# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/6/25

# Liberty and the Standards of Jesus



Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free… —[Galatians 5:1](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Galatians+5%3A1)

A spiritually-minded person will never come to you with the demand— “Believe this and that”; a spiritually-minded person will demand that you align your life with the standards of Jesus. We are not asked to believe the Bible, but to believe the One whom the Bible reveals (see [John 5:39-40](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5:39-40)). We are called to present liberty for the conscience of others, not to bring them liberty for their thoughts and opinions. And if we ourselves are free with the liberty of Christ, others will be brought into that same liberty— the liberty that comes from realizing the absolute control and authority of Jesus Christ.

Always measure your life solely by the standards of Jesus. Submit yourself to His yoke, and His alone; and always be careful never to place a yoke on others that is not of Jesus Christ. It takes God a long time to get us to stop thinking that unless everyone sees things exactly as we do, they must be wrong. That is never God’s view. There is only one true liberty— the liberty of Jesus at work in our conscience enabling us to do what is right.

Don’t get impatient with others. Remember how God dealt with you— with patience and with gentleness. But never water down the truth of God. Let it have its way and never apologize for it. Jesus said, “Go…and make disciples…” ([Matthew 28:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28:19)), not, “Make converts to your own thoughts and opinions.”

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

“I have chosen you” (John 15:16). Keep that note of greatness in your creed. It is not that you have got God, but that He has got you.  My Utmost for His Highest, October 25, 837 R

# CCEL – 5/6/25

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.—[PSA. 85:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.85.html" \l "Ps.85.10)

A just God and a Saviour.

The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.—Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forebearance of God; to declare I say at this time his righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.—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.—Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.—To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly; his faith is counted for righteousness.

[Isa. 45:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.45.html" \l "Isa.45.21).[Isa. 42:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.42.html" \l "Isa.42.21).[II Cor. 5:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.19). -[Rom. 3:25,26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.3.html" \l "Rom.3.25). -[Isa. 53:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.5). -[Rom. 8:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.33). -[Rom. 4:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.4.html" \l "Rom.4.5).

“We dwell in him.” [1 John 4:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.13)

Do you want a house for your soul? Do you ask, “What is the purchase?” It is something less than proud human nature will like to give. It is without money and without price. Ah! you would like to pay a respectable rent! You would love to do something to win Christ? Then you cannot have the house, for it is “without price.” Will you take my Master’s house on a lease for all eternity, with nothing to pay for it, nothing but the ground-rent of loving and serving him forever? Will you take Jesus and “dwell in him?” See, this house is furnished with all you want, it is filled with riches more than you will spend as long as you live. Here you can have intimate communion with Christ and feast on his love; here are tables well-stored with food for you to live on forever; in it, when weary, you can find rest with Jesus; and from it you can look out and see heaven itself. Will you have the house? Ah! if you are houseless, you will say, “I should like to have the house; but may I have it?” Yes; there is the key—the key is, “Come to Jesus.” “But,” you say, “I am too shabby for such a house.” Never mind; there are garments inside. If you feel guilty and condemned, come; and though the house is too good for you, Christ will make you good enough for the house by-and-by. He will wash you and cleanse you, and you will yet be able to sing, “We dwell in him.” Believer: thrice happy art thou to have such a dwelling-place! Greatly privileged thou art, for thou hast a “strong habitation” in which thou art ever safe. And “dwelling in him,” thou hast not only a perfect and secure house, but an everlasting one. When this world shall have melted like a dream, our house shall live, and stand more imperishable than marble, more solid than granite, self-existent as God, for it is God himself—“We dwell in him.”

# Word Live – 5/6/25

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

# Scripture Union – 5/6/25

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# Today in the Word – 5/6/25

## All for One

A lake with mountains and trees

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[**Read Ephesians 4:1–6**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+4:1%e2%80%936)

**Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ**

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [Ephesians 4:3](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.4.3)

In the French novel *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas, the fictional heroes have a memorable motto: “All for one and one for all.” The group pledged to stand together in their common fight for a common goal. As I thought about Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, I realized he was trying to get the Ephesian churchto adopt a similar motto of unity.

As believers we are united by our joint calling as Christ’s followers. Paul urges the Ephesians to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (v. 1). In the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul had laid a foundation of biblical doctrine. Now, in chapter 4, he challenges them that how they are living should be an outpouring of what they believe.

Our calling changes our behavior. Notice the words Paul uses to describe this desired behavior in verses 2 and 3: humble, gentle, patient, unity, peace. We are united as believers through Christ’s death and resurrection and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. When Paul says to “make every effort” in verse 3, he means that we should put energy into preserving this unity. In other words, the Spirit is the source of unity among believers, but it is our responsibility to “guard” or protect this unity (v. 3).

Paul goes into detail to illustrate the common beliefs we share. The word “one” appears over and over again: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (vv. 4–6). All for One, Lord Jesus.

**Go Deeper**

What did it cost our Lord to be unified with us? Are you living up to the expectations of your call to live in unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

**Pray with Us**

Dear God, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit, the source of unity among believers. Grant us the humility to protect and guard this unity. Righteous God, teach us to live worthy of your calling as a community of faith.

## Our Daily Bread – 5/6/25

## HUMBLE HONOR

A group of kids standing in a line

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: LUKE 14:7-11**

**7**When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: **8**“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. **9**If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. **10**But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. **11**For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

All those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. LUKE 14:11

As. an elementary school teacher, my friend often escorted her students to various other classrooms for subjects such as music or art. When asked to line up to make their way to another room, the fifth-grade students would jockey for position, some scrambling for the coveted spot at the head of the line. One day, Jenni surprised them by having everyone turn around and leading them from what had been-just seconds before ... the end of the line. Their shock was audible: "Whaaatt?"

When Jesus observed similar jockeying for position at a dinner table, He responded by telling a parable that undoubtedly surprised His fellow guests. Using a story about a wedding feast, He instructed them to "not take the place of honor" but instead "take the lowest place" (LUKE 14:8-10). Christ confounded their social norms by saying that "all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (V. 11).

This kingdom principle can be a difficult one to adopt, especially because our human temptation will be to still focus on "winning" somehow-choosing the last position now so we'll be first later. But Jesus urges us to follow His example and look to Him for help in reorienting our thinking to see being humble, last, and lowly as truly being in the place of honor.

**KIRSTEN HOLMBERG**

**Reflect and Pray**

Who In your life embodies the kind of humility Jesus calls us to? When do you struggle to surrender your own place of honor?

Please help me, Jesus, to show humility in all circumstances.

**INSIGHT**

Jesus' countercultural approach to honor in Luke 14:7-11 wasn't a new concept for His audience. They were familiar with David, who as the youngest of his brothers became king over Israel. Before him was Gideon, whose family was poor and his tribe's weakest clan. Yet Gideon liberated Israel from their oppressors. And before him was Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, who became the savior of his family in Egypt-a family that was, itself, the youngest nation in a world already populated by many others (DEUTERONOMY 7:l). Yet this chosen nation was honored to be a light to the rest of the world (4:5-8).

In Luke, Christ reminded His listeners of a principle woven throughout Scripture God promotes the last, least, and unlikely to showcase His glory and goodness. It's the nature of God's upside down kingdom (1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29). And it's at the very heart of the gospel (MATIHEW 20:28).

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

# God Calling – 5/6/25

# Sublime Audacity

The way is long and weary. It is a weary world. So many today are weary. "Come unto Me, ... and I will give you rest."

My children, who range yourselves under My flag, you must see that on it are inscribed those words "The Son of Man."

Whatever the world is feeling, I must feel, I - the son of Man. You are My followers - so the weariness of man today must be shared by you - the weary and heavy-laden must come to you, and find that rest that you found in Me.

My children, My followers must be prepared not to sit on My right hand and My left, but to drink of the cup that I drink of.

Poor world - teach it that there is only one cure for all its ills - Union with Me. Dare to suffer, dare to conquer, be filled with My sublime audacity.  Remember that. Claim the unclaimable.

Just what the world would think impossible can always be yours.  Remember, My children, sublime audacity.

And whosever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water ... verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.  Matthew 10:42

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/7/25

# Building For Eternity



Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it… —[Luke 14:28](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Luke+14%3A28)

Our Lord was not referring here to a cost which we have to count, but to a cost which He has already counted. The cost was those thirty years in Nazareth, those three years of popularity, scandal, and hatred, the unfathomable agony He experienced in Gethsemane, and the assault upon Him at Calvary— the central point upon which all of time and eternity turn. Jesus Christ has counted the cost. In the final analysis, people are not going to laugh at Him and say, “This man began to build and was not able to finish” ([Luke 14:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:30)).

The conditions of discipleship given to us by our Lord in verses 26, 27, and 33 mean that the men and women He is going to use in His mighty building enterprises are those in whom He has done everything. “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple ” ([Luke 14:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:26)). This verse teaches us that the only men and women our Lord will use in His building enterprises are those who love Him personally, passionately, and with great devotion— those who have a love for Him that goes far beyond any of the closest relationships on earth. The conditions are strict, but they are glorious.

All that we build is going to be inspected by God. When God inspects us with His searching and refining fire, will He detect that we have built enterprises of our own on the foundation of Jesus? (see [1 Corinthians 3:10-15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+3:10-15)). We are living in a time of tremendous enterprises, a time when we are trying to work for God, and that is where the trap is. Profoundly speaking, we can never work for God. Jesus, as the Master Builder, takes us over so that He may direct and control us completely for His enterprises and His building plans; and no one has any right to demand where he will be put to work.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Defenders of the faith are inclined to be bitter until they learn to walk in the light of the Lord. When you have learned to walk in the light of the Lord, bitterness and contention are impossible. Biblical Psychology, 199 R

# CCEL – 5/7/25

Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled.—[MATT. 24:6.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.24.html" \l "Matt.24.6)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.—Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.—In the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.—Your life is hid with Christ in God.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting the Lord.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

[Psa. 46:1-3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.46.html" \l "Ps.46.1). -[Isa. 26:20,21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.26.html" \l "Isa.26.20). -[Psa. 57:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.57.html" \l "Ps.57.1). -[Col. 3:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.3).[Psa. 112:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.112.html" \l "Ps.112.7).[John 16:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.16.html#John.16.33).

“Great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all.” [Matthew 12:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.12.html" \l "Matt.12.15)

What a mass of hideous sickness must have thrust itself under the eye of Jesus! Yet we read not that he was disgusted, but patiently waited on every case. What a singular variety of evils must have met at his feet! What sickening ulcers and putrefying sores! Yet he was ready for every new shape of the monster evil, and was victor over it in every form. Let the arrow fly from what quarter it might, he quenched its fiery power. The heat of fever, or the cold of dropsy; the lethargy of palsy, or the rage of madness; the filth of leprosy, or the darkness of ophthalmia—all knew the power of his word, and fled at his command. In every corner of the field he was triumphant over evil, and received the homage of delivered captives. He came, he saw, he conquered everywhere. It is even so this morning. Whatever my own case may be, the beloved Physician can heal me; and whatever may be the state of others whom I may remember at this moment in prayer, I may have hope in Jesus that he will be able to heal them of their sins. My child, my friend, my dearest one, I can have hope for each, for all, when I remember the healing power of my Lord; and on my own account, however severe my struggle with sins and infirmities, I may yet be of good cheer. He who on earth walked the hospitals, still dispenses his grace, and works wonders among the sons of men: let me go to him at once in right earnest.

Let me praise him, this morning, as I remember how he wrought his spiritual cures, which bring him most renown. It was by taking upon himself our sicknesses. “By his stripes we are healed.” The Church on earth is full of souls healed by our beloved Physician; and the inhabitants of heaven itself confess that “He healed them all.” Come, then, my soul, publish abroad the virtue of his grace, and let it be “to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign which shall not be cut off.”

# Word Live – 5/7/25

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

# Scripture Union – 5/7/25

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

## Today in the Word – 5/7/25

## Maturing in Christ

A tree branch with buds

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[**Read Ephesians 4:11–16**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+4:11%e2%80%9316)

11So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of [Christ]. [Ephesians 4:15](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.4.15)

As a college student, I worked the dish crew. Trays filled with dirty plates, glasses, and silverware would slowly make their way to the kitchen on a conveyor belt. Leftover food scraps and beverages were scattered everywhere. Those dishes may have been dirty at the beginning of the belt, but by the time they made it to the end of the line they were perfectly clean.

In Ephesians 4, Paul writes about the believers whom God has given to the church to equip “his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (vv. 11–12). These individuals equip the church so that it can fulfill its ministry. Through their ministry of leadership, evangelism, and teaching, the church is able to fulfill God’s purpose for the church and in the world.

We are not meant to live the Christian life alone. God has given us the Holy Spirit and the church to help us grow so we will “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (v. 13).

Paul warns us of what will happen if we do not mature in this way. We will be spiritual infants, “tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming” (v. 14).

Church leaders must ask, “What type of Christians are we producing after they have gone through the ministry?” The goal, expressed by Paul, is to produce maturity. Christlikeness is the ultimate goal for every believer, which is achieved by means of the community of believers.

**Go Deeper**

What difference does it make for you to be a part of a local assembly of Bible believing saints in Christ? How has being a part of a community of believers helped you mature in Christ?

**Pray with Us**

Father, in the book of Ephesians we see Your love and care for Your church! Thank You that You save us into a family of believers, that now we are not aimless wanderers anymore. Thank You that Your love prevails over our sin.

## Our Daily Bread – 5/7/25

## LOVING OTHERS IN JESUS

A group of people posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: 2 SAMUEL 9:1-10**

**David and Mephibosheth**

**9**David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

**2**Now there was a servant of Saul’s household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?”

“At your service,” he replied.

**3**The king asked, “Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?”

Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.”

**4**“Where is he?” the king asked.

Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”

**5**So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

**6**When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, “Mephibosheth!”

“At your service,” he replied.

**7**“Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”

**8**Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

**9**Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. **10**You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

You will always eat at my table. 2 SAMUEL 9:7

There's a new game in high school sports, and it's one of the most uplifting things you'll ever experience. It has many of the same elements of a game known for cheering fans, referees, and a scoreboard. But there's an essential twist: Each five-person team on the court consists of two nondisabled players and three players who have some form of disability. The activity on the court is heartwarming as players assist, encourage, and cheer for each other- no matter what team they're on. The game is all about lifting up students who wouldn't otherwise experience the joy of competitive sports.

It takes deliberate, wise leadership for schools to honor students in this way. And their efforts reflect an example set for us in Scripture by King David.

A common saying in David's day was that "the 'blind and lame' will not enter the palace" (2 SAMUEL 5:8) - used metaphorically in reference to his enemies, David, however, did choose to take Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, who had two lame feet, into his palace and honor him with a place to "eat at [his] table" (9:7).

Paul presents a clear guideline for how we're to treat others. "Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other" (ROMANS 12:10 NLT).

Let's practice unified living - making sure to honor, in Jesus' love, everyone we encounter.

**DAVE BRANDON**

**Reflect and Pray**

How can you encourage the people in your sphere of influence? What does it mean for you to show honor to others?

Dear God, please help me show grace and kindness toward those who need my love and assistance.

**INSIGHT**

David asked whether there was anyone left in Saul', household (the former king) to whom he could "show God's kindness" (2 SAMUEL 9:3) for the sake of his friend Jonathan, Saul's son. The word translated "kindness" is the Hebrew word hesed, which is often used to describe God's steadfast love and faithfulness to fulfill covenant promises to His people. In this context, David shows hesed, or covenant faithfulness, by keeping the covenant promises he'd made with his friend Jonathan. David's kindness demonstrated his integrity as a king. May God help us to show kindness to others.

**By: MONICA LA ROSE**

# God Calling – 5/7/25

# Against the Tide

The oarsman, trusting in Me, does not lean on his oars and drift with the tide, trusting to the current.

Nay, more often - once I have shown the way - it is against the tide you must direct all your effort.  And even when difficulties come, it is by your effort that they will be surmounted.  But always strength and the Joy in the doing you can have through Me.

My fishermen-disciples did not find the fishes ready on the shore in their nets.  I take man's efforts and bless that.  I need man's effort - he needs My blessing. This partnership it is that means success.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.  Philippians 2:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 5/8/25

# The Faith to Persevere



Because you have kept My command to persevere… —[Revelation 3:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Revelation+3%3A10)

Perseverance means more than endurance— more than simply holding on until the end. A saint’s life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, but our Lord continues to stretch and strain, and every once in a while the saint says, “I can’t take any more.” Yet God pays no attention; He goes on stretching until His purpose is in sight, and then He lets the arrow fly. Entrust yourself to God’s hands. Is there something in your life for which you need perseverance right now? Maintain your intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the perseverance of faith. Proclaim as Job did, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” ([Job 13:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+13:15)).

Faith is not some weak and pitiful emotion, but is strong and vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. And even though you cannot see Him right now and cannot understand what He is doing, you know Him. Disaster occurs in your life when you lack the mental composure that comes from establishing yourself on the eternal truth that God is holy love. Faith is the supreme effort of your life— throwing yourself with abandon and total confidence upon God.

God ventured His all in Jesus Christ to save us, and now He wants us to venture our all with total abandoned confidence in Him. There are areas in our lives where that faith has not worked in us as yet— places still untouched by the life of God. There were none of those places in Jesus Christ’s life, and there are to be none in ours. Jesus prayed, “This is eternal life, that they may know You…” ([John 17:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:3)). The real meaning of eternal life is a life that can face anything it has to face without wavering. If we will take this view, life will become one great romance— a glorious opportunity of seeing wonderful things all the time. God is disciplining us to get us into this central place of power.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Am I becoming more and more in love with God as a holy God, or with the conception of an amiable Being who says, “Oh well, sin doesn’t matter much”?  Disciples Indeed, 389 L

# CCEL – 5/8/25

It pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.—[ISA. 53:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.10)

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.—Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.—Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.—For I came down from heaven, not to do mine will, but the will of him that sent me.—The cup which my father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.—My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,—Mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth.

[John 12:27,28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.12.html" \l "John.12.27). -[Luke 22:42,43](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.22.html" \l "Luke.22.42).[Phi. 2:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.2.html" \l "Phil.2.8). -[John 10:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.10.html" \l "John.10.17). -[John 6:38](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.6.html" \l "John.6.38). -[John 18:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.18.html" \l "John.18.11).[John 8:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.8.html" \l "John.8.29). -[Matt. 3:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.3.html" \l "Matt.3.17). -[Isa. 42:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.42.html" \l "Isa.42.1).

“He that was healed wist not who it was.” [John 5:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.5.html" \l "John.5.13)

Years are short to the happy and healthy; but thirty-eight years of disease must have dragged a very weary length along the life of the poor impotent man. When Jesus, therefore, healed him by a word, while he lay at the pool of Bethesda, he was delightfully sensible of a change. Even so the sinner who has for weeks and months been paralysed with despair, and has wearily sighed for salvation, is very conscious of the change when the Lord Jesus speaks the word of power, and gives joy and peace in believing. The evil removed is too great to be removed without our discerning it; the life imparted is too remarkable to be possessed and remain inoperative; and the change wrought is too marvellous not to be perceived. Yet the poor man was ignorant of the author of his cure; he knew not the sacredness of his person, the offices which he sustained, or the errand which brought him among men. Much ignorance of Jesus may remain in hearts which yet feel the power of his blood. We must not hastily condemn men for lack of knowledge; but where we can see the faith which saves the soul, we must believe that salvation has been bestowed. The Holy Spirit makes men penitents long before he makes them divines; and he who believes what he knows, shall soon know more clearly what he believes. Ignorance is, however, an evil; for this poor man was much tantalized by the Pharisees, and was quite unable to cope with them. It is good to be able to answer gainsayers; but we cannot do so if we know not the Lord Jesus clearly and with understanding. The cure of his ignorance, however, soon followed the cure of his infirmity, for he was visited by the Lord in the temple; and after that gracious manifestation, he was found testifying that “it was Jesus who had made him whole.” Lord, if thou hast saved me, show me thyself, that I may declare thee to the sons of men.

# Word Live – 5/8/25

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

# Scripture Union – 5/8/25

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## Today in the Word – 5/8/25

## Walk in Holiness

A butterfly on a flower

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

[**Read Ephesians 4:17–23**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+4:17%e2%80%9323)

**Instructions for Christian Living**

17So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [Ephesians 4:17](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.4.17)

Growing up in the Sutton household, my brothers and I knew we were set apart from our peers. We were strongly instructed by our parents that we were held to a different standard of living than our friends. In other words, we were expected to live by our parent’s rules even if our friends did not agree. We were not perfect children by far, but in the most practical sense of the word, we were holy (or “set apart”) because of our relationship with our parents.

Paul says to the Ephesians in chapter 4 verse 17, “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.” There is a clear expectation that when we are made new in Christ we will act and think in a different manner than those who do not believe. Paul further challenges the Ephesians that as they walk in holiness, they will put off the old self, a self “corrupted by its deceitful desires” (v. 22) and put on the new self, “created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (v. 23).

In the Bible, the words *righteous* and *holy* are used to describe who God is: “The holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts” (Isa. 5:16). “For you alone are holy…your righteous acts have been revealed” (Rev. 15:4). We are called to be like Him. The Apostle Peter, quoting from Leviticus 11:44, writes, “Be holy, because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). Peter describes God’s people as “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession” (1 Peter 2:9). We are a holy people not because we are perfect, but because of our relationship with God.

**Go Deeper**

What does it mean to be holy? In what ways is your life different now as a believer in Christ compared to before you believed?

**Pray with Us**

Lord, when we look at ourselves and the world, Paul’s challenge to live in holiness may seem unrealistic and intimidating. But how wonderful that in You this new life is possible for us. Thank You, Savior, for Your sacrifice!

## Our Daily Bread – 5/8/25

## DEEPLY ROOTED IN CHRIST

A round orange from a tree

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: EPHESIANS 3:14-21**

**A Prayer for the Ephesians**

**14**For this reason I kneel before the Father, **15**from whom every family[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS%203%3A14-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29267a)] in heaven and on earth derives its name. **16**I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17**so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18**may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19**and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**20**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21**to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Footnotes**

1. [Ephesians 3:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS%203%3A14-21&version=NIV#en-NIV-29267) The Greek for *family* (*patria*) is derived from the Greek for *father* (*pater*).

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power. EPHESIANS 3:17-18

Beloved pastor Andrew Murray (1828-1917) shared how in his native South Africa, various diseases affect the orange trees there. To the unpracticed eye, all may seem fine, but an expert arborist can spot the rot that heralds the tree's slow death. The only way to save the diseased tree is to remove the stem and branches from the root and graft them onto a new one. Then the tree can thrive, producing fruit.

Murray connected this illustration to the apostle Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. From prison in Rome, Paul wrote a letter that wonderfully summarizes the gospel of Jesus Christ. His pastoral heart shines through when he prayed that the believers would be strengthened with power through Christ's Spirit in their inner being so that He would dwell in their hearts by faith (EPHESIANS 3:6-17). Paul longed that they'd be "rooted and established in love" and would grasp the full measure of God's abundant love (vv. 17-18).

As believers in Jesus, our roots sink deeply into the rich soil of God's love where the nutrients fortify us and help us grow. And as we're grafted onto Jesus, His Spirit helps us to produce fruit. We may have to weather storms that bend us one way or another, but we can withstand them when we're rooted in the Source of life and love.

**AMY BOUCHER PYE**

**Reflect and Pray**

What does it mean to you to be grafted into Jesus, the Vine? How can you ensure you're receiving enough nutrients in your life with God to flourish?

Loving God, please establish me in Your love so that I bear fruit and bring You glory.

**INSIGHT**

Scattered throughout the Scriptures are both benedictions and doxologies, but there's an interesting difference. A benediction is a horizontal statement of blessing bestowed by a person upon another person. A classic example is the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-26. A doxology, however, is a vertical statement of worship to God. The word doxology comes from two Greek words-doxa ("glory") and logio ("word" or "saying"). It's a declaration of the glory of God. An example is the angels' doxology on the night of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:13-14. In Ephesians 3:14-21, we find Paul blending elements of both. In verses 14-19, he prays for God's blessing on the Ephesian church, and in verses 20-21, he declares God's "glory in the church." As you read the Scriptures, look for both the horizontal statements of blessing upon God's people and the vertical calls to give glory to God.

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

# God Calling – 5/8/25

# The Rest of God

I lead you. The way is clear. Go forward unafraid. I am beside you. Listen, listen, listen to My Voice. My Hand is controlling all.

Remember that I can work through you better when you are at rest. Go very slowly, very quietly from one duty to the next - taking the time to rest and pray between.

Do not be too busy. Take all in order as I say. The Rest of God is in a realm beyond all man's activities. Venture there often, and you will indeed find Peace and Joy.

All work that results from resting with God is miracle-work.  Claim the power to work miracles, both of you.

Know that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Nay, more, know that you can do all things through Christ who rests you.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse ... and his rest shall be glorious.  Isaiah 11:10

## My Utmost for His Highest – 5/9/25



Where there is no revelation [or prophetic vision], the people cast off restraint… —[Proverbs 29:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Proverbs+29%3A18)

There is a difference between holding on to a principle and having a vision. A principle does not come from moral inspiration, but a vision does. People who are totally consumed with idealistic principles rarely do anything. A person’s own idea of God and His attributes may actually be used to justify and rationalize his deliberate neglect of his duty. Jonah tried to excuse his disobedience by saying to God, “…I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm” ([Jonah 4:2](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4:2)). I too may have the right idea of God and His attributes, but that may be the very reason why I do not do my duty. But wherever there is vision, there is also a life of honesty and integrity, because the vision gives me the moral incentive.

Our own idealistic principles may actually lull us into ruin. Examine yourself spiritually to see if you have vision, or only principles.

Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp,  
Or what’s a heaven for?

“Where there is no revelation [or prophetic vision]….” Once we lose sight of God, we begin to be reckless. We cast off certain restraints from activities we know are wrong. We set prayer aside as well and cease having God’s vision in the little things of life. We simply begin to act on our own initiative. If we are eating only out of our own hand, and doing things solely on our own initiative without expecting God to come in, we are on a downward path. We have lost the vision. Is our attitude today an attitude that flows from our vision of God? Are we expecting God to do greater things than He has ever done before? Is there a freshness and a vitality in our spiritual outlook?

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The vital relationship which the Christian has to the Bible is not that he worships the letter, but that the Holy Spirit makes the words of the Bible spirit and life to him.  The Psychology of Redemption, 1066 L

# CCEL – 5/9/25

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—[HEB. 11:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.1)

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.—After that ye believed ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—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: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

We walk by faith, not by sight.—Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

[I Cor. 15:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.19).[I Cor. 2:9,10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.2.html" \l "iCor.2.9). -[Eph. 1:13,14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.13). -[John 20:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.20.html" \l "John.20.29). -[I Pet. 1:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.8).[II Cor. 5:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.7). -[Heb. 10:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.35).

“Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings.” [Ephesians 1:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.3)

All the goodness of the past, the present, and the future, Christ bestows upon his people. In the mysterious ages of the past the Lord Jesus was his Father’s first elect, and in his election he gave us an interest, for we were chosen in him from before the foundation of the world. He had from all eternity the prerogatives of Sonship, as his Father’s only-begotten and well-beloved Son, and he has, in the riches of his grace, by adoption and regeneration, elevated us to sonship also, so that to us he has given “power to become the sons of God.” The eternal covenant, based upon suretiship and confirmed by oath, is ours, for our strong consolation and security. In the everlasting settlements of predestinating wisdom and omnipotent decree, the eye of the Lord Jesus was ever fixed on us; and we may rest assured that in the whole roll of destiny there is not a line which militates against the interests of his redeemed. The great betrothal of the Prince of Glory is ours, for it is to us that he is affianced, as the sacred nuptials shall ere long declare to an assembled universe. The marvellous incarnation of the God of heaven, with all the amazing condescension and humiliation which attended it, is ours. The bloody sweat, the scourge, the cross, are ours forever. Whatever blissful consequences flow from perfect obedience, finished atonement, resurrection, ascension, or intercession, all are ours by his own gift. Upon his breastplate he is now bearing our names; and in his authoritative pleadings at the throne he remembers our persons and pleads our cause. His dominion over principalities and powers, and his absolute majesty in heaven, he employs for the benefit of them who trust in him. His high estate is as much at our service as was his condition of abasement. He who gave himself for us in the depths of woe and death, doth not withdraw the grant now that he is enthroned in the highest heavens.

## Word Live – 5/9/25

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## Scripture Union – 5/9/25

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## Today in the Word – 5/9/25

## Walk in Newness

A close up of a zipper

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[**Read Ephesians 4:24–32**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+4:24%e2%80%9332)

24and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

25Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26“In your anger do not sin”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204%3A24%E2%80%9332&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29299a)]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27and do not give the devil a foothold. 28Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

29Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Footnotes**

1. [Ephesians 4:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204%3A24%E2%80%9332&version=NIV#en-NIV-29299) Psalm 4:4 (see Septuagint)

Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. [Ephesians 4:24](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.4.24)

Do you remember the excitement of getting new school clothes for a new academic year? I will never forget shopping for new clothes and school supplies. Putting on those new clothes for the first time was a very proud moment. I had grown out of the old clothes; I was ready for something new!

In Ephesians 4:24, the Apostle Paul says we are to “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Obviously, Paul is not speaking of literal clothing. He is referring to the new lifestyle of the believer. The word *created* is also mentioned in Ephesians 2:10. We are “created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” When we are saved, we become a new creation. Through salvation, God has given us new life (Eph. 2:5). That means we now “put on” a new way of living that reflects His character.

Paul challenges believers to cease doing things that do not honor God and do not reflect who they are created to be in Him. This includes what we do and how we speak. We are to avoid lying (v. 25) and “unwholesome talk” (v. 29). We are to control our anger: “In your anger do not sin” (v. 26). We are to put off unwholesome past behaviors (v. 31) and put on new ones: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (v. 32).

The use of clothing to describe our transformation is an excellent comparison because clothing is usually an outward reflection of who we are and what we do. In the same way, our lifestyle as believers in Christ is a reflection who we are because of what Christ did for us. We ought to be excited to be able to experience a new way of living because of our new life in Christ.

**Go Deeper**

How does your life reflect who you are as a new creation in Christ? What former ways do you need to “put off”?

**Pray with Us**

Where can true righteousness be found? Heavenly Father, teach us to live as new creations, to follow You in a way that reflects Your character, and to put on Christ every day. You are our righteousness!

## Our Daily Bread – 5/9/25

## LOVE'S GREAT SURPRISE

A group of men standing outside

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: JOHN 20:11-18**

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

**11**Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12**and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

**13**They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” **14**At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

**15**He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

**16**Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

**17**Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

**18**Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

I have seen the lord! JOHN 20:18

In the classic sports fantasy film Field at Dreams, the character Ray Kinsella encounters his late father as an athletic younger man. Upon seeing him for the first time, Ray comments to his wife, Annie, I only saw him years later when he was worn down by life. Look at him .... What do I say to him?" The scene raises a question: What would it be like to see someone we have loved – but now has died - vital and strong again?

Mary Magdalene had that experience when she first met Jesus after He rose from the dead. Mary was weeping beside the empty tomb when she turned "and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus” (JOHN 20:14). Why didn't she recognize Him? Perhaps because of the tears in her eyes or because it "was still dark" (v. l). More likely, it was because when she last saw Him, He'd been bloodied and beaten and tortured to death. She never expected to see Him alive again; He was so alive that it took time for the magnificent truth to sink in.

Yet there Jesus stood, "raised imperishable" (I CORINTHIANS 15:42)! And the moment He called her by name, Mary recognized Him, not only as her faithful friend and "Teacher" (JOHN 20:16), but also as the risen lord of life. God always has ways of astounding us with His wonders. His conquering death for us is the greatest surprise of all.

**JAMES BANKS**

**Reflect and Pray**

How has God surprised you? How can you share His kindness to you with someone today?

Abba, Father, I praise You for raising Jesus from the dead! Please help me live in the life You give today.

**INSIGHT**

Each of the gospel writers tell the story of Jesus' resurrection with varying details. Mary Magdalene is the only woman who's named in all four gospels (MATTHEW 28:1; MARK 16:1; LUKE24:10; JOHN 20:1). When she saw Christ standing outside the tomb, she thought He was a gardener (JOHN 19:41; 20:15). But He surprised her when He called her by name (20:16); she then knew she was in His presence and embraced Him (v. 17; SEE MATTHEW 28:8-10). Yet Jesus told her, "Do not hold on (or cling) to me" (JOHN 20,17). She was to tell His disciples Christ said He was "ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (V. 17). One commentator notes that she "had a task to perform-to inform [Jesus' disciples] (CF. 20:18) that he was now returning to the Father. This was not a time to [hold] him; there was a job to do."

**By: ALYSON KIEDA**

## God Calling – 5/9/25

## Harmony Within

Follow My Guidance.  Be afraid to venture on your own as a child fears to leave its mother's side. Doubt of your own wisdom, and reliance on Mine, will teach you humility.

Humility is not the belittling of the self.  It is forgetting the self.  Nay more, forgetting the self, because you are remembering Me.

You must not expect to live in a world where all is harmony.  You must not expect to live where others are in unbroken accord with you.  It is your task to maintain your own heart peace in adverse circumstances. Harmony is always yours when you strain your ear to catch Heaven's music.

Doubt always your power or wisdom to put things right, ask Me to right all as you leave it to Me, and go on your way loving and laughing. I am wisdom. Only My wisdom can rightly decide anything - settle any problem. So rely on Me. All is well.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.  1 Peter 5:6

## My Utmost for His Highest – 5/10/25

## Take the Initiative



…add to your faith virtue… —[2 Peter 1:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Peter+1%3A5)

Add means that we have to do something. We are in danger of forgetting that we cannot do what God does, and that God will not do what we can do. We cannot save nor sanctify ourselves— God does that. But God will not give us good habits or character, and He will not force us to walk correctly before Him. We have to do all that ourselves. We must “work out” our “own salvation” which God has worked in us ([Philippians 2:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2:12)). Add means that we must get into the habit of doing things, and in the initial stages that is difficult. To take the initiative is to make a beginning— to instruct yourself in the way you must go.

Beware of the tendency to ask the way when you know it perfectly well. Take the initiative— stop hesitating— take the first step. Be determined to act immediately in faith on what God says to you when He speaks, and never reconsider or change your initial decisions. If you hesitate when God tells you to do something, you are being careless, spurning the grace in which you stand. Take the initiative yourself, make a decision of your will right now, and make it impossible to go back. Burn your bridges behind you, saying, “I will write that letter,” or “I will pay that debt”; and then do it! Make it irrevocable.

We have to get into the habit of carefully listening to God about everything, forming the habit of finding out what He says and heeding it. If, when a crisis comes, we instinctively turn to God, we will know that the habit has been formed in us. We have to take the initiative where we are, not where we have not yet been.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

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

## CCEL – 5/10/25

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.—[I JOHN 3:8.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.8)

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.—Forasmuch . . . as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death. that is, the devil.—And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them.—I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Eph. 6:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.6.html" \l "Eph.6.12). -[Heb. 2:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.2.html" \l "Heb.2.14). -[Col 2:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.2.html" \l "Col.2.15). -[Rev. 12:10,11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.12.html" \l "Rev.12.10).[I Cor. 15:57](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.57).

“But now is Christ risen from the dead.” [1 Corinthians 15:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.20)

The whole system of Christianity rests upon the fact that “Christ is risen from the dead;” for, “If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain: ye are yet in your sins.” The divinity of Christ finds its surest proof in his resurrection, since he was “Declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” It would not be unreasonable to doubt his deity if he had not risen. Moreover, Christ’s sovereignty depends upon his resurrection, “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.” Again, our justification, that choice blessing of the covenant, is linked with Christ’s triumphant victory over death and the grave; for “He was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Nay, more, our very regeneration is connected with his resurrection, for we are “Begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” And most certainly our ultimate resurrection rests here, for, “If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” If Christ be not risen, then shall we not rise; but if he be risen then they who are asleep in Christ have not perished, but in their flesh shall surely behold their God. Thus, the silver thread of resurrection runs through all the believer’s blessings, from his regeneration onwards to his eternal glory, and binds them together. How important then will this glorious fact be in his estimation, and how will he rejoice that beyond a doubt it is established, that “now is Christ risen from the dead”!

“The promise is fulfill'd,

Redemption’s work is done,

Justice with mercy’s reconciled,

For God has raised his Son.”

## Word Live – 5/10/25

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

## Scripture Union – 5/10/25

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## Today in the Word – 5/10/25

## Walk in Love

A person's feet in white shoes

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[**Read Ephesians 5:1–2**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+5:1%e2%80%932)

5 1Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us. [Ephesians 5:2](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.5.2)

How many times have you heard someone say to another person, *I love you*? Most of us have heard or said the word *love* so many times that it no longer has the impact it once had. Unfortunately, due to hurts and disappointments, our expectations of love can be lowered.

Do we fully understand what it means to be loved by God? In Ephesians 5, Paul says that we are “dearly loved” children of God (v. 1)! The fact that Christ loved us and “gave himself up for us” is so impactful that Paul prayed for the Ephesians to understand it fully. In chapter 3:17–19, he asks that they be “rooted and established in love” so they “may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.”

In chapter 5, Paul challenges the church at Ephesus to “walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (v. 2). This statement raises the standard of love back to its rightful place: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). It is Christ’s example of sacrifice that we must follow as God’s dearly loved children (v. 1).

Jesus called us to this same standard of love in the Gospel of John 13:34: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another.” As recipients of this sacrificial love, we are called to love others. This is no ordinary love. This love requires sacrificial obedience that sets us apart as children of God: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

**Go Deeper**

In what ways has love been compromised in the world? How can others experience the love of Christ through you?

**Pray with Us**

In today’s reading Paul challenges us to “walk in the way of love” (Eph. 5:2). O God, You made Your love evident from the beginning of time when You spoke Your Word. May our hearts be fixed on You, where true love may be found.

## Our Daily Bread – 5/10/25

## LIVING WITH FULL FAITH

A poster for a funeral service

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Read: 1 PETER 1:3-9**

**Praise to God for a Living Hope**

**3**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4**and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5**who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6**In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7**These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8**Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9**for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

In all this you greatly rejoice, though ... you ... suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 PETER 1:6

Thousands of people around the world prayed for Sethie's three-year-old son, who'd been hospitalized for months. When doctors said Shiloh had "no meaningful brain activity," Sethie called me. "Sometimes, I'm scared I'm not living with full faith," she said. "I know God can heal Shiloh and let him come home with us. I'm also at peace if God heals him by taking him to heaven." Assuring her that God understands like no one else can, I said, "You've surrendered to God. That is full faith!" A few days later, God took her precious son to heaven. Though struggling with the grief of losing him, Sethie thanked God and the many people who prayed. She said, "I believe God is still good and still God."

In this world, until Jesus comes aga in, we'll "suffer grief in all kinds of trials" (1 PETER 1:6). We'll need to process real emotions caused by real pain. However, everyone who experiences "new birth" in Christ (v. 3) can be anchored in life by love for Jesus and be "filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy" (v. 8). The end result of our faith in Christ is this: "the salvation of [our] souls" (v. 9).

The Holy Spirit empowers us to have full faith-living with our prayers and our situations confidently surrendered to Christ.

**XOCHITL DIXON**

**Reflect and Pray**

When has God helped you rejoice in the hope of salvation in Jesus while facing devastating circumstances? How has your confidence in Him changed the way you pray?

Dear Jesus, please help me trust You as I wait for Your promised return when You'll make all things new.

For further study, read A Season of Suffering-Meeting Jesus in Our Pain at DiscoverODB.org.

**INSIGHT**

The reality of suffering experienced by believers in Jesus is highlighted by Peter and others in the New Testament. By faith, believers embrace "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade" (1 PETER 1:4) but they're also faced with "all kinds of trials" (V. 6). The Greek word translated "trials" speaks of adverse circumstances afflictions, or troubles. The word is likewise used in James 1:2: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds." Paul's unforgettable words in Romans 8 are similar: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us), (v. 18). Our weary souls can continue to find joy and hope in our salvation in Jesus as we're encouraged by 2 Corinthians 4:16-17: "Therefore we do not lose heart. ... For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all"

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

## God Calling – 5/10/25

## Calm - Not Speed

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."  Isaiah 30:15

All agitation is destructive of good.  All calm is constructive of good, and at the same time destructive of evil.

When man wants evil destroyed so often he rushes to action.  It is wrong. First be still and know that I am God. Then act only as I tell you. Always calm with God. Calm is trust in action. Only trust, perfect trust can keep one calm.

Never be afraid of any circumstances or difficulties that help you to cultivate this calm. As the world, to attain, has to learn speed, you, to attain, have to learn calm.  All great work for Me is done first in the individual soul of the worker.

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way,   
and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.  Jeremiah 6:16

## My Utmost for His Highest – 5/11/25

## “Love One Another”



…add to your…brotherly kindness love. —[2 Peter 1:5, 7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Peter+1%3A5%2C+7)

Love is an indefinite thing to most of us; we don’t know what we mean when we talk about love. Love is the loftiest preference of one person for another, and spiritually Jesus demands that this sovereign preference be for Himself (see [Luke 14:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:26)). Initially, when “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit” ([Romans 5:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5:5)), it is easy to put Jesus first. But then we must practice the things mentioned in 2 Peter 1 to see them worked out in our lives.

The first thing God does is forcibly remove any insincerity, pride, and vanity from my life. And the Holy Spirit reveals to me that God loved me not because I was lovable, but because it was His nature to do so. Now He commands me to show the same love to others by saying, “…love one another as I have loved you” ([John 15:12](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15:12)). He is saying, “I will bring a number of people around you whom you cannot respect, but you must exhibit My love to them, just as I have exhibited it to you.” This kind of love is not a patronizing love for the unlovable— it is His love, and it will not be evidenced in us overnight. Some of us may have tried to force it, but we were soon tired and frustrated.

“The Lord…is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish…” ([2 Peter 3:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3:9)). I should look within and remember how wonderfully He has dealt with me. The knowledge that God has loved me beyond all limits will compel me to go into the world to love others in the same way. I may get irritated because I have to live with an unusually difficult person. But just think how disagreeable I have been with God! Am I prepared to be identified so closely with the Lord Jesus that His life and His sweetness will be continually poured out through Me? Neither natural love nor God’s divine love will remain and grow in me unless it is nurtured. Love is spontaneous, but it has to be maintained through discipline.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Am I getting nobler, better, more helpful, more humble, as I get older? Am I exhibiting the life that men take knowledge of as having been with Jesus, or am I getting more self-assertive, more deliberately determined to have my own way? It is a great thing to tell yourself the truth. The Place of Help, 1005 R

## CCEL – 5/11/25

Awake to righteousness, and sin not.—[I COR. 15:34.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.34)

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

It is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.—Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.—Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed: and make you a new heart and a new spirit.—Lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.—Little children, abide in him that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

[I Thes. 5:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iThess.5.html" \l "iThess.5.5).[Rom. 13:11,12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.13.html" \l "Rom.13.11). -[Eph. 6:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.6.html" \l "Eph.6.13). -[Ezek. 18:31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ezek.18.html" \l "Ezek.18.31). -[Jas. 1:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.1.html" \l "Jas.1.21). -[I John 2:28,29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.2.html" \l "iJohn.2.28).

“I am with you alway.” [Matthew 28:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.28.html" \l "Matt.28.20)

It is well there is One who is ever the same, and who is ever with us. It is well there is one stable rock amidst the billows of the sea of life. O my soul, set not thine affections upon rusting, moth-eaten, decaying treasures, but set thine heart upon him who abides forever faithful to thee. Build not thine house upon the moving quicksands of a deceitful world, but found thy hopes upon this rock, which, amid descending rain and roaring floods, shall stand immovably secure. My soul, I charge thee, lay up thy treasure in the only secure cabinet; store thy jewels where thou canst never lose them. Put thine all in Christ; set all thine affections on his person, all thy hope in his merit, all thy trust in his efficacious blood, all thy joy in his presence, and so thou mayest laugh at loss, and defy destruction. Remember that all the flowers in the world’s garden fade by turns, and the day cometh when nothing will be left but the black, cold earth. Death’s black extinguisher must soon put out thy candle. Oh! how sweet to have sunlight when the candle is gone! The dark flood must soon roll between thee and all thou hast; then wed thine heart to him who will never leave thee; trust thyself with him who will go with thee through the black and surging current of death’s stream, and who will land thee safely on the celestial shore, and make thee sit with him in heavenly places forever. Go, sorrowing son of affliction, tell thy secrets to the Friend who sticketh closer than a brother. Trust all thy concerns with him who never can be taken from thee, who will never leave thee, and who will never let thee leave him, even “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” “Lo, I am with you alway,” is enough for my soul to live upon, let who will forsake me.

## Word Live – 5/11/25

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

## Scripture Union – 5/11/25

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

## Today in the Word – 5/11/25

## Walk in the Light

A person standing on a path in a forest

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[**Read Ephesians 5:3–14**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+5:3%e2%80%9314)

3But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. 4Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A3%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29310a)] 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7Therefore do not be partners with them.

8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10and find out what pleases the Lord. 11Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
    rise from the dead,  
    and Christ will shine on you.”

**Footnotes**

1. [Ephesians 5:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A3%E2%80%9314&version=NIV#en-NIV-29310) Or *kingdom of the Messiah and God*

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. [Ephesians 5:8](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.5.8)

It is amazing to see the moon shine brightly during the night. But we also know it is not the moon itself that generates light; it is reflecting the light from the sun. In the same way, as believers, we are called to reflect the light of the Lord in our dark world.

The apostle Paul uses the contrast between light and darkness to show a difference between believers and unbelievers. The believers in Ephesus were in danger of compromise due to their close relationship with those who were disobedient. Paul warns them: “God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them” (vv. 6–7).

We are not the source of our own light, it comes from the Lord. While in our unbelieving state we were identified by darkness, now we reflect God’s light. This should affect the way we walk and talk and live. Paul says that children of light should live in a manner that is markedly different from the world. He cautions that “there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people” (v. 3). The characteristics of God, “goodness, righteousness and truth” (v. 9), are the opposite of the characteristics of darkness. Paul strongly cautions in verse 11, “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Christ’s light shines through us so that those who are living in darkness will be illuminated. He urges in verse 14, “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Jesus used this same imagery in Matthew 5:18 when He told His followers to “let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**Go Deeper**

How did Christ shine His light on you? In what ways is your life pointing others to the light of Christ?

**Pray with Us**

Loving Savior, You entered our dark world as a Morning Star, full of grace and truth! Help us see the world through Your eyes, help us walk in Your light, bearing witness to the good news of Your grace.

## Our Daily Bread – 5/11/25

## A MOM LOOKS BACK

A person holding a crying child

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**Read: GENESIS 29:31-35**

**Jacob’s Children**

31When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. 32Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-828a)] for she said, “It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now.”

33She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too.” So she named him Simeon.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-829b)]

34Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” So he was named Levi.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-830c)]

35She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “This time I will praise the Lord.” So she named him Judah.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-831d)] Then she stopped having children.

**Footnotes**

1. [Genesis 29:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#en-NIV-828) *Reuben* sounds like the Hebrew for *he has seen my misery*; the name means *see, a son*.
2. [Genesis 29:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#en-NIV-829) *Simeon* probably means *one who hears.*
3. [Genesis 29:34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#en-NIV-830) *Levi* sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for *attached.*
4. [Genesis 29:35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS%2029%3A31-35&version=NIV#en-NIV-831) *Judah* sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for *praise.*

"This time I will praise the LORD," So [Leah[ named him Judah. GENESIS 29:35

"I really didn't like Mother's Day," said Donna, a mom of three. "It brought back to me all the inadequacies and failures I felt and feel as a mother."

Donna started her parenting life with high expectations. Reality lowered the bar. "Being a mother was really the hardest thing I ever did," she said. And one particular child "pushed every button I had."

When God chose Leah to be a matriarch of Israel, no doubt she had high expectations for each of her children. She gave her first four sons names with relevance to her difficult situation (GENESIS 29:32-35). Yet when it comes to dark stories in the Bible, these sons have starring roles as the bad guys. Some were guilty as murderers (34:24-30) and slavers (37:17-28). Leah's son Judah is the villain in one of the uglier accounts in Scripture (CH. 38).

How like God to bring the Messiah through Leah's descendants - including Judah. In the most difficult circumstances and through the most unexpected people, God works out redemption.

Donna learned this too. As she faced all her parenting challenges, she never found an answer “except to keep going and keep praying." And that kid who pushed all her buttons? He's grown now, and he loves and respects his mom. Looking back, Donna says, "Perhaps he was sent to me to teach me something about myself and something about my God."

**TIM GUSTAFSON**

**Reflect and Pray**

Where have you sensed the keenest disappointments in your life? What do you find you're learning about God through this?

Heavenly Father, please help me to trust You in everything.

**INSIGHT**

The story of Leah is one of the saddest in Scripture (SEE GENESIS 29:15-36). In ancient times, women had virtually no voice in what happened to them. When Leah's father, Laban, deceived Jacob into sleeping with her instead of her sister Rachel, she was a helpless pawn in that scheme. When Jacob later married Rachel as well, Leah was moved to secondary status in the home. When she began to have sons, she thought she'd been justified by God, but that feeling seemed to carry with it some resentment and bitterness, which we discover in the names she gave her boys (VV. 32-34). That changed, however, with the birth of her fourth son, from whose line Jesus would come. She named him Judah saying, "This time I will praise the LORD" (V. 35). This name revealed a heart of trust in God. We too can learn to trust Him through difficult times.

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

## God Calling – 5/11/25

## The Divine Third

When I have led you through these storms there will be other words for you, other messages - other guidance.

So deep is your friendship and so great your desire to love and follow and serve Me that soon, when this time of difficulty is over, to be alone together will always mean to be shut in with Me.

There are few friendships in the world like that and yet I taught, when on earth, as I have you both, the power of the two together.

And now tonight I have more to say to you.  I say that the time is coming, is even now here, when those who visit you two together will know that I am the Divine Third in your friendship.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing  
 that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.  Matthew 18:19

## My Utmost for His Highest – 5/12/25

## The Habit of Having No Habits



If these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful… —[2 Peter 1:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Peter+1%3A8)

When we first begin to form a habit, we are fully aware of it. There are times when we are aware of becoming virtuous and godly, but this awareness should only be a stage we quickly pass through as we grow spiritually. If we stop at this stage, we will develop a sense of spiritual pride. The right thing to do with godly habits is to immerse them in the life of the Lord until they become such a spontaneous expression of our lives that we are no longer aware of them. Our spiritual life continually causes us to focus our attention inwardly for the determined purpose of self-examination, because each of us has some qualities we have not yet added to our lives.

Your god may be your little Christian habit— the habit of prayer or Bible reading at certain times of your day. Watch how your Father will upset your schedule if you begin to worship your habit instead of what the habit symbolizes. We say, “I can’t do that right now; this is my time alone with God.” No, this is your time alone with your habit. There is a quality that is still lacking in you. Identify your shortcoming and then look for opportunities to work into your life that missing quality.

Love means that there are no visible habits— that your habits are so immersed in the Lord that you practice them without realizing it. If you are consciously aware of your own holiness, you place limitations on yourself from doing certain things— things God is not restricting you from at all. This means there is a missing quality that needs to be added to your life. The only supernatural life is the life the Lord Jesus lived, and He was at home with God anywhere. Is there someplace where you are not at home with God? Then allow God to work through whatever that particular circumstance may be until you increase in Him, adding His qualities. Your life will then become the simple life of a child.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Both nations and individuals have tried Christianity and abandoned it, because it has been found too difficult; but no man has ever gone through the crisis of deliberately making Jesus Lord and found Him to be a failure. The Love of God—The Making of a Christian, 680 R

## CCEL – 5/12/25

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.—[I JOHN 4:7.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.7)

The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us.—Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.—He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.—In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.—That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

[Rom. 5:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.5). -[Rom. 8:15,16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.15). -[I John 5:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.5.html" \l "iJohn.5.10).[I John 4:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.9). -[Eph. 1:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.1.html" \l "Eph.1.7). -[Eph. 2:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.7).[I John 4:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.4.html" \l "iJohn.4.11).

“And will manifest myself to him.” **[John 14:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.21)**

The Lord Jesus gives special revelations of himself to his people. Even if Scripture did not declare this, there are many of the children of God who could testify the truth of it from their own experience. They have had manifestations of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in a peculiar manner, such as no mere reading or hearing could afford. In the biographies of eminent saints, you will find many instances recorded in which Jesus has been pleased, in a very special manner to speak to their souls, and to unfold the wonders of his person; yea, so have their souls been steeped in happiness that they have thought themselves to be in heaven, whereas they were not there, though they were well nigh on the threshold of it—for when Jesus manifests himself to his people, it is heaven on earth; it is paradise in embryo; it is bliss begun. Especial manifestations of Christ exercise a holy influence on the believer’s heart. One effect will be humility. If a man says, “I have had such-and-such spiritual communications, I am a great man,” he has never had any communion with Jesus at all; for “God hath respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.” He does not need to come near them to know them, and will never give them any visits of love. Another effect will be happiness; for in God’s presence there are pleasures for evermore. Holiness will be sure to follow. A man who has no holiness has never had this manifestation. Some men profess a great deal; but we must not believe any one unless we see that his deeds answer to what he says. “Be not deceived; God is not mocked.” He will not bestow his favours upon the wicked: for while he will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he respect an evil doer. Thus there will be three effects of nearness to Jesus—humility, happiness, and holiness. May God give them to thee, Christian!

## Word Live – 5/12/25

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

## Scripture Union – 5/12/25

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

## Today in the Word – 5/12/25

## Discerning Opportunities

A wrist with a watch on it

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[**Read Ephesians 5:14–17**](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible/?pas=Ephesians+5:14%e2%80%9317)

14This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
    rise from the dead,  
    and Christ will shine on you.”

15Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. [Ephesians 5:16](https://www.todayintheword.org/bible-verses/verse/?pas=Eph.5.16)

Doesn’t it seem like the older you get the faster time goes? When you are young, you want time to pass quickly, but the older you get the more you want it to slow down. I plan to celebrate my 54th birthday for the next ten years. Obviously, I am joking. It is impossible to control time, but the Bible does tell us how we can control our response to it.

Paul says, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise” (v. 15). The phrase “be very careful” means that, as followers of Jesus, we should pay close attention to how we live. Paul is warning the Ephesian church about potential danger, a warning that also occurred earlier in the chapter. In verse 14, Paul quotes from Isaiah 26:16, urging the believers in Ephesus: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.” Anyone who doesn’t listen to this warning is unwise!

The King James translates verse 16 as “redeeming the *time*, because the days are evil.” In the Greek, we notice that Paul did not use the word *chronos* for *time*. Chronos is the ordinary term for time as humans measure it, in hours, minutes, and seconds. Instead, Paul uses the word *kairos* which refers to God’s appointed time. He reminds us that God is in control of every moment of our lives, and they will be fulfilled according to His will.

What, then, is our response? Paul speaks to the believers with a mindset of urgency. We are to use our time wisely by taking advantage of each God-given opportunity that occurs in our lives. This is how we make the most of time. These opportunities will soon pass because “the days are evil.” In other words, time is running out!

**Go Deeper**

What do you believe God is doing in this season of your life? Can you remember any God-given opportunities that you either did or did not take advantage of?

**Pray with Us**

Sovereign Lord, may we remember Paul’s plea to Ephesians to live “not as unwise but as wise” (Eph. 5:15). We need Your guidance on how to live wisely, redeem the time, and make use of every opportunity to share the gospel.

## Our Daily Bread – 5/12/25

## NO REGRETS

A book cover of a book

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**Read: LUKE 12:13-21**

**The Parable of the Rich Fool**

13Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” 15Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

16And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

18“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

20“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. LUKE 12:20

There was no mention made of the stuff we often spend our lives chasing. That's what palliative care nurse Bronnie Ware discovered as she sat with the dying. She intentionally questioned them: "Would you do anything differently if you could do it again?" Common themes surfaced, and she compiled a list of the top five regrets of the dying:

(1) I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself.

(2) I wish I hadn't worked so hard.

(3) I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.

(4) I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends. And

(5) I wish I'd let myself be happier.

Ware's list brings to mind the parable Jesus tells in Luke 12. A rich man decides to build bigger barns to store his great harvest, after which he tells himself he'll retire in style, sit back and relax, and live until he dies (VV. 18-19). But in that moment, God demands his life with a rather harsh address: "You fool"-followed by a haunting question: in essence, "And what will become of all your stuff?" (v. 20).

Is it possible to die with zero regrets? That's hard to know for certain. But what we do know is clearly expressed in Scripture – storing up stuff for ourselves is a dead end. True riches come from a life invested in God.

**JOHN BLASÉ**

**Reflect and Pray**

What if your life was demanded of you today? Would wise or foolish be applied to you? Why?

Dear Jesus, when the time comes, I want to have as few regrets as possible. Please help me to live wisely, building a life rich in You.

For further study, read Die First, Then Comes the End at DiscoverODB.org.

**INSIGHT**

Jesus' warnings against "all kinds of greed" (LUKE 12:15) connect to a broader emphasis in Luke's gospel on the dangers of wealth as well as God's concern for the poor. In Mary's song in Luke 1:46:55, she praises God as the one who "filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (v. 53). In chapter 6, Christ says, "Woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry" (vv.24·25).

In Jesus' parable of a wealthy farmer building larger barns to store excess produce, we're given a look into the man's inner thoughts(12:18·19). There we find someone with no concern for those around him who were in need; his only plans were for himself-to "take life easy; eat, drink and be merry" (V. 19). God can help us live wisely without regret.

**By: MONICA LA ROSE**

## God Calling – 5/12/25

## Thrill of Protection

Turn out all thoughts of doubt and of trouble. Never tolerate them for one second. Bar the windows and doors of your souls against them as you would bar your home against a thief who would steal in to take your treasures.

What greater treasures can you have than Peace and Rest and Joy? And these are all stolen from you by doubt and fear and despair.

Face each day with Love and Laughter. Face the storm.

Joy, Peace, Love, My great gifts.  Follow Me to find all three. I want you to feel the thrill of protection and safety Now. Any soul can feel this in a harbor, but real joy and victory come to those alone who sense these when they ride a storm.

Say, "all is well." Say it not as a vain repetition. Use it as you use a healing balm for cut or wound, until the poison is drawn out; then, until the sore is healed, then until the thrill of fresh life floods your being.

All is well.

O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?  Matthew 14:31