# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/19/21

# The Unheeded Secret



Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world." —[John 18:36](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+18%3A36)

The great enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ today is the idea of practical work that has no basis in the New Testament but comes from the systems of the world. This work insists upon endless energy and activities, but no private life with God. The emphasis is put on the wrong thing. Jesus said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation….For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you” ([Luke 17:20-21](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+17:20-21)). It is a hidden, obscure thing. An active Christian worker too often lives to be seen by others, while it is the innermost, personal area that reveals the power of a person’s life.

We must get rid of the plague of the spirit of this religious age in which we live. In our Lord’s life there was none of the pressure and the rushing of tremendous activity that we regard so highly today, and a disciple is to be like His Master. The central point of the kingdom of Jesus Christ is a personal relationship with Him, not public usefulness to others.

It is not the practical activities that are the strength of this Bible Training College— its entire strength lies in the fact that here you are immersed in the truths of God to soak in them before Him. You have no idea of where or how God is going to engineer your future circumstances, and no knowledge of what stress and strain is going to be placed on you either at home or abroad. And if you waste your time in overactivity, instead of being immersed in the great fundamental truths of God’s redemption, then you will snap when the stress and strain do come. But if this time of soaking before God is being spent in getting rooted and grounded in Him, which may appear to be impractical, then you will remain true to Him whatever happens.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

An intellectual conception of God may be found in a bad vicious character. The knowledge and vision of God is dependent entirely on a pure heart. Character determines the revelation of God to the individual. The pure in heart see God. Biblical Ethics, 125 R

# CCEL – 10/19/21

**The Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.**—[PROV. 3:26.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.3.html" \l "Prov.3.26)

Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.—The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.—When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that wait for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.—I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.—Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

[Psa. 76:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.76.html" \l "Ps.76.10). -[Prov. 21:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.21.html" \l "Prov.21.1). -[Prov. 16:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.16.html" \l "Prov.16.7).[Psa. 130:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.130.html" \l "Ps.130.5). -[Psa. 34:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.34.html" \l "Ps.34.4).[Deut. 33:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.33.html" \l "Deut.33.27). -[Jer. 17:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.17.html" \l "Jer.17.7).[Rom. 8:31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html#Rom.8.31).

“Babes in Christ.” [1 Corinthians 3:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.3.html" \l "iCor.3.1)

Are you mourning, believer, because you are so weak in the divine life: because your faith is so little, your love so feeble? Cheer up, for you have cause for gratitude. Remember that in some things you are equal to the greatest and most full-grown Christian. You are as much bought with blood as he is. You are as much an adopted child of God as any other believer. An infant is as truly a child of its parents as is the full-grown man. You are as completely justified, for your justification is not a thing of degrees: your little faith has made you clean every whit. You have as much right to the precious things of the covenant as the most advanced believers, for your right to covenant mercies lies not in your growth, but in the covenant itself; and your faith in Jesus is not the measure, but the token of your inheritance in him. You are as rich as the richest, if not in enjoyment, yet in real possession. The smallest star that gleams is set in heaven; the faintest ray of light has affinity with the great orb of day. In the family register of glory the small and the great are written with the same pen. You are as dear to your Father’s heart as the greatest in the family. Jesus is very tender over you. You are like the smoking flax; a rougher spirit would say, “put out that smoking flax, it fills the room with an offensive odour!” but the smoking flax he will not quench. You are like a bruised reed; and any less tender hand than that of the Chief Musician would tread upon you or throw you away, but he will never break the bruised reed. Instead of being downcast by reason of what you are, you should triumph in Christ. Am I but little in Israel? Yet in Christ I am made to sit in heavenly places. Am I poor in faith? Still in Jesus I am heir of all things. Though “less than nothing I can boast, and vanity confess.” Yet, if the root of the matter be in me I will rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the God of my salvation.

# Word Live – 10/19/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/19/21

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# Today in the Word – 10/19/21

# Failure at the Border

**Read:** [**Numbers 14:1–35**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3a1%e2%80%9335)

### **The People Rebel**

14 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” 4And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

5Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

10But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. 11The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? 12I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

13Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. 14And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. 15If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, 16‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’

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

20The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, 22not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— 23not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. 25Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3A1%E2%80%9335+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-4134a)]”

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

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Numbers 14:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3A1%E2%80%9335+&version=NIV#en-NIV-4134) Or the Sea of Reeds

When the chips are down and you need to make a decision, who do you go to for advice? Hopefully, it’s a wise friend or family member whose words are rooted in Scripture and faith. But sometimes we listen to people speaking from peer pressure, cultural trends, or just plain foolishness.

In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people. Numbers 14:19

Camped at the border of the Promised Land, on the verge of claiming everything God had promised, the people of Israel chose to listen to the fearful majority report of ten spies rather than the faith-filled minority report of Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 13). Both groups agreed that the land was beautiful and fruitful, but they were alarmed and frightened by the fortified cities and fearsome warriors.

Joshua and Caleb, on the other hand, knew that the Lord would win the victory. Their attitude was, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). Moses and Aaron supported their report (Num. 14:5–9), but the people didn’t listen. There was more talk of going back to Egypt (vv. 2–4). The bottom line: Israel refused to trust the Lord and obey His command to enter the promised land. They forsook their covenant obligations. They failed to live up to their identity as His “treasured possession . . . a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:5–6).

God was righteously angry (Num. 14:10–12), but once again, Moses interceded, defending them not because they deserved it but on the basis of God’s name and glory (vv. 13–19). God mercifully granted Moses’ petition, but He enacted justice as well. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, that generation would be condemned to wander and die in the wilderness (vv. 20–35).

**Apply the Word**

How often have we stood at the border of God’s promised provision, and yet lacked the faith and courage to take the next step? Pray today that God will give you the courage needed to follow Him, and consider what next step He might be asking you to take.

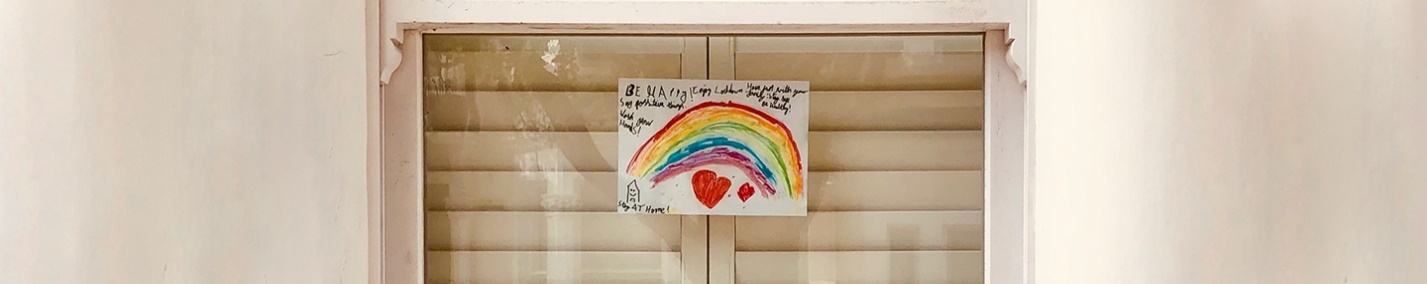
### **Pray with Us**

Lord God, some of us stand on the brink of a life-changing decision, and we are afraid. We ask for courage and faith to follow You into uncertainty or even danger. Put our trust into action.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/19/21

# When to Sacrifice

**Read:** [**Galatians 5:22–26**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gal%205.22%E2%80%9326)

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. [Galatians 5:22–23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gal%205.22%E2%80%9323)

In February 2020, as the COVID-19 crisis was just beginning, a newspaper columnist’s concerns struck me. Would we willingly self-isolate, she wondered, changing our work, travel, and shopping habits so others wouldn’t get sick? “This isn’t just a test of clinical resources,” she wrote, “but of our willingness to put ourselves out for others.” Suddenly, the need for virtue was front-page news.

It can be hard to consider others’ needs while we’re anxious about our own. Thankfully, we’re not left with willpower alone to meet the need. We can ask the Holy Spirit to give us love to replace our indifference, joy to counter sadness, peace to replace our anxiety, forbearance (patience) to push out our impulsiveness, kindness to care about others, goodness to see to their needs, faithfulness to keep our promises, gentleness instead of harshness, and self-control to lift us beyond self-centeredness ([Galatians 5:22–23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gal%205.22%E2%80%9323)). While we won’t be perfect at all of this, we’re called to seek the Spirit’s gifts of virtue regularly ([Ephesians 5:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%205.18)).

Author Richard Foster once described holiness as the ability to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done. And such holiness is needed every day, not just in a pandemic. Do we have the capacity to make sacrifices for the sake of others? Holy Spirit, fill us with the power to do what needs to be done.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

When have you made a sacrifice for the sake of others? What needs around you call for the Holy Spirit’s fruit today?

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today and make me a person of virtue.

#### **Insight**

The book of Galatians has been rightly referred to as a “short and fiery” work. Paul’s tone and word choices match the seriousness of the error that confronted the believers in Jesus in Galatia (a region in Asia Minor where Paul preached and established churches). What needed correction? False teachers were preaching a false gospel that required adhering to the demands of the law of Moses in addition to faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.

Not only are we justified—made right with God—by faith in Christ alone ([Galatians 2:15–21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gal%202.15%E2%80%9321)), but believers in Christ grow to be like Him (sanctification) by the same means—by faith apart from keeping the law (5:1–11). Through God’s Spirit, believers are empowered for godly living, including loving one’s neighbor as oneself (vv. 13–26).

By: [**Arthur Jackson**](https://odb.org/author/arthurjackson/)

# God Calling – 10/19/21

# Hear My Answer

Lord, hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto Thee.

The cry of the human soul is never unheard. It is never that God does not hear the cry, but that man fails to hear the response.

Like parts of a machine, made to fit each into the other, and to work in perfect harmony, so is the human cry and the God-response.

But man treats this cry as if it were a thing alone, to be heard, or not, as it pleased God, not realizing that the response was there in all eternity, awaiting the cry, and only man's failing to heed, or to listen, kept him unaware of the response, and unsaved, unhelped by it.

If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us,   
whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.  1 John 5:14,15

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/20/21

# Is God’s Will My Will?



This is the will of God, your sanctification… —[1 Thessalonians 4:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Thessalonians+4%3A3)

Sanctification is not a question of whether God is willing to sanctify me— is it my will? Am I willing to let God do in me everything that has been made possible through the atonement of the Cross of Christ? Am I willing to let Jesus become sanctification to me, and to let His life be exhibited in my human flesh? (see [1 Corinthians 1:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1:30)). Beware of saying, “Oh, I am longing to be sanctified.” No, you are not. Recognize your need, but stop longing and make it a matter of action. Receive Jesus Christ to become sanctification for you by absolute, unquestioning faith, and the great miracle of the atonement of Jesus will become real in you.

All that Jesus made possible becomes mine through the free and loving gift of God on the basis of what Christ accomplished on the cross. And my attitude as a saved and sanctified soul is that of profound, humble holiness (there is no such thing as proud holiness). It is a holiness based on agonizing repentance, a sense of inexpressible shame and degradation, and also on the amazing realization that the love of God demonstrated itself to me while I cared nothing about Him (see [Romans 5:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5:8)). He completed everything for my salvation and sanctification. No wonder Paul said that nothing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” ([Romans 8:39](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8:39)).

Sanctification makes me one with Jesus Christ, and in Him one with God, and it is accomplished only through the magnificent atonement of Christ. Never confuse the effect with the cause. The effect in me is obedience, service, and prayer, and is the outcome of inexpressible thanks and adoration for the miraculous sanctification that has been brought about in me because of the atonement through the Cross of Christ.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The fiery furnaces are there by God’s direct permission. It is misleading to imagine that we are developed in spite of our circumstances; we are developed because of them. It is mastery in circumstances that is needed, not mastery over them. The Love of God—The Message of Invincible Consolation, 674 R

# CCEL – 10/20/21

**I delight in the law of God after the inward man.**—[ROM. 7:22.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.7.html" \l "Rom.7.22)

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.—Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.—I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.—I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.—My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.—Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.

[Psa. 119:97](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.119.html" \l "Ps.119.97). -[Jer. 15:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.15.html" \l "Jer.15.16). -[Song 2:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.2.html" \l "Song.2.3). -[Job 23:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.23.html" \l "Job.23.12).[Psa. 40:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.40.html" \l "Ps.40.8). -[John 4:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.4.html" \l "John.4.34).[Psa. 19:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.19.html" \l "Ps.19.8),[10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.19.html" \l "Ps.19.10). -[Jas. 1:22,23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.1.html" \l "Jas.1.22).

“Grow up into him in all things.” [Ephesians 4:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.15)

Many Christians remain stunted and dwarfed in spiritual things, so as to present the same appearance year after year. No up-springing of advanced and refined feeling is manifest in them. They exist but do not “grow up into him in all things.” But should we rest content with being in the “green blade,” when we might advance to “the ear,” and eventually ripen into the “full corn in the ear?” Should we be satisfied to believe in Christ, and to say, “I am safe,” without wishing to know in our own experience more of the fulness which is to be found in him. It should not be so; we should, as good traders in heaven’s market, covet to be enriched in the knowledge of Jesus. It is all very well to keep other men’s vineyards, but we must not neglect our own spiritual growth and ripening. Why should it always be winter time in our hearts? We must have our seed time, it is true, but O for a spring time—yea, a summer season, which shall give promise of an early harvest. If we would ripen in grace, we must live near to Jesus—in his presence—ripened by the sunshine of his smiles. We must hold sweet communion with him. We must leave the distant view of his face and come near, as John did, and pillow our head on his breast; then shall we find ourselves advancing in holiness, in love, in faith, in hope—yea, in every precious gift. As the sun rises first on mountain-tops and gilds them with his light, and presents one of the most charming sights to the eye of the traveller; so is it one of the most delightful contemplations in the world to mark the glow of the Spirit’s light on the head of some saint, who has risen up in spiritual stature, like Saul, above his fellows, till, like a mighty Alp, snow-capped, he reflects first among the chosen, the beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and bears the sheen of his effulgence high aloft for all to see, and seeing it, to glorify his Father which is in heaven.

# Word Live – 10/20/21

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# Scripture Union – 10/20/21

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# Today in the Word – 10/20/21

# Moses Fails

**Read:** [**Numbers 20:1–13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+20%3a1%e2%80%9313)

### **Water From the Rock**

20 In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

2Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. 3They quarreled with Moses and said, “If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! 4Why did you bring the Lord’s community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? 5Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!”

6Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. 7The Lord said to Moses, 8“Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

9So Moses took the staff from the Lord’s presence, just as he commanded him. 10He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” 11Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

12But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

13These were the waters of Meribah,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+20%3A1%E2%80%9313+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-4325a)] where the Israelites quarreled with the Lord and where he was proved holy among them.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Numbers 20:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+20%3A1%E2%80%9313+&version=NIV#en-NIV-4325) Meribah means quarreling.

Do you think Moses sometimes felt like a parent trying to herd a pack of squabbling children (the Israelites)? One of parenting’s greatest challenges is to lead and discipline without giving in to frustration or anger. Children do not always respond to parental authority in reasonable or obedient ways. Being a good mother or father, teacher or leader, requires God’s help!

You did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy. Numbers 20:12

Moses failed in this area in today’s reading. Israel’s habitual complaining became a matter of pride. If he took their grumbling personally, he was stepping into the place of God and essentially taking the credit or glory for himself. Normally, he recognized that the people were in fact complaining against God and resisted this temptation.

But not this time. The people were irritable about a lack of water (vv. 2–5). Their constant complaint was, essentially: “Why did you bring us here to die?” Moses and Aaron inquired of the Lord, and He told them to speak to a rock and it would pour forth water. Moses, however, spoke and acted in anger, striking the rock instead of speaking to it.

Perhaps Moses was depressed about the nation’s failure at the border. Perhaps he was upset over the recent death of his sister (v. 1). Whatever the reason, there was no excuse for this sin of pride. “Must we bring you water?” was both a complaint and a boast (v. 10; see Ps. 106:32–33). That’s what made his sin of striking the rock so heinous.

Though the punishment of not being permitted to enter the promised land seems severe, it fit the sin (Num. 20:12). Moses had publicly disobeyed the Lord. It was a failure of faith—"you did not trust in me enough"—as well as a failure of obedience and worship. He had failed to honor God as holy.

**Apply the Word**

To us, complaining or grumbling might seem like a mild sin. But Scripture doesn’t agree! Let us ask God to help us fight this temptation and “become blameless and pure” (Phil. 2:14–16).

### **Pray with Us**

In many churches today, reverence is not always emphasized, but we ask You to check our every complaint with a reminder of Your holiness. Silence our complaining with joyful reverence for Your majesty.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/20/21

# Crumbled from Within

 **Read:** [**Psalm 32:1–5**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032.1%E2%80%935)

#### **Of David. A maskil.[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+32%3A1%E2%80%935+%3B+Matthew+7%3A1%E2%80%935&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14357a)**]**

1Blessed is the one  
    whose transgressions are forgiven,  
    whose sins are covered.  
2Blessed is the one  
    whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
    and in whose spirit is no deceit.

3When I kept silent,  
    my bones wasted away  
    through my groaning all day long.  
4For day and night  
    your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
    as in the heat of summer.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+32%3A1%E2%80%935+%3B+Matthew+7%3A1%E2%80%935&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14360b)]

5Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
    and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, “I will confess  
    my transgressions to the Lord.”  
And you forgave  
    the guilt of my sin.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Psalm 32:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+32%3A1%E2%80%935+%3B+Matthew+7%3A1%E2%80%935&version=NIV#en-NIV-14357) Title: Probably a literary or musical term
2. [Psalm 32:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+32%3A1%E2%80%935+%3B+Matthew+7%3A1%E2%80%935&version=NIV#en-NIV-14360) The Hebrew has Selah (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the end of verses 5 and 7.

**Read:** [**Matthew 7:1–5**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%207.1%E2%80%935)

### **Judging Others**

7 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. [Psalm 32:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032.5)

When I was a teenager, my mom painted a mural on our living room wall, which stayed there for several years. It showed an ancient Greek scene of a ruined temple with white columns lying on their sides, a crumbling fountain, and a broken statue. As I looked at the Hellenistic architecture that had once held great beauty, I tried to imagine what had destroyed it. I was curious, especially when I began studying about the tragedy of once great and thriving civilizations that had decayed and crumbled from within.

The sinful depravity and wanton destruction we see around us today can be troubling. It’s natural for us to try to explain it by pointing to people and nations that have rejected God. But shouldn’t we be casting our gaze inwardly as well? Scripture warns us about being hypocrites when we call out others to turn from their sinful ways without also taking a deeper look inside our own hearts ([Matthew 7:1–5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%207.1%E2%80%935)).

[Psalm 32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032) challenges us to see and confess our own sin. It’s only when we recognize and confess our personal sin that we can experience freedom from guilt and the joy of true repentance (vv. 1–5). And as we rejoice in knowing that God offers us complete forgiveness, we can share that hope with others who are also struggling with sin.

By:  [Cindy Hess Kasper](https://odb.org/author/cindyhesskasper/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What’s the first step in identifying sin in your life? Why is it vital that you confess your sin to God?

Father God, I thank You for the gift of Your forgiveness that eliminates the guilt of my sin. Help me to first examine my own heart before I concern myself with the sins of others.

#### **Insight**

As mentioned in [Psalm 32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2032), the confession of sin can set us free. David explains that his unconfessed sin had physical effects on his body: “my bones wasted away” (v. 3); “my strength was sapped” (v. 4). At the time, many believed physical pain, problems, and sickness were always the result of sin. Even though this isn’t the case, we know that our mental and emotional state can impact our physical well-being. The three words for sin this psalm presents—transgressions (disobedience), sins (missing the mark), and iniquity (distorted character)—are contrasted with three expressions of forgiveness—forgiven, covered, and not counted against. When we confess our sin, we’re forgiven and released from the emotional weight of a guilty conscience.

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

# God Calling – 10/20/21

# No Burden Irks

**Our Lord and our God. Be it done unto us according to Thy Word.**

Simple acceptance of My Will is the Key to Divine Revelation. It will result in both Holiness and Happiness. The way to the Cross may be a way of sorrow, but at its foot the burdens of sin and earth-desire are rolled away.

The yoke of My acceptance of My Father's Will in all things is adjusted to My servants' shoulders, and from that moment on no burden irks or presses.

But not only in the great decisions of life accept and welcome My Will.  Try to see in each interruption, each task, however small, the same fulfillment of Divine intent.

Accept it, say your thanks for it. Do so until this becomes a habit, and the resulting Joy will transfigure and transform your lives.

Walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness  
 and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.  Ephesians 5:8-10

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/21/21

# Impulsiveness or Discipleship?

 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith… —[Jude 20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Jude+20)

There was nothing of the nature of impulsive or thoughtless action about our Lord, but only a calm strength that never got into a panic. Most of us develop our Christianity along the lines of our own nature, not along the lines of God’s nature. Impulsiveness is a trait of the natural life, and our Lord always ignores it, because it hinders the development of the life of a disciple. Watch how the Spirit of God gives a sense of restraint to impulsiveness, suddenly bringing us a feeling of self-conscious foolishness, which makes us instantly want to vindicate ourselves. Impulsiveness is all right in a child, but is disastrous in a man or woman— an impulsive adult is always a spoiled person. Impulsiveness needs to be trained into intuition through discipline.

Discipleship is built entirely on the supernatural grace of God. Walking on water is easy to someone with impulsive boldness, but walking on dry land as a disciple of Jesus Christ is something altogether different. Peter walked on the water to go to Jesus, but he “followed Him at a distance” on dry land ([Mark 14:54](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14:54)). We do not need the grace of God to withstand crises— human nature and pride are sufficient for us to face the stress and strain magnificently. But it does require the supernatural grace of God to live twenty-four hours of every day as a saint, going through drudgery, and living an ordinary, unnoticed, and ignored existence as a disciple of Jesus. It is ingrained in us that we have to do exceptional things for God— but we do not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things of life, and holy on the ordinary streets, among ordinary people— and this is not learned in five minutes.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We are apt to think that everything that happens to us is to be turned into useful teaching; it is to be turned into something better than teaching, viz. into character. We shall find that the spheres God brings us into are not meant to teach us something but to make us something. The Love of God—The Ministry of the Unnoticed, 664 L

# CCEL – 10/21/21

**Of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.**—[JOHN 1:16.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.1.html" \l "John.1.16)

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things.—If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

I and my Father are one. The Father is in me, and I in him.—My Father, and your Father; and . . . my God, and your God.—I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one.

The Church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Having . . . these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

[Matt. 17:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.17.html" \l "Matt.17.5). -[I John 3:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.1).[Heb. 1:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.1.html" \l "Heb.1.2). -[Rom. 8:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.17).[John 10:30](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.30),[38](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.38). -[John 20:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.20.html" \l "John.20.17). -[John 17:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.23).[Eph. 1:22,23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.22).[II Cor. 7:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.7.html" \l "iiCor.7.1).

“The love of Christ constraineth us.” [2 Corinthians 5:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.14)

How much owest thou unto my Lord? Has he ever done anything for thee? Has he forgiven thy sins? Has he covered thee with a robe of righteousness? Has he set thy feet upon a rock? Has he established thy goings? Has he prepared heaven for thee? Has he prepared thee for heaven? Has he written thy name in his book of life? Has he given thee countless blessings? Has he laid up for thee a store of mercies, which eye hath not seen nor ear heard? Then do something for Jesus worthy of his love. Give not a mere wordy offering to a dying Redeemer. How will you feel when your Master comes, if you have to confess that you did nothing for him, but kept your love shut up, like a stagnant pool, neither flowing forth to his poor or to his work. Out on such love as that! What do men think of a love which never shows itself in action? Why, they say, “Open rebuke is better than secret love.” Who will accept a love so weak that it does not actuate you to a single deed of self-denial, of generosity, of heroism, or zeal! Think how he has loved you, and given himself for you! Do you know the power of that love? Then let it be like a rushing mighty wind to your soul to sweep out the clouds of your worldliness, and clear away the mists of sin. “For Christ’s sake” be this the tongue of fire that shall sit upon you: “for Christ’s sake” be this the divine rapture, the heavenly afflatus to bear you aloft from earth, the divine spirit that shall make you bold as lions and swift as eagles in your Lord’s service. Love should give wings to the feet of service, and strength to the arms of labour. Fixed on God with a constancy that is not to be shaken, resolute to honour him with a determination that is not to be turned aside, and pressing on with an ardour never to be wearied, let us manifest the constraints of love to Jesus. May the divine lodestone draw us heavenward towards itself.

# Word Live – 10/21/21

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# Scripture Union – 10/21/21

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# Today in the Word – 10/21/21

# The Bronze Snake

**Read:** [**Numbers 21:4–9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+21%3a4%e2%80%939)

### **The Bronze Snake**

4They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+21%3A4%E2%80%939+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-4345a)] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

6Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

8The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” 9So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Numbers 21:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+21%3A4%E2%80%939+&version=NIV#en-NIV-4345) Or the Sea of Reeds

Why did Jesus compare a bronze snake to His own death on the cross? The “snake episode” Jesus referred to in His conversation with Nicodemus took place as the nation reapproached the promised land. They had spent 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and two of their leaders, Miriam and Aaron, had died. Israel had just won a victory against a Canaanite king, and the people were growing impatient. They had been traveling around Edom (inhabited by the descendants of Esau) since they’d been denied passage through that land. Predictably, they complained against God and Moses, and even grumbled about manna (v. 5). (To be fair, though, manna had been their staple food ever since they were children!)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. John 3:14–15

God judged them with a plague of poisonous snakes. They confessed their sinful words and attitudes, and Moses once again interceded on their behalf (v. 7). God instructed that a bronze (or more likely copper) snake be made and hung on a pole. Those who looked at it would live (v. 8). Why did God choose to use a snake? Perhaps because that was what was killing them. At any rate, they had to trust in the Lord and obey His instructions in order to be healed. Only the truly repentant would trust and obey. Perhaps this new generation had learned something after all, for instead of doubling down on their rebelliousness, they repented and obeyed God.

Seven centuries later, in the days of Hezekiah, people turned this historic relic into an idol, and it had to be destroyed (2 Kings 18:4). But even later, just as mentioned in today’s verse, Jesus, the Son of Man, would be lifted up (this time on a Roman cross) to bring life to all who believed.

**Apply the Word**

Worship belongs to God alone! What do you “lift up” in your life that is not worthy of your fixed attention and praise? Too often we elevate things, even good things, above God. How can we lift Him up above everything else?

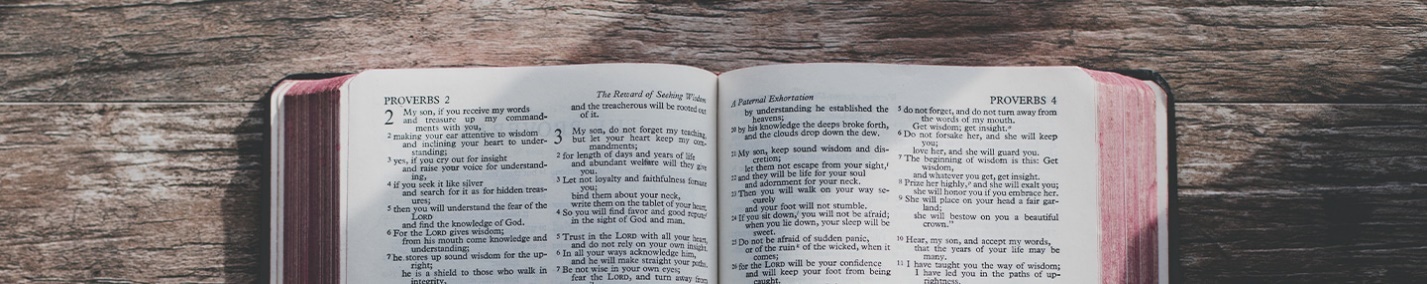
### **Pray with Us**

Holy God, today’s passage reminds us that salvation was always Your plan, and You were pointing Your people to the cross throughout the Old Testament. We worship You, the God who saves.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/21/21

# Studying the Scriptures

 **Read:** [**John 5:39–47**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%205.39%E2%80%9347)

39You study[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A39%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26250a)] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

41“I do not accept glory from human beings, 42but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. 43I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. 44How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A39%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26255b)]?

45“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. 46If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. 47But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [John 5:39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A39%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-26250) Or 39Study
2. [John 5:44](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A39%E2%80%9347&version=NIV#en-NIV-26255) Some early manuscripts the Only One

[Jesus said], “These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.” [John 5:39](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%205.39)

J. I. Packer (1926–2020), in his classic work Knowing God, spoke of four well-known believers in Christ whom he called “beavers for the Bible.” Not all were trained scholars, but each one exercised great care to know God by gnawing into the Scripture, like a beaver digs in and gnaws away at a tree. Packer further noted that knowing God through Bible study is not just for scholars. “A simple Bible reader and sermon hearer who is full of the Holy Spirit will develop a far deeper acquaintance with his God and Savior than a more learned scholar who is content with being theologically correct.”

Unfortunately, not all who study the Bible do so with humble hearts with the goal of getting to know the Savior better and becoming more like Him. In Jesus’ day there were those who read the Old Testament Scriptures, yet they missed the very One they spoke of. “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life” ([John 5:39–40](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%205.39%E2%80%9340)).

Do you sometimes find yourself stumped as you read the Bible? Or have you given up studying the Scriptures altogether? Bible “beavers” are more than Bible readers. They prayerfully and carefully gnaw away at Scripture in ways that open their eyes and hearts to see and love Jesus—the One revealed in it.

By:  [Arthur Jackson](https://odb.org/author/arthurjackson/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What are some Old Testament Scripture passages that you recognize as “testifying” about Jesus? What better habits do you need to develop to become a better student of the Scriptures?

Father, open my eyes to see Jesus in all of Scripture so that I might love, obey, and serve Him more.

#### **Insight**

In [John 5:39](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%205.39), Jesus stresses the importance of studying Scripture because it points to Him. Both the Old and New Testaments declare Scripture’s impact. In [2 Timothy 3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Tim%203), Paul encourages Timothy to continue in the Scriptures, and he notes that “all Scripture is God-breathed” and trains and equips us for personal growth in holiness and to serve others (vv. 16–17). Before installing Joshua as the new Israelite leader, God urged him to “meditate on [the Law] day and night” so that he’d be obedient and successful ([Joshua 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Josh%201.8)). In [Psalm 19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2019), David declares that the words of God refresh the soul, make wise the simple, and give joy to the heart and light to the eyes. By them we’re warned and find great reward (vv. 7–11). Through keeping and treasuring Scripture, we’re blessed, and God makes our way clear ([Psalm 119:1–3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%20119.1%E2%80%933), [105](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalm%20119.105); [Proverbs 2:1–5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%202.1%E2%80%935)).

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

# God Calling – 10/21/21

# A Love Feast

**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -- Revelation 3:20.**

See, My children, the knocking rests upon no merit of yours -- though it is in response to the longing of your heart for Me.

Keep, keep that listening ear. "If any man will hear My Voice."  Again no merit of yours. Only the ear bent to catch My tones, and to hear the sound of My gentle knocking.

Then listen: "If any man hear My Voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

What a feast! You think it would have been Joy to have been present at the Marriage Feast of Cana of Galilee, or to have been one of My disciples in the Upper Room, seated with Me at the Last Supper or one of the two at Emmaus, or one of the few for whom I prepared that Lakeside feast!

But oh! at each of these feasts, God-provided and God-championed as they were, you could not have known the rapture you may know as you hear the knocking and the Voice, and, opening, bid Me welcome to My Feast.

A Feast of tenderest companionship, of Divine Sustenance, truly a Love Feast.

Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live.  Isaiah 55:3

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/22/21

# The Witness of the Spirit



The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit… —[Romans 8:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Romans+8%3A16)

We are in danger of getting into a bargaining spirit with God when we come to Him— we want the witness of the Spirit before we have done what God tells us to do.

Why doesn’t God reveal Himself to you? He cannot. It is not that He will not, but He cannot, because you are in the way as long as you won’t abandon yourself to Him in total surrender. Yet once you do, immediately God witnesses to Himself— He cannot witness to you, but He instantly witnesses to His own nature in you. If you received the witness of the Spirit before the reality and truth that comes from obedience, it would simply result in sentimental emotion. But when you act on the basis of redemption, and stop the disrespectfulness of debating with God, He immediately gives His witness. As soon as you abandon your own reasoning and arguing, God witnesses to what He has done, and you are amazed at your total disrespect in having kept Him waiting. If you are debating as to whether or not God can deliver from sin, then either let Him do it or tell Him that He cannot. Do not quote this or that person to Him. Simply obey [Matthew 11:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11:28), “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden….” Come, if you are weary, and ask, if you know you are evil (see [Luke 11:9-13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:9-13)).

The Spirit of God witnesses to the redemption of our Lord, and to nothing else. He cannot witness to our reason. We are inclined to mistake the simplicity that comes from our natural commonsense decisions for the witness of the Spirit, but the Spirit witnesses only to His own nature, and to the work of redemption, never to our reason. If we are trying to make Him witness to our reason, it is no wonder that we are in darkness and uncertainty. Throw it all overboard, trust in Him, and He will give you the witness of the Spirit.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The message of the prophets is that although they have forsaken God, it has not altered God. The Apostle Paul emphasizes the same truth, that God remains God even when we are unfaithful (see 2 Timothy 2:13). Never interpret God as changing with our changes. He never does; there is no variableness in Him.  Notes on Ezekiel, 1477 L

# CCEL – 10/22/21

**O God, my heart is fixed.**—[PSA. 108:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.108.html" \l "Ps.108.1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.—He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.—In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy: I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.

The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

[Psa. 27:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.1).[Isa. 26:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.26.html" \l "Isa.26.3). -[Psa. 112:7,8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.112.html" \l "Ps.112.7).[Psa. 56:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.56.html" \l "Ps.56.3). -[Psa. 27:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.5).[I Pet. 5:10,11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.5.html" \l "iPet.5.10).

“I will love them freely.” [Hosea 14:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Hos.14.html" \l "Hos.14.4)

This sentence is a body of divinity in miniature. He who understands its meaning is a theologian, and he who can dive into its fulness is a true master in Israel. It is a condensation of the glorious message of salvation which was delivered to us in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. The sense hinges upon the word “freely.” This is the glorious, the suitable, the divine way by which love streams from heaven to earth, a spontaneous love flowing forth to those who neither deserved it, purchased it, nor sought after it. It is, indeed, the only way in which God can love such as we are. The text is a death-blow to all sorts of fitness: “I will love them freely.” Now, if there were any fitness necessary in us, then he would not love us freely; at least, this would be a mitigation and a drawback to the freeness of it. But it stands, “I will love you freely.” We complain, “Lord, my heart is so hard.” “I will love you freely.” “But I do not feel my need of Christ as I could wish.” “I will not love you because you feel your need; I will love you freely.” “But I do not feel that softening of spirit which I could desire.” Remember, the softening of spirit is not a condition, for there are no conditions; the covenant of grace has no conditionality whatever; so that we without any fitness may venture upon the promise of God which was made to us in Christ Jesus, when he said, “He that believeth on him is not condemned.” It is blessed to know that the grace of God is free to us at all times, without preparation, without fitness, without money, and without price! “I will love them freely.” These words invite backsliders to return: indeed, the text was specially written for such—“I will heal their backsliding; I will love them freely.” Backslider! surely the generosity of the promise will at once break your heart, and you will return, and seek your injured Father’s face.

# Word Live – 10/22/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/22/21

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# Today in the Word – 10/22/21

# A Distinctive Faith

**Read:** [**Hebrews 11:24–28**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11%3a24%e2%80%9328)

24By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Author Zora Neale Hurston wrote a book titled Moses, Man of the Mountain. Published in 1939, it retells the story of Moses and the Exodus. Hurston altered details of the story for her own purposes, weaving in allusions to African American history, folklore, and song. She reflected the deep resonances black people feel with this scriptural narrative.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

The themes of freedom and liberation in the life of Moses are intertwined with his faith in God. By faith, he chose to identify as an Israelite slave, which was his true heritage (vv. 24–25). The implication in Hebrews is that he chose to be mistreated as one of God’s people rather than to enjoy the “fleeting pleasures of sin” (v. 25). Why would Moses make such a choice? “He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt” (v. 26). How much did Moses know about the coming Messiah? We aren’t exactly sure, but Jesus did say that Moses wrote about Him (John 5:46). The point is that Moses chose God’s people, and thus God Himself, knowing that his faith would be rewarded.

By faith, Moses left the riches and privilege of Egypt. Humanly speaking, by doing so he lost power, influence, and wealth, yet he persisted in trusting God through 40 years in Midian. His parents had surely taught him about the God of their ancestors. That’s how he could persevere—”because he saw him who is invisible” (v. 27).

By faith, Moses kept the first Passover, believing that a lamb’s blood would bring salvation (v. 28). He led the people in celebrating in faith before the final plague had actually happened, before their liberation had finally been accomplished. His faith staked everything on God’s character, His loving purposes, and His promise-keeping power!

**Apply the Word**

We should all aspire to be in Faith’s Hall of Fame! Write a few of your own “by faith” statements: “By faith, I...” How has your faith in God impacted your life choices?

### **Pray with Us**

By faith, we stake our character on Yours. By faith, we submit our skills, desires, and hopes to Your omniscient plan. By faith, we believe that You are all-good and all-powerful to fulfill Your purposes through us.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/22/21

# Live to Serve

 **Read:** [**1 Peter 4:8–11**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%204.8%E2%80%9311)

8Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. [1 Peter 4:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%204.10)

After ten-year-old Chelsea received an elaborate art set, she discovered that God used art to help her feel better when she was sad. When she found out that some kids didn’t have art supplies readily available, she wanted to help them. So when it was time for her birthday party, she asked her friends not to bring her gifts. Instead, she invited them to donate art supplies and help fill boxes for children in need.

Later, with her family’s help, she started Chelsea’s Charity. She began asking more people to help her fill boxes so she could help more kids. She has even taught art tips to groups who have received her boxes. After a local newscaster interviewed Chelsea, people started donating supplies from all over the country. As Chelsea’s Charity continues sending art supplies internationally, this young girl is demonstrating how God can use us when we’re willing to live to serve others.

Chelsea’s compassion and willingness to share reflects the heart of a faithful steward. The apostle Peter encourages all believers in Jesus to be faithful stewards as they “love each other deeply” by sharing the resources and talents God has given them ([1 Peter 4:8–11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%204.8%E2%80%9311)).

Our small acts of love can inspire others to join us in giving. God can even rally supporters to serve alongside us. As we rely on Him, we can live to serve and give Him the glory He deserves.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How can you rely on God to help you serve others today? In what way has God been nudging you to serve Him that seems too big for you to handle alone?

Faithful Father, please give me all I need to serve You by loving others with my words and actions today.

#### **Insight**

Writing to believers in Jesus who are suffering because of persecution ([1 Peter 4:12–16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%204.12%E2%80%9316)), Peter tells them not to be fearful but to remain faithful, to “revere Christ as Lord” (3:14–15), and to live in a way that honors God before a hostile and unbelieving world (2:11–12). In today’s passage (4:8–11), he encourages believers to “love each other deeply” (v. 8), which is demonstrated when we forgive one another, offer hospitality (v. 9), and unselfishly use our spiritual gifts to serve one another (v. 10). Believers aren’t to use their gifts for their own selfish ends but be “good managers of God’s diverse gifts” (ceb); we’re to responsibly use them to edify others and glorify God (v. 11). Elsewhere, the apostle Paul lists some of these spiritual gifts and how they’re to be used ([Romans 12:3–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2012.3%E2%80%938); [1 Corinthians 12:4–31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%2012.4%E2%80%9331); [Ephesians 4:11–16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%204.11%E2%80%9316)).

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

# God Calling – 10/22/21

# Home-Building

You are building up an unshakable faith. Be furnishing the quiet places of your souls now.

Fill them with all that is harmonious and good, beautiful, and enduring.

Home-build in the Spirit now, and the waiting time will be well spent.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.  Jude 1:20

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/23/21

# Nothing of the Old Life!



If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. —[2 Corinthians 5:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+5%3A17)

Our Lord never tolerates our prejudices— He is directly opposed to them and puts them to death. We tend to think that God has some special interest in our particular prejudices, and are very sure that He will never deal with us as He has to deal with others. We even say to ourselves, “God has to deal with other people in a very strict way, but of course He knows that my prejudices are all right.” But we must learn that God accepts nothing of the old life! Instead of being on the side of our prejudices, He is deliberately removing them from us. It is part of our moral education to see our prejudices put to death by His providence, and to watch how He does it. God pays no respect to anything we bring to Him. There is only one thing God wants of us, and that is our unconditional surrender.

When we are born again, the Holy Spirit begins to work His new creation in us, and there will come a time when there is nothing remaining of the old life. Our old gloomy outlook disappears, as does our old attitude toward things, and “all things are of God” ([2 Corinthians 5:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5:18)). How are we going to get a life that has no lust, no self-interest, and is not sensitive to the ridicule of others? How will we have the type of love that “is kind…is not provoked, [and] thinks no evil”? ([1 Corinthians 13:4-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13:4-5)). The only way is by allowing nothing of the old life to remain, and by having only simple, perfect trust in God— such a trust that we no longer want God’s blessings, but only want God Himself. Have we come to the point where God can withdraw His blessings from us without our trust in Him being affected? Once we truly see God at work, we will never be concerned again about the things that happen, because we are actually trusting in our Father in heaven, whom the world cannot see.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

# CCEL – 10/23/21

**A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**—[LUKE 12:15.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.12.html" \l "Luke.12.15)

A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.—Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.—Godliness with contentment is great gain. Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.—Give us this day our daily bread.

Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?—When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.—Let your conversation be without covetousness: and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

[Psa. 37:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.37.html" \l "Ps.37.16). -[Prov. 15:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.15.html" \l "Prov.15.16). -[I Tim. 6:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.6.html" \l "iTim.6.6),[8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.6.html" \l "iTim.6.8).[Prov. 30:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.30.html" \l "Prov.30.8). -[Matt. 6:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.6.html" \l "Matt.6.11).[Matt. 6:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.6.html" \l "Matt.6.25). -[Luke 22:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.22.html" \l "Luke.22.35). -[Heb. 13:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.5).

“Will ye also go away?” [John 6:67](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.67)

Many have forsaken Christ, and have walked no more with him; but what reason have you to make a change? Has there been any reason for it in the past? Has not Jesus proved himself all-sufficient? He appeals to you this morning—“Have I been a wilderness unto you?” When your soul has simply trusted Jesus, have you ever been confounded? Have you not up till now found your Lord to be a compassionate and generous friend to you, and has not simple faith in him given you all the peace your spirit could desire? Can you so much as dream of a better friend than he has been to you? Then change not the old and tried for new and false. As for the present, can that compel you to leave Christ? When we are hard beset with this world, or with the severer trials within the Church, we find it a most blessed thing to pillow our head upon the bosom of our Saviour. This is the joy we have today that we are saved in him; and if this joy be satisfying, wherefore should we think of changing? Who barters gold for dross? We will not forswear the sun till we find a better light, nor leave our Lord until a brighter lover shall appear; and, since this can never be, we will hold him with a grasp immortal, and bind his name as a seal upon our arm. As for the future, can you suggest anything which can arise that shall render it necessary for you to mutiny, or desert the old flag to serve under another captain? We think not. If life be long—he changes not. If we are poor, what better than to have Christ who can make us rich? When we are sick, what more do we want than Jesus to make our bed in our sickness? When we die, is it not written that “neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!” We say with Peter, “Lord, to whom shall we go?”

# Word Live – 10/23/21

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

# Scripture Union – 10/23/21

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

# Today in the Word – 10/23/21

# The Core Message of Moses

**Read:** [**Deuteronomy 6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+6)

### **Love the Lord Your God**

6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+6+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5091a)] 5Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

10When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

13Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. 14Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; 15for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. 16Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. 17Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. 18Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, 19thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said.

20In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?” 21tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22Before our eyes the Lord sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. 23But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. 24The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. 25And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 6:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+6+&version=NIV#en-NIV-5091) Or The Lord our God is one Lord; or The Lord is our God, the Lord is one; or The Lord is our God, the Lord alone

The title of the Old Testament book, Deuteronomy, means “second law” or “repetition of the law.” It is the final of the five books of the Pentateuch, probably written about 1406 B.C. when the nation was camped in Moab, just across the border from Canaan, and shortly before Moses’ death (Deut. 1:5; 31:9, 24). Interestingly, all three Scriptures quoted by Jesus during His temptation in the wilderness were taken from this Old Testament book.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

In Deuteronomy, we find three sermons, or farewell messages, given by Moses to the Israelites. One key theme in the 40 years of Moses’ leadership was the covenant responsibility of obedience (vv. 1–3; see Deut. 10:12–13). The Israelites could not truly fear the Lord without doing what He said. Words must be accompanied by actions. They could not claim knowledge of the Lord unless they were also obedient to His commands. The consequences of this responsibility were life and death (see Deut. 30:11–20). Disobedience would lead to judgment; obedience would lead to blessings.

At the heart of Moses’ teaching was the “Shema” (meaning “hear”), a confession of faith recited by Jews up to this present day (Deut. 6:4–9). It affirms that “the LORD is one.” He is the supreme Creator, the most high God. The pagan world in that time had many “gods” competing for their attention. The God of Israel is not one of these. He is the great “I Am,” period. Therefore, the greatest commandment is to love Him with our whole beings—all our heart, soul, and strength.

God’s Word helps us remember the Lord in the good times (vv. 10–12). It helps us avoid idolatry (vv. 13–19). And it helps us pass on these truths to the next generation (vv. 20–25)!

**Apply the Word**

The “Shema” emphasizes the importance of Scripture (or, to the Israelites, the Law and Torah). In today’s chapter, how many times does it say that the Word should be central in our lives?

### **Pray with Us**

Cultivate in us a deep and abiding love for Your Word. Holy Spirit, illuminate Scripture and grant us understanding. Remove our misconceptions and help us know You as You desire to be known.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/23/21

# Wise Christians

 **Read:** [**Luke 16:1–9**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2016.1%E2%80%939)

### **The Parable of the Shrewd Manager**

16 Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

3“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— 4I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

5“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

6“‘Nine hundred gallons[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25627a)] of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

7“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25628b)] of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

8“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Luke 16:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#en-NIV-25627) Or about 3,000 liters
2. [Luke 16:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16%3A1%E2%80%939&version=NIV#en-NIV-25628) Or about 30 tons

The people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. [Luke 16:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2016.8)

The coronavirus pandemic resulted in canceled schools around the world. In China, teachers responded with DingTalk, a digital app that enabled class to be held online. Then their students figured out that if DingTalk’s rating fell too low, it might be removed from the App Store. Overnight, thousands of one-star reviews dropped DingTalk’s score.

Jesus wouldn’t be impressed with the students shirking their responsibilities, but He might admire their ingenuity. He told an unusual story about a fired manager who on his final day slashed the bills of his master’s debtors. Jesus didn’t praise the manager’s dishonesty. Rather He commended his cleverness and wished His followers would be equally shrewd: “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings” ([Luke 16:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2016.9)).

When it comes to money, most people look at how much they might lose. Wise people look for what they can use. Jesus said giving to others “gain[s] friends,” which provides safety and influence. Who is the leader in any group? The one who pays. Giving also gains “eternal dwellings,” for our willingness to part with our cash shows our trust is in Jesus.

Even if we don’t have money, we do have time, skills, or a listening ear. Let’s ask God to show us how to creatively serve others for Jesus.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Who does Jesus want you to serve today? How might you creatively use your skills, money, or time to bless this person?

Jesus, I want to give to others for You.

#### **Insight**

The main character in the story Jesus told in [Luke 16:1–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2016.1%E2%80%938) is referred to as a “manager.” The word translated “manager” is oikonómos. Such persons were in charge of household affairs (to include finances, servants, children, flocks, and fields). Though English translations don’t necessarily reflect this, words derived from this root word appear seven times in this passage, including what’s translated “my job” in verses 3 and 4. In [1 Corinthians 4:1–2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%204.1%E2%80%932) and [Titus 1:7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Titus%201.7), Paul uses oikonómos to refer to Christian leaders. Peter uses the term to refer to believers in Jesus in general ([1 Peter 4:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%204.10)). Each has been entrusted with gifts and responsibilities for which we’re accountable to God. Wisely using these gifts and responsibilities goes with good stewardship.

By: [**Arthur Jackson**](https://odb.org/author/arthurjackson/)

# God Calling – 10/23/21

# Hill of Sacrifice

You must trust to the end. You must be ready to go on trusting to the last hour.

You must know even when you cannot see . .  . You must be ready, like My servant Abraham, to climb the very Hill of Sacrifice, to go to the very last moment, before you see My Deliverance.

This final test has to come to all who walk by Faith. You must rely on Me alone.

Look to no other arm, look for no other help. Trust in the Spirit Forces of the Unseen, not in those you see. Trust and fear not.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.  Matthew 10:22

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/24/21

# The Proper Perspective



Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ… —[2 Corinthians 2:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+2%3A14)

The proper perspective of a servant of God must not simply be as near to the highest as he can get, but it must be the highest. Be careful that you vigorously maintain God’s perspective, and remember that it must be done every day, little by little. Don’t think on a finite level. No outside power can touch the proper perspective.

The proper perspective to maintain is that we are here for only one purpose— to be captives marching in the procession of Christ’s triumphs. We are not on display in God’s showcase— we are here to exhibit only one thing— the “captivity [of our lives] to the obedience of Christ” ([2 Corinthians 10:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+10:5)). How small all the other perspectives are! For example, the ones that say, “I am standing all alone, battling for Jesus,” or, “I have to maintain the cause of Christ and hold down this fort for Him.” But Paul said, in essence, “I am in the procession of a conqueror, and it doesn’t matter what the difficulties are, for I am always led in triumph.” Is this idea being worked out practically in us? Paul’s secret joy was that God took him as a blatant rebel against Jesus Christ, and made him a captive— and that became his purpose. It was Paul’s joy to be a captive of the Lord, and he had no other interest in heaven or on earth. It is a shameful thing for a Christian to talk about getting the victory. We should belong so completely to the Victor that it is always His victory, and “we are more than conquerors through Him…” ([Romans 8:37](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8:37)).

“We are to God the fragrance of Christ…” ([2 Corinthians 2:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+2:15)). We are encompassed with the sweet aroma of Jesus, and wherever we go we are a wonderful refreshment to God.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The message of the prophets is that although they have forsaken God, it has not altered God. The Apostle Paul emphasizes the same truth, that God remains God even when we are unfaithful (see 2 Timothy 2:13). Never interpret God as changing with our changes. He never does; there is no variableness in Him.  Notes on Ezekiel, 1477 L

# CCEL – 10/24/21

**I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.**—[JON. 2:4.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jonah.2.html" \l "Jonah.2.4)

Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

I forgat prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord.—Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.—Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?—In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance.—We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

[Isa. 49:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.49.html" \l "Isa.49.14).[Lam. 3:17,18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lam.3.html" \l "Lam.3.17). -[Psa. 44:23](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.44.html" \l "Ps.44.23). -[Isa. 40:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.40.html" \l "Isa.40.27). -[Isa. 54:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.54.html" \l "Isa.54.8).[Psa. 43:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.43.html" \l "Ps.43.5). -[II Cor. 4:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.4.html" \l "iiCor.4.8).

“The trees of the Lord are full of sap.” [Psalm 104:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.104.html" \l "Ps.104.16)

Without sap the tree cannot flourish or even exist. Vitality is essential to a Christian. There must be life—a vital principle infused into us by God the Holy Ghost, or we cannot be trees of the Lord. The mere name of being a Christian is but a dead thing, we must be filled with the spirit of divine life. This life is mysterious. We do not understand the circulation of the sap, by what force it rises, and by what power it descends again. So the life within us is a sacred mystery. Regeneration is wrought by the Holy Ghost entering into man and becoming man’s life; and this divine life in a believer afterwards feeds upon the flesh and blood of Christ and is thus sustained by divine food, but whence it cometh and whither it goeth who shall explain to us? What a secret thing the sap is! The roots go searching through the soil with their little spongioles, but we cannot see them suck out the various gases, or transmute the mineral into the vegetable; this work is done down in the dark. Our root is Christ Jesus, and our life is hid in him; this is the secret of the Lord. The radix of the Christian life is as secret as the life itself. How permanently active is the sap in the cedar! In the Christian the divine life is always full of energy—not always in fruit-bearing, but in inward operations. The believer’s graces are not every one of them in constant motion, but his life never ceases to palpitate within. He is not always working for God, but his heart is always living upon him. As the sap manifests itself in producing the foliage and fruit of the tree, so with a truly healthy Christian, his grace is externally manifested in his walk and conversation. If you talk with him, he cannot help speaking about Jesus. If you notice his actions you will see that he has been with Jesus. He has so much sap within, that it must fill his conduct and conversation with life.

# Word Live – 10/24/21

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# Scripture Union – 10/24/21

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# Today in the Word – 10/24/21

# Renewing the Covenant

**Read:** [**Deuteronomy 29**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+29)

### **Renewal of the Covenant**

29 [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+29+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5681a)]These are the terms of the covenant the Lord commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

2Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them:

Your eyes have seen all that the Lord did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials and to all his land. 3With your own eyes you saw those great trials, those signs and great wonders. 4But to this day the Lord has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear. 5Yet the Lord says, “During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. 6You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God.”

7When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. 8We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

9Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. 10All of you are standing today in the presence of the Lord your God—your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, 11together with your children and your wives, and the foreigners living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. 12You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God, a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, 13to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 14I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you 15who are standing here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God but also with those who are not here today.

16You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here. 17You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold. 18Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

19When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way,” they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. 20The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven. 21The Lord will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

22Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the Lord has afflicted it. 23The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger. 24All the nations will ask: “Why has the Lord done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?”

25And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. 26They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. 27Therefore the Lord’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. 28In furious anger and in great wrath the Lord uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.”

29The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Deuteronomy 29:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+29+&version=NIV#en-NIV-5681) In Hebrew texts 29:1 is numbered 28:69, and 29:2-29 is numbered 29:1-28.

Historians serve an important role in our society. While historians might not save lives or arrest criminals, they play a key role in our current and future success. Historians remind us of our past. They explain how people and societies came to be. They remind us of efforts that led to great success and others that resulted in devastating failure.

I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 29:6

History played an important role for God’s people as well, which is why in Deuteronomy 29, Moses spent time reminding them of the past. First, Moses led Israel in a renewal of the covenant. The setting is the same as yesterday—the nation was camped in Moab, near the border of the promised land (v. 1).

Moses began by reminding them that their history proved God’s faithfulness and power (vv. 2–8). This list included the signs and wonders God performed on their behalf in Egypt and their ultimate liberation from bondage. He had provided for them and guided them during the wilderness years and gave them victories east of the Jordan River. They couldn’t take any credit for these things, for they’d been spiritually hardhearted and dull (v. 4).

God’s reaffirmation was taking place in this historical context (vv. 9–15). God’s promises, many dating back to the patriarchs, were about to be fulfilled. This was a solemn and sacred occasion! The Israelites’ covenant responsibilities of obedience and worship had to be taken seriously. Idolatry was a “bitter poison” to avoid (vv. 16–18). Failure to keep the covenant would bring serious consequences (vv. 19–28). Curses would fall on them; their judgment would become an object lesson to the nations.

**Apply the Word**

A review of Israel’s history brought up troubling (and probably embarrassing) memories. Moses urged them to consider their heart and their commitment. It is good for us, too, to review and reaffirm our own commitment to serve God.

### **Pray with Us**

Heavenly Father, make us pliable instruments in Your hands so that Your work can be done through us, not in spite of us. Eradicate our idolatry, for You alone are worthy of our praise.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/24/21

# Talk, Trust, Feel

 **Read:** [**Romans 8:14–21**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%208.14%E2%80%9321)

14For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A14%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28132a)] And by him we cry, “Abba,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A14%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28132b)] Father.” 16The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

### **Present Suffering and Future Glory**

18I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21that[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A14%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28138c)] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Romans 8:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A14%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#en-NIV-28132) The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture; also in verse 23.
2. [Romans 8:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A14%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#en-NIV-28132) Aramaic for father
3. [Romans 8:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A14%E2%80%9321&version=NIV#en-NIV-28138) Or subjected it in hope. 21For

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear. [Romans 8:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%208.15)

“Don’t talk, don’t trust, don’t feel was the law we lived by,” says Frederick Buechner in his powerful memoir Telling Secrets, “and woe to the one who broke it.” Buechner is describing his experience of what he calls the “unwritten law of families who for one reason or another have gone out of whack.” In his own family, that “law” meant Buechner was not allowed to talk about or grieve his father’s suicide, leaving him with no one he could trust with his pain.

Can you relate? Many of us in one way or another have learned to live with a warped version of love, one that demands dishonesty or silence about what’s harmed us. That kind of “love” relies on fear for control—and is a kind of slavery.

We can’t afford to forget just how different Jesus’ invitation to love is from the kind of conditional love we often experience—a kind of love we’re always afraid we could lose. As Paul explains, through Christ’s love we can finally understand what it means to not live in fear ([Romans 8:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%208.15)) and start to understand the kind of glorious freedom (v. 21) that’s possible when we know we’re deeply, truly, and unconditionally loved. We’re free to talk, to trust, and to feel once more—to learn what it means to live unafraid.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Are there any unspoken “rules” you’ve learned as conditions for acceptance and love? How might you live differently if you believed you didn’t have to follow those rules to be loved?

Loving God, at times I’m afraid to live honestly with myself and with others—thinking that by doing so I’ll no longer be loved. Heal my heart, and help me believe in and live for the glory, freedom, and joy Your love makes possible.

#### **Insight**

[Romans 7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%207) deals with the conflict we face with sin and concludes by Paul saying, “I myself . . . am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin” (v. 25). In contrast, [Romans 8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%208) begins with this magnificent assurance: “Therefore, there is no now condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (v. 1). Believers in Jesus are now free to live out the joyous victory found by following Him. Verse 5 provides the key: “Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is absolutely crucial. And so verse 14 appropriately says, “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” It’s this Spirit that “testifies with our spirit that we’re God’s children” (v. 16).

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

# God Calling – 10/24/21

# Salt of the Earth

**Our Lord, we bless Thee and thank Thee for Thy Keeping Power.**

Yes! "Kept by the Power of God" is a promise, and an assurance that holds Joy and Beauty for the believing soul.

The keeping that means security, safety, is wonderful. There is, too, the keeping that implies Life, freshness, purity, the being "kept unspotted from the world."

Then there is the keeping that I ensure to those of whom I speak as the salt of the earth.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour it is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

Only in very close contact with Me is the keeping Power realized. That keeping Power which maintains the salt at its freshest and best, and also preserves from corruption that portion of the world in which I place it.

What a work! Not by activity in this case, but simply by its existing, by its quality.

I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.  Isaiah 27:3

# My Utmost for His Highest – 10/25/21

# Submitting to God’s Purpose



I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. —[1 Corinthians 9:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Corinthians+9%3A22)

A Christian worker has to learn how to be God’s man or woman of great worth and excellence in the midst of a multitude of meager and worthless things. Never protest by saying, “If only I were somewhere else!” All of God’s people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them. Unless we have the right purpose intellectually in our minds and lovingly in our hearts, we will very quickly be diverted from being useful to God. We are not workers for God by choice. Many people deliberately choose to be workers, but they have no purpose of God’s almighty grace or His mighty Word in them. Paul’s whole heart, mind, and soul were consumed with the great purpose of what Jesus Christ came to do, and he never lost sight of that one thing. We must continually confront ourselves with one central fact— “…Jesus Christ and Him crucified” ([1 Corinthians 2:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+2:2)).

“I chose you…” ([John 15:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15:16)). Keep these words as a wonderful reminder in your theology. It is not that you have gotten God, but that He has gotten you. God is at work bending, breaking, molding, and doing exactly as He chooses. And why is He doing it? He is doing it for only one purpose— that He may be able to say, “This is My man, and this is My woman.” We have to be in God’s hand so that He can place others on the Rock, Jesus Christ, just as He has placed us.

Never choose to be a worker, but once God has placed His call upon you, woe be to you if you “turn aside…to the right or the left…” ([Deuteronomy 28:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+28:14)). He will do with you what He never did before His call came to you, and He will do with you what He is not doing with other people. Let Him have His way.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The Christian Church should not be a secret society of specialists, but a public manifestation of believers in Jesus.  Facing Reality, 34 R

# CCEL – 10/25/21

**Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.**—[MATT. 28:20.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.28.html" \l "Matt.28.20)

If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.—He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

[Matt. 18:19,20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.18.html" \l "Matt.18.19). -[John 14:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.21).[John 14:2223](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.22).[Jude 24,25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jude.1.html" \l "Jude.1.24).

“For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us forever.” [2 John 2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiJohn.1.html" \l "iiJohn.1.2)

Once let the truth of God obtain an entrance into the human heart and subdue the whole man unto itself, no power human or infernal can dislodge it. We entertain it not as a guest but as the master of the house—this is a Christian necessity, he is no Christian who doth not thus believe. Those who feel the vital power of the gospel, and know the might of the Holy Ghost as he opens, applies, and seals the Lord’s Word, would sooner be torn to pieces than be rent away from the gospel of their salvation. What a thousand mercies are wrapped up in the assurance that the truth will be with us forever; will be our living support, our dying comfort, our rising song, our eternal glory; this is Christian privilege, without it our faith were little worth. Some truths we outgrow and leave behind, for they are but rudiments and lessons for beginners, but we cannot thus deal with Divine truth, for though it is sweet food for babes, it is in the highest sense strong meat for men. The truth that we are sinners is painfully with us to humble and make us watchful; the more blessed truth that whosoever believeth on the Lord Jesus shall be saved, abides with us as our hope and joy. Experience, so far from loosening our hold of the doctrines of grace, has knit us to them more and more firmly; our grounds and motives for believing are now more strong, more numerous than ever, and we have reason to expect that it will be so till in death we clasp the Saviour in our arms.

Wherever this abiding love of truth can be discovered, we are bound to exercise our love. No narrow circle can contain our gracious sympathies, wide as the election of grace must be our communion of heart. Much of error may be mingled with truth received, let us war with the error but still love the brother for the measure of truth which we see in him; above all let us love and spread the truth ourselves.

# Word Live – 10/25/21

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# Scripture Union – 10/25/21

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# Today in the Word – 10/25/21

# Moses Names a Successor

**Read:** [**Numbers 27:12–23**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+27%3a12%e2%80%9323)

### **Joshua to Succeed Moses**

12Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go up this mountain in the Abarim Range and see the land I have given the Israelites. 13After you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, 14for when the community rebelled at the waters in the Desert of Zin, both of you disobeyed my command to honor me as holy before their eyes.” (These were the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Desert of Zin.)

15Moses said to the Lord, 16“May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community 17to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord’s people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”

18So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+27%3A12%E2%80%9323+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-4573a)] and lay your hand on him. 19Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. 20Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. 21He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the Lord. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in.”

22Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. 23Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the Lord instructed through Moses.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Numbers 27:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+27%3A12%E2%80%9323+&version=NIV#en-NIV-4573) Or the Spirit

How could a legend like Moses be replaced? God had a plan for this very important transition, and Moses was obedient to it. On one hand, it may seem as if Moses’ life ended with disappointment. Because of his earlier sin, God did not allow him to enter the promised land (see October 20). He was, however, permitted to see it from a distance (vv. 12–14). Rather than sulking about what he could not do, Moses’ response was a worshipful petition: He asked the Lord to appoint the next leader, so that the people would not be left “like sheep without a shepherd” (vv. 15–17).

The LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

The second of Moses’ last two major public actions was to commission his divinely chosen successor. Joshua is described as “a man in whom is the Spirit” [NIV alternate] (vv. 18–23). Joshua was the natural choice: He had accompanied Moses part of the way up Mount Sinai. He had guarded the tent of meeting. And, he’d led the army in victorious battle. Because he’d argued for obedience, he was one of only two men from the previous generation to survive the wilderness wanderings.

In a public ceremony held in the presence of Eleazar the priest— implying God’s approval—Moses laid hands on Joshua, signifying a formal passing on of leadership responsibilities and authority (see Deut. 31:1–8). Though his protégé would enter the promised land and he wouldn’t, there’s no sign that Moses was jealous or bitter. He knew God’s punishment was just. He encouraged Joshua and the people with these words: “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deut. 31:8).

**Apply the Word**

Sometimes we may be disappointed at the way God works in our life. Can we, like Moses, accept God’s decisions and humbly and wholly submit to the will of God? How can we imitate the example of Moses by accepting the will of God in our life?

### **Pray with Us**

Lord, we pray for new believers who may struggle with inexperience. Give them the spirit of leadership and guide them to the mentors and resources that will equip them to lead well.

## BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 10/25/21

# The Testing

 **Read:** [**Genesis 22:1–3**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2022.1%E2%80%933)

### **Abraham Tested**

22 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

2Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

3Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

**Read:** [**Genesis 22:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2022.1%E2%80%933)[**6–12**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Genesis%2022.6%E2%80%9312)

6Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

9When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

12“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Some time later God tested Abraham. [Genesis 22:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2022.1)

The first time I took my sons to hike a Colorado Fourteener—a mountain with an elevation of a least 14,000 feet—they were nervous. Could they make it? Were they up to the challenge? My youngest stopped on the trail for extended breaks. “Dad, I can’t go any more,” he said repeatedly. But I believed this test would be good for them, and I wanted them to trust me. A mile from the peak, my son who’d insisted he could go no further caught his second wind and beat us to the summit. He was so glad he trusted me, even amid his fears.

I marvel at the trust Isaac had in his father as they climbed their mountain. Far more, I’m undone by the trust Abraham had in God as he raised his knife over his son ([Genesis 22:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2022.10)). Even with his confused and wrenching heart, Abraham obeyed. Mercifully, an angel stopped him. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” God’s messenger declared (v. 12). God never intended for Isaac to die.

As we draw parallels from this unique story to our own with caution, it’s crucial to note the opening line: “God tested Abraham” (v. 1). Through his test, Abraham learned how much he trusted God. He discovered His loving heart and profound provision.

In our confusion, darkness, and testing, we learn truths about ourselves and about God. And we may even find that our testing leads to a deeper trust in Him.

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

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How do you believe you’ve been tested by God? What was that experience like, and what did you take away from it?

God, I don’t know if what I’m experiencing is Your testing or not, but either way, I want to trust You. I give my future to You.

#### **Insight**

[Genesis 22:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2022.1), [15–18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Genesis%2022.15%E2%80%9318) make it clear that God tested Abraham to examine his heart. While God may test our faith and obedience ([James 1:2–4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/James%201.2%E2%80%934)), He never tempts us to do wrong (v. 13). The writer of Hebrews commended the patriarch’s deep faith: “Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again” ([Hebrews 11:19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%2011.19) nlt). The apostle James said that “Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. . . . His actions made his faith complete” ([James 2:21–22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/James%202.21%E2%80%9322) nlt).

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# God Calling – 10/25/21

# No Unemployment

The Way of conquest over the material, the temporal, which all My disciples should know, is learned by the conquest of the physical, the self-life, in each of you.

So seek, in all things, to conquer. Take this as a very definite Guidance. Circumstances are adverse. Temporal power, as money, needs to be forthcoming.

Then seek daily more and more to obtain this self-conquest, and you are gaining surely, though you may not see it, conquest over the temporal forces and powers.

Unemployment would cease if man realized this.

If he has not the work let him make himself a conquering force, beginning with the conquest of all evil in himself, then in his home, then in all round him. He will have become a force that will be needed, and must be employed.

There are no idle hours in My Kingdom. Waiting may seem a time of inactivity, as far as the outer world is concerned, but it can, and should, be a time of great activity in the inner life, and the surrounding material plane.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their   
testimony: and they loved not their lives unto the death.  Revelation 12:11