# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/7/21

# Fountains of Blessings



The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. —[John 4:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+4%3A14)

The picture our Lord described here is not that of a simple stream of water, but an overflowing fountain. Continue to “be filled” ([Ephesians 5:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5:18)) and the sweetness of your vital relationship to Jesus will flow as generously out of you as it has been given to you. If you find that His life is not springing up as it should, you are to blame— something is obstructing the flow. Was Jesus saying to stay focused on the Source so that you may be blessed personally? No, you are to focus on the Source so that out of you “will flow rivers of living water”— irrepressible life ([John 7:38](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7:38)).

We are to be fountains through which Jesus can flow as “rivers of living water” in blessing to everyone. Yet some of us are like the Dead Sea, always receiving but never giving, because our relationship is not right with the Lord Jesus. As surely as we receive blessings from Him, He will pour out blessings through us. But whenever the blessings are not being poured out in the same measure they are received, there is a defect in our relationship with Him. Is there anything between you and Jesus Christ? Is there anything hindering your faith in Him? If not, then Jesus says that out of you “will flow rivers of living water.” It is not a blessing that you pass on, or an experience that you share with others, but a river that continually flows through you. Stay at the Source, closely guarding your faith in Jesus Christ and your relationship to Him, and there will be a steady flow into the lives of others with no dryness or deadness whatsoever.

Is it excessive to say that rivers will flow out of one individual believer? Do you look at yourself and say, “But I don’t see the rivers”? Through the history of God’s work you will usually find that He has started with the obscure, the unknown, the ignored, but those who have been steadfastly true to Jesus Christ.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The great point of Abraham’s faith in God was that he was prepared to do anything for God.  Not Knowing Whither, 903 R

# CCEL – 9/7/21

**Rejoicing in hope.**—[ROM. 12:12.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.12.html" \l "Rom.12.12)

The hope which is laid up for you in heaven.—If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.—We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.—Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me cannot be my disciple.—No man should be moved by these afflictions, for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.—The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.—Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.—By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

[Col. 1:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.5). -[I Cor. 15:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.19). -[Acts. 14:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.14.html" \l "Acts.14.22). -[Luke 14:27](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.14.html" \l "Luke.14.27). -[I Thes. 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iThess.3.html" \l "iThess.3.3).[Phi. 4:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.4.html" \l "Phil.4.4). -[Rom. 15:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.15.html" \l "Rom.15.13). -[I Pet. 1:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.3). -[I Pet. 1:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.8). -[Rom. 5:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.2).

“And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.” **[Mark 2:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.2.html" \l "Mark.2.4)**

Faith is full of inventions. The house was full, a crowd blocked up the door, but faith found a way of getting at the Lord and placing the palsied man before him. If we cannot get sinners where Jesus is by ordinary methods we must use extraordinary ones. It seems, according to [Luke 5:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.5.html" \l "Luke.5.19), that a tiling had to be removed, which would make dust and cause a measure of danger to those below, but where the case is very urgent we must not mind running some risks and shocking some proprieties. Jesus was there to heal, and therefore fall what might, faith ventured all so that her poor paralysed charge might have his sins forgiven. O that we had more daring faith among us! Cannot we, dear reader, seek it this morning for ourselves and for our fellow-workers, and will we not try today to perform some gallant act for the love of souls and the glory of the Lord.

The world is constantly inventing; genius serves all the purposes of human desire: cannot faith invent too, and reach by some new means the outcasts who lie perishing around us? It was the presence of Jesus which excited victorious courage in the four bearers of the palsied man: is not the Lord among us now? Have we seen his face for ourselves this morning? Have we felt his healing power in our own souls? If so, then through door, through window, or through roof, let us, breaking through all impediments, labour to bring poor souls to Jesus. All means are good and decorous when faith and love are truly set on winning souls. If hunger for bread can break through stone walls, surely hunger for souls is not to be hindered in its efforts. O Lord, make us quick to suggest methods of reaching thy poor sin-sick ones, and bold to carry them out at all hazards.

# Word Live – 9/7/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/7/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/7/21

# Circumstance and Calling

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 7:1–24**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+7%3a1%e2%80%9324)

### Concerning Married Life

7 Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 3The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. 5Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

8Now to the unmarried[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+1+Corinthians+7%3A1%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28496a)] and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

10To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

12To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

15But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

### Concerning Change of Status

17Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God’s commands is what counts. 20Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

21Were you a slave when you were called? Don’t let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord’s freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ’s slave. 23You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. 24Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 7:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+1+Corinthians+7%3A1%E2%80%9324&version=NIV#en-NIV-28496) Or widowers

April was thrilled to announce her engagement. But later, she began to wonder if she should follow through with it. Her fiancé had a drinking problem and an increasing lack of interest in spiritual things. After prayer and reflection, she made the difficult decision to call off the wedding.

Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. 1 Corinthians 7:20

Believers in Corinth also had relationship concerns. Some who were unmarried wondered if they should marry or remain single. Others, whose conversion came after they had been married, wondered if they should divorce. Paul’s general counsel to both was not to act rashly but to consider both their context and their calling. Those who were single were not sinning if they married, but given the current circumstances in Corinth, it might be “good for them to remain unmarried” (vv. 8–9). Paul commanded the already married to be faithful to their marriage vows (vv. 10–11). He assured those whose conversion had come after they had already married that their union was holy in the eyes of God and urged them not to separate (vv. 12–14).

Always the biblical realist, Paul also acknowledged the impossibility of controlling the choices that others make. Despite a believer’s best efforts to remain in the relationship, some unbelieving spouses may choose to leave—Paul judges that in such cases, the believer “is not bound” (v. 15). When Paul says, “each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them,” he is not offering case law but laying down a general principle that will apply in a variety of contexts. Paul does not mean that no one should ever change. He counsels the Corinthians to consider biblical guidelines and employ common sense when making such decisions.

**Apply the Word**

God was aware of the circumstances of your life when He called you to faith in Christ. Before you make a change, study the guidelines of His Word. Scripture will show you what needs to change. Then trust Him for the rest.

### Pray with Us

Dear God, part of growing up is realizing that life is not as simple as it seemed when we were children. As we face complex situations, give us discernment and biblical insight so we can make decisions that honor You.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/7/21

# Complete in Christ

 **Read:** [**Colossians 2:6–15**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.6%E2%80%9315)

### Spiritual Fullness in Christ

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

8See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29503a)] of this world rather than on Christ.

9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29506b)] was put off when you were circumcised by[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29506c)] Christ, 12having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29508d)] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29510e)]

#### Footnotes

1. [Colossians 2:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#en-NIV-29503) Or the basic principles; also in verse 20
2. [Colossians 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#en-NIV-29506) In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.
3. [Colossians 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#en-NIV-29506) Or put off in the circumcision of
4. [Colossians 2:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#en-NIV-29508) Some manuscripts us
5. [Colossians 2:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6%E2%80%9315&version=NIV#en-NIV-29510) Or them in him

So you also are complete through your union with Christ. [Colossians 2:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.10) nlt

In a popular film, an actor plays a success-driven sports agent whose marriage begins to crumble. Attempting to win back his wife, Dorothy, he looks into her eyes and says, “You complete me.” It’s a heart-warming message that echoes a tale in Greek philosophy. According to that myth, each of us is a “half” that must find our “other half” to become whole.

The belief that a romantic partner “completes” us is now part of popular culture. But is it true? I talk to many married couples who still feel incomplete because they haven’t been able to have children and others who’ve had kids but feel something else is missing. Ultimately, no human can fully complete us.

The apostle Paul gives another solution. “For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ” ([Colossians 2:9–10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.9%E2%80%9310) nlt). Jesus doesn’t just forgive us and liberate us, He also completes us by bringing the life of God into our lives (vv. 13–15).

Marriage is good, but it can’t make us whole. Only Jesus can do that. Instead of expecting a person, career, or anything else to complete us, let’s accept God’s invitation to let His fullness fill our lives more and more.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How have you sought spiritual fulfillment through people instead of God? How does Jesus’ completing you change your view of marriage and singleness?

Jesus, thank You for making me complete through Your death, resurrection, forgiveness, and restoration.

#### Insight

The idea of living our lives in Christ is prominent throughout today’s Scripture reading ([Colossians 2:6–15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%202.6%E2%80%9315)). In fact, the words “in him” (“with him”; “in Christ”) appear several times. In verse 6, believers in Jesus are told to “live your lives in him,” indicating that He’s the One we need to imitate, and our identity is found in Him. Verse 7 continues with the idea of being “rooted and built up in him.” The verb rooted is a metaphor for receiving our sustenance from Jesus continually, as a plant takes in its nourishment at the roots. Verses 9–11 each begin with terminology that refers to being “in Christ.” These verses explain why Jesus is central to the forgiveness of our sins, emphasizing His death and resurrection as well as our role in dying with Him (to our sin) and rising with Him.

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

# God Calling – 9/7/21

# Everlasting Arms

**The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.   -   Deuteronomy 33:27**

Arms, sheltering Arms, express the loving tenderness of your Father (My Father) in Heaven.  Man, in his trouble and difficulty, needs nothing so much as a refuge.  A place to hide in. A place where none and nothing can touch him.

Say to yourself, "He is our Refuge." Say it until the truth sinks into your very soul. Say it until you know it - are so sure of it, that nothing can make you afraid.

Feel this not only until fear goes, but until Joy ripples through in its place. Refuge. Everlasting Arms so untiring, so safe - so sure.

I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. Psalm 71:7

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/8/21

# Do It Yourself (1)



…casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God… —[2 Corinthians 10:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+10%3A5)

**Determinedly Demolish Some Things.**

Deliverance from sin is not the same as deliverance from human nature. There are things in human nature, such as prejudices, that the saint can only destroy through sheer neglect. But there are other things that have to be destroyed through violence, that is, through God’s divine strength imparted by His Spirit. There are some things over which we are not to fight, but only to “stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord…” (see [Exodus 14:13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+14:13)). But every theory or thought that raises itself up as a fortified barrier “against the knowledge of God” is to be determinedly demolished by drawing on God’s power, not through human effort or by compromise (see [2 Corinthians 10:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+10:4)).

It is only when God has transformed our nature and we have entered into the experience of sanctification that the fight begins. The warfare is not against sin; we can never fight against sin— Jesus Christ conquered that in His redemption of us. The conflict is waged over turning our natural life into a spiritual life. This is never done easily, nor does God intend that it be so. It is accomplished only through a series of moral choices. God does not make us holy in the sense that He makes our character holy. He makes us holy in the sense that He has made us innocent before Him. And then we have to turn that innocence into holy character through the moral choices we make. These choices are continually opposed and hostile to the things of our natural life which have become so deeply entrenched— the very things that raise themselves up as fortified barriers “against the knowledge of God.” We can either turn back, making ourselves of no value to the kingdom of God, or we can determinedly demolish these things, allowing Jesus to bring another son to glory (see [Hebrews 2:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2:10)).

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The great point of Abraham’s faith in God was that he was prepared to do anything for God.  
Not Knowing Whither

# CCEL – 9/8/21

**Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.**—[DAN. 5:27.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Dan.5.html" \l "Dan.5.27)

The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him, actions are weighed.—That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.—The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.

What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?—What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts.—Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing.

[I Sam. 2:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iSam.2.html" \l "iSam.2.3). -[Luke 16:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.16.html" \l "Luke.16.15). -[I Sam. 16:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iSam.16.html" \l "iSam.16.7). -[Gal. 6:7,8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gal.6.html" \l "Gal.6.7).[Matt. 16:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.16.html" \l "Matt.16.26). -[Phi. 3:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.3.html" \l "Phil.3.7).[Psa. 51:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.51.html" \l "Ps.51.6). -[Psa. 17:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.17.html" \l "Ps.17.3).

“From me is thy fruit found.” [Hosea 14:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Hos.14.html" \l "Hos.14.8)

Our fruit is found from our God as to union. The fruit of the branch is directly traceable to the root. Sever the connection, the branch dies, and no fruit is produced. By virtue of our union with Christ we bring forth fruit. Every bunch of grapes has been first in the root, it has passed through the stem, and flowed through the sap vessels, and fashioned itself externally into fruit, but it was first in the stem; so also every good work was first in Christ, and then is brought forth in us. O Christian, prize this precious union to Christ; for it must be the source of all the fruitfulness which thou canst hope to know. If thou wert not joined to Jesus Christ, thou wouldst be a barren bough indeed.

Our fruit comes from God as to spiritual providence. When the dew-drops fall from heaven, when the cloud looks down from on high, and is about to distil its liquid treasure, when the bright sun swells the berries of the cluster, each heavenly boon may whisper to the tree and say, “From me is thy fruit found.” The fruit owes much to the root—that is essential to fruitfulness—but it owes very much also to external influences. How much we owe to God’s grace-providence! in which he provides us constantly with quickening, teaching, consolation, strength, or whatever else we want. To this we owe our all of usefulness or virtue.

Our fruit comes from God as to wise husbandry. The gardener’s sharp-edged knife promotes the fruitfulness of the tree, by thinning the clusters, and by cutting off superfluous shoots. So is it, Christian, with that pruning which the Lord gives to thee. “My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” Since our God is the author of our spiritual graces, let us give to him all the glory of our salvation.

# Word Live – 9/8/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/8/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/8/21

# Single or Married?

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 7:25–40**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+7%3a25%e2%80%9340)

### Concerning the Unmarried

25Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. 26Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

29What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

32I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord’s affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

36If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+++++1+Corinthians+7%3A25%E2%80%9340&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28524a)] and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 37But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. 38So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+++++1+Corinthians+7%3A25%E2%80%9340&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28526b)]

39A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. 40In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 7:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+++++1+Corinthians+7%3A25%E2%80%9340&version=NIV#en-NIV-28524) Or if she is getting beyond the usual age for marriage
2. [1 Corinthians 7:38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+++++1+Corinthians+7%3A25%E2%80%9340&version=NIV#en-NIV-28526) Or 36If anyone thinks he is not treating his daughter properly, and if she is getting along in years (or if her passions are too strong), and he feels she ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. He should let her get married. 37But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind to keep the virgin unmarried—this man also does the right thing. 38So then, he who gives his virgin in marriage does right, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.

On one hand, our culture seems to idolize marriage. We have television shows where singles compete for a proposal and online apps that promise to find you the perfect spouse. At the same time, marriage after marriage ends in divorce. Is it better to stay single?

For this world in its present form is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7:31

Paul’s answer to this question is mixed. His own experience as a single man showed advantages to being unmarried. This seemed particularly expedient in the Corinthian context, given the “present crisis” (v. 26). Paul does not specify the exact nature of the crisis, but the same word is used in Luke 21:23 to speak of “great distress.” The unmarried person enjoys the luxury of serving Christ without being distracted by the concerns of married life, and whatever situation they were facing (vv. 32–35).

However, some in Corinth were already “pledged” in marriage. To these Paul directs, “Do not seek to be released.” (v. 27). Paul did not regard singleness to be spiritually superior to marriage. Although he argues the advantages of serving Christ as a single, later in this letter, he also defends the “right” of those who preach the gospel to take “a believing wife” when they engage in ministry (1 Cor. 9:5). In verse 2 the apostle also points to marriage as God’s remedy for sexual immorality.

Paul advises the engaged to take propriety and passion into account when deciding when to marry (v. 36). If delaying the marriage would be interpreted as a dishonorable action or the engaged person feels their passions are too strong and they cannot wait, they should go ahead and get married. Marriage should never be entered into lightly. God views it as a sacred covenant. Those who marry are bound together for life (v. 39).

**Apply the Word**

Paul describes both marriage and singlehood as a gift (1 Cor. 7:7). God’s design for most people is marriage, but that is not true for all. Whether married or single, we must live for Him.

### Pray with Us

Lead us in serving You, God. We live for You, to be used by You for Your purposes in the world. Our relationship with You is paramount. Teach us joy and contentment, whether we are married or single.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/8/21

# Send Me

 **Read:** [**Isaiah 6:1–8**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%206.1%E2%80%938)

### Isaiah’s Commission

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
    the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

6Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

8Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send?” . . . I said, “Here am I. Send me!” [Isaiah 6:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%206.8)

When Swedish missionary Eric Lund felt called by God to go to Spain to do mission work in the late 1890s, he immediately obeyed. He saw little success there, but persevered in his conviction of God’s calling. One day, he met a Filipino man, Braulio Manikan, and shared the gospel with him. Together, Lund and Manikan translated the Bible into a local Philippine language, and later they started the first Baptist mission station in the Philippines. Many would turn to Jesus—all because Lund, like the prophet Isaiah, responded to God’s call.

In [Isaiah 6:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%206.8), God asked for a willing person to go to Israel to declare His judgment for the present and hope for the future. Isaiah volunteered boldly: “Here am I. Send me!” He didn’t think he was qualified, for he’d confessed earlier: “I am a man of unclean lips” (v. 5). But he responded willingly because he’d witnessed God’s holiness, recognized his own sinfulness, and received His cleansing (vv. 1–7).

Is God calling you to do something for Him? Are you holding back? If so, remember all God has done through Jesus’ death and resurrection. He’s given us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us ([John 14:26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2014.26); [15:26–27](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2015.26%E2%80%9327)), and He’ll prepare us to answer His call. Like Isaiah, may we respond, “Send me!”

#### Reflect & Pray

Is God calling you to do something for Him? What’s hindering you from responding?

Jesus, thank You for calling and enabling me to serve You. Help me to see this as a privilege and to serve You willingly.

To [learn more](https://ChristianUniversity.org/ST506-04) about the Trinity.

#### Insight

[Isaiah 6:1–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%206.1%E2%80%9313) tells of the call of Isaiah to a long and difficult prophetic ministry (740–685 bc). Isaiah, whose name means “Yahweh saves,” prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Judah through the reigns of Uzziah and Jotham (both godly kings), Ahaz (one of Judah’s worst kings), and Hezekiah (a king committed to reforms) over some fifty-five years ([Isaiah 1:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%201.1)). He was a contemporary of the prophets Hosea, Amos, and Micah. Assyria was the superpower at this time, threatening to invade Israel and Judah. According to tradition, Isaiah was related to Uzziah, explaining his easy access to the royal courts (7:3; 38:1; 39:3), and he suffered martyrdom when he was sawn in two by King Manasseh (possibly referred to in [Hebrews 11:37](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%2011.37)). Besides this book of prophecies, Isaiah also wrote the biographies of King Uzziah and King Hezekiah (see [2 Chronicles 26:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Chron%2026.22); [32:32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Chronicles%2032.32)). Both books are no longer in existence.

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

# God Calling – 9/8/21

# Walk In My Love

When supply seems to have failed you must know it has not done so.  But you must, at the same time, look around to see what you can give away. Give away something.

There is always a stagnation, a blockage, when supply seems short.  Your giving clears that away, and lets the Spirit of My Supply flow clear.

A consciousness of My Presence as Love makes all Life different.  The consciousness of Me means the opening of your whole nature to Me and that brings relief. Relief brings Peace. Peace brings Joy. The "Peace that passeth all understanding" and the "Joy no man taketh from you."

Beyond all words is My Love and Care for you. Be sure of it. Rejoice in it. Walk in My Love. These words mean much. There is a joy, a spring, a gladness in the walk of those who walk in My Love. That walk becomes a glad conquering and triumphant march. So walk.

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you ...  Deuteronomy 5:33

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/9/21

# Do It Yourself (2)



…bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ… —[2 Corinthians 10:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Corinthians+10%3A5)

**Determinedly Discipline Other Things.**

This is another difficult aspect of the strenuous nature of sainthood. Paul said, according to the Moffatt translation of this verse, “…I take every project prisoner to make it obey Christ….” So much Christian work today has never been disciplined, but has simply come into being by impulse! In our Lord’s life every project was disciplined to the will of His Father. There was never the slightest tendency to follow the impulse of His own will as distinct from His Father’s will— “the Son can do nothing of Himself…” ([John 5:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5:19)). Then compare this with what we do— we take “every thought” or project that comes to us by impulse and jump into action immediately, instead of imprisoning and disciplining ourselves to obey Christ.

Practical work for Christians is greatly overemphasized today, and the saints who are “bringing every thought [and project] into captivity” are criticized and told that they are not determined, and that they lack zeal for God or zeal for the souls of others. But true determination and zeal are found in obeying God, not in the inclination to serve Him that arises from our own undisciplined human nature. It is inconceivable, but true nevertheless, that saints are not “bringing every thought [and project] into captivity,” but are simply doing work for God that has been instigated by their own human nature, and has not been made spiritual through determined discipline.

We have a tendency to forget that a person is not only committed to Jesus Christ for salvation, but is also committed, responsible, and accountable to Jesus Christ’s view of God, the world, and of sin and the devil. This means that each person must recognize the responsibility to “be transformed by the renewing of [his] mind….” ([Romans 12:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12:2)).

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

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

# CCEL – 9/9/21

**He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.**—[LUKE 1:53.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.1.html" \l "Luke.1.53)

Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.—When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.—I am the Lord thy God . . . open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.—I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

[Rev. 3:17-19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.3.html" \l "Rev.3.17).[Matt. 5:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.5.html" \l "Matt.5.6). -[Isa. 41:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.41.html" \l "Isa.41.17). -[Psa. 81:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.81.html" \l "Ps.81.10).[Isa. 55:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.55.html" \l "Isa.55.2). -[John 6:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.35).

“I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.” [Jeremiah 33:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.33.html" \l "Jer.33.3)

There are different translations of these words. One version renders it, “I will shew thee great and fortified things.” Another, “Great and reserved things.” Now, there are reserved and special things in Christian experience: all the developments of spiritual life are not alike easy of attainment. There are the common frames and feelings of repentance, and faith, and joy, and hope, which are enjoyed by the entire family; but there is an upper realm of rapture, of communion, and conscious union with Christ, which is far from being the common dwelling-place of believers. We have not all the high privilege of John, to lean upon Jesus’ bosom; nor of Paul, to be caught up into the third heaven. There are heights in experimental knowledge of the things of God which the eagle’s eye of acumen and philosophic thought hath never seen: God alone can bear us there; but the chariot in which he takes us up, and the fiery steeds with which that chariot is dragged, are prevailing prayers. Prevailing prayer is victorious over the God of mercy, “By his strength he had power with God: yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Beth-el, and there he spake with us.” Prevailing prayer takes the Christian to Carmel, and enables him to cover heaven with clouds of blessing, and earth with floods of mercy. Prevailing prayer bears the Christian aloft to Pisgah, and shows him the inheritance reserved; it elevates us to Tabor and transfigures us, till in the likeness of his Lord, as he is, so are we also in this world. If you would reach to something higher than ordinary grovelling experience, look to the Rock that is higher than you, and gaze with the eye of faith through the window of importunate prayer. When you open the window on your side, it will not be bolted on the other.

# Word Live – 9/9/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/9/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/9/21

# A Careful Conscience

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+8)

### Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 2Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3But whoever loves God is known by God.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+8+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28531a)]

4So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” 5For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

7But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

9Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 8:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+8+&version=NIV#en-NIV-28531) An early manuscript and another ancient witness think they have knowledge do not yet know as they ought to know. 3But whoever loves truly knows.

Bill likes to listen to jazz. Mary hates it. Cynthia enjoys mysteries, but Jeff prefers history. These differences are matters of taste. But the differences described in today’s reading are different. They were a matter of conscience.

Knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1

The worship of idols was a common feature of Corinthian life. Meat sold in the marketplace often came from sacrificial ceremonies in the city’s temples. These temples also hosted banquets as part of their worship. Some in the Corinthians church felt free to eat this meat because they knew that the pagan gods did not exist. Their slogan was, “An idol is nothing at all in the world” (v. 4). However, due to their background in pagan worship, others in Corinth believed it was a sin to eat such food. The freedom of those with a “strong” conscience caused the weak to go against their conscience.

Paul explains his reasoning further in chapters 9 and 10, but here begins with the simple command of verse 9: “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.” Those who cause other believers to go against their conscience are not exercising freedom. They are sinning by damaging those for whom Christ died (vv. 11–12). The one who acts in love will limit their freedom so that others do not violate their conscience (v. 13). How do you know when your disagreement is a matter of conscience or merely a difference in taste? A difference in taste is a matter of preference. Two people may disagree, but there is no moral weight to the difference between them. A question of conscience has moral force. It does not ask whether someone would do something but whether they should.

Consider the areas of moral conscience in your life. If your actions will cause someone to do what they are convinced is sin, you have become a stumbling block. Do not pressure others to go against the limits of their conscience.

### Pray with Us

Lord, for those of us who live in the United States, personal freedom is a strong cultural value. Soften our hearts in love and humility, so we can count our brothers and sisters as more important than ourselves (Phil. 2:3).

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/9/21

# Hotel Corona

 **Read:** [2 Corinthians 5:14–20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%205.14%E2%80%9320)

14For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

16So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5%3A14%E2%80%9320&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28895a)] The old has gone, the new is here! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

#### Footnotes

1. [2 Corinthians 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5%3A14%E2%80%9320&version=NIV#en-NIV-28895) Or Christ, that person is a new creation.

Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all . . . . From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. [2 Corinthians 5:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%205.14), [16](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Corinthians%205.16)

The Dan Hotel in Jerusalem became known by a different name in 2020—“Hotel Corona.” The government dedicated the hotel to patients recovering from COVID-19, and the hotel became known as a rare site of joy and unity during a difficult time. Since the residents already had the virus, they were free to sing, dance, and laugh together. And they did! In a country where tensions between different political and religious groups run high, the shared crisis created a space where people could learn to see each other as human beings first—and even become friends.

It’s natural, normal even, for us to be drawn toward those we see as similar to us, people we suspect share similar experiences and values to our own. But as the apostle Paul often emphasized, the gospel is a challenge to any barriers between human beings that we see as “normal” ([2 Corinthians 5:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%205.15)). Through the lens of the gospel, we see a bigger picture than our differences—a shared brokenness and a shared longing and need to experience healing in God’s love.

If we believe that “one died for all,” then we can also no longer be content with surface-level assumptions about others. Instead, “Christ’s love compels us” (v. 14) to share His love and mission with those God loves more than we can imagine—all of us.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

When do you find yourself most prone to forget the “bigger picture” of your shared humanity with others? What helps remind you of our equal brokenness and need for Jesus’ love?

In hard times, Jesus, thank You for those moments when I see a glimmer of breathtaking beauty through the love and joy of others. Help me to live each day this way, regarding “no one from a worldly point of view.”

#### Insight

In [2 Corinthians 5:14–20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Cor%205.14%E2%80%9320), Paul writes to the believers in Corinth about the newness of life they’ve received from the life and death of Christ. This newness of life—being a new creation (v. 17) and living “for him who died . . . and was raised again” (v. 15)—is the result of the reconciliation Jesus accomplished through His death on the cross (v. 18). In verses 18–20, Paul uses a form of the word reconcile five times. He clearly wants readers to know that we’ve been reconciled to Christ and are called to bring reconciliation to others. What’s not explicitly mentioned in this passage is our broken relationship with God. Paul discusses our separation from Him because of our sinfulness and the necessity of reconciliation elsewhere (see [Romans 5:1–11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%205.1%E2%80%9311)).

# God Calling – 9/9/21

# Cultivate  --  Yourself

**In Thy Strength we conquer.**

Yes! Your conquering Power you gain from Me. There can be no failure with me. The secret of success then is Life with Me.

Do you want to make the best of life? Then live very near to Me, the Master and Giver of all Life.

Your reward will be sure. It will be perfect success, but My success.

Sometimes the success of souls won, sometimes the success of disease cured, and devils cast out. Sometimes the success of a finished sacrifice as on Calvary. Sometimes the success of one who answered never a word in the face of the scorn and torture and jeering cries of his enemies, or the success of a Risen Savior as He walked through the Garden of Joseph of Arimathea on that first Easter morning.

But My success. The world may deem you failures. The world judges not as I judge.

Bend your knees in wonder before My revelation. The joy of seeing Spiritual Truths is a great Joy. When the Heavens are opened and the Voice speaks, not to all hearts, but to the faithful loving hearts.

Remember your great field of labor is yourself. That is your first task, the weeding, the planting, digging, pruning, bearing fruit. When that is done I lead you out into other fields.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savior of his knowledge by us in every place. 2 Corinthians 2:14

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/10/21

# Missionary Weapons (1)



When you were under the fig tree, I saw you. —[John 1:48](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+1%3A48)

**Worshiping in Everyday Occasions**. We presume that we would be ready for battle if confronted with a great crisis, but it is not the crisis that builds something within us— it simply reveals what we are made of already. Do you find yourself saying, “If God calls me to battle, of course I will rise to the occasion”? Yet you won’t rise to the occasion unless you have done so on God’s training ground. If you are not doing the task that is closest to you now, which God has engineered into your life, when the crisis comes, instead of being fit for battle, you will be revealed as being unfit. Crises always reveal a person’s true character.

A private relationship of worshiping God is the greatest essential element of spiritual fitness. The time will come, as Nathanael experienced in this passage, that a private “fig-tree” life will no longer be possible. Everything will be out in the open, and you will find yourself to be of no value there if you have not been worshiping in everyday occasions in your own home. If your worship is right in your private relationship with God, then when He sets you free, you will be ready. It is in the unseen life, which only God saw, that you have become perfectly fit. And when the strain of the crisis comes, you can be relied upon by God.

Are you saying, “But I can’t be expected to live a sanctified life in my present circumstances; I have no time for prayer or Bible study right now; besides, my opportunity for battle hasn’t come yet, but when it does, of course I will be ready”? No, you will not. If you have not been worshiping in everyday occasions, when you get involved in God’s work, you will not only be useless yourself but also a hindrance to those around you.

God’s training ground, where the missionary weapons are found, is the hidden, personal, worshiping life of the saint.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Wherever the providence of God may dump us down, in a slum, in a shop, in the desert, we have to labour along the line of His direction. Never allow this thought—“I am of no use where I am,” because you certainly can be of no use where you are not! Wherever He has engineered your circumstances, pray. So Send I You, 1325 L

# CCEL – 9/10/21

**I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them.**—[JER. 32:39.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.32.html" \l "Jer.32.39)

A new heart . . . will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you.—Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

I . . . beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, . . . endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

[Ezek. 36:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ezek.36.html" \l "Ezek.36.26). -[Psa. 25:8-10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.25.html" \l "Ps.25.8).[John 17:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.17.html" \l "John.17.21).[Eph. 4:1-6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.1).

“And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.” **[Mark 3:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.3.html" \l "Mark.3.13)**

Here was sovereignty. Impatient spirits may fret and fume, because they are not called to the highest places in the ministry; but reader be it thine to rejoice that Jesus calleth whom he wills. If he shall leave me to be a doorkeeper in his house, I will cheerfully bless him for his grace in permitting me to do anything in his service. The call of Christ’s servants comes from above. Jesus stands on the mountain, evermore above the world in holiness, earnestness, love and power. Those whom he calls must go up the mountain to him, they must seek to rise to his level by living in constant communion with him. They may not be able to mount to classic honours, or attain scholastic eminence, but they must like Moses go up into the mount of God and have familiar intercourse with the unseen God, or they will never be fitted to proclaim the gospel of peace. Jesus went apart to hold high fellowship with the Father, and we must enter into the same divine companionship if we would bless our fellowmen. No wonder that the apostles were clothed with power when they came down fresh from the mountain where Jesus was. This morning we must endeavour to ascend the mount of communion, that there we may be ordained to the lifework for which we are set apart. Let us not see the face of man today till we have seen Jesus. Time spent with him is laid out at blessed interest. We too shall cast out devils and work wonders if we go down into the world girded with that divine energy which Christ alone can give. It is of no use going to the Lord’s battle till we are armed with heavenly weapons. We must see Jesus, this is essential. At the mercy-seat we will linger till he shall manifest himself unto us as he doth not unto the world, and until we can truthfully say, “We were with him in the Holy Mount.”

# Word Live – 9/10/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/10/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/10/21

# Freed to Serve

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+9)

### Paul’s Rights as an Apostle

9 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. 4Don’t we have the right to food and drink? 5Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28546a)]? 6Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

7Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? 8Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn’t the Law say the same thing? 9For it is written in the Law of Moses: “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28550b)] Is it about oxen that God is concerned? 10Surely he says this for us, doesn’t he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? 12If others have this right of support from you, shouldn’t we have it all the more?

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

13Don’t you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

15But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast. 16For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. 18What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

### Paul’s Use of His Freedom

19Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. 22To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

### The Need for Self-Discipline

24Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 9:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+9&version=NIV#en-NIV-28546) That is, Peter
2. [1 Corinthians 9:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+9&version=NIV#en-NIV-28550) Deut. 25:4

Thomas Jefferson captured the American idea of freedom in one sentence in the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The Christian idea of freedom involves more. The freedom that comes with Christ is the freedom to love God and others.

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 1 Corinthians 9:22

It might seem as if Paul has suddenly changed the subject from questions about eating to the privileges that were his as an apostle. In reality, he is offering a personal example of the kind of sensitivity to others he has urged the Corinthians to follow. Although he had a “right” to be financially supported by the Corinthian church, he preached the gospel “free of charge” and chose not to make full use of those rights (vv.15–18).

To help them understand his point, Paul first makes a biblical case for the rights he has voluntarily set aside. He does this by appealing to a combination of common sense and biblical instruction (vv. 7–11). Paul had the right to expect the Corinthians to provide him with a “living” (v. 14).

The apostle decided not to claim this right “to win as many as possible” (vv. 19–23). The Corinthians were used to seeing philosophers and teachers treated like celebrities and demanding payment for their services. “This whole discussion has underlined Paul’s tender concern for the weak,” New Testament commentator Leon Morris explains. “It helps us to see how he respected their scruples, and conformed his behavior to theirs.” The biblical idea of freedom includes restraint.

**Apply the Word**

Can you think of an area where Christ may be asking you to limit your freedom for the sake of the gospel? To do so requires sensitivity to others. To reach them, we must often become like them. Paul shows that it is possible to do this without compromising biblical standards.

### Pray with Us

Dear God, yesterday we asked for softened hearts; today we ask for alertness to see where we should curb personal freedom for our brothers’ and sisters’ sake. Grant us sensitivity to their needs.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/10/21

# Like a Symphony

 **Read:** [**Philippians 2:1–11**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.1%E2%80%9311)

### Imitating Christ’s Humility

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A1%E2%80%9311&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] God,  
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
7rather, he made himself nothing  
    by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A1%E2%80%9311&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a servant,  
    being made in human likeness.  
8And being found in appearance as a man,  
    he humbled himself  
    by becoming obedient to death—  
        even death on a cross!

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
    and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God the Father.

#### Footnotes

1. [Philippians 2:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A1%E2%80%9311&version=NIV#en-NIV-29398) Or in the form of
2. [Philippians 2:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A1%E2%80%9311&version=NIV#en-NIV-29399) Or the form

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. [Philippians 2:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.2)

I surprised my wife with concert tickets to listen to a performer she’d always wanted to see. The gifted singer was accompanied by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, and the setting was the matchless venue at Red Rocks—an open-air amphitheater built between two 300-foot rock formations at more than 6,000 feet above sea level. The orchestra played a number of well-loved classical songs and folk tunes. Their final number was a fresh treatment of the classic hymn “Amazing Grace.” The beautiful, harmonized arrangement took our breath away!

There’s something beautiful about harmony—individual instruments playing together in a way that creates a bigger and more layered sonic landscape. The apostle Paul pointed to the beauty of harmony when he told the Philippians to be “like-minded,” have “the same love,” and be “one in spirit and . . . mind” ([Philippians 2:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.2)). He wasn’t asking them to become identical but to embrace the humble attitude and self-giving love of Jesus. The gospel, as Paul well knew and taught, doesn’t erase our distinctions, but it can eliminate our divisions.

It’s also interesting that many scholars believe Paul’s words here (vv. 6–11) are a prelude to an early hymn. Here’s the point: When we allow the Holy Spirit to work through our distinct lives and contexts, making us more like Jesus, together we become a symphony that reverberates with a humble Christlike love.

By:  [Glenn Packiam](https://odb.org/author/glennpackiam/)

#### Reflect & Pray

Who could use some encouragement from you today? How could you put the interests of others above your own, just as Jesus did for us?

Dear Jesus, thank You for saving me. May Your Spirit transform me into Your image. In my attitude and actions, help me to take on Your humility and sacrificial love. May it result in a greater unity with other believers in my life.

#### Insight

When Paul asked readers in Philippi to consider the humility of Jesus ([Philippians 2:5–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.5%E2%80%938)), he used a word that describes the attitude of those willing to be counted among servants. More importantly, he wanted them to remember that those who live in the spirit of Jesus do so in the awareness that He first humbled Himself for us. It wasn’t a new thought. Long before, the prophet Isaiah had described a mysterious “Servant” as being despised, rejected, and familiar with pain and suffering. Before alluding to this person’s true honor and glory, the prophet went on to anticipate that He’d be held in such low esteem that people would find it hard to even look at Him ([Isaiah 53:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2053.3)). So too now, those who lower themselves for the good of others in the spirit of Jesus express the humility of our Savior who is “in very nature God” ([Philippians 2:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.6)).

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

# God Calling – 9/10/21

# God or Mammon?

You must be ready to stand apart from the world. Do you want the full and complete satisfaction that you find in Me, and the satisfaction of the world too? Then you are trying to serve God and Mammon, or if not trying to serve, then claiming the wages of both God and Mammon.

If you work for Me, you have your reward. But then you turn to the world, to human beings, and expect that reward too. This is not right.

Do not expect love or gratitude or acknowledgement from any. All reward necessary I will give you.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; ... Ye cannot serve God and mammon.  Matthew 6:24

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/11/21

# Missionary Weapons (2)



If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. —[John 13:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+13%3A14)

**Ministering in Everyday Opportunities.** Ministering in everyday opportunities that surround us does not mean that we select our own surroundings— it means being God’s very special choice to be available for use in any of the seemingly random surroundings which He has engineered for us. The very character we exhibit in our present surroundings is an indication of what we will be like in other surroundings.

The things Jesus did were the most menial of everyday tasks, and this is an indication that it takes all of God’s power in me to accomplish even the most common tasks in His way. Can I use a towel as He did? Towels, dishes, sandals, and all the other ordinary things in our lives reveal what we are made of more quickly than anything else. It takes God Almighty Incarnate in us to do the most menial duty as it ought to be done.

Jesus said, “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” ([John 13:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13:15)). Notice the kind of people that God brings around you, and you will be humiliated once you realize that this is actually His way of revealing to you the kind of person you have been to Him. Now He says we should exhibit to those around us exactly what He has exhibited to us.

Do you find yourself responding by saying, “Oh, I will do all that once I’m out on the mission field”? Talking in this way is like trying to produce the weapons of war while in the trenches of the battlefield— you will be killed while trying to do it.

We have to go the “second mile” with God (see [Matthew 5:41](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:41)). Yet some of us become worn out in the first ten steps. Then we say, “Well, I’ll just wait until I get closer to the next big crisis in my life.” But if we do not steadily minister in everyday opportunities, we will do nothing when the crisis comes.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The attitude of a Christian towards the providential order in which he is placed is to recognize that God is behind it for purposes of His own.  Biblical Ethics, 99 R

# CCEL – 9/11/21

**Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.**—[ROM. 12:2.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.12.html" \l "Rom.12.2)

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.

Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?—Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. The world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

In time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.—Ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, . . . as the truth is in Jesus.

[Exo. 23:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.23.html" \l "Exod.23.2).[Jas. 4:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.4.html" \l "Jas.4.4).[II Cor. 6:14-16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.14). -[I John 2:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.15),[17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.17).[Eph. 2:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.2). -[Eph. 4:20,21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.20).

“Be ye separate.” **[2 Corinthians 6:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.6.html" \l "iiCor.6.17)**

The Christian, while in the world, is not to be of the world. He should be distinguished from it in the great object of his life. To him, “to live,” should be “Christ.” Whether he eats, or drinks, or whatever he does, he should do all to God’s glory. You may lay up treasure; but lay it up in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, where thieves break not through nor steal. You may strive to be rich; but be it your ambition to be “rich in faith,” and good works. You may have pleasure; but when you are merry, sing psalms and make melody in your hearts to the Lord. In your spirit, as well as in your aim, you should differ from the world. Waiting humbly before God, always conscious of his presence, delighting in communion with him, and seeking to know his will, you will prove that you are of heavenly race. And you should be separate from the world in your actions. If a thing be right, though you lose by it, it must be done; if it be wrong, though you would gain by it, you must scorn the sin for your Master’s sake. You must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Walk worthy of your high calling and dignity. Remember, O Christian, that thou art a son of the King of kings. Therefore, keep thyself unspotted from the world. Soil not the fingers which are soon to sweep celestial strings; let not these eyes become the windows of lust which are soon to see the King in his beauty—let not those feet be defiled in miry places, which are soon to walk the golden streets—let not those hearts be filled with pride and bitterness which are ere long to be filled with heaven, and to overflow with ecstatic joy.

Then rise my soul! and soar away,

Above the thoughtless crowd;

Above the pleasures of the gay,

And splendours of the proud;

Up where eternal beauties bloom,

And pleasures all divine;

Where wealth, that never can consume,

And endless glories shine.

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# Word Live – 9/11/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/11/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/11/21

# Spiritual Eating

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+10)

### Warnings From Israel’s History

10 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3They all ate the same spiritual food 4and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28575a)] 8We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9We should not test Christ,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28577b)] as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

11These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! 13No temptation[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581c)] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581d)] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28581e)] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

### Idol Feasts and the Lord’s Supper

14Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

18Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? 19Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. 22Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

### The Believer’s Freedom

23“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. 24No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

25Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, 26for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28594f)]

27If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. 28But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. 29I am referring to the other person’s conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience? 30If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

31So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 32Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— 33even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 10:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#en-NIV-28575) Exodus 32:6
2. [1 Corinthians 10:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#en-NIV-28577) Some manuscripts test the Lord
3. [1 Corinthians 10:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#en-NIV-28581) The Greek for temptation and tempted can also mean testing and tested.
4. [1 Corinthians 10:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#en-NIV-28581) The Greek for temptation and tempted can also mean testing and tested.
5. [1 Corinthians 10:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#en-NIV-28581) The Greek for temptation and tempted can also mean testing and tested.
6. [1 Corinthians 10:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2010&version=NIV#en-NIV-28594) Psalm 24:1

Most people don’t think of eating as spiritual. But the Corinthians lived in a culture where eating and worship were often closely connected. Idol feasts were a common occurrence. While Paul agreed with the Corinthian assessment that “an idol is nothing at all in the world” (1 Cor. 8:4), that did not mean these feasts were safe.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Citing Israel’s history in the wilderness, the apostle reminded the Corinthians that eating and drinking had led God’s Old Testament people into disobedience and idolatry (10:7–10). Israel’s experience was not some historical oddity but was “written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come” (v. 11). Paul saw a direct parallel in Corinth. Not only were idol feasts occasions where people ate and drank to excess, but the cultural practice of religious prostitution often led to sexual temptation as well.

Paul also pointed to the church’s meal, known as the Lord’s Supper, to show the incompatibility of attending idol feasts with a Christian profession (vv. 14–17). The fact that an idol held no power over them did not mean that nothing sinful was happening in pagan worship. Sacrifices offered to idols were offered to demons (v. 20).

With this in mind, Paul offered practical guidelines on whether Christians should eat meat sacrificed to idols, beginning with the principle of verse 24: “No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.” Food sold in the marketplace could be eaten “without raising questions of conscience” (v. 25). The same was true in the home of an unbeliever (v. 27). But if someone pointed out that the food had been offered in sacrifice, they were to refrain from eating for the sake of the other’s conscience (vv. 28–29).

**Apply the Word**

Even in something as fundamental as eating, Christians are to live by the basic principle that we are not to please ourselves only. Everything we do should be done for the glory of God.

### Pray with Us

How do we eat for Your glory, dress for Your glory, rest for Your glory? As we seek to honor You, help us understand what it means to do everything to glorify Your name.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/11/21

# From Wisdom to Joy

 **Read:** [**Proverbs 3:13–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%203.13%E2%80%9318)

13Blessed are those who find wisdom,  
    those who gain understanding,  
14for she is more profitable than silver  
    and yields better returns than gold.  
15She is more precious than rubies;  
    nothing you desire can compare with her.  
16Long life is in her right hand;  
    in her left hand are riches and honor.  
17Her ways are pleasant ways,  
    and all her paths are peace.  
18She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;  
    those who hold her fast will be blessed.

[Wisdom] will guide you down delightful paths. [Proverbs 3:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%203.17) nlt

The phone rang and I picked it up without delay. Calling was the oldest member of our church family—a vibrant, hard-working woman who was nearly one hundred years old. Putting the final touches on her latest book, she asked me some writing questions to help her cross the finish line. As always, however, I soon was asking her questions—about life, work, love, family. Her many lessons from a long life sparkled with wisdom. She told me, “Pace yourself.” And soon we were laughing about times she’d forgotten to do that—her wonderful stories all seasoned with true joy.

Wisdom leads to joy, the Bible teaches. “Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding” ([Proverbs 3:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%203.13) nlt). We find that this path—from wisdom to joy—is a biblical virtue, indeed. “For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy” ([Proverbs 2:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%202.10) nlt). “God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him” ([Ecclesiastes 2:26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eccles%202.26) nlt). Wisdom “will guide you down delightful paths,” adds [Proverbs 3:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%203.17) (nlt).

Reflecting on the matters of life, author C. S. Lewis declared that “joy is the serious business of heaven.” The path there, however, is paved with wisdom. My church friend, who lived to be 107, would agree. She walked a wise, joyful pace to the King.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What paths have you taken in trying to find joy? How can wisdom lead you to joy?

When I might take a rocky road, loving God, please point me back to Your path of wisdom and joy.

Learn more about [joy here](https://DiscoverTheWord.org/series/fight-back-with-joy/).

#### Insight

The book of Proverbs begins, “The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel” ([Proverbs 1:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Prov%201.1)). Solomon is noted throughout the Scriptures as a man of great wisdom. Jesus Himself noted Solomon’s wisdom ([Matthew 12:42](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2012.42)). Two things, however, need to be understood about this wisdom. First, the wisdom of Solomon wasn’t Solomon’s—it was given to him by God in response to the king’s prayer ([1 Kings 3:5–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Kings%203.5%E2%80%9313)). James reminds us that this same wisdom is available to all of us and that God will grant our requests ([James 1:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/James%201.5)). Second, this wisdom can be abandoned—as Solomon clearly did. His life of wisdom became the ultimate example of foolishness as he turned from God to follow idols ([1 Kings 11:4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Kings%2011.4)). As [James 3:13–18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/James%203.13%E2%80%9318) reminds us, the wisdom we choose to live by is foundational to our walk of faith.

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

# God Calling – 9/11/21

# A Generous Giver

**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.    John 10:10**

Yes, I, your Master, am a generous Giver. Abundant Life, in overflowing measure, I give to you. For that I came. Life for souls. The Life, Eternal Life, that pulses through your whole being, that animates your mind and body too.

A generous Giver. A Kingly Giver. For this I came that man might live in Me. Life it was of which I spoke when I said "I am the Vine and ye are the branches." The life flow of the Vine is in the branches.

Our lives are one - yours and Mine. All that is in  My Nature must therefore pass into yours, where the contact is so close a one.

I am Love and Joy and Peace and Strength and Power and Healing and Humility and Patience, and all else you see in Me your Lord. Then these, too, you must have as My Life flows through you. So courage.

You do not make yourselves loving and strong and patient and humble. You live with Me, and then My Life accomplishes the miracle-change.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. John 6:33

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/12/21

# Going Through Spiritual Confusion



Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask." —[Matthew 20:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+20%3A22)

There are times in your spiritual life when there is confusion, and the way out of it is not simply to say that you should not be confused. It is not a matter of right and wrong, but a matter of God taking you through a way that you temporarily do not understand. And it is only by going through the spiritual confusion that you will come to the understanding of what God wants for you.

**The Shrouding of His Friendship** (see [Luke 11:5-8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:5-8)). Jesus gave the illustration here of a man who appears not to care for his friend. He was saying, in effect, that is how the heavenly Father will appear to you at times. You will think that He is an unkind friend, but remember— He is not. The time will come when everything will be explained. There seems to be a cloud on the friendship of the heart, and often even love itself has to wait in pain and tears for the blessing of fuller fellowship and oneness. When God appears to be completely shrouded, will you hang on with confidence in Him?

**The Shadow on His Fatherhood** (see [Luke 11:11-13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:11-13)). Jesus said that there are times when your Father will appear as if He were an unnatural father— as if He were callous and indifferent— but remember, He is not. “Everyone who asks receives…” ([Luke 11:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:10)). If all you see is a shadow on the face of the Father right now, hang on to the fact that He will ultimately give you clear understanding and will fully justify Himself in everything that He has allowed into your life.

**The Strangeness of His Faithfulness** (see [Luke 18:1-8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18:1-8)). “When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” ([Luke 18:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18:8)). Will He find the kind of faith that counts on Him in spite of the confusion? Stand firm in faith, believing that what Jesus said is true, although in the meantime you do not understand what God is doing. He has bigger issues at stake than the particular things you are asking of Him right now.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The Bible is the only Book that gives us any indication of the true nature of sin, and where it came from. The Philosophy of Sin, 1107 R

# CCEL – 9/12/21

**I have seen his ways, and will heal him.**—[ISA. 57:18.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.57.html" \l "Isa.57.18)

I am the Lord that healeth thee.

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.—Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.—All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.—He is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.—He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed.—He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.—Thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

[Exo. 15:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.15.html" \l "Exod.15.26).[Psa. 139:1-3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.139.html" \l "Ps.139.1). -[Psa. 90:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.90.html" \l "Ps.90.8). -[Heb. 4:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.4.html" \l "Heb.4.13).[Isa. 1:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.1.html" \l "Isa.1.18). -[Job 33:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.33.html#Job.33.24). -[Isa. 53:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.5). -[Isa. 61:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.61.html" \l "Isa.61.1). -[Mark 5:34](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mark.5.html" \l "Mark.5.34).

“God is jealous.” **[Nahum 1:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Nah.1.html" \l "Nah.1.2)**

Your Lord is very jealous of your love, O believer. Did he choose you? He cannot bear that you should choose another. Did he buy you with his own blood? He cannot endure that you should think that you are your own, or that you belong to this world. He loved you with such a love that he would not stop in heaven without you; he would sooner die than you should perish, and he cannot endure that anything should stand between your heart’s love and himself. He is very jealous of your trust. He will not permit you to trust in an arm of flesh. He cannot bear that you should hew out broken cisterns, when the overflowing fountain is always free to you. When we lean upon him, he is glad, but when we transfer our dependence to another, when we rely upon our own wisdom, or the wisdom of a friend—worst of all, when we trust in any works of our own, he is displeased, and will chasten us that he may bring us to himself. He is also very jealous of our company. There should be no one with whom we converse so much as with Jesus. To abide in him only, this is true love; but to commune with the world, to find sufficient solace in our carnal comforts, to prefer even the society of our fellow Christians to secret intercourse with him, this is grievous to our jealous Lord. He would fain have us abide in him, and enjoy constant fellowship with himself; and many of the trials which he sends us are for the purpose of weaning our hearts from the creature, and fixing them more closely upon himself. Let this jealousy which would keep us near to Christ be also a comfort to us, for if he loves us so much as to care thus about our love we may be sure that he will suffer nothing to harm us, and will protect us from all our enemies. Oh that we may have grace this day to keep our hearts in sacred chastity for our Beloved alone, with sacred jealousy shutting our eyes to all the fascinations of the world!

# Word Live – 9/12/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/12/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/12/21

# Rules for Worship

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+11)

11 1Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

### On Covering the Head in Worship

2I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. 3But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28604a)] and the head of Christ is God. 4Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. 5But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. 6For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.

7A man ought not to cover his head,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28608b)] since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28611c)] head, because of the angels. 11Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

13Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, 15but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. 16If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

### Correcting an Abuse of the Lord’s Supper

17In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval. 20So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, 21for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

23For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

33So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 34Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

And when I come I will give further directions.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 11:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011&version=NIV#en-NIV-28604) Or of the wife is her husband
2. [1 Corinthians 11:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011&version=NIV#en-NIV-28608) Or 4Every man who prays or prophesies with long hair dishonors his head. 5But every woman who prays or prophesies with no covering of hair dishonors her head—she is just like one of the “shorn women.” 6If a woman has no covering, let her be for now with short hair; but since it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair shorn or shaved, she should grow it again. 7A man ought not to have long hair
3. [1 Corinthians 11:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011&version=NIV#en-NIV-28611) Or have a sign of authority on her

The first church service that I can remember attending seemed strange to me. I wasn’t sure why people were standing up or sitting down. They sang aloud, collected money, and then some guy in a robe stood up and yelled at us. At least, that was how it seemed to me.

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

The rules Paul gave for Corinthian worship may seem just as strange to us today. For example, when people wear hats today, it is usually for warmth or style. But in the Corinthian context of worship, head coverings were a symbol of both cultural and spiritual values (vv. 7–12). Although scholars do not all agree on the exact meaning of the symbolism, the principle is clear. The church should not mirror the values of a pagan culture.

Paul also provided guidelines for the Lord’s Supper observance, which the Corinthians defiled both by their divisions and their selfishness. Like many other churches in the New Testament era, the Corinthians observed the Lord’s Supper by eating a meal together. But instead of being sensitive to those who had little and sharing, some treated it as if it were their own private supper (v. 21). Some ate and drank to excess while others went home hungry. Think of the worst behavior you have seen at a church potluck, and you may have some idea of the problem.

Not only was their behavior selfish, but it failed to honor the sacred nature of the meal. The Lord’s Supper is meant to be a reminder of Christ’s sacrifice. It is also a reminder that the church is a body made up of many members. We are used to focusing our attention on Christ when the church observes the Lord’s Supper. But are we also mindful of the coming together of the body of Christ?

**Apply the Word**

The next time you observe the Lord’s Supper, look to Christ. But also take note of your fellow believers and remember that Christ’s sacrifice has made you members of one another.

### Pray with Us

Lord, we may not get drunk at communion like the Corinthians did, but please show us ways we disregard our fellow believers’ needs and profane what is holy. Convict us and transform us through repentance.

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/12/21

# A Great Act of Love

 **Read:** [**Romans 5:12–19**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%205.12%E2%80%9319)

### Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

12Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

13To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. 14Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

15But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. [Romans 5:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%205.18)

In Oregon’s Malheur National Forest, a fungus popularly known as the honey mushroom spreads through tree roots across 2,200 acres, making it the largest living organism ever found. It’s been “weaving its black shoestring filaments” through the forest for more than two millennia, killing trees as it grows. Its shoestring filaments, called “rhizomorphs,” tunnel as deep as ten feet into the soil. And although the organism is incredibly large, it began with a single microscopic spore!

The Bible tells us of a single act of disobedience that caused widespread condemnation and a single act of obedience that reversed it. The apostle Paul contrasted two individuals—Adam and Jesus ([Romans 5:14–15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%205.14%E2%80%9315)). Adam’s sin brought condemnation and death “to all people” (v. 12). Through one act of disobedience, all people were made sinners and stood condemned before God (v. 17). But He had a means of dealing with humanity’s sin problem. Through the righteous act of Jesus on the cross, God provides eternal life and a right standing before Him. Christ’s act of love and obedience was powerful enough to overcome Adam’s one act of disobedience—providing “life for all people” (v. 18).

Through His death on the cross, Jesus offers eternal life to anyone who puts their faith in Him. If you haven’t received His forgiveness and salvation, may you do so today. If you’re already a believer, praise Him for what He’s done by His great act of love!

By:  [Marvin Williams](https://odb.org/author/marvinwilliams/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What do the single acts of Adam and Jesus tell you about the impact of sin? How does Jesus’ sacrifice ignite or renew your desire to live a life that honors Him?

God, thank You for providing salvation and eternal life through Jesus! Help me to reveal Your saving way to others.

#### Insight

In [Romans 5:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%205.14), Adam is referred to as a “pattern of the one to come” (a reference to Jesus). The Greek word translated “pattern” is the word týpos, from which we get the English words “type” and “typology.” Biblically speaking, persons, figures, or systems designated as “types” have historical significance, but they also point to other persons or things. Here Adam is viewed as representative of all humanity and points to Jesus, who is representative of “new humanity”—those made new by faith in Him. Just as Adam’s sin transferred to all, Christ’s righteousness is credited to all who believe in Him.

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

# God Calling – 9/12/21

# Money Values

**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.      - Matthew 6:33**

**If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.      -   Matthew 6:22**

The eye of the soul is the will.  If your one desire is My Kingdom, to find that Kingdom, to serve that Kingdom, then truly shall your whole body be full of light.

When you are told to seek first the Kingdom of God, the first step is to secure that your will is for that Kingdom.  A single eye to God's glory. Desiring nothing less than that His Kingdom come. Seeking in all things the advance of His Kingdom.

Know no values but Spiritual values. No profit but that of Spiritual gain. Seek in all things His Kingdom first.

Only seek material gain when that gain will mean a gain for My Kingdom. Get away from money values altogether. Walk with Me. Learn of Me. Talk to Me. Here lies your true happiness.

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.  Luke 12:31

# My Utmost for His Highest – 9/13/21

# After Surrender— Then What?



I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. —[John 17:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+17%3A4)

True surrender is not simply surrender of our external life but surrender of our will— and once that is done, surrender is complete. The greatest crisis we ever face is the surrender of our will. Yet God never forces a person’s will into surrender, and He never begs. He patiently waits until that person willingly yields to Him. And once that battle has been fought, it never needs to be fought again.

**Surrender for Deliverance.** “Come to Me…and I will give you rest” ([Matthew 11:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11:28)). It is only after we have begun to experience what salvation really means that we surrender our will to Jesus for rest. Whatever is causing us a sense of uncertainty is actually a call to our will— “Come to Me.” And it is a voluntary coming.

**Surrender for Devotion.** “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself…” (Matthew 16:24). The surrender here is of my self to Jesus, with His rest at the heart of my being. He says, “If you want to be My disciple, you must give up your right to yourself to Me.” And once this is done, the remainder of your life will exhibit nothing but the evidence of this surrender, and you never need to be concerned again with what the future may hold for you. Whatever your circumstances may be, Jesus is totally sufficient (see [2 Corinthians 12:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+12:9) and [Philippians 4:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4:19)).

**Surrender for Death.** “…another will gird you…” ([John 21:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21:18); also see [John 21:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John21:19)). Have you learned what it means to be girded for death? Beware of some surrender that you make to God in an ecstatic moment in your life, because you are apt to take it back again. True surrender is a matter of being “united together [with Jesus] in the likeness of His death” ([Romans 6:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:5)) until nothing ever appeals to you that did not appeal to Him.

And after you surrender— then what? Your entire life should be characterized by an eagerness to maintain unbroken fellowship and oneness with God.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

It is not what a man does that is of final importance, but what he is in what he does. The atmosphere produced by a man, much more than his activities, has the lasting influence.  Baffled to Fight Better, 51 L

# CCEL – 9/13/21

**If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**—[JOHN 7:37.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.7.html" \l "John.7.37)

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.—O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.—The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.—My blood is drink indeed.

Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

[Psa. 84:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.84.html" \l "Ps.84.2). -[Psa. 63:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.63.html" \l "Ps.63.1).[Isa. 55:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.55.html" \l "Isa.55.1). -[Rev. 22:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.22.html" \l "Rev.22.17). -[John 4:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.4.html" \l "John.4.14). -[John 6:55](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.55).[Song 5:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.5.html" \l "Song.5.1).

“Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well, the rain also filleth the pools.” **[Psalm 84:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.84.html" \l "Ps.84.6)**

This teaches us that the comfort obtained by a one may often prove serviceable to another; just as wells would be used by the company who came after. We read some book full of consolation, which is like Jonathan’s rod, dropping with honey. Ah! we think our brother has been here before us, and digged this well for us as well as for himself. Many a “Night of Weeping,” “Midnight Harmonies,” an “Eternal Day,” “A Crook in the Lot,” a “Comfort for Mourners,” has been a well digged by a pilgrim for himself, but has proved quite as useful to others. Specially we notice this in the Psalms, such as that beginning, “Why art thou cast down, O my soul?” Travellers have been delighted to see the footprint of man on a barren shore, and we love to see the waymarks of pilgrims while passing through the vale of tears.

The pilgrims dig the well, but, strange enough, it fills from the top instead of the bottom. We use the means, but the blessing does not spring from the means. We dig a well, but heaven fills it with rain. The horse is prepared against the day of battle, but safety is of the Lord. The means are connected with the end, but they do not of themselves produce it. See here the rain fills the pools, so that the wells become useful as reservoirs for the water; labour is not lost, but yet it does not supersede divine help.

Grace may well be compared to rain for its purity, for its refreshing and vivifying influence, for its coming alone from above, and for the sovereignty with which it is given or withheld. May our readers have showers of blessing, and may the wells they have digged be filled with water! Oh, what are means and ordinances without the smile of heaven! They are as clouds without rain, and pools without water. O God of love, open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing!

# Word Live – 9/13/21

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

# Scripture Union – 9/13/21

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

# Today in the Word – 9/13/21

# Spiritual Gifts

**Read:** [**1 Corinthians 12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12)

### Concerning Spiritual Gifts

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645a)] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645b)] 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

### Unity and Diversity in the Body

12Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28648c)] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28665d)]? Do all interpret? 31Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

### Love Is Indispensable

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

#### Footnotes

1. [1 Corinthians 12:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#en-NIV-28645) Or languages; also in verse 28
2. [1 Corinthians 12:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#en-NIV-28645) Or languages; also in verse 28
3. [1 Corinthians 12:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#en-NIV-28648) Or with; or in
4. [1 Corinthians 12:30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#en-NIV-28665) Or other languages

When I was a boy, I received a Christmas gift from my aunt in New York. When I opened it, to my dismay, I found a bright red corduroy shirt. It was a nice shirt, given in love. But I was hoping for a toy. Sometimes we do not like the gifts we receive. Likewise, we are not always the best judge of what we should be given.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit who distributes them. 1 Corinthians 12:4

The same is sometimes true of the gifts that God gives us. We may set our hearts on spiritual gifts that He has not chosen to give us. Or we may dismiss the ones we already possess. Mistaken thinking about spiritual gifts in Corinth ranged from inferiority to conceit. Some questioned their place in the body of Christ because they did not have one of the more prominent gifts (vv. 15–16). Others looked down on those who possessed gifts thinking they were less significant than their own (v. 21).

Both perspectives fail to recognize the two foundational principles of spiritual gifts. First, the same Holy Spirit is at work in all the spiritual gifts (vv. 4, 11). Second, the aim of the gifts is not to elevate those who receive them, but “the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (v. 7). While every Christian receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit does not use every individual in precisely the same way.

The most important lesson we learn from the way that God has equipped the church is not about the things that the Spirit enables us to do. It has to do with the way the Spirit has knit the members of the body of Christ together so that “its parts should have equal concern for each other” (v. 25).

**Apply the Word**

Are you unsure of your spiritual gifts? Ask yourself what natural abilities you possess. Consider, what kind of things you enjoy doing. Now ask the Lord to show you how you can use these for Christ.

### Pray with Us

If You wanted us to work independently, You would have given us each spiritual gift in equal measure. Instead, You have distributed the gifts among us to make us interdependent. We praise You for Your unifying design!

## BY Dr. John Koessler

# Our Daily Bread – 9/13/21

# A Living Document

 **Read:** [**Psalm 1**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%201)

1Blessed is the one  
    who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
    or sit in the company of mockers,  
2but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
    and who meditates on his law day and night.  
3That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
    which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
    whatever they do prospers.

4Not so the wicked!  
    They are like chaff  
    that the wind blows away.  
5Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
    nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Blessed is the one . . . whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. [Psalm 1:1–2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%201.1%E2%80%932)

In memorializing his grandfather’s work, Peter Croft wrote, “It is my deepest desire for the person who picks up their Bible, whatever version they use, to not only understand but experience the scriptures as living documents, just as relevant, dangerous, and exciting now as they were those thousands of years ago.” Peter’s grandfather was J.B. Phillips, a youth minister who undertook a new paraphrase of the Bible in English during World War II in order to make it come alive to students at his church.

Like Phillips’ students, we face barriers to reading and experiencing Scripture, and not necessarily because of our Bible translation. We may lack time, discipline, or the right tools for understanding. But [Psalm 1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%201) tells us that “Blessed is the one . . . whose delight is in the law of the Lord” (vv. 1–2). Meditating on Scripture daily allows us to “prosper” in all seasons, no matter what hardship we’re facing.

How do you view your Bible? It’s still relevant with insight for living today, still dangerous in its call to believe and follow Jesus, still exciting in the intimate knowledge of God and humanity that it imparts. It’s like a stream of water (v. 3) that provides the sustenance we need daily. Today, let’s lean in—make time, get the right tools, and ask God to help us experience Scripture as a living document.

By:  [Karen Pimpo](https://odb.org/author/karenpimpo/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What barriers do you face when reading the Bible? How can you make space to listen to God’s voice?

God, help me experience Scripture as a living document today.

#### Insight

In [Psalm 1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%201), the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked are described in stark contrast. The psalmist identifies the way of evil with the progression of walking, standing, and sitting (v. 1). Some scholars believe this pictures an increasing intimacy with those who do wrong. As the association progresses, so does the level of iniquity: wicked, sinners, and mockers. The mocker not only engages in wrongdoing but also scorns the innocent.

In contrast, the righteous delight in the law of God and are called “blessed.” They’re consumed by love for the wisdom of God; it occupies their thoughts throughout the day, bringing to mind the command to Joshua to “meditate on it day and night” ([Joshua 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Josh%201.8)). In metaphorical language, the psalmist then describes what it means to be blessed. The blessed are like a tree that grows strong and produces good, healthy fruit: “whatever they do prospers” ([Psalm 1:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%201.3)).

# God Calling – 9/13/21

# No Other Name

My Name is the Power that turns evil aside, that summons all good to your aid.  Spirits of evil flee at the sound of "Jesus."  Spoken in fear, in weakness, in sorrow, in pain, it is an appeal I never fail to answer.  "Jesus."

Use My Name often. Think of the unending call of "Mother" made by her children. To help, to care, to decide, to appeal, "Mother." Use My Name in that same way - simply, naturally, forcefully.  "Jesus."

Use it not only when you need help but to express Love. Uttered aloud, or in the silence of your hearts, it will alter an atmosphere from one of discord to one of Love. It will raise the standard of talk and thought.  "Jesus."

"There is none other Name under Heaven whereby you can be saved."

Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth. Song of Solomon 1:3