# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/28/21

# The “Go” of Unconditional Identification



Jesus…said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor…and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." —[Mark 10:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Mark+10%3A21%C2%A0)

The rich young ruler had the controlling passion to be perfect. When he saw Jesus Christ, he wanted to be like Him. Our Lord never places anyone’s personal holiness above everything else when He calls a disciple. Jesus’ primary consideration is my absolute annihilation of my right to myself and my identification with Him, which means having a relationship with Him in which there are no other relationships. [Luke 14:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:26) has nothing to do with salvation or sanctification, but deals solely with unconditional identification with Jesus Christ. Very few of us truly know what is meant by the absolute “go” of unconditional identification with, and abandonment and surrender to, Jesus.

“Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him…” ([Mark 10:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10:21)). This look of Jesus will require breaking your heart away forever from allegiance to any other person or thing. Has Jesus ever looked in this way at you? This look of Jesus transforms, penetrates, and captivates. Where you are soft and pliable with God is where the Lord has looked at you. If you are hard and vindictive, insistent on having your own way, and always certain that the other person is more likely to be in the wrong than you are, then there are whole areas of your nature that have never been transformed by His gaze.

“One thing you lack….” From Jesus Christ’s perspective, oneness with Him, with nothing between, is the only good thing.

“…sell whatever you have….” I must humble myself until I am merely a living person. I must essentially renounce possessions of all kinds, not for salvation (for only one thing saves a person and that is absolute reliance in faith upon Jesus Christ), but to follow Jesus. “…come…and follow Me.” And the road is the way He went.

**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 – 9/28/21

**They shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.**—[NUM. 6:27.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Num.6.html" \l "Num.6.27)

O Lord our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name.—We are thine: thou never barest rule over them; they were not called by thy name.

All people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee.—The Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.—Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God?—The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

[Isa. 26:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.26.html" \l "Isa.26.13). -[Isa. 63:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.63.html" \l "Isa.63.19).[Deut. 28:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.28.html" \l "Deut.28.10). -[I Sam. 12:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iSam.12.html#iSam.12.22).[Dan. 9:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Dan.9.html" \l "Dan.9.19). -[Psa. 79:9,10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.79.html" \l "Ps.79.9). -[Prov. 18:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.18.html" \l "Prov.18.10).

“The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.”

### [Psalm 33:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.33.html" \l "Ps.33.13)

Perhaps no figure of speech represents God in a more gracious light than when he is spoken of as stooping from his throne, and coming down from heaven to attend to the wants and to behold the woes of mankind. We love him, who, when Sodom and Gomorrah were full of iniquity, would not destroy those cities until he had made a personal visitation of them. We cannot help pouring out our heart in affection for our Lord who inclines his ear from the highest glory, and puts it to the lip of the dying sinner, whose failing heart longs after reconciliation. How can we but love him when we know that he numbers the very hairs of our heads, marks our path, and orders our ways? Specially is this great truth brought near to our heart, when we recollect how attentive he is, not merely to the temporal interests of his creatures, but to their spiritual concerns. Though leagues of distance lie between the finite creature and the infinite Creator, yet there are links uniting both. When a tear is wept by thee, think not that God doth not behold; for, “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.” Thy sigh is able to move the heart of Jehovah; thy whisper can incline his ear unto thee; thy prayer can stay his hand; thy faith can move his arm. Think not that God sits on high taking no account of thee. Remember that however poor and needy thou art, yet the Lord thinketh upon thee. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards him.

Oh! then repeat the truth that never tires;

No God is like the God my soul desires;

He at whose voice heaven trembles, even he,

Great as he is, knows how to stoop to me.

# Word Live – 9/28/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/28/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/28/21

# A Servant's Resume

**Read:** [**2 Corinthians 11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+11)

### **Paul and the False Apostles**

11 I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me! 2I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

5I do not think I am in the least inferior to those “super-apostles.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+11+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28995a)] 6I may indeed be untrained as a speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way. 7Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? 8I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. 9And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. 10As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. 11Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

12And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. 13For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

### **Paul Boasts About His Sufferings**

16I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then tolerate me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting. 17In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. 18Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. 19You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! 20In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face. 21To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. 22Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham’s descendants? So am I. 23Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

30If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. 31The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. 32In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. 33But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [2 Corinthians 11:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+11+&version=NIV#en-NIV-28995) Or to the most eminent apostles

Candidates who interview for a job are often put in the awkward position of trying to sell themselves to a potential employer. They list their accomplishments and describe their strengths in an attempt to portray themselves in the best possible light.

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. 2 Corinthians 11:30

Paul found himself in a similar position because of the criticism of those the Corinthians regarded as “super-apostles” but were really false teachers (vv. 5, 13). To counter their false narrative, Paul offered his own resume. Its most notable feature is the list of difficulties he had faced to advance the message of Christ. The result is a study in contrast.

The false apostles enriched themselves at the expense of those they were supposed to serve. One of the telltale signs of this was the way they had treated the Corinthians. They “put on airs” and abused them (v. 20). The more poorly they treated the Corinthians, the more impressed the Corinthians were with them!

These teachers claimed to serve Christ but “exploited” the church instead. The Greek term that the NIV translates as “exploit” in verse 20 literally meant to “eat up.” Paul’s use of such language may be an allusion to the condemnation of Israel’s leaders in Ezekiel 34. The Lord promised to “remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them” (Ezek. 34:10). While the false apostles boasted of their accomplishments and skills, Paul’s resume listed the hardships and difficulties he faced (2 Cor. 11:23–27). One of the most notable differences was Paul’s deep concern for the churches under his care: “Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?” (v. 29).

**Apply the Word**

Narcissistic leaders reverse God’s order. Instead of serving God’s flock, the flock serves them. Their so-called ministries are characterized by ego, abuse, and personal enrichment at the church’s expense. They are false shepherds.

### **Pray with Us**

Unmask the false shepherds in our midst, Father. We ask this for their sake, so that they may repent, and for the sake of their victims, so that they will no longer be deceived. In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/28/21

# Flight of Ichabod

### Today's Devotional **Read:** [**1 Samuel 4:12–22**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Sam%204.12%E2%80%9322)

### **Death of Eli**

12That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dust on his head. 13When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry.

14Eli heard the outcry and asked, “What is the meaning of this uproar?”

The man hurried over to Eli, 15who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes had failed so that he could not see. 16He told Eli, “I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day.”

Eli asked, “What happened, my son?”

17The man who brought the news replied, “Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.”

18When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and he was heavy. He had led[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+4%3A12%E2%80%9322&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7316a)] Israel forty years.

19His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains. 20As she was dying, the women attending her said, “Don’t despair; you have given birth to a son.” But she did not respond or pay any attention.

21She named the boy Ichabod,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+4%3A12%E2%80%9322&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7319b)] saying, “The Glory has departed from Israel”—because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. 22She said, “The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [1 Samuel 4:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+4%3A12%E2%80%9322&version=NIV#en-NIV-7316) Traditionally judged
2. [1 Samuel 4:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+4%3A12%E2%80%9322&version=NIV#en-NIV-7319) Ichabod means no glory.

The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured. [1 Samuel 4:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Sam%204.22)

In The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving tells of Ichabod Crane, a schoolteacher who seeks to marry a beautiful young woman named Katrina. Key to the story is a headless horseman who haunts the colonial countryside. One night, Ichabod encounters a ghostly apparition on horseback and flees the region in terror. It’s clear to the reader that this “horseman” is actually a rival suitor for Katrina, who then marries her.

Ichabod is a name first seen in the Bible, and it too has a gloomy backstory. While at war with the Philistines, Israel carried the sacred ark of the covenant into battle. Bad move. Israel’s army was routed and the ark captured. Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of the high priest Eli, were killed ([1 Samuel 4:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Sam%204.17)). Eli too would die (v. 18). When the pregnant wife of Phinehas heard the news, “she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains” (v. 19). With her last words she named her son Ichabod (literally, “no glory”). “The Glory has departed from Israel,” she gasped (v. 22).

Thankfully, God was unfolding a much larger story. His glory would ultimately be revealed in Jesus, who said of His disciples, “I have given them the glory that you [the Father] gave me” ([John 17:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2017.22)).

No one knows where the ark is today, but no matter. Ichabod has fled. Through Jesus, God has given us His very glory!

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What do you think it means for God to give us His glory? How have you experienced it?

Dear Father, thank You for revealing Your glory through Jesus. Make me mindful of Your presence throughout this day.

#### **Insight**

[First Samuel 4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Sam%204) tells an interesting narrative of the Israelites failing to consult God in critical times. In the beginning of the chapter, they were “defeated by the Philistines” (v. 2), which prompted the suggestion to take the ark of the covenant into battle (v. 3) without consulting with God. Not only did the elders suggest this, but Eli’s two sons were with the ark (vv. 3–4). They displayed a continued disinterest in God’s commands by taking the ark without consulting Him, and their choice resulted in their deaths (v. 11).

By: [**Julie Schwab**](https://odb.org/author/jschwab95/)

# God Calling – 9/28/21

# The Secret Path

Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.  Matthew 3:15

Upon this I founded My three years' Mission on earth -- on the acceptance of the difficulty and discipline of life so as to share that human life with My followers in all the ages.

Much that you both must accept in life is not to be accepted as being necessary for you personally, but accepted, as I accepted it, to set an example, to share in the sufferings and difficulties of mankind.

In this "to share" means "to save."  And there, too, for you both ... the same must be true as was so true of Me.  "He saved others.  Himself He cannot save."

Beloved, you are called to save and share in a very special way.  The way of sorrows if walked with Me, the Man of Sorrows, is a path kept sacred and secret for My nearest and dearest, those whose one desire is to do all for Me, to sacrifice all for Me, to count, as My servant Paul did, "all things but loss so that they might gain Me."

But, dreary as that Path must look to those who view if only from afar, it has tender lights and restful shades that no other walk in life can give.

I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.  For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass form the law, till all be fulfilled.  Matthew 5:17,18

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/29/21

# The Awareness of the Call



…for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! —[1 Corinthians 9:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Corinthians+9%3A16)

We are inclined to forget the deeply spiritual and supernatural touch of God. If you are able to tell exactly where you were when you received the call of God and can explain all about it, I question whether you have truly been called. The call of God does not come like that; it is much more supernatural. The realization of the call in a person’s life may come like a clap of thunder or it may dawn gradually. But however quickly or slowly this awareness comes, it is always accompanied with an undercurrent of the supernatural— something that is inexpressible and produces a “glow.” At any moment the sudden awareness of this incalculable, supernatural, surprising call that has taken hold of your life may break through— “I chose you…” ([John 15:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15:16)). The call of God has nothing to do with salvation and sanctification. You are not called to preach the gospel because you are sanctified; the call to preach the gospel is infinitely different. Paul describes it as a compulsion that was placed upon him.

If you have ignored, and thereby removed, the great supernatural call of God in your life, take a review of your circumstances. See where you have put your own ideas of service or your particular abilities ahead of the call of God. Paul said, “…woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” He had become aware of the call of God, and his compulsion to “preach the gospel” was so strong that nothing else was any longer even a competitor for his strength.

If a man or woman is called of God, it doesn’t matter how difficult the circumstances may be. God orchestrates every force at work for His purpose in the end. If you will agree with God’s purpose, He will bring not only your conscious level but also all the deeper levels of your life, which you yourself cannot reach, into perfect harmony.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

We begin our Christian life by believing what we are told to believe, then we have to go on to so assimilate our beliefs that they work out in a way that redounds to the glory of God. The danger is in multiplying the acceptation of beliefs we do not make our own. Conformed to His Image, 381 L

# CCEL – 9/29/21

**Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us.**—[I JOHN 3:16.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.16)

The love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.—Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.—Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.—Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.—For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.—Christ . . . suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

Ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.—We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

[Eph. 3:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.3.html" \l "Eph.3.19). -[John 15:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html" \l "John.15.13). -[II Cor. 8:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.8.html" \l "iiCor.8.9). -[I John 4:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.11). -[Eph. 4:32](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.32). -[Col. 3:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.13). -[Mark 10:45](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.10.html" \l "Mark.10.45). -[I Pet. 2:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.21).[John 13:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.13.html" \l "John.13.14). -[I John 3:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html#iJohn.3.16).

“Behold, if the leprosy have covered all his flesh, he shall pronounce him clean that hath the plague.” **[Leviticus 13:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lev.13.html" \l "Lev.13.13)**

Strange enough this regulation appears, yet there was wisdom in it, for the throwing out of the disease proved that the constitution was sound. This morning it may be well for us to see the typical teaching of so singular a rule. We, too, are lepers, and may read the law of the leper as applicable to ourselves. When a man sees himself to be altogether lost and ruined, covered all over with the defilement of sin, and no part free from pollution; when he disclaims all righteousness of his own, and pleads guilty before the Lord, then is he clean through the blood of Jesus, and the grace of God. Hidden, unfelt, unconfessed iniquity is the true leprosy, but when sin is seen and felt it has received its death blow, and the Lord looks with eyes of mercy upon the soul afflicted with it. Nothing is more deadly than self-righteousness, or more hopeful than contrition. We must confess that we are “nothing else but sin,” for no confession short of this will be the whole truth, and if the Holy Spirit be at work with us, convincing us of sin, there will be no difficulty about making such an acknowledgment—it will spring spontaneously from our lips. What comfort does the text afford to those under a deep sense of sin! Sin mourned and confessed, however black and foul, shall never shut a man out from the Lord Jesus. Whosoever cometh unto him, he will in no wise cast out. Though dishonest as the thief, though unchaste as the woman who was a sinner, though fierce as Saul of Tarsus, though cruel as Manasseh, though rebellious as the prodigal, the great heart of love will look upon the man who feels himself to have no soundness in him, and will pronounce him clean, when he trusts in Jesus crucified.

Come to him, then, poor heavy-laden sinner,

Come needy, come guilty, come loathsome and bare;

You can't come too filthy—come just as you are.

# Word Live – 9/29/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/29/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/29/21

# Serving in Weakness

**Read:** [**2 Corinthians 12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+12)

### **Paul’s Vision and His Thorn**

12 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 3And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— 4was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. 5I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, 7or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10That is why, 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.

### **Paul’s Concern for the Corinthians**

11I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29034a)] even though I am nothing. 12I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. 13How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

14Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? 16Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery! 17Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you? 18I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?

19Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. 20For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. 21I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [2 Corinthians 12:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#en-NIV-29034) Or the most eminent apostles

After the death of John the Baptist, Jesus withdrew to a solitary place, but the crowd followed Him there. As the evening drew near, the disciples expressed concern. “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late,” they said. “Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” They were stunned by Jesus’ reply. “They do not need to go away,” He told them. “You give them something to eat” (Matt. 14:13–17).

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Some people like to say that God will never give us what we can’t handle. But those who follow Christ often feel like the circumstances they face are overwhelming. Paul had some remarkable spiritual experiences. In verses 2–4 he even speaks of visions, referring to himself in the third person to downplay the experience. But Paul also struggled with something he describes as a “thorn in the flesh” (v. 7). This unspecified affliction was so troubling that Paul begged God three times to remove it. Instead, the Lord replied, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (v. 9). Paul delighted in his weaknesses not because he enjoyed them but because God used them to display His power.

Paul closes his defense by proving his genuineness on two levels. He reminds the Corinthians that God had validated his apostolic ministry through “signs, wonders and miracles” (v. 12). But more than this, Paul revealed his true character by refusing to imitate the selfishness and arrogance of the false apostles, even though some in Corinth might have preferred it. “After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children,” he explains in verse 14.

**Apply the Word**

The advice you have heard from well-meaning friends is wrong. God might give you more than you can handle. But God will never give you more than He can handle. Don’t be afraid of weakness. When you are weak, He is strong.

### **Pray with Us**

“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Rom. 5:3–4). We rejoice in our weakness, which magnifies Your strength!

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/29/21

# Joyful Learning

 **Read:** [**Romans 12:1–3**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2012.1%E2%80%933)

### **A Living Sacrifice**

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. [Romans 12:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2012.2)

In the city of Mysore, India, there’s a school made of two refurbished train cars connected end-to-end. Local educators teamed up with the South Western Railway Company to buy and remodel the discarded coaches. The units were essentially large metal boxes, unusable until workers installed stairways, fans, lights, and desks. Workers also painted the walls and added colorful murals inside and out. Now, sixty students attend classes there because of the amazing transformation that took place.

Something even more amazing takes place when we follow the apostle Paul’s command to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” ([Romans 12:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2012.2)). As we allow the Holy Spirit to uncouple us from the world and its ways, our thoughts and attitudes begin to change. We become more loving, more hopeful, and filled with inner peace (8:6).

Something else happens too. Although this transformation process is ongoing, and often has more stops and starts than a train ride, the process helps us understand what God wants for our lives. It takes us to a place where we “will learn to know God’s will” (12:2 nlt). Learning His will may or may not involve specifics, but it always involves aligning ourselves with His character and His work in the world.

Nali Kali, the name of the transformed school in India, means “joyful learning” in English. How’s God’s transforming power leading you to the joyful learning of His will?

By:  [Jennifer Benson Schuldt](https://odb.org/author/jenniferbschuldt/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Which areas of your thought life are most in need of God’s transforming power? How willing are you to act when you clearly understand His will for your life?

Dear God, I invite You to transform me by renewing my mind today. Thank You for all that’s possible when I surrender to You.

#### **Insight**

In the Old Testament, propitiatory sacrifices were offered to atone for sin. “The Lord will accept [the animal’s] death in your place to purify you, making you right with him” ([Leviticus 1:4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Lev%201.4) nlt; see 7:7). Dedicatory sacrifices (see [Leviticus 2–3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Lev%202%E2%80%933)), on the other hand, were offered voluntarily “as an expression of thanksgiving” to God (7:12 nlt). In response to Jesus’ atoning sacrifice on the cross that gives us new life ([Romans 3:25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%203.25); [6:4–10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Romans%206.4%E2%80%9310)), Paul exhorts us to offer ourselves as a dedicatory thanksgiving offering to God. We’re not all called to die for Jesus but to die to sin and to self (6:2–11; 8:12–13). Instead, Paul calls us to live for Him in His perfect will (12:2), in humility (v. 3), and in unity (vv. 4–8). “[Christ] died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them” ([2 Corinthians 5:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%205.15) nlt).

By: [**K. T. Sim**](https://odb.org/author/ktsim/)

# God Calling – 9/29/21

# I Touch Your Arm

**Thy touch has still its ancient Power**

Yes!  when you are quiet before Me I lay My Hand upon each head, and Divine Spirit flows through that healing, powerful Touch into your very beings.  Wait in silence before Me to feel that.

When you look to Me for guidance My Hand is laid upon your arm, a gentle Touch to point the way.  When in mental, physical, or spiritual weakness you cry to Me for healing, My Touch brings Strength and Healing, the renewal of your youth, the power to climb and strive.

When you faint by the way, and stumbling footsteps show human strength is waning, My Touch of the Strong and Helping Hand supports you on your Way.

Yes!  My Children, My touch has still its ancient Power and that Power is promised to you.  So go forward into the future bravely and unafraid.

And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment; and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.  Matthew 14:36

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/30/21

# The Assigning of the Call



I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church… —[Colossians 1:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Colossians+1%3A24)

We take our own spiritual consecration and try to make it into a call of God, but when we get right with Him He brushes all this aside. Then He gives us a tremendous, riveting pain to fasten our attention on something that we never even dreamed could be His call for us. And for one radiant, flashing moment we see His purpose, and we say, “Here am I! Send me” ([Isaiah 6:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+6:8)).

This call has nothing to do with personal sanctification, but with being made broken bread and poured-out wine. Yet God can never make us into wine if we object to the fingers He chooses to use to crush us. We say, “If God would only use His own fingers, and make me broken bread and poured-out wine in a special way, then I wouldn’t object!” But when He uses someone we dislike, or some set of circumstances to which we said we would never submit, to crush us, then we object. Yet we must never try to choose the place of our own martyrdom. If we are ever going to be made into wine, we will have to be crushed—you cannot drink grapes. Grapes become wine only when they have been squeezed.

I wonder what finger and thumb God has been using to squeeze you? Have you been as hard as a marble and escaped? If you are not ripe yet, and if God had squeezed you anyway, the wine produced would have been remarkably bitter. To be a holy person means that the elements of our natural life experience the very presence of God as they are providentially broken in His service. We have to be placed into God and brought into agreement with Him before we can be broken bread in His hands. Stay right with God and let Him do as He likes, and you will find that He is producing the kind of bread and wine that will benefit His other children.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The truth is we have nothing to fear and nothing to overcome because He is all in all and we are more than conquerors through Him. The recognition of this truth is not flattering to the worker’s sense of heroics, but it is amazingly glorifying to the work of Christ. Approved Unto God, 4 R

# CCEL – 9/30/21

**He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**—[JOB 23:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.23.html" \l "Job.23.10)

He knoweth our frame.—He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

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. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.—I . . . will refine them as silver is refined, . . . they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, the Lord is my God

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[Psa. 103:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.14). -[Lam. 3:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lam.3.html" \l "Lam.3.33).[II Tim. 2:19-21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiTim.2.html" \l "iiTim.2.19).[Mal. 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mal.3.html" \l "Mal.3.3). -[Zech. 13:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Zech.13.html" \l "Zech.13.9).

“Sing forth the honour of his name, make his praise glorious.” **[Psalm 66:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.66.html" \l "Ps.66.2)**

It is not left to our own option whether we shall praise God or not. Praise is God’s most righteous due, and every Christian, as the recipient of his grace, is bound to praise God from day to day. It is true we have no authoritative rubric for daily praise; we have no commandment prescribing certain hours of song and thanksgiving: but the law written upon the heart teaches us that it is right to praise God; and the unwritten mandate comes to us with as much force as if it had been recorded on the tables of stone, or handed to us from the top of thundering Sinai. Yes, it is the Christian’s duty to praise God. It is not only a pleasurable exercise, but it is the absolute obligation of his life. Think not ye who are always mourning, that ye are guiltless in this respect, or imagine that ye can discharge your duty to your God without songs of praise. You are bound by the bonds of his love to bless his name so long as you live, and his praise should continually be in your mouth, for you are blessed, in order that you may bless him; “this people have I formed for myself, they shall show forth my praise”; and if you do not praise God, you are not bringing forth the fruit which he, as the Divine Husbandman, has a right to expect at your hands. Let not your harp then hang upon the willows, but take it down, and strive, with a grateful heart, to bring forth its loudest music. Arise and chant his praise. With every morning’s dawn, lift up your notes of thanksgiving, and let every setting sun be followed with your song. Girdle the earth with your praises; surround it with an atmosphere of melody, and God himself will hearken from heaven and accept your music.

“E'en so I love thee, and will love,

And in thy praise will sing,

Because thou art my loving God,

And my redeeming King.”

# Word Live – 9/30/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/30/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/30/21

# Passing the Test

**Read:** [**2 Corinthians 13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+13)

### **Final Warnings**

13 This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2013&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29045a)] 2I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, 3since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. 4For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God’s power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

5Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 6And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. 7Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. 8For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. 9We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. 10This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

### **Final Greetings**

11Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

12Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13All God’s people here send their greetings.

14May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [2 Corinthians 13:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2013&version=NIV#en-NIV-29045) Deut. 19:15

Every child who has taken a long trip in the family car knows the fear of hearing a parent say, “Don’t make me come back there!” In the closing chapter of this book, the apostle issues a similar warning to the Corinthians. He planned to visit Corinth again to hold the church accountable for its behavior. The apostle signaled the sober nature of this visit by using the language of Deuteronomy 19:15, which required that two witnesses verify any accusation of wrongdoing. This may be figurative, implying that Paul’s two previous visits were enough to make the church culpable for its behavior. However, it is clear that Paul intended to discipline those who ignored his reproof (v. 2). His use of the future tense suggests that the apostle planned to bring accusations and lay out the evidence against his opponents.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Paul’s warning about Christ’s power was not an exaggeration. In his first letter to the Corinthians, he spoke of handing one of the church’s erring members “over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh” (1 Cor. 5:5). The apostle also revealed that God had disciplined the church through illness and death for observing the Lord’s Supper in an “unworthy manner” (1 Cor. 11:27–32).

By urging the Corinthians to test themselves to see if they are “in the faith,” Paul implied that the so-called super-apostles who have been attempting to turn the church against him were not true Christians (2 Cor. 13:5). This warning sheds light on what it means to be a Christian. When you come to Christ in faith, Christ is also “in you.” But there is more involved here than an experience. There is also allegiance. A key element of the test of faith is adherence to the truth (v. 8).

**Apply the Word**

The power to live as Christians comes from Christ Himself, who dwells within us. The understanding of what the Christian life should look like comes from Scripture. If you want to learn more, call 1-800-DL MOODY.

### **Pray with Us**

Thank You, hallowed Father, for making us the children of God, the siblings of Christ, and the temples of the Holy Spirit. We glorify You for Your mercy, power, and holiness. Make us ever more like You.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/30/21

# All That You Need

 **Read:** [**Psalm 73:23–28**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2073.23%E2%80%9328)

Yet I am always with you;  
    you hold me by my right hand.  
24You guide me with your counsel,  
    and afterward you will take me into glory.  
25Whom have I in heaven but you?  
    And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
26My flesh and my heart may fail,  
    but God is the strength of my heart  
    and my portion forever.

27Those who are far from you will perish;  
    you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.  
28But as for me, it is good to be near God.  
    I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge;  
    I will tell of all your deeds.

God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. [Psalm 73:26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2073.26)

Seated at the dining room table, I gazed at the happy chaos around me. Aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews were enjoying the food and being together at our family reunion. I was enjoying it all, too. But one thought pierced my heart: You’re the only woman here with no children, with no family to call your own.

Many single women like me have similar experiences. In my culture, an Asian culture where marriage and children are highly valued, not having a family of one’s own can bring a sense of incompleteness. It can feel like you’re lacking something that defines who you are and makes you whole.

That’s why the truth of God being my “portion” is so comforting to me ([Psalm 73:26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2073.26)). When the tribes of Israel were given their allotments of land, the priestly tribe of Levi was assigned none. Instead, God promised that He Himself would be their portion and inheritance ([Deuteronomy 10:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%2010.9)). They could find complete satisfaction in Him and trust Him to supply their every need.

For some of us, the sense of lack may have nothing to do with family. Perhaps we yearn for a better job or higher academic achievement. Regardless of our circumstances, we can embrace God as our portion. He makes us whole. In Him, we have no lack.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What’s one thing lacking in your life that you feel would make you whole? How can you surrender it to God and find satisfaction in Him as your portion?

Father, thank You for making me complete in Christ. Help me to say along with the psalmist, “As for me, it is good to be near God” ([Psalm 73:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2073.28)).

#### **Insight**

Asaph, whose name means “Jehovah has gathered,” was a Levite and one of David’s three chief musicians ([1 Chronicles 6:31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chron%206.31), [39–43](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chronicles%206.39%E2%80%9343); [15:16–17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chronicles%2015.16%E2%80%9317); [16:4–5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chronicles%2016.4%E2%80%935); [25:1–2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Chronicles%2025.1%E2%80%932)). He wrote twelve psalms that now bear his name ([Psalms 50](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2050), [73–83](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%2073%E2%80%9383)). In [Psalm 73](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2073), known as a wisdom psalm—a psalm that instructs readers how to deal with life’s challenges and pain—Asaph was bitterly overwhelmed by the injustice of the prosperity of the wicked (vv. 1–14, 21). But the moment he understood the presence of God in his life (vv. 23–24), his own glorious destiny (v. 24), and the destiny of the wicked (vv. 17, 27–28), his perspective on this material world and possessions changed. Drawing near to God and certain that “earth has nothing [he] desires,” Asaph embraced the sovereign God as his strength (Hebrew rock), portion, and refuge—his permanent and eternal possession (vv. 25–28).

By: [**K. T. Sim**](https://odb.org/author/ktsim/)

# God Calling – 9/30/21

# Wisdom

**As thy days so shall thy strength be.**

I have promised that for every day you live, the strength shall be given you.  Do not fear.

Face each difficulty sure that the wisdom and strength will be given you for it.  Claim it.

Rely on Me to keep My Promise about this.  In My Universe, for every task I give one of My children, there is  set aside all that is necessary for its performance.  So why fear?  So why doubt?

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts into wisdom.  Psalm 90:12

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/1/21

# The Place of Exaltation



…Jesus took…them up on a high mountain apart by themselves… —[Mark 9:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Mark+9%3A2)

We have all experienced times of exaltation on the mountain, when we have seen things from God’s perspective and have wanted to stay there. But God will never allow us to stay there. The true test of our spiritual life is in exhibiting the power to descend from the mountain. If we only have the power to go up, something is wrong. It is a wonderful thing to be on the mountain with God, but a person only gets there so that he may later go down and lift up the demon-possessed people in the valley (see [Mark 9:14-18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9:14-18)). We are not made for the mountains, for sunrises, or for the other beautiful attractions in life— those are simply intended to be moments of inspiration. We are made for the valley and the ordinary things of life, and that is where we have to prove our stamina and strength. Yet our spiritual selfishness always wants repeated moments on the mountain. We feel that we could talk and live like perfect angels, if we could only stay on the mountaintop. Those times of exaltation are exceptional and they have their meaning in our life with God, but we must beware to prevent our spiritual selfishness from wanting to make them the only time.

We are inclined to think that everything that happens is to be turned into useful teaching. In actual fact, it is to be turned into something even better than teaching, namely, character. The mountaintop is not meant to teach us anything, it is meant to make us something. There is a terrible trap in always asking, “What’s the use of this experience?” We can never measure spiritual matters in that way. The moments on the mountaintop are rare moments, and they are meant for something in God’s purpose.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 10/1/21

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

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. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled with the Spirit.

If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Let us not sleep, as do others: but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober.—Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we 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.

[I Cor. 9:25-27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.9.html" \l "iCor.9.25).[Eph. 5:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.5.html" \l "Eph.5.18).[Matt. 16:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.16.html" \l "Matt.16.24).[I Thes. 5:6-8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iThess.5.html" \l "iThess.5.6). -[Tit. 2:12,13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Titus.2.html" \l "Titus.2.12),.

“Pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.” [Song of Solomon 7:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.7.html" \l "Song.7.13)

The spouse desires to give to Jesus all that she produces. Our heart has “all manner of pleasant fruits,” both “old and new,” and they are laid up for our Beloved. At this rich autumnal season of fruit, let us survey our stores. We have new fruits. We desire to feel new life, new joy, new gratitude; we wish to make new resolves and carry them out by new labours; our heart blossoms with new prayers, and our soul is pledging herself to new efforts. But we have some old fruits too. There is our first love: a choice fruit that! and Jesus delights in it. There is our first faith: that simple faith by which, having nothing, we became possessors of all things. There is our joy when first we knew the Lord: let us revive it. We have our old remembrances of the promises. How faithful has God been! In sickness, how softly did he make our bed! In deep waters, how placidly did he buoy us up! In the flaming furnace, how graciously did he deliver us. Old fruits, indeed! We have many of them, for his mercies have been more than the hairs of our head. Old sins we must regret, but then we have had repentances which he has given us, by which we have wept our way to the cross, and learned the merit of his blood. We have fruits, this morning, both new and old; but here is the point—they are all laid up for Jesus. Truly, those are the best and most acceptable services in which Jesus is the solitary aim of the soul, and his glory, without any admixture whatever, the end of all our efforts. Let our many fruits be laid up only for our Beloved; let us display them when he is with us, and not hold them up before the gaze of men. Jesus, we will turn the key in our garden door, and none shall enter to rob thee of one good fruit from the soil which thou hast watered with thy bloody sweat. Our all shall be thine, thine only, O Jesus, our Beloved!

# Word Live – 10/1/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/1/21

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

# Today in the Word – 10/1/21

# Text, whiteboard Description automatically generatedThe Birth of Moses

**Read:** [**Exodus 2:1–10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3a1%e2%80%9310)

### **The Birth of Moses**

2 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1558a)] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

5Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

7Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

8“Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. 9Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1565b)] saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Exodus 2:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1558) The Hebrew can also mean ark, as in Gen. 6:14.
2. [Exodus 2:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1565) Moses sounds like the Hebrew for draw out.

I have been privileged to be present at the births of my four children, each one a joyful miracle! And every person involved, from family to friends to medical staff, wanted these babies to grow and thrive. I cannot imagine facing what Moses’ parents faced—a powerful government that wanted to murder their newborn son (Ex. 1:22).

He guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 97:10

Thankfully, God was watching over this special baby boy. After his birth, Moses’ parents hid him for three months. “They saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict” (Heb. 11:23). In today’s passage, the fact that his mother “saw that he was a fine child” seems to imply that the Lord gave them some kind of indication that Moses was special or chosen.

His parents are not named here. Later they’re identified as Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi, however, because of the way genealogies are recorded these might also be his ancestors rather than his immediate parents (Ex. 6:20). We do know that Moses had a brother, Aaron, and a sister, Miriam (Num. 26:59).

When hiding the baby was no longer possible, his parents put Moses in God’s hands, placing him in a basket and floating it down the Nile River. The basket was found by an Egyptian princess who, despite Pharaoh’s decree, took pity on the baby and adopted him into her family. She named him “Moses,” which sounds like the Hebrew for “draw out,” since she’d drawn him out of the water (v. 10).

Even when Moses was still a baby, the sovereign, protective hand of God was clearly at work! Through the boldness of Miriam, the baby’s own mother was hired to nurse him (vv. 7–9). Since at that time he would likely have been nursed for 3 to 4 years before being weaned, there is no doubt how Moses first learned of his Israelite heritage.

**Apply the Word**

Like Moses’ parents, we, too, can trust the Lord with the children in our lives, be they our children, grandchildren, or friends. We encourage you to say an extra prayer for them today!

### **Pray with Us**

Almighty God, You created each child we know, and You love them with a depth beyond our grasp. We thank You for our children, siblings, nieces, and nephews. Protect them from harm and draw them into Your eternal family.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/1/21

# What’s Your Name?

 **Read:** [**Revelation 2:12–17**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%202.12%E2%80%9317)

### **To the Church in Pergamum**

12“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

14Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it. [Revelation 2:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%202.17)

Someone said we go through life with three names: the name our parents gave us, the name others give us (our reputation), and the name we give ourselves (our character). The name others give us matters, as “a good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold” ([Proverbs 22:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%2022.1)). But while reputation is important, character matters more.

There’s yet another name that’s even more important. Jesus told the Christians in Pergamum that though their reputation had suffered some well-deserved hits, He had a new name reserved in heaven for those who fight back and conquer temptation. “To the one who is victorious, I will give . . . a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it” ([Revelation 2:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%202.17)).

We aren’t sure why Jesus promised a white stone. Is it an award for winning? A token for admission to the messianic banquet? Perhaps it’s similar to what jurors once used to vote for acquittal. We simply don’t know. Whatever it is, God promises our new name will wipe away our shame (see [Isaiah 62:1–5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2062.1%E2%80%935)).

Our reputation may be tattered, and our character may be seemingly beyond repair. But neither name ultimately defines us. It’s not what others call you nor even what you call yourself that matters. You are who Jesus says you are. Live into your new name.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How does your reputation match up against your character? How well is your character reflecting who you are in Jesus?

Father, I believe I am who You say I am. Help me to live as Your child.

To better understand the [book of Revelation](https://ChristianUniversity.org/NT030).

#### **Insight**

The letter to the church at Pergamum ([Revelation 2:12–17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev%202.12%E2%80%9317)) is the third of seven that Jesus dictates to John. These letters serve as specific messages to individual churches that then introduce the more general message of the remainder of the book of Revelation. All these churches were located in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and were in an area heavily served by Paul during his missionary journeys. In most of the letters, each church is given a list of commendations for their faithfulness as well as a set of criticisms for their shortcomings. For Pergamum, the commendations are found in verse 13, where Jesus acknowledges their difficult environment (where Satan dwells) and their faithfulness—even in the face of a member of the assembly being martyred. They were criticized for their allowance of those who promoted false teaching, idolatry, and immorality. Because the possibility for divine discipline exists, Jesus lovingly calls them to repentance.

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

# God Calling – 10/1/21

# Secret of Prosperity

Look unto me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth. -- Isaiah 45:22.

Look to no other source of Salvation. Only look unto Me. See no other supply. Look unto Me, and you shall be saved. Regard Me as your only supply. That is the secret of prosperity for you, and you in your turn shall save many from poverty and distress.

Whatever danger threatens look unto Me.... Whatever you desire or need, or desire or need for others, look to Me. Claim all from My Storehouse. Claim, claim, claim.

Remember that I fed the Children of Israel with Heaven-sent manna. I made a way through the Red Sea for them. I led them through the wilderness of privation, difficulty, discipline. I led them into a land flowing with milk and honey. So trust. So be led.

Rejoice. These are your wilderness days. But surely and safely, you are being led to your Canaan of Plenty.

The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses ... in all that thou settest thine hand unto ... in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.  Deuteronomy 23:8

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/2/21

# The Place of Humiliation



If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. —[Mark 9:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Mark+9%3A22)

After every time of exaltation, we are brought down with a sudden rush into things as they really are, where it is neither beautiful, poetic, nor thrilling. The height of the mountaintop is measured by the dismal drudgery of the valley, but it is in the valley that we have to live for the glory of God. We see His glory on the mountain, but we never live for His glory there. It is in the place of humiliation that we find our true worth to God— that is where our faithfulness is revealed. Most of us can do things if we are always at some heroic level of intensity, simply because of the natural selfishness of our own hearts. But God wants us to be at the drab everyday level, where we live in the valley according to our personal relationship with Him. Peter thought it would be a wonderful thing for them to remain on the mountain, but Jesus Christ took the disciples down from the mountain and into the valley, where the true meaning of the vision was explained (see [Mark 9:5-6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9:5-6), [Mark 9:14-23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9:14-23)).

“If you can do anything….” It takes the valley of humiliation to remove the skepticism from us. Look back at your own experience and you will find that until you learned who Jesus really was, you were a skillful skeptic about His power. When you were on the mountaintop you could believe anything, but what about when you were faced with the facts of the valley? You may be able to give a testimony regarding your sanctification, but what about the thing that is a humiliation to you right now? The last time you were on the mountain with God, you saw that all the power in heaven and on earth belonged to Jesus— will you be skeptical now, simply because you are in the valley of humiliation?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

If a man cannot prove his religion in the valley, it is not worth anything.  Shade of His Hand, 1200 L

# CCEL – 10/2/21

**The goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.**—[LEV. 16:22.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lev.16.html" \l "Lev.16.22)

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.—In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.—Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.—Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity?

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.—He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.—The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

[Psa. 103:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.103.html" \l "Ps.103.12). -[Jer. 50:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.50.html" \l "Jer.50.20). -[Mic. 7:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mic.7.html" \l "Mic.7.19). -[Mic. 7:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mic.7.html" \l "Mic.7.18).[Isa. 53:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.6). -[Isa. 53:11,12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.11). -[John 1:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.1.html" \l "John.1.29).

“The hope which is laid up for you in heaven.” [Colossians 1:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.5)

Our hope in Christ for the future is the mainspring and the mainstay of our joy here. It will animate our hearts to think often of heaven, for all that we can desire is promised there. Here we are weary and toilworn, but yonder is the land of rest where the sweat of labour shall no more bedew the worker’s brow, and fatigue shall be forever banished. To those who are weary and spent, the word “rest” is full of heaven. We are always in the field of battle; we are so tempted within, and so molested by foes without, that we have little or no peace; but in heaven we shall enjoy the victory, when the banner shall be waved aloft in triumph, and the sword shall be sheathed, and we shall hear our Captain say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” We have suffered bereavement after bereavement, but we are going to the land of the immortal where graves are unknown things. Here sin is a constant grief to us, but there we shall be perfectly holy, for there shall by no means enter into that kingdom anything which defileth. Hemlock springs not up in the furrows of celestial fields. Oh! is it not joy, that you are not to be in banishment forever, that you are not to dwell eternally in this wilderness, but shall soon inherit Canaan? Nevertheless let it never be said of us, that we are dreaming about the future and forgetting the present, let the future sanctify the present to highest uses. Through the Spirit of God the hope of heaven is the most potent force for the product of virtue; it is a fountain of joyous effort, it is the corner stone of cheerful holiness. The man who has this hope in him goes about his work with vigour, for the joy of the Lord is his strength. He fights against temptation with ardour, for the hope of the next world repels the fiery darts of the adversary. He can labour without present reward, for he looks for a reward in the world to come.

# Word Live – 10/2/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/2/21

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

# Today in the Word – 10/2/21

# A Failed Liberator

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

### **Moses Flees to Midian**

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

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

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

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

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

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

21Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3A11%E2%80%9325+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1577a)] saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

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

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Exodus 2:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+2%3A11%E2%80%9325+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1577) Gershom sounds like the Hebrew for a foreigner there.

When the religious leaders and Roman soldiers arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus, Peter sprang into action. The former fisherman drew a sword and swung wildly, cutting off the ear of the high priest’s servant. Any dreams of glory faded quickly when Jesus rebuked him, told him to put away the sword, and healed the servant’s ear (Matt. 26:47–56; Luke 22:47–51).

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12

In today’s passage, the “grown-up” Moses experienced that same feeling (v. 11). He, too, was a man of action. Pondering the plight of his people, he went out to observe them. He might have felt caught between two worlds—the luxury of the palace and the dreary existence of the slaves. In any case, he spontaneously intervened in an unjust situation, killing an Egyptian who was probably a slave taskmaster. Perhaps because he panicked, Moses hid the body.

The next day, he went out again but discovered that his vigilante murder had become known. Although the Israelite who told him didn’t sound grateful that Moses had tried to strike a blow for freedom, the phrase “ruler and judge” (v. 14) is exactly what Moses would indeed become.

Running from the wrath of Pharaoh, Moses fled to Midian (v. 15). The writer of Hebrews interprets Moses’ flight as primarily an act of faith, not fear (Heb. 11:27). Once again, God preserved Moses’ life against the king’s hostility, and He sovereignly brought him to the household of a leader and priest—Reuel, meaning “friend of God”—who apparently knew the one true God.

We can be sure it was difficult to adjust to life in the desert after growing up in a palace. But Moses settled down, married, and fathered two children. The stage was being set for God’s plan of liberation (vv. 23–25)!

**Apply the Word**

Moses’ timing was different from God’s timing. How difficult it can be for us to wait on the Lord! The ability to show patience, no matter how difficult the situation we face, is something we ask of God.

### **Pray with Us**

Lord, many of us are waiting for an answer, an unmet need, or some indication of what our next step should be. You are the only One who sees the whole picture; help us believe and trust You as we keep waiting.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/2/21

# Adolescent Faith

 **Read:** [**Deuteronomy 5:28–33**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%205.28%E2%80%9333)

28The Lord heard you when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me, “I have heard what this people said to you. Everything they said was good. 29Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

30“Go, tell them to return to their tents. 31But you stay here with me so that I may give you all the commands, decrees and laws you are to teach them to follow in the land I am giving them to possess.”

32So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. 33Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always. [Deuteronomy 5:29](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%205.29)

The teenage years are sometimes among the most agonizing seasons in life—for both parent and child. In my adolescent quest to “individuate” from my mother, I openly rejected her values and rebelled against her rules, suspicious their purposes were merely to make me miserable. Though we’ve since come to agree on those matters, that time in our relationship was riddled with tension. Mom undoubtedly lamented my refusal to heed the wisdom of her instructions, knowing they would spare me unnecessary emotional and physical pain.

God had the same heart for His children, Israel. God imparted His wisdom for living in what we know as the Ten Commandments ([Deuteronomy 5:7–21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%205.7%E2%80%9321)). Though they could be viewed as a list of rules, God’s intention is evident in His words to Moses: “so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” (v. 29). Moses recognized God’s desire, saying that obedience to the decrees would result in their enjoyment of His ongoing presence with them in the promised land (v. 33).

We all go through a season of “adolescence” with God, not trusting that His guidelines for living are truly meant for our good. May we grow into the realization that He wants what’s best for us and learn to heed the wisdom He offers. His guidance is meant to lead us into spiritual maturity as we become more like Jesus ([Psalm 119:97–104](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20119.97%E2%80%93104); [Ephesians 4:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%204.15); [2 Peter 3:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Pet%203.18)).

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How has God’s wisdom helped you grow in your relationship with Him? In what area of your life do you need to heed His wisdom?

Loving God, help me to trust that You know what’s best for me.

#### **Insight**

Just prior to Moses’ words to the Israelites in [Deuteronomy 5:28–32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%205.28%E2%80%9332), he’d given them a complete review of the Ten Commandments (vv. 6–21) and reminded them of their initial response of fear and awe when God’s presence had enveloped Mount Sinai (vv. 23–27; see [Exodus 20:18–21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2020.18%E2%80%9321)).

God found their response of fear and reverence entirely appropriate ([Deuteronomy 5:28](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%205.28)). Then, intriguingly, we catch a sense of longing in His voice: “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always” (v. 29). We’re to “fear” Him in the sense that we recognize His holiness and the respect and honor due Him, yet His heart yearns for us. It’s helpful to recall the words of [Hebrews 4:16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%204.16): “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

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

# God Calling – 10/2/21

# True Meekness

How easy it is to lead and guide when you are responsive to My wish! The hurts of life come only when you, or those about whom you care, endeavor to go your, or their, own way and resist the pressure of My Hand.

But in willing My Will there must be a gladness. Delight to do that Will.

"The meek shall inherit the earth," I said. That is, control others, and the material forces of the earth.

But this exultant state of possession is the result of a yielded will. That was My meaning of the word meek.

So live. So yield. So conquer.

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.  John 5:30

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/3/21

# The Place of Ministry



He said to them, "This kind [of unclean spirit] can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." —[Mark 9:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Mark+9%3A29)

“His disciples asked Him privately, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ ” ([Mark 9:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9:28)). The answer lies in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. “This kind can come out by nothing but” concentrating on Him, and then doubling and redoubling that concentration on Him. We can remain powerless forever, as the disciples were in this situation, by trying to do God’s work without concentrating on His power, and by following instead the ideas that we draw from our own nature. We actually slander and dishonor God by our very eagerness to serve Him without knowing Him.

When you are brought face to face with a difficult situation and nothing happens externally, you can still know that freedom and release will be given because of your continued concentration on Jesus Christ. Your duty in service and ministry is to see that there is nothing between Jesus and yourself. Is there anything between you and Jesus even now? If there is, you must get through it, not by ignoring it as an irritation, or by going up and over it, but by facing it and getting through it into the presence of Jesus Christ. Then that very problem itself, and all that you have been through in connection with it, will glorify Jesus Christ in a way that you will never know until you see Him face to face.

We must be able to “mount up with wings like eagles” ([Isaiah 40:31](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+40:31)), but we must also know how to come down. The power of the saint lies in the coming down and in the living that is done in the valley. Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” ([Philippians 4:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4:13)) and what he was referring to were mostly humiliating things. And yet it is in our power to refuse to be humiliated and to say, “No, thank you, I much prefer to be on the mountaintop with God.” Can I face things as they actually are in the light of the reality of Jesus Christ, or do things as they really are destroy my faith in Him, and put me into a panic?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The root of faith is the knowledge of a Person, and one of the biggest snares is the idea that God is sure to lead us to success. My Utmost for His Highest, March 19, 761 L

# CCEL – 10/3/21

**Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.**—[REV. 1:5.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.1.html" \l "Rev.1.5)

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.—Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.—In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Ye are washed, . . . ye are sanctified, . . . ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.—Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.—I beseech you . . . brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

[Song 8:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.8.html" \l "Song.8.7),[6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.8.html" \l "Song.8.6). -[John 15:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.15.html#John.15.13).[I Pet. 2:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.24). -[Eph. 1:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.7).[I Cor. 6:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.11). -[I Pet. 2:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.9). -[Rom. 12:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.12.html" \l "Rom.12.1).

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” [Hebrews 1:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.1.html" \l "Heb.1.14)

Angels are the unseen attendants of the saints of God; they bear us up in their hands, lest we dash our foot against a stone. Loyalty to their Lord leads them to take a deep interest in the children of his love; they rejoice over the return of the prodigal to his father’s house below, and they welcome the advent of the believer to the King’s palace above. In olden times the sons of God were favoured with their visible appearance, and at this day, although unseen by us, heaven is still opened, and the angels of God ascend and descend upon the Son of man, that they may visit the heirs of salvation. Seraphim still fly with live coals from off the altar to touch the lips of men greatly beloved. If our eyes could be opened, we should see horses of fire and chariots of fire about the servants of the Lord; for we have come to an innumerable company of angels, who are all watchers and protectors of the seed-royal. Spenser’s line is no poetic fiction, where he sings—

“How oft do they with golden pinions cleave

The flitting skies, like flying pursuivant

Against foul fiends to aid us militant!”

To what dignity are the chosen elevated when the brilliant courtiers of heaven become their willing servitors! Into what communion are we raised since we have intercourse with spotless celestials! How well are we defended since all the twenty- thousand chariots of God are armed for our deliverance! To whom do we owe all this? Let the Lord Jesus Christ be forever endeared to us, for through him we are made to sit in heavenly places far above principalities and powers. He it is whose camp is round about them that fear him; he is the true Michael whose foot is upon the dragon. All hail, Jesus! thou Angel of Jehovah’s presence, to thee this family offers its morning vows.

# Word Live – 10/3/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/3/21

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

# Today in the Word – 10/3/21

# Meeting God

**Read:** [**Exodus 3:1–15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3a1%e2%80%9315)

### **Moses and the Burning Bush**

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

4When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

5“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6Then he said, “I am the God of your father,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1586a)] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

11But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1592b)] will worship God on this mountain.”

13Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14God said to Moses, “I am who I am.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1594c)] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

15God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1595d)] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,  
    the name you shall call me  
    from generation to generation.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Exodus 3:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1586) Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch (see Acts 7:32) fathers
2. [Exodus 3:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1592) The Hebrew is plural.
3. [Exodus 3:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1594) Or I will be what I will be
4. [Exodus 3:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1%E2%80%9315+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1595) The Hebrew for Lord sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for I am in verse 14.

Rainbow eucalyptus trees are found in countries including Indonesia and the Philippines. Growing up to 250 feet high, they smell like honey, pine, and mint. Most amazingly, their trunks feature glowing colors. As the tree sheds strips of bark, different colors appear—green, red, orange, purple, and brown.

Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. Exodus 3:5

If we ever saw one of these strikingly beautiful trees, we’d no doubt stop for a closer look. That’s what Moses did in today’s reading when he saw a bush that was clearly burning but did not burn up (vv. 2–3). Moses had been taking care of sheep on “Horeb, the mountain of God” (v. 1), which is either another name for Mount Sinai or another mountain in the same region.

God first told Moses about Himself. He was the God who had made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (vv. 6, 15). Out of His covenant love and faithfulness, He intended to rescue His people from bondage and bring them to the promised land (vv. 7–10). His name then and today is simply “I AM,” indicating presence and faithfulness (v. 14; see John 8:58).

God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses at first responded with reverent fear, obediently taking off his shoes, hiding his face, and expressing a sense of unworthiness (v. 11). The Lord answered, “I will be with you,” and promised that he and the Israelites would worship God on that very mountain (v. 12). Moses, however, was reluctant. He doubted people would listen to him (v. 13) and claimed to be a poor public speaker (4:10). We are told, in fact, that he “was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action” (Acts 7:22). God’s response: “Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say” (4:12).

**Apply the Word**

Moses’ life can be divided into three periods: 40 years in Egypt, 40 years in Midian, and 40 years in the Exodus. What might God have for you to do in the final third of your life?

### **Pray with Us**

We have pledged our whole lives to You, not just the strength of our youth but also our aging bodies and our wisdom won over decades. Father, sustain our devotion to You and let us serve You until You take us home.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/3/21

# The Dwindles

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

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

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

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

#### **Footnotes**

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

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. [2 Corinthians 4:16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.16)

It started with a tickle in my throat. Uh oh, I thought. That tickle turned out to be influenza. And that was just the beginning of bronchial affliction. Influenza morphed into whooping cough—yes, that whooping cough—and that turned into pneumonia.

Eight weeks of torso-wracking coughing—it’s not called whooping cough for nothing—has left me humbled. I don’t think of myself as old. But I’m old enough to start thinking about heading in that direction. A member of my small group at church has a funny name for the health issues that assail us as we age: “the dwindles.” But there’s nothing funny about dwindling’s work “in action.”

In [2 Corinthians 4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204), Paul too wrote—in his own way—about “the dwindles.” That chapter chronicles the persecution he and his team endured. Fulfilling his mission had taken a heavy toll: “Outwardly we are wasting away,” he admitted. But even as his body failed—from age, persecution, and harsh conditions—Paul held tightly to his sustaining hope: “Inwardly we are being renewed day by day” (v. 16). These “light and momentary troubles,” he insisted, can’t compare to what awaits: “an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (v. 17).

Even as I write tonight, the dwindles claw insistently at my chest. But I know that in my life and that of anyone who clings to Christ, they’ll not have the last word.

By:  [Adam Holz](https://odb.org/author/adamholz/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What “dwindles” are affecting you or someone you love right now? What can help you maintain your faith and hope during seasons of struggle or discouragement with health issues?

Father, even as our bodies “waste away,” help me to see those physical struggles through the lens of our hope in Jesus and the glory He promises.

#### **Insight**

A common theme in Paul’s writing is the connection between human frailty and God’s power. In [2 Corinthians 4:7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%204.7), Paul says we’re like jars of clay, yet we hold great treasure. He illustrates this contrast by showing how the power of God has sustained him. Although he was persecuted, struck down, and continually faced harm because he was a believer in Jesus, he wasn’t crushed, in despair, abandoned, or destroyed because God’s power was at work in him (vv. 8–10). Paul returns to this theme in chapter 12, where he delights that God’s “power is made perfect in weakness” (12:9).

# God Calling – 10/3/21

# Blessed Assurance

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.  -- Isaiah 32:17.

Be still and know that I am God. Only when a soul attains this calm can there be true work done, and mind and soul and body be strong to conquer and to bear.

The Peace is the work of righteousness -- living the right life, living with Me. Quietness and assurance follow.

Assurance is the calm born of a deep certainty in Me, in My Promise, in My Power to save and keep. Gain this calm, and at all costs keep this calm. Rest in Me. Live in Me. Calm, quiet, assured -- at Peace.

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, ... Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.  1 Peter 1:2

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/4/21

# The Vision and The Reality



…to those who are…called to be saints… —[1 Corinthians 1:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Corinthians+1%3A2)

Thank God for being able to see all that you have not yet been. You have had the vision, but you are not yet to the reality of it by any means. It is when we are in the valley, where we prove whether we will be the choice ones, that most of us turn back. We are not quite prepared for the bumps and bruises that must come if we are going to be turned into the shape of the vision. We have seen what we are not, and what God wants us to be, but are we willing to be battered into the shape of the vision to be used by God? The beatings will always come in the most common, everyday ways and through common, everyday people.

There are times when we do know what God’s purpose is; whether we will let the vision be turned into actual character depends on us, not on God. If we prefer to relax on the mountaintop and live in the memory of the vision, then we will be of no real use in the ordinary things of which human life is made. We have to learn to live in reliance upon what we saw in the vision, not simply live in ecstatic delight and conscious reflection upon God. This means living the realities of our lives in the light of the vision until the truth of the vision is actually realized in us. Every bit of our training is in that direction. Learn to thank God for making His demands known.

Our little “I am” always sulks and pouts when God says do. Let your little “I am” be shriveled up in God’s wrath and indignation— “I AM WHO I AM…has sent me to you” ([Exodus 3:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3:14)). He must dominate. Isn’t it piercing to realize that God not only knows where we live, but also knows the gutters into which we crawl! He will hunt us down as fast as a flash of lightning. No human being knows human beings as God does.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

To read the Bible according to God’s providential order in your circumstances is the only way to read it, viz., in the blood and passion of personal life. Disciples Indeed, 387 R

# CCEL – 10/4/21

**Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.**—[EXO. 34:29.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.34.html" \l "Exod.34.29)

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory.—Lord, when saw we thee a hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?—In lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves.—Be clothed with humility.

[Jesus] was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.—All that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on Stephen, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.—The glory which thou gavest me, I have given them.—We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

[Psa. 115:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.115.html" \l "Ps.115.1). -[Matt. 25:37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.25.html" \l "Matt.25.37). -[Phi. 2:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.2.html" \l "Phil.2.3). -[I Pet. 5:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.5).[Matt. 17:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.17.html" \l "Matt.17.2). -[Acts 6:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.6.html" \l "Acts.6.15). -[John 17:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.22). -[II Cor. 3:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.3.html" \l "iiCor.3.18).[Matt. 5:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.5.html" \l "Matt.5.14).

“At evening time it shall be light.” [Zechariah 14:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Zech.14.html" \l "Zech.14.7)

Oftentimes we look forward with forebodings to the time of old age, forgetful that at eventide it shall be light. To many saints, old age is the choicest season in their lives. A balmier air fans the mariner’s cheek as he nears the shore of immortality, fewer waves ruffle his sea, quiet reigns, deep, still and solemn. From the altar of age the flashes of the fire of youth are gone, but the more real flame of earnest feeling remains. The pilgrims have reached the land Beulah, that happy country, whose days are as the days of heaven upon earth. Angels visit it, celestial gales blow over it, flowers of paradise grow in it, and the air is filled with seraphic music. Some dwell here for years, and others come to it but a few hours before their departure, but it is an Eden on earth. We may well long for the time when we shall recline in its shady groves and be satisfied with hope until the time of fruition comes. The setting sun seems larger than when aloft in the sky, and a splendour of glory tinges all the clouds which surround his going down. Pain breaks not the calm of the sweet twilight of age, for strength made perfect in weakness bears up with patience under it all. Ripe fruits of choice experience are gathered as the rare repast of life’s evening, and the soul prepares itself for rest.

The Lord’s people shall also enjoy light in the hour of death. Unbelief laments; the shadows fall, the night is coming, existence is ending. Ah no, crieth faith, the night is far spent, the true day is at hand. Light is come, the light of immortality, the light of a Father’s countenance. Gather up thy feet in the bed, see the waiting bands of spirits! Angels waft thee away. Farewell, beloved one, thou art gone, thou wavest thine hand. Ah, now it is light. The pearly gates are open, the golden streets shine in the jasper light. We cover our eyes, but thou beholdest the unseen; adieu, brother, thou hast light at even-tide, such as we have not yet.

# Word Live – 10/4/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/4/21

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

# Today in the Word – 10/4/21

# Meeting the People

**Read:** [**Exodus 4:19–31**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+4%3a19%e2%80%9331)

19Now the Lord had said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead.” 20So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.

21The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. 22Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, 23and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.’”

24At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+4%3A19%E2%80%9331+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1626a)] and was about to kill him. 25But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+4%3A19%E2%80%9331+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-1627b)] “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said. 26So the Lord let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood,” referring to circumcision.)

27The Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28Then Moses told Aaron everything the Lord had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform.

29Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, 30and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, 31and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Exodus 4:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+4%3A19%E2%80%9331+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1626) Hebrew him
2. [Exodus 4:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+4%3A19%E2%80%9331+&version=NIV#en-NIV-1627) The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

When we attend a family reunion, we expect the meet-up to be filled with love, good memories, and delicious food. We hope no one mentions that old family feud, much less any current conflict. We don’t want anyone to say,  You’ve changed . . . for the worse,” or to bring up past failures.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. Isaiah 41:10

For Moses, today’s reunion drew a mix of emotions. He was returning to Egypt as a former prince and wanted criminal. Some of the Israelite leaders surely remembered him and the circumstances surrounding his flight 40 years previously. Nonetheless, they listened to his message from God, witnessed the signs, and responded with worship (vv. 29–31).

God was in control of the situation. He reassured Moses that those who’d wanted him dead were dead themselves (v. 19). He’d given him the “staff of God,” called so because of the signs Moses would do with it (v. 20). He even graciously gave Moses an overview of what was coming, including signs and wonders, Pharaoh’s hard heart, the final plague, and the Israelites’ eventual liberation (vv. 21–23). Because Egypt would not free God’s “firstborn son”—a metaphor indicating their belovedness—they would pay the price with their own firstborn sons. God demanded obedience. Circumcision was still a key element of the covenant (Gen. 17), and the Lord was angry because Moses’ sons were uncircumcised. His wife, Zipporah, saved all their lives with a radical act of repentant obedience (vv. 24–26).

Moses met with Aaron, bringing him up-to-date on God’s instructions. Then he met with the elders or leaders of Israel, communicated God’s words, and performed the signs. In contrast to Moses’s earlier fears that they wouldn’t listen, their worshipful response made for a good start. Even so, the story had just begun!

**Apply the Word**

Are we able, like the Israelite elders, to trust and worship when our circumstances are negative or even miserable? Take heart, stand firm, God knows your situation even better than you do. He’s in control!

### **Pray with Us**

We are finite, seeing only our immediate surroundings and struggling to trust You with what we see. You are infinite and omniscient, able to bolster our courage and trust. Help us discern Your voice and obey.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/4/21

# Wherever We Worship

 **Read:** [**John 4:7–24**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%204.7%E2%80%9324)

7When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” 8(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A7%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26166a)])

10Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

11“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

15The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17“I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

19“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [John 4:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A7%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-26166) Or do not use dishes Samaritans have used

A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. [John 4:23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%204.23)

Intense pain and a debilitating headache prevented me from attending services with my local church family . . . again. Grieving the loss of community worship, I watched an online sermon. At first, complaints soured my experience. The poor sound and video quality distracted me. But then a voice on the video warbled a familiar hymn. Tears flowed as I sang these words: “Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me save that Thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.” Focusing on the gift of God’s constant presence, I worshiped Him while sitting in my living room.

While Scripture affirms the vital, essential nature of corporate worship ([Hebrews 10:25](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%2010.25)), God’s not bound within the walls of a church building. During Jesus’ chat with the Samaritan woman at the well, He defied all expectations of the Messiah ([John 4:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%204.9)). Instead of condemnation, Jesus spoke truth and loved her as she stood next to that well (v. 10). He revealed His intimate and sovereign knowledge of His children (vv. 17–18). Proclaiming His deity, Jesus declared that the Holy Spirit evoked true worship from the hearts of God’s people, not from a specific physical location (vv. 23–24).

When we focus on who God is, what He’s done, and all He’s promised, we can rejoice in His constant presence as we worship Him with other believers, in our living rooms . . . and everywhere!

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Where do you enjoy worshiping God? How do you enjoy His presence and experience joy while worshiping Him?

Amazing God, please help me worship You as I rejoice in who You are, what You’ve done, and all You promise to do.

#### **Insight**

Who were the Samaritans? According to [2 Kings 17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Kings%2017), after the Northern Kingdom of Israel was defeated by Assyria in 722 bc and most of its people taken into exile, other captured peoples were brought in to populate the region known as Samaria (v. 24). When they first arrived, they didn’t “worship the Lord,” and so God sent lions among them (v. 25). Then the king of Assyria sent a Jewish priest to the land to teach the people how to worship God, but the people continued to worship other gods (vv. 27–29). The Samaritans came from this exchange of peoples and mixture of beliefs.

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

# God Calling – 10/4/21

# All You Desire

He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. -- Isaiah 53:2.

My children, in this verse My servant Isaiah spoke of the wonderful illumination given to those who were Spirit-guided.

To those who know Me not, there is in Me nothing to appeal to them, or to attract them.

To those who know Me there is nothing more to be desired. "No beauty they could desire Him."

Oh! My children, draw very near to Me. See Me as I really am, that ever you may have the Joy of finding in Me all you could desire. The fulfillment of all you could desire in Master, Lord, or Friend.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the   
house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord...  Psalm 27:4