and entrusting Himself to me. He expects my personal life to be a “Bethlehem.” Am I allowing my natural life to be slowly transformed by the indwelling life of the Son of God? God’s ultimate purpose is that His Son might be exhibited in me.

**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 – 5/31/20

Thy name shall be called Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.—[GEN. 32:28.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.32.html" \l "Gen.32.28)

By his strength he had power with God: yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him.—Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.—If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.—Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Lord, increase our faith.

[Hos. 12:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Hos.12.html" \l "Hos.12.3). -[Rom. 4:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.4.html" \l "Rom.4.20).[Mark 11:22-24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.11.html" \l "Mark.11.22). -[Mark 9:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.9.html" \l "Mark.9.23). -[Luke 1:45](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.1.html" \l "Luke.1.45). -[Luke 17:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.17.html" \l "Luke.17.5).

“The king also himself passed over the brook Kidron.” **[2 Samuel 15:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiSam.15.html" \l "iiSam.15.23)**

David passed that gloomy brook when flying with his mourning company from his traitor son. The man after God’s own heart was not exempt from trouble, nay, his life was full of it. He was both the Lord’s Anointed, and the Lord’s Afflicted. Why then should we expect to escape? At sorrow’s gates the noblest of our race have waited with ashes on their heads; wherefore then should we complain as though some strange thing had happened unto us?

The King of kings himself was not favoured with a more cheerful or royal road. He passed over the filthy ditch of Kidron, through which the filth of Jerusalem flowed. God had one Son without sin, but not a single child without the rod. It is a great joy to believe that Jesus has been tempted in all points like as we are. What is our Kidron this morning? Is it a faithless friend, a sad bereavement, a slanderous reproach, a dark foreboding? The King has passed over all these. Is it bodily pain, poverty, persecution, or contempt? Over each of these Kidrons the King has gone before us. “In all our afflictions he was afflicted.” The idea of strangeness in our trials must be banished at once and forever, for he who is the Head of all saints, knows by experience the grief which we think so peculiar. All the citizens of Zion must be free of the Honourable Company of Mourners, of which the Prince Immanuel is Head and Captain.

Notwithstanding the abasement of David, he yet returned in triumph to his city, and David’s Lord arose victorious from the grave; let us then be of good courage, for we also shall win the day. We shall yet with joy draw water out of the wells of salvation, though now for a season we have to pass by the noxious streams of sin and sorrow. Courage, soldiers of the Cross, the King himself triumphed after going over Kidron, and so shall you.

# Word Live – 5/31/20

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

# Scripture Union – 5/31/20

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# Today in the Word – 5/31/20

# From Generation to Generation

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/31/20

# Put God First

[**2 Timothy 4:19–22**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a19%e2%80%9322)

### Final Greetings

19Greet Priscilla[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a19%e2%80%9322#fen-NIV-29890a)] and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. 20Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. 21Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a19%e2%80%9322" \l "fen-NIV-29892b" \o "See footnote b)]

22The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

#### Footnotes:

1. [2 Timothy 4:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a19%e2%80%9322#en-NIV-29890) Greek Prisca, a variant of Priscilla
2. [2 Timothy 4:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+4%3a19%e2%80%9322#en-NIV-29892) The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family.

It is difficult to see your children struggle. Paul looked upon Timothy as his spiritual son. He knew Timothy faced opposition and discouragement. As one of his last acts, he sent the younger leader these letters to encourage and equip him to face the task. Paul understood that the future of the church depended upon the next generation. He desired to pass on his wisdom and experience.

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. Psalm 71:18

As we reflect on these two letters, three major themes stand out. The first is that salvation is both our present reality and our future hope. Jesus has already achieved everything we need for the forgiveness of sins (1 Tim. 1:15–16; 2 Tim. 1:9–10). There is nothing we can add to what Christ has done (1 Tim. 2:5–6). However, the full implementation of Jesus’ victory over sin and Satan remains a future hope. The present is described as “the last days,” which are times of difficulty and strife (2 Tim. 3:1). Thus, Timothy (and we) should not be surprised if ministry involves suffering (2 Tim. 3:12). Even so, we have a glorious, future hope to anticipate. One day, Jesus will return and that hope should inspire and encourage us to persevere (1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1).

Until Christ returns, the church has an important mission to accomplish. Most of the teaching about qualifications for church leaders, the role of men and women in church, and how to organize worship is designed to help the church be more effective in fulfilling its mission of proclaiming the gospel.

Finally, the gospel should transform our lives, so that we live as a new creation! The key word for this change is “godliness” (1 Tim. 4:8). It is this transformed life that authenticates the gospel message.

>> When we get discouraged, we should look back at what Christ has done, look forward to His return, and look around us to see changed lives. Praise God for who He is, for what He is doing, and for His imminent return.

### Pray with Us

Concluding our prayer journey this month, we thank the Lord for the treasure of His Word. We praise the Father for His faithfulness to all generations. And we thank the Today in the Word family for studying the Bible and praying with us!

## BY Ryan Cook

# Our Daily Bread – 5/31/20

# Easy Does It

**Read:** [**Philippians 2:12–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.12%E2%80%9318)

### Do Everything Without Grumbling

12Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

14Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A12%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29407a)] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. 17But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Philippians 2:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A12%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29407) Deut. 32:5

It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. [Philippians 2:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.13)

My father and I used to fell trees and cut them to size with a two-man crosscut saw. Being young and energetic, I tried to force the saw into the cut. “Easy does it,” my father would say. “Let the saw do the work.”

I think of Paul’s words in Philippians: “It is God who works in you” (2:13). Easy does it. Let Him do the work of changing us.

C. S. Lewis said that growth is much more than reading what Christ said and carrying it out. He explained, “A real Person, Christ, . . . is doing things to you . . . gradually turning you permanently into . . . a new little Christ, a being which . . . shares in His power, joy, knowledge and eternity.”

God is at that process today. Sit at the feet of Jesus and take in what He has to say. Pray. “Keep yourselves in God’s love” ([Jude 1:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jude%201.21)), reminding yourself all day long that you are His. Rest in the assurance that He’s gradually changing you.

“But shouldn’t we hunger and thirst for righteousness?” you ask. Picture a small child trying to get a gift high on a shelf, his eyes glittering with desire. His father, sensing that desire, brings the gift down to him.

The work is God’s; the joy is ours. Easy does it. We shall get there some day.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What does it mean to you that “It is God who works in you”? What do you want Him to do in you?

God, I’m grateful that You’re changing my heart and actions to make me like Jesus. Please give me a humble attitude to learn from You.

#### Insight

Today’s passage begins with “therefore” (v. 12), building on the teaching in verses 1–11 to follow Jesus’ humility and selfless and sacrificial example as we live out this Christlike life. In instructing us to “continue to work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling” (v. 12), Paul isn’t saying that we’re to work for our salvation, for our salvation is a gift from God ([Ephesians 2:8–9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%202.8%E2%80%939)). Rather, Paul reminds us of our responsibility as believers in Jesus. Now that we’re saved, we’re to “work hard to show the results of [our] salvation” ([Philippians 2:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.12) nlt). By the empowerment of the Spirit, we’re to “produce fruit in keeping with repentance” ([Matthew 3:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%203.8)), to show to the world that we’re “blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation,’ ” and to shine “like stars in the sky” in a world darkened by sin ([Philippians 2:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.15)).

# God Calling – 5/31/20

# Prayer Without Words

Lord, hear us, we pray.

Hear and I answer.  Spend much time in prayer.  Prayer is of many kinds, but of whatever kind, prayer is the linking up of the soul and mind and heart to God.

So that if it is only a glance of faith, a look or word of Love, or confidence, and no supplication is expressed, it yet follows that supply and all necessary are secured.

Because the soul, being linked to God, united to Him, receives in and through Him all things.  And the soul, when in human form, needs too the things belonging to its habitation.

Pray without ceasing.  1 Thessalonians 5:17

# My Utmost for His Highest – 6/1/20

# The Staggering Question



He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" —[Ezekiel 37:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Ezekiel+37%3A3)

Can a sinner be turned into a saint? Can a twisted life be made right? There is only one appropriate answer— “O Lord God, You know” ([Ezekiel 37:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+37:3)). Never forge ahead with your religious common sense and say, “Oh, yes, with just a little more Bible reading, devotional time, and prayer, I see how it can be done.”

It is much easier to do something than to trust in God; we see the activity and mistake panic for inspiration. That is why we see so few fellow workers with God, yet so many people working for God. We would much rather work for God than believe in Him. Do I really believe that God will do in me what I cannot do? The degree of hopelessness I have for others comes from never realizing that God has done anything for me. Is my own personal experience such a wonderful realization of God’s power and might that I can never have a sense of hopelessness for anyone else I see? Has any spiritual work been accomplished in me at all? The degree of panic activity in my life is equal to the degree of my lack of personal spiritual experience.

“Behold, O My people, I will open your graves…” ([Ezekiel 37:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+37:12)). When God wants to show you what human nature is like separated from Himself, He shows it to you in yourself. If the Spirit of God has ever given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God (and He will only do this when His Spirit is at work in you), then you know that in reality there is no criminal half as bad as you yourself could be without His grace. My “grave” has been opened by God and “I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells” ([Romans 7:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+7:18)). God’s Spirit continually reveals to His children what human nature is like apart from His grace.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

To those who have had no agony Jesus says, “I have nothing for you; stand on your own feet, square your own shoulders. I have come for the man who knows he has a bigger handful than he can cope with, who knows there are forces he cannot touch; I will do everything for him if he will let Me. Only let a man grant he needs it, and I will do it for him.” The Shadow of an Agony, 1166 R

# CCEL – 6/1/20

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

The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.—Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.—Charity suffereth long, and is kind.

In due season we shall reap, if we faint not.—Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

[Exo. 34:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.34.html" \l "Exod.34.6).[Eph. 4:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.1). -[Eph. 4:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.32). -[Jas. 3:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.3.html" \l "Jas.3.17). -[I Cor. 13:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.13.html" \l "iCor.13.4).[Gal. 6:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.6.html" \l "Gal.6.9). -[Jas. 5:7,8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.5.html" \l "Jas.5.7).

“The evening and the morning were the first day.” **[Genesis 1:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.1.html" \l "Gen.1.5)**

Was it so even in the beginning? Did light and darkness divide the realm of time in the first day? Then little wonder is it if I have also changes in my circumstances from the sunshine of prosperity to the midnight of adversity. It will not always be the blaze of noon even in my soul concerns, I must expect at seasons to mourn the absence of my former joys, and seek my Beloved in the night. Nor am I alone in this, for all the Lord’s beloved ones have had to sing the mingled song of judgment and of mercy, of trial and deliverance, of mourning and of delight. It is one of the arrangements of Divine providence that day and night shall not cease either in the spiritual or natural creation till we reach the land of which it is written, “there is no night there.” What our heavenly Father ordains is wise and good.

What, then, my soul, is it best for thee to do? Learn first to be content with this divine order, and be willing, with Job, to receive evil from the hand of the Lord as well as good. Study next, to make the outgoings of the morning and the evening to rejoice. Praise the Lord for the sun of joy when it rises, and for the gloom of evening as it falls. There is beauty both in sunrise and sunset; sing of it, and glorify the Lord. Like the nightingale, pour forth thy notes at all hours. Believe that the night is as useful as the day. The dews of grace fall heavily in the night of sorrow. The stars of promise shine forth gloriously amid the darkness of grief. Continue thy service under all changes. If in the day thy watchword be labour, at night exchange it for watch. Every hour has its duty, do thou continue in thy calling as the Lord’s servant until he shall suddenly appear in his glory. My soul, thine evening of old age and death is drawing near; dread it not, for it is part of the day; and the Lord has said, “I will cover him all the day long.”

# Word Live – 6/1/20

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

# Scripture Union – 6/1/20

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

# Today in the Word – 6/1/20

# We All Fail

 **Read:** [**Ecclesiastes 9:1–10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+9%3a1%e2%80%9310)

### A Common Destiny for All

9 So I reflected on all this and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God’s hands, but no one knows whether love or hate awaits them. 2All share a common destiny—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+9%3a1%e2%80%9310" \l "fen-NIV-17478a" \o "See footnote a)] the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.

As it is with the good,  
    so with the sinful;  
as it is with those who take oaths,  
    so with those who are afraid to take them.

3This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead. 4Anyone who is among the living has hope[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+9%3a1%e2%80%9310#fen-NIV-17480b)]—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!

5For the living know that they will die,  
    but the dead know nothing;  
they have no further reward,  
    and even their name is forgotten.  
6Their love, their hate  
    and their jealousy have long since vanished;  
never again will they have a part  
    in anything that happens under the sun.

7Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do. 8Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. 9Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun. 10Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Ecclesiastes 9:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+9%3a1%e2%80%9310#en-NIV-17478) Septuagint (Aquila), Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew does not have and the bad.
2. [Ecclesiastes 9:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+9%3a1%e2%80%9310#en-NIV-17480) Or What then is to be chosen? With all who live, there is hope

Have you ever felt that no matter how hard you try you are destined to fail? According to tradition, King Solomon wore a ring engraved with the words “This too shall pass.” When things were going badly, Solomon would look at it and remember not to get too anxious. And when things were going well, he would be reminded not to get too confident. The ring was a symbol of the fleeting and temporary nature of life.

The same destiny overtakes all. Ecclesiastes 9:3

In our fallen and sinful world, we can easily conclude that everything is doomed to failure. Solomon correctly observed that none of our earthly success will endure beyond the grave. Death is humanity’s “common destiny” (v. 2). Life will eventually end. Even our greatest accomplishments will one day be forgotten (vv. 5–6). If we view this present life as our primary goal, we will agree with William Shakespeare who said: “Life is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” Earthly wisdom can only advise us to enjoy life’s gifts and pleasures—such as food, marriage, and work—while we can (vv. 7–10).

We must never forget that only God gives life true meaning, and thankfully, we are in His hands (v. 1). This month, we’ll study what the Bible has to say about failure. We want to understand how God works through our personal failure and what the Bible teaches about failure and success. Then we will explore more fully God’s perspective, which is often the opposite of our own! We’ll look at sinful failure as a way to experience God’s gifts of forgiveness and hope. And finally, we’ll contrast our human weakness with God’s unfailing nature.

>> Studying failure may seem like a depressing topic. But we hope this month’s study will be a huge encouragement to you. When we better understand our human tendency to fail, we avoid pride and embrace humility. It will caution us to look at life’s meaning and success through God’s eyes.

### Pray with Us

As we begin this month’s devotional study, our prayer is that God will encourage you. Ask Him to reveal to you the way He sees failure and how He can and will use it for His glory.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 6/1/20

# Needing His Leading

### Today's Devotional Read: [Psalm 61](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2061) [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+61&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14821a)]

#### For the director of music. With stringed instruments. Of David.

1Hear my cry, O God;  
    listen to my prayer.

2From the ends of the earth I call to you,  
    I call as my heart grows faint;  
    lead me to the rock that is higher than I.  
3For you have been my refuge,  
    a strong tower against the foe.

4I long to dwell in your tent forever  
    and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+61&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14824b)]  
5For you, God, have heard my vows;  
    you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

6Increase the days of the king’s life,  
    his years for many generations.  
7May he be enthroned in God’s presence forever;  
    appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him.

8Then I will ever sing in praise of your name  
    and fulfill my vows day after day.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Psalm 61:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+61&version=NIV#en-NIV-14821) In Hebrew texts 61:1-8 is numbered 61:2-9.
2. [Psalm 61:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+61&version=NIV#en-NIV-14824) The Hebrew has Selah (a word of uncertain meaning) here.

From the ends of the earth I call to you. [Psalm 61:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2061.2)

Uncle Zaki was more than a friend to scholar Kenneth Bailey; he was his trusted guide on challenging excursions into the vast Sahara. By following Uncle Zaki, Bailey says that he and his team were demonstrating their complete trust in him. In essence, they were affirming, “We don’t know the way to where we are going, and if you get us lost we will all die. We have placed our total trust in your leadership.”

In a time of great weariness and heartache, David looked beyond any human guide, seeking direction from the God he served. In [Psalm 61:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2061.2) we read, “From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” He longed for the safety and relief of being ushered afresh into God’s presence (vv. 3–4).

God’s guidance in life is desperately needed for people the Scriptures describe as sheep that have “gone astray” ([Isaiah 53:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2053.6)). Left to ourselves, we would be hopelessly lost in the desert of a broken world.

But we are not left to ourselves! We have a Shepherd who leads us “beside quiet waters,” refreshes our souls, and guides us ([Psalm 23:2–3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2023.2%E2%80%933)).

Where do you need His leading today? Call on Him. He will never leave you.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What was it like when you felt lost? How can you begin to trust God’s desire to guide you like a shepherd in those times of seeking?

Loving Father, thank You for being my Shepherd and Guide. Help me to trust You and rest in Your wisdom, allowing Your Spirit to guide me through the challenging moments of life.

Listen to [Psalm 23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2023): A Psalm of a Good Shepherd at [discovertheword.org/series/a-psalm-of-a-good-shepherd.](https://discovertheword.org/series/a-psalm-of-a-good-shepherd.)

#### Insight

Historical context for [Psalm 61](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2061) isn’t provided in the superscription, so the only thing we know about the background for this psalm is that David is being pursued. Fleeing from Jerusalem, he prays, “From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint” (v. 2). We’re not told who was pursuing him; however, some scholars believe there may be a clue in verse 6: David asks for God to prolong “the king’s life.” This seems to indicate that this is a different time period than when he was pursued by Saul to prevent him from becoming king. In this psalm, David is already king, which would more likely place it during the time he fled from the attempted coup orchestrated by his son Absalom.

# God Calling – 6/1/20

# Companionship

The way of the soul's transformation is the Way of Divine Companionship.

Not so much the asking Me to make you this or that but the living with Me, thinking of Me, talking to Me - thus you grow like Me.

Love Me.  Rest in Me.

Joy in Me.

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.  Song of Solomon 6:3