# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/8/19

# Coming to Jesus



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

Isn’t it humiliating to be told that we must come to Jesus! Think of the things about which we will not come to Jesus Christ. If you want to know how real you are, test yourself by these words— “Come to Me….” In every dimension in which you are not real, you will argue or evade the issue altogether rather than come; you will go through sorrow rather than come; and you will do anything rather than come the last lap of the race of seemingly unspeakable foolishness and say, “Just as I am, I come.” As long as you have even the least bit of spiritual disrespect, it will always reveal itself in the fact that you are expecting God to tell you to do something very big, and yet all He is telling you to do is to “Come….”

“Come to Me….” When you hear those words, you will know that something must happen in you before you can come. The Holy Spirit will show you what you have to do, and it will involve anything that will uproot whatever is preventing you from getting through to Jesus. And you will never get any further until you are willing to do that very thing. The Holy Spirit will search out that one immovable stronghold within you, but He cannot budge it unless you are willing to let Him do so.

How often have you come to God with your requests and gone away thinking, “I’ve really received what I wanted this time!” And yet you go away with nothing, while all the time God has stood with His hands outstretched not only to take you but also for you to take Him. Just think of the invincible, unconquerable, and untiring patience of Jesus, who lovingly says, “Come to Me….”

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

There is no condition of life in which we cannot abide in Jesus. We have to learn to abide in Him wherever we are placed. Our Brilliant Heritage

# CCEL – 10/8/19

**I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**—[HEB. 13:6.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html#Heb.13.6)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell: yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.—None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy.—I will speak of thy testimonies . . . before kings, and will not be ashamed.

[Rom. 8:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.35),[37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.37).[Luke 12:4,5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.12.html" \l "Luke.12.4).[Matt. 5:10-12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.5.html" \l "Matt.5.10). -[Acts 20:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.20.html" \l "Acts.20.24). -[Psa. 119:46](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.119.html" \l "Ps.119.46).

“Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.” **[Luke 5:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.5.html" \l "Luke.5.4)**

We learn from this narrative, the necessity of human agency. The draught of fishes was miraculous, yet neither the fisherman nor his boat, nor his fishing tackle were ignored; but all were used to take the fishes. So in the saving of souls, God worketh by means; and while the present economy of grace shall stand, God will be pleased by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. When God worketh without instruments, doubtless he is glorified; but he hath himself selected the plan of instrumentality as being that by which he is most magnified in the earth. Means of themselves are utterly unavailing. “Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing.” What was the reason of this? Were they not fishermen plying their special calling? Verily, they were no raw hands; they understood the work. Had they gone about the toil unskilfully? No. Had they lacked industry? No, they had toiled. Had they lacked perseverance? No, they had toiled all the night. Was there a deficiency of fish in the sea? Certainly not, for as soon as the Master came, they swam to the net in shoals. What, then, is the reason? Is it because there is no power in the means of themselves apart from the presence of Jesus? “Without him we can do nothing.” But with Christ we can do all things. Christ’s presence confers success. Jesus sat in Peter’s boat, and his will, by a mysterious influence, drew the fish to the net. When Jesus is lifted up in his Church, his presence is the Church’s power—the shout of a king is in the midst of her. “I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.” Let us go out this morning on our work of soul fishing, looking up in faith, and around us in solemn anxiety. Let us toil till night comes, and we shall not labour in vain, for he who bids us let down the net, will fill it with fishes.

# Word Live – 10/8/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/8/19

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# Today in the Word – 10/8/19

# Locusts and Darkness

**Read:** [**Exodus 10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+10)

### **The Plague of Locusts**

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs of mine among them 2that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the Lord.”

3So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, “This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 4If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. 5They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. 6They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians—something neither your parents nor your ancestors have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.’” Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

7Pharaoh’s officials said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?”

8Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the Lord your God,” he said. “But tell me who will be going.”

9Moses answered, “We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord.”

10Pharaoh said, “The Lord be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+10" \l "fen-NIV-1788a" \o "See footnote a)] 11No! Have only the men go and worship the Lord, since that’s what you have been asking for.” Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh’s presence.

12And the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that locusts swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail.”

13So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the Lord made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; 14they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again. 15They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

16Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. 17Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the Lord your God to take this deadly plague away from me.”

18Moses then left Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord. 19And the Lord changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+10#fen-NIV-1797b)] Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt. 20But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.

### **The Plague of Darkness**

21Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt.” 22So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

24Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, “Go, worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind.”

25But Moses said, “You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. 26Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshiping the Lord our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the Lord.”

27But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to let them go. 28Pharaoh said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die.”

29“Just as you say,” Moses replied. “I will never appear before you again.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 10:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+10#en-NIV-1788) Or Be careful, trouble is in store for you!
2. [Exodus 10:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+10#en-NIV-1797) Or the Sea of Reeds

Nearly every book in the Old Testament refers to the dramatic moment of the Exodus, especially the Psalms. Psalm 78, for example, looks back to “the day he [God] redeemed them [the people of Israel] from the oppressor, the day he displayed his signs in Egypt . . .He brought his people out like a flock; he led them like sheep through the wilderness” (Ps. 78:40–55).

Why do you harden your hearts? 1 Samuel 6:6

The wonders God worked in Egypt on behalf of His people inspired faith in many subsequent generations of Israelites (Ex. 10:2). The so-called “gods” of Egypt were swept aside by the one true King of kings. Hapi, god of the Nile, would have been humiliated by the first plague. Heqt, god of childbirth, often represented as a frog, was mocked by the second plague. Various gods were represented as bulls and cows, but they couldn’t save the livestock. Seth, god of wind and storms, couldn’t stop the hail. Min, god of fertility and vegetation, couldn’t save the crops from the locusts. Serapis, god of the land, couldn’t protect it.

And when darkness covered Egypt for three days during the ninth plague, everyone but Pharaoh gave up and acknowledged the superior greatness of God. Why? Because the Egyptian pantheon of idols was ruled by Ra, the sun god. God sending darkness was a direct and unequivocal statement that He was bringing “judgment on all the gods of Egypt” (Ex. 12:12).

After the eighth plague, Pharaoh confessed, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you” (Ex. 10:16). Yet even so, his heart remained hard. After the ninth plague, he even threatened Moses: “Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die” (Ex. 10:28).

### **Apply the Word**

What a dramatic story! Filmmakers have long seen its potential. If you wish, plan to watch a good movie about the Exodus, such as The Ten Commandments, Prince of Egypt, or Moses (starring Ben Kingsley). Though some artistic license has been taken, these movies portray the essential themes of the biblical narrative.

### **Pray with Us**

Please uphold in prayer MBI’s media ministries, headed by senior vice president Greg Thornton. Pray that God will continue to give him wisdom and grace as he oversees the operation of our media branch.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/8/19

# Shelter from the Storm

 **Read:** [**Exodus 33:12–23**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/08/shelter-from-the-storm)

### **Moses and the Glory of the Lord**

12Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ 13If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

14The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

15Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

17And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

18Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

19And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

21Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. [Exodus 33:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Exodus+33%3A22)

As the story goes, in 1763, a young minister, traveling on a cliffside road in Somerset, England, ducked into a cave to escape the flashes of lightning and pounding rain. As he looked out at Cheddar Gorge, he pondered the gift of finding shelter and peace in God. Waiting there, he began to write a hymn, “Rock of Ages,” with its memorable opening lines: “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.”

We don’t know if Augustus Toplady thought about Moses’s experience in the cleft of a rock while writing the hymn (Exodus 33:22), but perhaps he did. The Exodus account tells of Moses seeking God’s reassurance and God’s response. When Moses asked God to reveal His glory to him, God answered graciously, knowing that “no one may see me and live” (v. 20). He tucked Moses into the rocks when He passed by, letting Moses only see His back. And Moses knew that God was with him.

We can trust that just as God said to Moses, “My Presence will go with you” (v. 14), so too we can find refuge in Him. We may experience many storms in our lives, as did Moses and the English minister in the story, but when we cry out to Him, He will give us the peace of His presence.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

As you look back at various seasons of your life, how do you see God’s loving presence during the storms? How do you experience His presence today?

Father God, help me to trust that You’re with me, even during the storms of life.

#### **Insight**

Moses had a unique relationship with God. In Exodus 33:11 we read, “The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.” Yet in verse 20 God told Moses, “You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.” The interaction Moses had with God was personal while still maintaining the separation necessary for a Creator and His creature. In the incarnation (Christ coming to earth as both God and a human being), Jesus bridged that gap. Creator became creature so we might again have a relationship with Him.

# God Calling – 10/8/19

# The Dark Places

**Jesus, the very thought of Thee with Sweetness fills us.**

Yes. Love Me until just to think of Me means Joy and rapture. Gladness at the thought of One very near and dear.

It is the balm for all sorrows, the thought of Me. Healing for all physical, mental, and spiritual ills you can always find in thinking of Me, and speaking to Me.

Are doubts and fears in your Hearts? Then think of Me, speak to Me. Instead of those fears and doubts there will flow into your hearts and beings such sweet Joy as is beyond any joy of earth.

This is unfailing. Never doubt it. Courage. Courage. Courage. Fear nothing. Rejoice even in the darkest places. Rejoice.

As he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.  Mark 14:3

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/9/19

# Building on the Atonement



…present…your members as instruments of righteousness to God. —[Romans 6:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Romans+6%3A13)

I cannot save and sanctify myself; I cannot make atonement for sin; I cannot redeem the world; I cannot right what is wrong, purify what is impure, or make holy what is unholy. That is all the sovereign work of God. Do I have faith in what Jesus Christ has done? He has made the perfect atonement for sin. Am I in the habit of constantly realizing it? The greatest need we have is not to do things, but to believe things. The redemption of Christ is not an experience, it is the great act of God which He has performed through Christ, and I have to build my faith on it. If I construct my faith on my own experience, I produce the most unscriptural kind of life— an isolated life, with my eyes focused solely on my own holiness. Beware of that human holiness that is not based on the atonement of the Lord. It has no value for anything except a life of isolation— it is useless to God and a nuisance to man. Measure every kind of experience you have by our Lord Himself. We cannot do anything pleasing to God unless we deliberately build on the foundation of the atonement by the Cross of Christ.

The atonement of Jesus must be exhibited in practical, unassuming ways in my life. Every time I obey, the absolute deity of God is on my side, so that the grace of God and my natural obedience are in perfect agreement. Obedience means that I have completely placed my trust in the atonement, and my obedience is immediately met by the delight of the supernatural grace of God.

Beware of the human holiness that denies the reality of the natural life— it is a fraud. Continually bring yourself to the trial or test of the atonement and ask, “Where is the discernment of the atonement in this, and in that?”

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The life of Abraham is an illustration of two things: of unreserved surrender to God, and of God’s complete possession of a child of His for His own highest end. Not Knowing Whither, 901 R

# CCEL – 10/9/19

**Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful.**—[NEH. 9:17.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Neh.9.html" \l "Neh.9.17)

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.—The longsuffering of our Lord is salvation.

For this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.—Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?—Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

[II Pet. 3:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.3.html" \l "iiPet.3.9). –[II Pet. 3:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.3.html" \l "iiPet.3.15).[I Tim. 1:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.1.html" \l "iTim.1.16). -[Rom. 15:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.15.html" \l "Rom.15.4).[Rom. 2:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.2.html" \l "Rom.2.4). -[Joel 2:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Joel.2.html" \l "Joel.2.13).

“Able to keep you from falling.” [Jude 24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jude.1.html" \l "Jude.1.24)

In some sense the path to heaven is very safe, but in other respects there is no road so dangerous. It is beset with difficulties. One false step (and how easy it is to take that if grace be absent), and down we go. What a slippery path is that which some of us have to tread! How many times have we to exclaim with the Psalmist, “My feet were almost gone, my steps had well nigh slipped.” If we were strong, sure-footed mountaineers, this would not matter so much; but in ourselves, how weak we are! In the best roads we soon falter, in the smoothest paths we quickly stumble. These feeble knees of ours can scarcely support our tottering weight. A straw may throw us, and a pebble can wound us; we are mere children tremblingly taking our first steps in the walk of faith, our heavenly Father holds us by the arms or we should soon be down. Oh, if we are kept from falling, how must we bless the patient power which watches over us day by day! Think, how prone we are to sin, how apt to choose danger, how strong our tendency to cast ourselves down, and these reflections will make us sing more sweetly than we have ever done, “Glory be to him, who is able to keep us from falling.” We have many foes who try to push us down. The road is rough and we are weak, but in addition to this, enemies lurk in ambush, who rush out when we least expect them, and labour to trip us up, or hurl us down the nearest precipice. Only an Almighty arm can preserve us from these unseen foes, who are seeking to destroy us. Such an arm is engaged for our defence. He is faithful that hath promised, and he is able to keep us from falling, so that with a deep sense of our utter weakness, we may cherish a firm belief in our perfect safety, and say, with joyful confidence,

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“Against me earth and hell combine,

But on my side is power divine;

Jesus is all, and he is mine!”

# Word Live – 10/9/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/9/19

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# Today in the Word – 10/9/19

# Firstborn Sons and Blood on Doorposts

**Read:** [**Exodus 11:1–12:30**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+11%3a1%e2%80%9312%3a30)

### **The Plague on the Firstborn**

11 Now the Lord had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. 2Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold.” 3(The Lord made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh’s officials and by the people.)

4So Moses said, “This is what the Lord says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.’ Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. 8All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will leave.” Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

9The Lord had said to Moses, “Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt.” 10Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

### **The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread**

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+11%3a1%e2%80%9312%3a30#fen-NIV-1820a)] for his family, one for each household. 4If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

12“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. 15For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

17“Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.”

21Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

24“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ 27then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

29At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 12:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+11%3a1%e2%80%9312%3a30#en-NIV-1820) The Hebrew word can mean lamb or kid; also in verse 4.

When the Law was given on Mount Sinai, the Israelites learned to make various sacrifices for atonement and worship. The blood of animals symbolized a ceremonial or outward cleanness that became spiritually real thanks to Christ’s sacrifice of Himself on the cross for sin (see Heb. 9:11–22). But even before the Law was given, God used the tenth plague to begin to teach His people that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22). The blood of a lamb, spread on the doorposts of their homes, would mark them for life instead of death. Because of the blood, the angel of death would “pass over” them on that fateful day (Ex. 12:23).

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22

Moses boldly announced the tenth plague in the same audience with Pharaoh as when he was told, “Get out of my sight!” (10:28). This plague would be the final one. And it would break Pharaoh’s will, ending the standoff. In this dramatic finale, all the firstborn sons of Egypt, both people and cattle, would die (12:29–30). Only the Israelites would be spared. Such an event would be a family and cultural catastrophe—a judgment to end all judgments.

Given that Moses had a perfect track record, Pharaoh should have listened. But as God warned, “Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt” (11:9). God did not send this final plague lightly. According to the Moody Bible Commentary, “The wonders that should have produced humility, repentance, and submission to the word of the Lord yielded a hard heart and culminated in a final, terrible retribution.”

Up to this time, Moses hadn’t known exactly when the plagues would end or when deliverance would happen. His growing faith had been open-ended, rooted in the knowledge that God always keeps His promises.

### **Apply the Word**

Moses’ step-by-step faith during the ten plagues is an excellent model to imitate, especially regarding Christ’s Second Coming. Jesus will return, and Scripture provides a fair bit of information about the end times. But we do not know the day or the hour. As it could happen at any time, we are to be vigilant and watchful (Mark 13:32–37).

### **Pray with Us**

Will you thank God today for our Food Service employees? They are an integral part of Moody Bible Institute’s day-today operations, as they provide nutritious meals to students and staff throughout the year.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/9/19

# Hang in There

 **Read:** [**Isaiah 41:8–13**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/09/hang-in-there)

8“But you, Israel, my servant,  
    Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
    you descendants of Abraham my friend,  
9I took you from the ends of the earth,  
    from its farthest corners I called you.  
I said, ‘You are my servant’;  
    I have chosen you and have not rejected you.  
10So do not fear, for I am with you;  
    do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
    I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

11“All who rage against you  
    will surely be ashamed and disgraced;  
those who oppose you  
    will be as nothing and perish.  
12Though you search for your enemies,  
    you will not find them.  
Those who wage war against you  
    will be as nothing at all.  
13For I am the Lord your God  
    who takes hold of your right hand  
and says to you, Do not fear;  
    I will help you.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [Isaiah 41:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Isaiah+41%3A10)

My father-in-law turned seventy-eight recently, and during our family gathering to honor him, someone asked him, “What’s the most important thing you’ve learned in your life so far?” His answer? “Hang in there.”

Hang in there. It might be tempting to dismiss those words as simplistic. But my father-in-law wasn’t promoting blind optimism or positive thinking. He’s endured tough things in his nearly eight decades. His determination to press on wasn’t grounded in some vague hope that things might get better, but in Christ’s work in his life.

“Hanging in there”—the Bible calls it perseverance—isn’t possible through mere willpower. We persevere because God promised, over and over, that He’s with us, that He’ll give us strength, and that He’ll accomplish His purposes in our lives. That’s the message He spoke to the Israelites through Isaiah: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

What does it take to “hang in there”? According to Isaiah, the foundation for hope is God’s character. Knowing God’s goodness allows us to release our grip on fear so we can cling to the Father and His promise that He will provide what we need each day: strength, help, and God’s comforting, empowering, and upholding presence.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How have you experienced God’s provision for you in moments of fear? How can the support of other believers help you to hang on?

Father, Your love gives us everything we need to “hang in there.” Help us to remember Your promise of strength and to rely upon it each day.

#### **Insight**

In the prophecies of Isaiah, chapters 1–39 are like an ever-darkening night anticipating a catastrophic consequence to Jerusalem’s love affair with idols (Isaiah 39:6–7). When the warnings come to pass, chapters 40–55 follow like a dawning light. According to the prophet, God would once again show His people the mercy He had shown Jacob—the lying, scheming father of their nation. He would call them from the streets of Babylon as He had led Abraham, the father of their faith, out of idolatrous Ur. In a way no one could have anticipated, He would rescue them by a foreign king who didn’t even know Him (45:1–13). Cyrus, king of Persia, would crush Babylon and offer the Jewish people their right of return. With words of hope and a hint of His greater plans for the world, He urges them not to be afraid of returning to Him (41:13).

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

# God Calling – 10/9/19

# Love Me More

**Jesus, our Lord, we Thee adore. Oh, make us love Thee more and more.**

Yes! I would draw you closer and closer to Me by bonds of Love. The Love of the sinner for the Savior, of the rescued for the Rescuer, of the sheep for the Loving Shepherd, of the child for its Father.

So many ties of Love there are to bind you to Me.

Each experience in your life of Joy, and sorrow, of difficulty or success, of hardship or ease, of danger or safety, each makes its own particular demand on Me. Each serves to answer the prayer: "Make me love Thee more and more."

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.  1 Peter 1:8

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/10/19

# How Will I Know?



Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father…that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes." —[Matthew 11:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+11%3A25)

We do not grow into a spiritual relationship step by step— we either have a relationship or we do not. God does not continue to cleanse us more and more from sin— “But if we walk in the light,” we are cleansed “from all sin” ([1 John 1:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+1:7)). It is a matter of obedience, and once we obey, the relationship is instantly perfected. But if we turn away from obedience for even one second, darkness and death are immediately at work again.

All of God’s revealed truths are sealed until they are opened to us through obedience. You will never open them through philosophy or thinking. But once you obey, a flash of light comes immediately. Let God’s truth work into you by immersing yourself in it, not by worrying into it. The only way you can get to know the truth of God is to stop trying to find out and by being born again. If you obey God in the first thing He shows you, then He instantly opens up the next truth to you. You could read volumes on the work of the Holy Spirit, when five minutes of total, uncompromising obedience would make things as clear as sunlight. Don’t say, “I suppose I will understand these things someday!” You can understand them now. And it is not study that brings understanding to you, but obedience. Even the smallest bit of obedience opens heaven, and the deepest truths of God immediately become yours. Yet God will never reveal more truth about Himself to you, until you have obeyed what you know already. Beware of becoming one of the “wise and prudent.” “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know…” ([John 7:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7:17)).

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

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

# CCEL – 10/10/19

**The whole family in heaven and earth.**—[EPH. 3:15.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.3.html" \l "Eph.3.15)

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.—Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.—That in the dispensation of the fulness of times, he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

He is not ashamed to call them brethren.—Behold my mother and my brethren! Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.—Go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father.

I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: . . . and white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.—That they without us should not be made perfect.

[Eph. 4:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.6). -[Gal. 3:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.3.html" \l "Gal.3.26). -[Eph. 1:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.10).[Heb. 2:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.2.html" \l "Heb.2.11). -[Matt. 12:49,50](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.12.html" \l "Matt.12.49). -[John 20:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.20.html" \l "John.20.17).[Rev. 6:9-11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.6.html" \l "Rev.6.9). -[Heb. 11:40](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.40).

“Faultless before the presence of his glory.” **[Jude 24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jude.1.html" \l "Jude.1.24)**

Revolve in your mind that wondrous word, “faultless!” We are far off from it now; but as our Lord never stops short of perfection in his work of love, we shall reach it one day. The Saviour who will keep his people to the end, will also present them at last to himself, as “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but holy and without blemish.” All the jewels in the Saviour’s crown are of the first water and without a single flaw. All the maids of honour who attend the Lamb’s wife are pure virgins without spot or stain. But how will Jesus make us faultless? He will wash us from our sins in his own blood until we are white and fair as God’s purest angel; and we shall be clothed in his righteousness, that righteousness which makes the saint who wears it positively faultless; yea, perfect in the sight of God. We shall be unblameable and unreproveable even in his eyes. His law will not only have no charge against us, but it will be magnified in us. Moreover, the work of the Holy Spirit within us will be altogether complete. He will make us so perfectly holy, that we shall have no lingering tendency to sin. Judgment, memory, will—every power and passion shall be emancipated from the thraldom of evil. We shall be holy even as God is holy, and in his presence we shall dwell forever. Saints will not be out of place in heaven, their beauty will be as great as that of the place prepared for them. Oh the rapture of that hour when the everlasting doors shall be lifted up, and we, being made meet for the inheritance, shall dwell with the saints in light. Sin gone, Satan shut out, temptation past forever, and ourselves “faultless” before God, this will be heaven indeed! Let us be joyful now as we rehearse the song of eternal praise so soon to roll forth in full chorus from all the blood-washed host; let us copy David’s exultings before the ark as a prelude to our ecstasies before the throne.

# Word Live – 10/10/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/10/19

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

# Today in the Word – 10/10/19

# The First Passover

**Read:** [**Exodus 12:31–13:16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+12%3a31%e2%80%9313%3a16)

### **The Exodus**

31During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. 32Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.”

33The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!” 34So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

37The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. 39With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

40Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+12%3a31%e2%80%9313%3a16#fen-NIV-1857a)] was 430 years. 41At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt. 42Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.

### **Passover Restrictions**

43The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover meal:

“No foreigner may eat it. 44Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, 45but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it.

46“It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. 47The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

48“A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the Lord’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. 49The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.”

50All the Israelites did just what the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. 51And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

### **Consecration of the Firstborn**

13 The Lord said to Moses, 2“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

3Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. 4Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. 5When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: 6For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. 7Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. 8On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the Lord is to be on your lips. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. 10You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

11“After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, 12you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. 13Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

14“In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ 16And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 12:40](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+12%3a31%e2%80%9313%3a16#en-NIV-1857) Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch and Septuagint Egypt and Canaan

The Last Supper, celebrated by us today as communion or the Lord’s Table, was actually Jesus’ last Passover. This special meal commemorating freedom from slavery in Egypt has endured through the centuries as a celebration of God’s redemption. In the Last Supper, Jesus established a new symbolism—the bread for His body, the wine for His blood—but the meal remains a celebration of God’s redemption (Luke 22:7–20).

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! Romans 5:9

The Passover was such a significant event that all of Israel’s history would be dated from it (12:2). This was month one of year one! The story of this day would be told to every new generation (12:24–27). The Passover meal itself was filled with symbolism: The bitter herbs represented the many years of suffering and bondage. The bread without yeast was a reminder that it was originally eaten in haste, as the people prepared to leave Egypt. The lamb itself was to be unblemished or perfect.

We now know that the Passover lamb foreshadowed Christ Himself (1 Cor. 5:7). When John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to his disciples, he called Him, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Peter wrote: “You were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors . . . with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:18–19).

The night the firstborn males died, Pharaoh changed his mind, summoned Moses to his presence, and agreed to let the people go (12:31–32). The Egyptians were eager to have the Israelites gone, and God gave them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. So just as He’d said, the former slaves left the country in possession of wealth given them by their former oppressors (Gen. 15:14; Ex. 3:22). The triumph of God was thorough and (nearly) complete!

### **Apply the Word**

The Israelites were marked for life by the blood of the Passover lamb on their doorposts. Similarly, we have been marked for life by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, sacrificed for us. Have you accepted His salvation? By believing in His name, we gain the right to become God’s children (John 1:12–13). We’re born again into His family (John 3:3)!

### **Pray with Us**

As we’re reading about Passover in today’s devotional, let’s bring our thanksgiving to Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us. He is our salvation and our righteousness before God. And we are His!

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/10/19

# Don’t Forget!

 **Read:** [**Acts 1:1–11**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/10/dont-forget-6)

### **Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven**

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5For John baptized with[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Acts+1%3A1%E2%80%9311#fen-NIV-26929a)] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Acts+1%3A1%E2%80%9311#fen-NIV-26929b)] the Holy Spirit.”

6Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Acts 1:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Acts+1%3A1%E2%80%9311#en-NIV-26929) Or in

He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. [Acts 1:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Acts+1%3A9)

My niece, her four-year-old daughter Kailyn, and I had a wonderful Saturday afternoon together. We enjoyed blowing bubbles outside, coloring in a princess coloring book, and eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. When they got in the car to leave, Kailyn sweetly called out the opened window, “Don’t forget me, Auntie Anne.” I quickly walked toward the car and whispered, “I could never forget you. I promise I will see you soon.”

In Acts 1, the disciples watched as Jesus was “taken up before their very eyes” into the sky (v. 9). I wonder if they thought they might be forgotten by their Master. But He’d just promised to send His Spirit to live in them and empower them to handle the persecution that was to come (v. 8). And He’d taught them He was going away to prepare a place for them and would come back and take them to be with Him (John 14:3). Yet they must have wondered how long they would have to wait. Perhaps they wanted to say, “Don’t forget us, Jesus!”

For those of us who have put our faith in Jesus, He lives in us through the Holy Spirit. We still may wonder when He will come again and restore us and His creation fully. But it will happen—He won’t forget us. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How do you sense God’s presence in your life? What are you looking forward to the most in eternity?

We enjoy walking with You now, but we look forward to the day when all things will be fully restored. Come soon, Lord Jesus.

#### **Insight**

Acts 1:1–11 serves as a flashback to Luke’s “former book,” the gospel of Luke, and a prologue to the book of Acts. In both accounts, Jesus promised the apostles the Holy Spirit who would clothe them with power (Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit serves as “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession” (Ephesians 1:14); a promise that we will not be forgotten.

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

# God Calling – 10/10/19

# Extra Work

**Our Lord and our God. Help us through poverty to plenty. Through unrest to rest, through sorrow to Joy, through weakness to Power.**

I am your Helper. At the end of your present path lie all these blessings. So trust and know that I am leading you.

Step with a firm step of confidence in Me into each unknown day. Take every duty and every interruption as of My appointment.

You are My servant. Serve Me as simply, cheerfully, and readily as you expect others to serve you.

Do you blame the servant who avoids extra work, who complains about being called from one task to do one less liked? Do you feel you are ill served by such a one?

Then what of Me? Is not that how you so often serve Me? Think of this. Lay it to heart and view your day's work in this light.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, ... he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.  John 14:26

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/11/19

# God’s Silence— Then What?



When He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. —[John 11:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+11%3A6)

Has God trusted you with His silence— a silence that has great meaning? God’s silences are actually His answers. Just think of those days of absolute silence in the home at Bethany! Is there anything comparable to those days in your life? Can God trust you like that, or are you still asking Him for a visible answer? God will give you the very blessings you ask if you refuse to go any further without them, but His silence is the sign that He is bringing you into an even more wonderful understanding of Himself. Are you mourning before God because you have not had an audible response? When you cannot hear God, you will find that He has trusted you in the most intimate way possible— with absolute silence, not a silence of despair, but one of pleasure, because He saw that you could withstand an even bigger revelation. If God has given you a silence, then praise Him— He is bringing you into the mainstream of His purposes. The actual evidence of the answer in time is simply a matter of God’s sovereignty. Time is nothing to God. For a while you may have said, “I asked God to give me bread, but He gave me a stone instead” (see [Matthew 7:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:9)). He did not give you a stone, and today you find that He gave you the “bread of life” ([John 6:35](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6:35)).

A wonderful thing about God’s silence is that His stillness is contagious— it gets into you, causing you to become perfectly confident so that you can honestly say, “I know that God has heard me.” His silence is the very proof that He has. As long as you have the idea that God will always bless you in answer to prayer, He will do it, but He will never give you the grace of His silence. If Jesus Christ is bringing you into the understanding that prayer is for the glorifying of His Father, then He will give you the first sign of His intimacy— silence.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

God created man to be master of the life in the earth and sea and sky, and the reason he is not is because he took the law into his own hands, and became master of himself, but of nothing else.  The Shadow of an Agony, 1163 L

# CCEL – 10/11/19

**Be not far from me; for trouble is near.**—[PSA. 22:11.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.11)

How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?—Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.—The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.—Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.—My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

[Psa. 13:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.13.html" \l "Ps.13.1). -[Psa. 27:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.9).[Psa. 91:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.91.html" \l "Ps.91.15). -[Psa. 145:18,19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.145.html" \l "Ps.145.18).[John 14:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.18). -[Matt. 28:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.28.html" \l "Matt.28.20).[Psa. 46:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.46.html" \l "Ps.46.1). -[Psa. 62:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.62.html" \l "Ps.62.1). -[Psa. 62:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.62.html" \l "Ps.62.5).

“Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.” **[Lamentations 3:41](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lam.3.html" \l "Lam.3.41)**

The act of prayer teaches us our unworthiness, which is a very salutary lesson for such proud beings as we are. If God gave us favours without constraining us to pray for them we should never know how poor we are, but a true prayer is an inventory of wants, a catalogue of necessities, a revelation of hidden poverty. While it is an application to divine wealth, it is a confession of human emptiness. The most healthy state of a Christian is to be always empty in self and constantly depending upon the Lord for supplies; to be always poor in self and rich in Jesus; weak as water personally, but mighty through God to do great exploits; and hence the use of prayer, because, while it adores God, it lays the creature where it should be, in the very dust. Prayer is in itself, apart from the answer which it brings, a great benefit to the Christian. As the runner gains strength for the race by daily exercise, so for the great race of life we acquire energy by the hallowed labour of prayer. Prayer plumes the wings of God’s young eaglets, that they may learn to mount above the clouds. Prayer girds the loins of God’s warriors, and sends them forth to combat with their sinews braced and their muscles firm. An earnest pleader cometh out of his closet, even as the sun ariseth from the chambers of the east, rejoicing like a strong man to run his race. Prayer is that uplifted hand of Moses which routs the Amalekites more than the sword of Joshua; it is the arrow shot from the chamber of the prophet foreboding defeat to the Syrians. Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God. We know not what prayer cannot do! We thank thee, great God, for the mercy-seat, a choice proof of thy marvellous lovingkindness. Help us to use it aright throughout this day!

# Word Live – 10/11/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/11/19

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# Today in the Word – 10/11/19

# Crossing the Red Sea

**Read:** [**Exodus 13:17–14:31**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31)

### **Crossing the Sea**

17When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” 18So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#fen-NIV-1886a)] The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

19Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#fen-NIV-1887b)]

20After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2“Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

5When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” 6So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#fen-NIV-1899c)] and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

10As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

13Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

15Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

19Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25He jammed[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#fen-NIV-1915d)] the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

26Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” 27Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#fen-NIV-1917e)] it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 13:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#en-NIV-1886) Or the Sea of Reeds
2. [Exodus 13:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#en-NIV-1887) See Gen. 50:25.
3. [Exodus 14:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#en-NIV-1899) Or charioteers; also in verses 17, 18, 23, 26 and 28
4. [Exodus 14:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#en-NIV-1915) See Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint and Syriac; Masoretic Text removed
5. [Exodus 14:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+13%3a17%e2%80%9314%3a31#en-NIV-1917) Or from

In art, literature, and music, African Americans have often made reference to the Exodus narrative, comparing it to their own pursuit of freedom. In the folktale, “The People Could Fly,” for example, the story is told that Africans used to be able to fly but during slavery had forgotten how. An old man appears in a field one day, and by speaking ancient words causes the people to remember their power. They take off, flying high above the helpless overseer and his whip, joyfully escaping to a new and better life.

Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. Exodus 14:13

The joy of newfound freedom was certainly evident when the Israelites escaped through the Red Sea. After centuries of bondage, the people of Israel were free. God had worked wonders and humbled one of the superpowers of the ancient world. Egypt was down and out. Or at least they thought so!

But in a shocking turnabout, Pharaoh once again changed his mind and sent his army in pursuit. That moment was no surprise to God (14:3–4). The Israelites, trapped against the shore, didn’t exactly rise to the occasion. They complained, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die?” (14:11). He responded, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today” (14:13). The pillar of cloud and fire, signifying God’s presence, was guiding them in a protective position in the rear.

Miraculously, the Red Sea parted. The Israelites walked through on dry ground, with walls of water rising to their left and right (14:29). In one last burst of delusion, Pharaoh’s army followed them and perished. “When the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant” (14:31).

### **Apply the Word**

Even in this nation-defining moment, Scripture is realistic. The Israelites weren’t steadfast in their faith. God took them on this route because He knew what would happen (13:17–18). We often think efficiency is best, but the Lord sees things differently. It may seem He’s taking you the long way around, but He has your best interests at heart!

### **Pray with Us**

Knowledgeable, godly professors are essential for the education of our students—and we are proud of the faculty God has led to Moody. Will you thank God today for our Communications faculty: Kelli Worrall, Jill White, Matthew Moore, and Karyn Hecht?

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/11/19

# The Main Actor

 **Read:** [**Psalm 118:6–9**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/11/the-main-actor)

6The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.  
    What can mere mortals do to me?  
7The Lord is with me; he is my helper.  
    I look in triumph on my enemies.

8It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
    than to trust in humans.  
9It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
    than to trust in princes.

**Read:** [**Psalm 118:21–25**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/11/the-main-actor)

21I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
    you have become my salvation.

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

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

The Lord has done this. [Psalm 118:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Psalm+118%3A23)

I once heard about a student taking a class in preaching at a prominent seminary. The student, a young man who was a bit full of himself, delivered his sermon with eloquence and evident passion. He sat down self-satisfied, and the professor paused a moment before responding. “That was a powerful sermon,” he said. “It was well organized and moving. The only problem is that God was not the subject of a single one of your sentences.”

The professor highlighted a problem all of us struggle with at times: We can talk as if we’re the primary actor (emphasizing what we do, what we say) when in truth God is the primary actor in life. We often profess that God is somehow generally “in charge,” but we act as if all the outcomes depend on us.

The Scriptures insist that God is the true subject of our lives, the true force. Even our necessary acts of faith are done “in the name of the Lord”—in the Lord’s power (Psalm 118:10–11). God enacts our salvation. God rescues us. God tends to our needs. “The Lord has done this” (v. 23).

So the pressure’s off. We don’t need to fret, compare, work with compulsive energy, or feed our many anxieties. God is in charge. We need only trust and follow His lead in obedience.

By:  [Winn Collier](https://odb.org/author/wcollier/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

When are you most tempted to think you’re the main actor of your life? How has God invited you to let Him be the center of your life?

God, I’ve been paying lip service to You being in charge of my world. It’s exhausting, and I want to stop doing that. Help me trust You.

#### **Insight**

Psalm 118 is one of the Hallel (praise) psalms that were sung at feast times in ancient Israel. Additionally, however, this particular song of celebration also contains elements of a messianic psalm—anticipating Israel’s Messiah. In Matthew 21:9, at Christ’s “triumphal entry,” the people affirm Psalm 118:25–26, saying, “Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” The Hebrew word hosanna, meaning “Lord, save us,” echoes this song on the lips of the people. And when confronting the religious leadership in Matthew 21:42, Jesus claims Psalm 118:22–23 to be self-descriptive by affirming, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.” While used liturgically in Israel’s feasts, Psalm 118 itself anticipates the coming of the One who would fulfill the ultimate meaning of those feasts.

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

# God Calling – 10/11/19

# Shame and Distress

**I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.            -- Psalm 34:1, 4, 5.**

See, My children, that even in distress, the first step is Praise. Before you cry in your distress, bless the Lord; even when troubles seem to overwhelm you.

That is My Divine order of approach. Observe this always. In the greatest distress, search until you find cause for thankfulness. Then bless and thank.

You have thus established a line of communication between yourself and Me. Along that line to let your cry of distress follow.

Thus you will find I do My part, and deliverance will be sure. Oh! The gladness of heart.

Lightened you will be, the burden rolled away, as the result of looking to Me.

The shame and distress will be lifted too. That is always the second step. First right with Me, and then you will be righted too in the eyes of men.

So will I compass thine altar, O Lord: that I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.  Psalm 26:6, 7

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/12/19

# Getting into God’s Stride



Enoch walked with God… —[Genesis 5:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Genesis+5%3A24)

The true test of a person’s spiritual life and character is not what he does in the extraordinary moments of life, but what he does during the ordinary times when there is nothing tremendous or exciting happening. A person’s worth is revealed in his attitude toward the ordinary things of life when he is not under the spotlight (see [John 1:35-37](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1:35-37) and [John 3:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3:30)). It is painful work to get in step with God and to keep pace with Him— it means getting your second wind spiritually. In learning to walk with God, there is always the difficulty of getting into His stride, but once we have done so, the only characteristic that exhibits itself is the very life of God Himself. The individual person is merged into a personal oneness with God, and God’s stride and His power alone are exhibited.

It is difficult to get into stride with God, because as soon as we start walking with Him we find that His pace has surpassed us before we have even taken three steps. He has different ways of doing things, and we have to be trained and disciplined in His ways. It was said of Jesus— “He will not fail nor be discouraged…” ([Isaiah 42:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+42:4)) because He never worked from His own individual standpoint, but always worked from the standpoint of His Father. And we must learn to do the same. Spiritual truth is learned through the atmosphere that surrounds us, not through intellectual reasoning. It is God’s Spirit that changes the atmosphere of our way of looking at things, and then things begin to be possible which before were impossible. Getting into God’s stride means nothing less than oneness with Him. It takes a long time to get there, but keep at it. Don’t give up because the pain is intense right now— get on with it, and before long you will find that you have a new vision and a new purpose.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Seeing is never believing: we interpret what we see in the light of what we believe. Faith is confidence in God before you see God emerging; therefore the nature of faith is that it must be tried.  He Shall Glorify Me, 494 R

# CCEL – 10/12/19

**God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.**—[II COR. 5:19.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.19)

It pleased the Father, that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself.—Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil.—Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity?

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace.—Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.—Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

[Col. 1:19,20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.19). -[Psa. 85:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.85.html" \l "Ps.85.10).[Jer. 29:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.29.html" \l "Jer.29.11). -[Isa. 1:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.1.html" \l "Isa.1.18).[Mic. 7:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mic.7.html" \l "Mic.7.18).[Job 22:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.22.html" \l "Job.22.21). -[Phi. 2:12,13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.2.html" \l "Phil.2.12). -[Isa. 26:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.26.html" \l "Isa.26.12).

“I will meditate in thy precepts.” **[Psalm 119:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.119.html" \l "Ps.119.15)**

There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on his Word spiritual strength for labour in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them. Truth is something like the cluster of the vine: if we would have wine from it, we must bruise it; we must press and squeeze it many times. The bruiser’s feet must come down joyfully upon the bunches, or else the juice will not flow; and they must well tread the grapes, or else much of the precious liquid will be wasted. So we must, by meditation, tread the clusters of truth, if we would get the wine of consolation therefrom. Our bodies are not supported by merely taking food into the mouth, but the process which really supplies the muscle, and the nerve, and the sinew, and the bone, is the process of digestion. It is by digestion that the outward food becomes assimilated with the inner life. Our souls are not nourished merely by listening awhile to this, and then to that, and then to the other part of divine truth. Hearing, reading, marking, and learning, all require inwardly digesting to complete their usefulness, and the inward digesting of the truth lies for the most part in meditating upon it. Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God’s Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord, and be this our resolve this morning, “I will meditate in thy precepts.”

# Word Live – 10/12/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/12/19

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

# Today in the Word – 10/12/19

# The Celebration Song

**Read:** [**Exodus 15:1–21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321)

### **The Song of Moses and Miriam**

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

“I will sing to the Lord,  
    for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
    he has hurled into the sea.

2“The Lord is my strength and my defense[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#fen-NIV-1923a)];  
    he has become my salvation.  
He is my God, and I will praise him,  
    my father’s God, and I will exalt him.  
3The Lord is a warrior;  
    the Lord is his name.  
4Pharaoh’s chariots and his army  
    he has hurled into the sea.  
The best of Pharaoh’s officers  
    are drowned in the Red Sea.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321" \l "fen-NIV-1925b" \o "See footnote b)]  
5The deep waters have covered them;  
    they sank to the depths like a stone.  
6Your right hand, Lord,  
    was majestic in power.  
Your right hand, Lord,  
    shattered the enemy.

7“In the greatness of your majesty  
    you threw down those who opposed you.  
You unleashed your burning anger;  
    it consumed them like stubble.  
8By the blast of your nostrils  
    the waters piled up.  
The surging waters stood up like a wall;  
    the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.  
9The enemy boasted,  
    ‘I will pursue, I will overtake them.  
I will divide the spoils;  
    I will gorge myself on them.  
I will draw my sword  
    and my hand will destroy them.’  
10But you blew with your breath,  
    and the sea covered them.  
They sank like lead  
    in the mighty waters.  
11Who among the gods  
    is like you, Lord?  
Who is like you—  
    majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glory,  
    working wonders?

12“You stretch out your right hand,  
    and the earth swallows your enemies.  
13In your unfailing love you will lead  
    the people you have redeemed.  
In your strength you will guide them  
    to your holy dwelling.  
14The nations will hear and tremble;  
    anguish will grip the people of Philistia.  
15The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,  
    the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,  
the people[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#fen-NIV-1936c)] of Canaan will melt away;  
16    terror and dread will fall on them.  
By the power of your arm  
    they will be as still as a stone—  
until your people pass by, Lord,  
    until the people you bought[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#fen-NIV-1937d)] pass by.  
17You will bring them in and plant them  
    on the mountain of your inheritance—  
the place, Lord, you made for your dwelling,  
    the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

18“The Lord reigns  
    for ever and ever.”

19When Pharaoh’s horses, chariots and horsemen[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#fen-NIV-1940e)] went into the sea, the Lord brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. 20Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. 21Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the Lord,  
    for he is highly exalted.  
Both horse and driver  
    he has hurled into the sea.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 15:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1923) Or song
2. [Exodus 15:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1925) Or the Sea of Reeds; also in verse 22
3. [Exodus 15:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1936) Or rulers
4. [Exodus 15:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1937) Or created
5. [Exodus 15:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a1%e2%80%9321#en-NIV-1940) Or charioteers

The New England Primer was one of the most popular books in 17th- and 18th-century America. It sold more than three million copies and taught generations of children how to read and spell. The letters of the alphabet were linked to Bible stories, for example, “A: In Adam’s Fall, we sinned all.” M stood for Moses: “Moses was he who Israel’s host led thro’ the Sea.”

The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. Exodus 15:2

In today’s reading, M could stand for both Moses and his sister Miriam, the first woman in the Bible called a “prophet” (v. 20). Together they led the Israelites in celebrating the Red Sea crossing (vv. 1–2). In the song’s first section (vv. 3–6), God is pictured as a divine “warrior” who fought on behalf of His people and won the victory by hurling the Egyptians to the bottom of the sea. His right hand “shattered the enemy.” The second section (vv. 7–11) repeats this motif with even greater enthusiasm. God’s power is unmatched.

The enemy was so sure of victory that they were already dividing the spoils, but the fact is they never stood a chance. The third section (vv. 12–18) rejoices in drawing the conclusion that God leads and protects His people with power and love. He would surely keep His word and bring them safely to a better land.

God as a Divine Warrior is a recurring image in Scripture. Later in the Pentateuch, Moses described the confrontation with Pharaoh in these terms: “The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes” (Deut. 1:30). Isaiah similarly proclaimed: “The Lord will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies” (Isa. 42:13).

### **Apply the Word**

Take time to list the three problems or challenges you’re facing at this time. Why are you worried about them? Do any of them stand a chance before God’s power? As He was for the Israelites, so is He for you: “The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him” (Ex. 15:2).

### **Pray with Us**

Please add these Communications professors to your prayer list: Robert Gustafson, Rosalie de Rosset, Brian Kammerzelt, and Angela Brown. May their expertise, professionalism, love for God, and wisdom inspire their students.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/12/19

# Fill in Your Name

# Devotional Image Read: [Isaiah 40:25–31](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/12/fill-in-your-name)

25“To whom will you compare me?  
    Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.  
26Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:  
    Who created all these?  
He who brings out the starry host one by one  
    and calls forth each of them by name.  
Because of his great power and mighty strength,  
    not one of them is missing.

27Why do you complain, Jacob?  
    Why do you say, Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord;  
    my cause is disregarded by my God”?  
28Do you not know?  
    Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
    the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
    and his understanding no one can fathom.  
29He gives strength to the weary  
    and increases the power of the weak.  
30Even youths grow tired and weary,  
    and young men stumble and fall;  
31but those who hope in the Lord  
    will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
    they will run and not grow weary,  
    they will walk and not be faint.

. . . He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. [Isaiah 40:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Isaiah+40%3A26)

In Love Letters from God, Glenys Nellist invites children to interact with the Lord in a deeply personal way. These children’s books include a note from God with a space for the child’s name to be inserted after each Bible story. Personalizing scriptural truth helps her young readers understand that the Bible isn’t just a storybook. They’re being taught that the Lord wants a relationship with them and that He speaks to His greatly loved children through the Scriptures.

I bought the book for my nephew and filled in the blanks in the beginning of every note from God. Delighted when he recognized his name, my nephew said, “God loves me too!” What a comfort to know the deeply and completely personal love of our loving Creator.

When God spoke to the Israelites directly through the prophet Isaiah, He called their attention to the heavens. The Lord affirmed that He controls “the starry host” (Isaiah 40:26), determines each star’s individual value, and directs each one with love. He assured His people that He won’t forget or lose one star . . . or one beloved child that He’s sculpted with deliberate purpose and endless love.

As we celebrate our Almighty God’s intimate promises and proclamations of love within Scripture, we can fill in our names. We can trust and declare with childlike delight, “God loves me too!”

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How does it feel when you realize God loves you and knows your needs? What Bible verse could you remember that’s a personal promise to you?

God, thank You for affirming that Your love is a personal gift for each and every one of us. Thank You for assuring us that You know our names and can handle all of our needs.

# God Calling – 10/12/19

# You Are My Joy

**Thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. -- John 17:6.**

Remember, that just as you thank God for Me, so I thank God for His Gift to Me of you. In that hour of My agony on earth, one note of Joy thrilled through the pain. The thought of the souls, given Me by My Father, who had kept My Word.

They had not done great deeds, as they did later, for, and in, My Name. They were simple doers of My Word, not hearers only. Just in their daily tasks and ways they kept My Word.

You, too, can bring Joy to My Heart by faithful service. Faithful service in the little things. Be faithful.

Do your simple tasks for Me.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant:  thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.  Matthew 25:21

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/13/19

# Individual Discouragement and Personal Growth



…when Moses was grown…he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. —[Exodus 2:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Exodus+2%3A11)

Moses saw the oppression of his people and felt certain that he was the one to deliver them, and in the righteous indignation of his own spirit he started to right their wrongs. After he launched his first strike for God and for what was right, God allowed Moses to be driven into empty discouragement, sending him into the desert to feed sheep for forty years. At the end of that time, God appeared to Moses and said to him, “ ‘…bring My people…out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go…?’ ” ([Exodus 3:10-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3:10-11)). In the beginning Moses had realized that he was the one to deliver the people, but he had to be trained and disciplined by God first. He was right in his individual perspective, but he was not the person for the work until he had learned true fellowship and oneness with God.

We may have the vision of God and a very clear understanding of what God wants, and yet when we start to do it, there comes to us something equivalent to Moses’ forty years in the wilderness. It’s as if God had ignored the entire thing, and when we are thoroughly discouraged, God comes back and revives His call to us. And then we begin to tremble and say, “Who am I that I should go…?” We must learn that God’s great stride is summed up in these words— “I AM WHO I AM…has sent me to you” ([Exodus 3:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3:14)). We must also learn that our individual effort for God shows nothing but disrespect for Him— our individuality is to be rendered radiant through a personal relationship with God, so that He may be “well pleased” ([Matthew 3:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+3:17)). We are focused on the right individual perspective of things; we have the vision and can say, “I know this is what God wants me to do.” But we have not yet learned to get into God’s stride. If you are going through a time of discouragement, there is a time of great personal growth ahead.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

To live a life alone with God does not mean that we live it apart from everyone else. The connection between godly men and women and those associated with them is continually revealed in the Bible, e.g., 1 Timothy 4:10.  Not Knowing Whither, 867 L

# CCEL – 10/13/19

**From the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard.**[DAN. 10:12.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Dan.10.html#Dan.10.12)

Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.—The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.—Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.—Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.—God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

[Isa. 57:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.57.html" \l "Isa.57.15). -[Psa. 51:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.51.html" \l "Ps.51.17). -[Psa. 138:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.138.html" \l "Ps.138.6). -[I Pet. 5:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.6). -[Jas. 4:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.4.html" \l "Jas.4.6). -[Jas. 4:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.4.html" \l "Jas.4.7).[Psa. 86:5-7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.86.html" \l "Ps.86.5).

“Godly sorrow worketh repentance.” [2 Corinthians 7:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.7.html" \l "iiCor.7.10)

Genuine, spiritual mourning for sin is the work of the Spirit of God. Repentance is too choice a flower to grow in nature’s garden. Pearls grow naturally in oysters, but penitence never shows itself in sinners except divine grace works it in them. If thou hast one particle of real hatred for sin, God must have given it thee, for human nature’s thorns never produced a single fig. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh.”

True repentance has a distinct reference to the Saviour. When we repent of sin, we must have one eye upon sin and another upon the cross, or it will be better still if we fix both our eyes upon Christ and see our transgressions only, in the light of his love.

True sorrow for sin is eminently practical. No man may say he hates sin, if he lives in it. Repentance makes us see the evil of sin, not merely as a theory, but experimentally—as a burnt child dreads fire. We shall be as much afraid of it, as a man who has lately been stopped and robbed is afraid of the thief upon the highway; and we shall shun it—shun it in everything—not in great things only, but in little things, as men shun little vipers as well as great snakes. True mourning for sin will make us very jealous over our tongue, lest it should say a wrong word; we shall be very watchful over our daily actions, lest in anything we offend, and each night we shall close the day with painful confessions of shortcoming, and each morning awaken with anxious prayers, that this day God would hold us up that we may not sin against him.

Sincere repentance is continual. Believers repent until their dying day. This dropping well is not intermittent. Every other sorrow yields to time, but this dear sorrow grows with our growth, and it is so sweet a bitter, that we thank God we are permitted to enjoy and to suffer it until we enter our eternal rest.

# Word Live – 10/13/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/13/19

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

# Today in the Word – 10/13/19

# Provision and Victory

[**Read: Exodus 15:22–17:16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16)

### **The Waters of Marah and Elim**

22Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16" \l "fen-NIV-1944a" \o "See footnote a)]) 24So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

25Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26He said, “If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.”

27Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

### **Manna and Quail**

16 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 2In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

4Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. 5On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

6So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, 7and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” 8Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

9Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

10While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

11The Lord said to Moses, 12“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

13That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. 16This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#fen-NIV-1964b)] for each person you have in your tent.’”

17The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

19Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”

20However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

21Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. 22On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#fen-NIV-1970c)] for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. 23He said to them, “This is what the Lord commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the Lord. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’”

24So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. 25“Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a sabbath to the Lord. You will not find any of it on the ground today. 26Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.”

27Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. 28Then the Lord said to Moses, “How long will you[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#fen-NIV-1976d)] refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? 29Bear in mind that the Lord has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out.” 30So the people rested on the seventh day.

31The people of Israel called the bread manna.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16" \l "fen-NIV-1979e" \o "See footnote e)] It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey. 32Moses said, “This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.’”

33So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the Lord to be kept for the generations to come.”

34As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved. 35The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

36(An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

### **Water From the Rock**

17 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?”

3But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

4Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

5The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7And he called the place Massah[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#fen-NIV-1991f)] and Meribah[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#fen-NIV-1991g)] because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

### **The Amalekites Defeated**

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

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

14Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”

15Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. 16He said, “Because hands were lifted up against[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#fen-NIV-2000h)] the throne of the Lord,[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16" \l "fen-NIV-2000i" \o "See footnote i)] the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.”

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 15:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1944) Marah means bitter.
2. [Exodus 16:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1964) That is, possibly about 3 pounds or about 1.4 kilograms; also in verses 18, 32, 33 and 36
3. [Exodus 16:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1970) That is, possibly about 6 pounds or about 2.8 kilograms
4. [Exodus 16:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1976) The Hebrew is plural.
5. [Exodus 16:31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1979) Manna sounds like the Hebrew for What is it? (see verse 15).
6. [Exodus 17:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1991) Massah means testing.
7. [Exodus 17:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-1991) Meribah means quarreling.
8. [Exodus 17:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-2000) Or to
9. [Exodus 17:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15%3a22%e2%80%9317%3a16#en-NIV-2000) The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

Have you ever been curious about the “manna” God provided the Israelites? What was it? What did it taste like? Many scholars have tried to give a natural explanation to this miraculous food. Was it algae that grew in the desert when there was dew? Was it the bark, twigs, leaves, or sap of tamarisk bushes or another plant? Was it sweet, sticky secretions left behind by insects on desert plants? But all of these naturalistic explanations fail to account for the manna’s daily renewal (and double before the Sabbath), among other factors. Manna was a supernatural provision—a daily miracle that lasted through 40 years in the wilderness.

I will rain down bread from heaven for you. Exodus 16:4

After ten plagues and one Red Sea crossing, you might think God deserved a break from Israel’s grumbling. Surely He’d earned their trust! But the people had short spiritual memories. They rarely remembered all that God had done for them, but instead, often carried the attitude: “What have you done for me lately?”

In today’s reading, God provided five times for His thankless people. First, He provided water by making a bitter spring drinkable. Second, He provided quail meat in such quantities that it “covered the camp.” Third, as mentioned, He provided manna or “bread from heaven” (16:4). Fourth, He provided water again, this time through Moses striking a rock. And fifth, He provided victory over the Amalekites, who had hoped for an easy win over these recently liberated slaves.

Manna in particular showed God’s faithful love and care for His people. They didn’t deserve it, given their grumbling and disobedience. But God’s purpose for these slow learners was that they “know that I am the Lord your God” (16:12). Jesus had in mind this same narrative when He prayed, “Give us today our daily bread” (Matt. 6:11).

### **Apply the Word**

When it’s “those complaining Israelites,” the lack of faith is easy to see. But what about us? Do we remember God’s past blessings and rescues? Or are we nagging Him with the next item on our wishlist? In light of Paul’s exhortation to learn from Israel’s history (1 Cor. 10:1–5), consider devoting your prayer time today to praise and gratitude.

### **Pray with Us**

Lord, we want to praise you and thank you for who you are, not for what you do for us. Father, we want to be grateful people, not grumbling people. May the example of the Israelites in today’s reading be a warning and a reminder for us.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/13/19

# Worth the Wait

 **Read:** [**1 Thessalonians 1:1–10**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/13/worth-the-wait-2)

1 Paul, Silas[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=1+Thessalonians+1%3A1%E2%80%9310#fen-NIV-29562a)] and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

### **Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians’ Faith**

2We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4For we know, brothers and sisters[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=1+Thessalonians+1%3A1%E2%80%9310#fen-NIV-29565b)] loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [1 Thessalonians 1:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=1+Thessalonians+1%3A1%E2%80%9310#en-NIV-29562) Greek Silvanus, a variant of Silas
2. [1 Thessalonians 1:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=1+Thessalonians+1%3A1%E2%80%9310#en-NIV-29565) The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in 2:1, 9, 14, 17; 3:7; 4:1, 10, 13; 5:1, 4, 12, 14, 25, 27.

We eagerly await a Savior. [Philippians 3:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Philippians+3%3A20)

Outside the Shibuya train station in Tokyo is a statue commemorating an Akita dog named Hachiko. Hachiko is remembered for unusual faithfulness to his owner, a university professor who commuted from the station daily. The dog accompanied him on his walk there in the morning and came back to meet him every afternoon just as his train arrived.

One day the professor didn’t return to the station; sadly, he’d died at work. But for the rest of his life—more than nine years—Hachiko showed up at the same time as the afternoon train. Day after day, regardless of weather, the dog waited faithfully for his master’s return.

Paul commended the Thessalonians for their faithfulness, citing their “work produced by faith,” “labor prompted by love,” and “endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Despite harsh opposition, they left their old ways “to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven” (vv. 9–10).

These early believers’ vital hope in their Savior and His love for them inspired them to see beyond their difficulties and to share their faith enthusiastically. They were assured there was nothing better than living for Jesus. How good it is to know that the same Holy Spirit who emboldened them (v. 5) still empowers us today to faithfully serve Jesus as we await His return.

By:  [James Banks](https://odb.org/author/jamesbanks/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What do you look forward to most about being with Jesus? How are you sharing your hope in Him?

Jesus, help me take heart and wait for You.

To learn more about what the New Testament teaches about the Christian faith, visit [christianuniversity.org/NT109.](https://christianuniversity.org/NT109.)

#### **Insight**

Easton’s Bible Dictionary says: “(Thessalonica) was the capital of one of the four Roman districts of Macedonia. . . . On his second missionary journey, Paul preached in the synagogue here, the chief synagogue of the Jews in that part of Macedonia, and laid the foundations of a church (Acts 17:1–4; 1 Thessalonians 1:9). The violence of the Jews drove him from the city, when he fled to Berea (Acts 17:5–10). Paul visited the church here on a subsequent occasion (20:1–3).” The church at Thessalonica would become a key witness for the good news in northern Greece

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

# God Calling – 10/13/19

# The Sculpture's Skill

Lord, we believe, help Thou our unbelief. Lord, hear our prayers and let our cries come unto Thee.

Along the road of praise, as I told you. Yes! I will indeed help your unbelief, and in answer to your prayers grant you so great a faith, such an increasingly great faith, that each day you will look back, from the place of your larger vision, and see the faith of the day before as almost unbelief.

The Beauty of My Kingdom is its growth. In that Kingdom there is always progress, a going on from strength to strength, from glory to glory. Be in My Kingdom, and of My Kingdom, and there can be no stagnation. Eternal Life, abundant Life is promised to all in it, and of it.

No misspent time over failures and shortcomings. Count the lessons learnt from them but as rungs in the ladder. Step up, and then cast away all thought of the manner of the making of the rung. Fashioned of joy and sorrow, of failure or success, of wounds or healing balm, what matter, My children, so long as it served its purpose?

Learn another lesson. The Sculptor who finds a faulty marble casts it aside. Because it has no fashioning, it may regard itself as perfect; and it may look with scorn upon the marble the Sculptor is cutting and shaping into perfection. From this, My children, learn a lesson for your lives.

Then touched he their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it unto you."  Matthew 9:29

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/14/19

# The Key to the Missionary’s Work



Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations…" —[Matthew 28:18-19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+28%3A18-19)

The key to the missionary’s work is the authority of Jesus Christ, not the needs of the lost. We are inclined to look on our Lord as one who assists us in our endeavors for God. Yet our Lord places Himself as the absolute sovereign and supreme Lord over His disciples. He does not say that the lost will never be saved if we don’t go— He simply says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations….” He says, “Go on the basis of the revealed truth of My sovereignty, teaching and preaching out of your living experience of Me.”

“Then the eleven disciples went…to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them” ([Matthew 28:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28:16)). If I want to know the universal sovereignty of Christ, I must know Him myself. I must take time to worship the One whose name I bear. Jesus says, “Come to Me…”— that is the place to meet Jesus— “all you who labor and are heavy laden…” ([Matthew 11:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11:28))— and how many missionaries are! We completely dismiss these wonderful words of the universal Sovereign of the world, but they are the words of Jesus to His disciples meant for here and now.

“Go therefore….” To “go” simply means to live. [Acts 1:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1:8) is the description of how to go. Jesus did not say in this verse, “Go into Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria,” but, “…you shall be witnesses to Me in [all these places].” He takes upon Himself the work of sending us.

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you…” ([John 15:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15:7))— that is the way to keep going. Where we are placed is then a matter of indifference to us, because God sovereignly engineers our goings.

“None of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus…” ([Acts 20:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+20:24)). That is how to keep going until we are gone from this life.

**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 – 10/14/19

**Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.**—[ROM. 14:9.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.14.html" \l "Rom.14.9)

It pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.—Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?—We thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.—Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God.

[Isa. 53:10,11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.10). -[Luke. 24:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.24.html" \l "Luke.24.26). -[II Cor. 5:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.14).[Acts. 2:36](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.2.html" \l "Acts.2.36). -[I Pet. 1:20,21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.20).

“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.” [Philippians 3:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.3.html#Phil.3.8)

Spiritual knowledge of Christ will be a personal knowledge. I cannot know Jesus through another person’s acquaintance with him. No, I must know him myself; I must know him on my own account. It will be an intelligent knowledge—I must know him, not as the visionary dreams of him, but as the Word reveals him. I must know his natures, divine and human. I must know his offices—his attributes—his works—his shame—his glory. I must meditate upon him until I “comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.” It will be an affectionate knowledge of him; indeed, if I know him at all, I must love him. An ounce of heart knowledge is worth a ton of head learning. Our knowledge of him will be a satisfying knowledge. When I know my Saviour, my mind will be full to the brim—I shall feel that I have that which my spirit panted after. “This is that bread whereof if a man eat he shall never hunger.” At the same time it will be an exciting knowledge; the more I know of my Beloved, the more I shall want to know. The higher I climb the loftier will be the summits which invite my eager footsteps. I shall want the more as I get the more. Like the miser’s treasure, my gold will make me covet more. To conclude; this knowledge of Christ Jesus will be a most happy one; in fact, so elevating, that sometimes it will completely bear me up above all trials, and doubts, and sorrows; and it will, while I enjoy it, make me something more than “Man that is born of woman, who is of few days, and full of trouble”; for it will fling about me the immortality of the ever living Saviour, and gird me with the golden girdle of his eternal joy. Come, my soul, sit at Jesus’s feet and learn of him all this day.

# Word Live – 10/14/19

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

# Scripture Union – 10/14/19

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

# Today in the Word – 10/14/19

# Leadership Wisdom

**Read:** [**Exodus 18**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18)

### **Jethro Visits Moses**

18 Now Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses, heard of everything God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, and how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt.

2After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro received her 3and her two sons. One son was named Gershom,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18" \l "fen-NIV-2003a" \o "See footnote a)] for Moses said, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land”; 4and the other was named Eliezer,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18#fen-NIV-2004b)] for he said, “My father’s God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh.”

5Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, together with Moses’ sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God. 6Jethro had sent word to him, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons.”

7So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. 8Moses told his father-in-law about everything the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the Lord had saved them.

9Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. 10He said, “Praise be to the Lord, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. 11Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.” 12Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses’ father-in-law in the presence of God.

13The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. 14When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”

15Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. 16Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and instructions.”

17Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. 18You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. 19Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him. 20Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. 21But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. 23If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”

24Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. 25He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 26They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

27Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [Exodus 18:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18#en-NIV-2003) Gershom sounds like the Hebrew for a foreigner there.
2. [Exodus 18:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18#en-NIV-2004) Eliezer means my God is helper.

When a group of children were asked to draw a picture of a leader, their portraits were insightful. Emma, age 3, drew her teacher, Ms. Noreen, because “she teaches me.” Jack, age 6, drew a picture of himself leading a pack of turtles to safety. He said, “A leader is someone who makes sure that a place is safe.”

The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Exodus 18:18

We learn a great deal about godly leadership by considering the life of Moses. Through his father-in-law Reuel, Moses discovered that he still had things to learn. Today’s chapter begins with what was no doubt a welcome reunion between Moses and his family. Reuel—also known as “Jethro,” apparently a title meaning “his excellency”—gave praise for the story so far, sacrificed a burnt offering, and ate a meal “in the presence of God” (vv. 9–12).

An experienced leader, Jethro observed that the Israelites were wearing Moses out with their needs and demands (v. 18). In the context of God’s overall leadership, Jethro offered Moses advice to fix this state of affairs, and Moses humbly took it, with positive results. The advice was built on three principles. First, delegate. Moses should assign responsibility, sharing the load and developing more leaders. Second, prioritize. He should tend to top-level responsibilities, that is, God’s decrees and instructions (v. 20), while others looked after implementation and application. Third, have a backup plan. When the system didn’t work, he could personally judge the most difficult cases.

What were the qualifications for these leaders in training? In today’s world, we choose leaders who are creative, articulate, and dynamic. But the profile of leadership in Exodus is simply of those who were capable, trustworthy, feared the Lord, and hated dishonest gain (that is, they could not be corrupted by bribes) (v. 21).

### **Apply the Word**

Our modern image of a leader is not always biblical. We admire energy, charisma, and bold vision. Perhaps we should be placing a higher priority on godliness, reverence, integrity, accountability, and wisdom. After all, “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity” (Prov. 11:3).

### **Pray with Us**

The Moody Bible Institute student missions conference starts tomorrow. Your prayers will be an encouragement to Dr. Bryan O’Neal, vice president and associate provost, and his staff as they prepare for this four-day event.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/14/19

# Strengthened in Song

### Devotional Image **Read: [Psalm 59:1](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)[[](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**[**[a](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Psalm+59%3A1%2C+14%E2%80%9317#fen-NIV-14792a)**[]](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**

#### **[For the director of music. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” Of David. A miktam.](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)[[](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**[**[b](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Psalm+59%3A1%2C+14%E2%80%9317#fen-NIV-14792b)**[]](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song) [When Saul had sent men to watch David’s house in order to kill him.](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**

**[1](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)[Deliver me from my enemies, O God;  
    be my fortress against those who are attacking me.](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**

#### **[Footnotes:](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**

1. [**[Psalm 59:1](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Psalm+59%3A1%2C+14%E2%80%9317#en-NIV-14792) **[In Hebrew texts 59:1-17 is numbered 59:2-18.](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**
2. [**[Psalm 59:1](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Psalm+59%3A1%2C+14%E2%80%9317#en-NIV-14792) **[Title: Probably a literary or musical term](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)**

**Read:** [**Psalm 59:14–17**](https://www.odb.org/2019/10/14/strengthened-in-song)

14They return at evening,  
    snarling like dogs,  
    and prowl about the city.  
15They wander about for food  
    and howl if not satisfied.  
16But I will sing of your strength,  
    in the morning I will sing of your love;  
for you are my fortress,  
    my refuge in times of trouble.

17You are my strength, I sing praise to you;  
    you, God, are my fortress,  
    my God on whom I can rely.

I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress. [Psalm 59:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NIV&search=Psalm+59%3A16)

When French villagers helped Jewish refugees hide from the Nazis during World War II, some sang songs in the dense forest surrounding their town—letting the refugees know it was safe to come out from hiding. These brave townspeople of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon had answered the call of local pastor André Trocmé and his wife, Magda, to offer wartime refuge to Jews on their windswept plateau known as “La Montagne Protestante.” Their musical signal became just one feature of the villagers’ bravery that helped save up to 3,000 Jews from almost certain death.

In another dangerous time, David sang when his enemy Saul sent nighttime assassins to his house. His use of music wasn’t a signal; rather, it was his song of gratitude to God his refuge. David rejoiced, “I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble” (Psalm 59:16).

Such singing isn’t “whistling in the dark” during danger. Instead, David’s singing conveyed his trust in almighty God. “You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely” (v. 17).

David’s praise, and the villagers’ singing in Le Chambon, offer an invitation to bless God today with our singing, making melody to Him despite the worries of life. His loving presence will respond, strengthening our hearts.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How do you feel when you’re singing your favorite praise song? Why do praise songs inspire us to feel stronger?

Dear God, strengthen my heart with praises that transform my fears and worries into worship of You.

#### **Insight**

In Psalm 59, the author uses the word fortress four times to underscore his view of God during life’s difficulties (vv. 1, 9, 16, 17). A fortress is a place of safety and security. It’s both a place of defense and rest, as well as a place where needs are met. It’s also where the enemy can be safely engaged. In verse 1, God is a fortress who protects from attacks. Verse 9 provides its own unique perspective to the idea of God as fortress. There the author says, “I watch for you.” When danger looms, the psalmist looks in confident expectation for the deliverance of God. He understands that when there’s a threat, nothing provides safety like Him. In recognition of this, we can join him in celebration and praise to God (vv. 16–17).

# God Calling – 10/14/19

# The Sacrifice

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. -- John 1:29

"Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." I am the Lamb of God. Lay upon Me your sins, your failures, your shortcomings. My sacrifice has atoned for all. I am the mediator between God and Man, the man Christ Jesus.

Do not dwell upon the past. You make My Sacrifice of no effect.

No! realize that in Me you have all, complete forgiveness, complete companionship, complete healing.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: ... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities ... and with his stripes we are healed.  Isaiah 53:4,5