



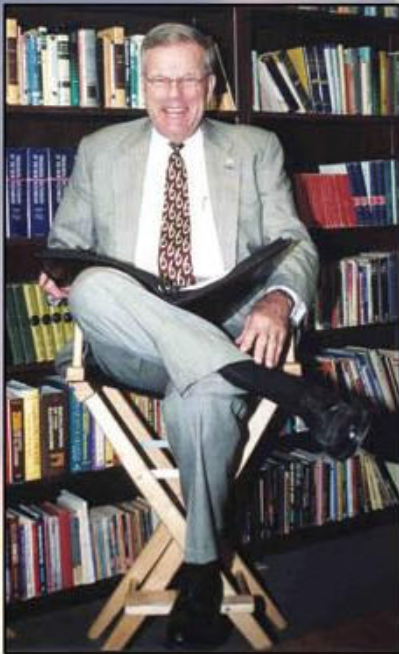
A Great While Before Day

*Daily Devotional
by Don Anderson*

Meet the Author

"Few have been more helpful to so many over the years than Don Anderson as he has translated the Bible into practical rules for living... with heart and a head of solid advice."

Howard G. Hendricks, Author and Educator,
Dallas Theological Seminary



Don Anderson is a familiar face throughout the Southwest and a popular guest speaker at churches, para-church organizations, conferences, and retreats. **His refreshing style and unique insights**, captured on tape and published in his many books, effectively communicate timeless truths from Scripture and their application to everyday life.

Don received a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern College and a Masters of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. In June 1990, he earned a Doctorate of Ministry in marriage and family counseling from Talbot School of Theology in southern California.

He has been involved in Christian ministry for over 45 years, serving as a Young Life staff member, youth pastor, and program director at The Firs Bible & Missionary Conference in Bellingham, WA. He is also the founding executive director of Pine Cove Christian Conference Center and former pastor of two community churches in East Texas. His **passion for Bible** teaching led him to create Don Anderson Ministries, headquartered in Tyler, TX, which celebrated 30 years of ministry in 2002. **Devoted to excellence in the communication of Scripture in both sacred and secular environments**, the Ministries desires for all people to understand God's Word and apply its timeless truths in their lives.

Don and his wife, Pearl, are proud of their five children and enjoy their ten (and counting!) wonderful grandchildren.

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Daily Devotional

by Don Anderson Ministries
P.O. Box 6611
Tyler, Texas 75711-6611
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Don Anderson Ministries

What Do We Do?

Formed in 1972 as a nonprofit organization, Don Anderson Ministries is dedicated to excellence in the communication of the Scripture, camping, and counseling. Our logo contains the words from Colossians 3:11b: "Christ is all and in all." This, perhaps more than anything else, sums up the Don Anderson Ministries' philosophy of ministry.

Communicating God's Word accurately and clearly is our primary focus. Bible classes are held annually in more than 20 cities in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. These classes – conducted in homes, businesses, banks, cafeterias, and public auditoriums – open and free of charge to anyone who is interested in learning more about the Scripture and its relevance to daily life. By design, class environments are warm, friendly, and non-threatening.

Believing that biblical principles can be effectively communicated in informal settings, Don Anderson Ministries conducts fun-filled conferences and retreats throughout the year. Each event is intended to be an oasis of fun, fellowship, relaxation, and renewal – as well as a time of solid Christian growth.

Because our goal is to convey the Good News of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible, the Ministries' media division produces cassette and CD. series of biblically based messages. Marriage video series are also available. The Ministries' team also distributes Don's many books. These widely circulated resources for teaching, study, and spiritual enrichment are listed in our media catalog and are available at nominal cost from our office. A quarterly magazine, *The Grapevine*, is sent without cost to anyone requesting to be on our mailing list. Hundreds of copies of Don's series, *How to Become a Christian*, have been given out in classes, camps, and conferences, or mailed from the office through the years. There is never a charge for this timely series and our constant prayer is that it will be used to bring others into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don Anderson Ministries is a member of Christian Camping International, U.S. Division, and a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

A GREAT WHILE BEFORE DAY

Ghe gospel writer Mark records that Jesus “rising up a great while before day... went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” (1:35 KJV) Whenever and wherever you spend your time with the Father each day, we hope that these devotional verses and thoughts will be encouraging. Each Scripture selection comes from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION of the Bible (unless otherwise noted); the sayings and Scripture meditations are designed to assist you in your devotional time.

JANUARY

January 1 — 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.

Lord, as I begin this new year, help me to be focused on three things: a work of faith, a labor of love, and a steadfastness of my hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

January 2 — 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5

Knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, thank You for choosing me to be part of Your family. May the joy of the Holy Spirit enable people to see Christ living in me today.

REFLECTION...

January 3 — 1 Thessalonians 2:4

But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.

Lord, I am reminded of David's prayer in Psalm 26:2, 3: "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth" (NIV).

January 4 — 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8

But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

Lord, may the gentleness of the Lord Jesus be seen in my life this day.

January 5 — 1 Thessalonians 2:10

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blameless we behaved toward you believers.

Lord, help me to do three things today: to be devout, to be upright, and to blamelessly in my conduct toward fellow believers.

January 6 — 1 Thessalonians 2:13

And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Lord, I thought of Hebrews 4:12 this morning: "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

January 7 — 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20

For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

Lord, thank You for this reminder today that our joy and glory in heaven is going to be over the people who have come with us that we have been able to influence for Christ.

Help me to touch some life today.

January 8 — 1 Thessalonians 3:7, 8

For this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

Lord, it sure brings a lot of joy today to know that by my steadfastness and perseverance I can be an encouragement and blessing to others who are in distress and affliction.

January 9 — 1 Thessalonians 3:9

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account.

Lord, thank You for the joy that fills our hearts when we hear of the faithful and fruitful conduct of fellow believers. Help me to bring joy to fellow believers by my consistent walk today.

January 10 — 1 Thessalonians 3:10

As we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

Lord, I am available to be a source of strength and supply for some struggling believer that you have in mind for me to touch this day.

January 11 — 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.

Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, help me to flee the lust of the flesh and to be able to say no to its desires.

REFLECTION...

January 12 — 1 Thessalonians 4:7

For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

Lord, the dominant desire of my heart this day is to pursue Your purpose with a passion to be made more like the Lord Jesus Christ.

January 13 — 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12

And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you; so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

Lord, my goal this day is three-fold: to monitor the words I speak, to mind my own business, and to do the work that You have called me to do.

January 14 — 1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Lord, it would really be an exciting time if today was the day that You chose to descend from heaven with a shout. Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus.

January 15 — 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Lord, it sure would be wonderful to be a part of that generation that will not experience physical death but will be caught up to meet you in the air. What a glorious day that will be.

REFLECTION...

January 16 — 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Father, the words of Paul to the Corinthians saints come to mind this morning: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our afflictions so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 NASB).

January 17 — 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 6

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words in Romans 13:11, 12: "And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (NASB).

January 18 — 1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Lord, I am reminded of the words of Paul to the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:10, 11: "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (NASB).

January 19 — 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Lord, help me to be positive and affirming in my conversation with fellow believers today.

REFLECTION...

January 20 — 1 Thessalonians 5:14

And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.

Lord, I am challenged by this verse to do four things today: "admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men."

January 21 — 1 Thessalonians 5:15

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.

Lord, Paul's words to the Romans in Romans 12:9, 10 come to my mind this morning: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor" (NASB).

January 22 — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Lord, the text commands me to be doing three things today, and help me to be consistent in carrying out these commands: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks."

January 23 — 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

Lord, may my sincere, sensitive and submissive heart be fertile soil for Your Spirit to work this day.

January 24 — 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Lord, I am reminded in these verses this morning as to why these steps are necessary, according to 2 Corinthians 2:11: "in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

January 25 — 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lord, my prayer this day is that You may be unhindered in the process of making me more like the Lord Jesus Christ. Know that soon "we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is" (1 John 3:2 NASB).

January 26 — 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
Lord, thank You for the awareness that You never call us to a task but what You also provide all the resources necessary to the full accomplishment of that task.

January 27 — 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9

Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.
Lord, thank You for this sober reminder this morning of the destiny of the wicked. May I be clear in my presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to this lost and dying world.

January 28 — 2 Thessalonians 2:15

So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.
Lord, this verse reminds me of Paul's words to the Corinthian saints in 1 Corinthians 16:13: "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

January 29 — 2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Lord, my mind goes back to Paul's letter in Colossians 1:10, 11: "so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously" (NASB).

January 30 — 2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Lord, what peace comes to my heart as I face this new day, resting in a faithful God who will strengthen and protect against any missiles fired by the evil one.

January 31 — 2 Thessalonians 3:5

And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Lord, my mind goes back to the words of Isaiah the prophet in Isaiah 50:7: "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame" (NIV).

FEBRUARY

February 1 — 2 Thessalonians 3:13

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Galatian saints in Galatians 6:9: "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

February 2 — 1 Timothy 1:5

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Lord, I am challenged by this verse to do three things today: to "love from a pure heart," exercise "a good conscience," and demonstrate "a sincere faith."

February 3 — 1 Timothy 1:12

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service.

Lord, thank You for the glorious privilege of serving You this day. My prayer is that I might be a faithful servant.

February 4 — 1 Timothy 1:15

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

Lord, I praise You this day that You came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost and You found a sinner like me.

February 5 — 1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, it's all together fitting that we would take this morning to praise You as the "King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God." We would bring You "honor and glory forever and ever."

February 6 — 1 Timothy 1:19

Keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

Lord, I am reminded of the words of the writer to the book of Hebrews 2:1: "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (NASB). Lord, keep me focused on the faith and exercising a clear, clean conscience.

REFLECTION...

February 7 — 1 Timothy 2:1, 2

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Lord, Paul is urging us today to be faithful in our prayer life and especially for "kings and all who are in authority." Help me to be faithful in my prayers and petitions.

February 8 — 1 Timothy 2:3, 4

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Lord, help me to stay focused on Your agenda and what You desire, that is that all men "be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

February 9 — 1 Timothy 2:5, 6

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

Lord, I am reminded of the words of Jesus in the upper room just before He died when he said to Thomas: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6 NASB).

February 10 — 1 Timothy 3:9

But holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

Lord, this verse this morning reminds me of Paul's words in Acts 24:16: "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men" (NASB). Help me to make that my number one priority as I face this new day.

REFLECTION...

February 11 — 1 Timothy 3:16

And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, beheld by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Lord, thank You for the refreshing reminder of these six great steps that were taken for our salvation: He "was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, beheld by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

February 12 — 1 Timothy 4:1, 2

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

Lord, this verse reminds me of Hebrews 3:12: "Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God" (NASB).

February 13 — 1 Timothy 4:7

But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:27: "but I am treating my body roughly and making it serve me, lest that when I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified" (DAV).

February 14 — 1 Timothy 4:8

For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Lord, help me to be faithful in my physical and spiritual disciplines so that I might bring glory to Your name.

REFLECTION...

February 15 — 1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Lord, my prayer this day is that I might be an example to other believers in these five areas: "speech, conduct, love, faith and purity."

February 16 — 1 Timothy 4:15

Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippian saints in Philippians 3:13, 14: "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (NASB).

February 17 — 1 Timothy 4:16

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

Lord, I am praying that my life and lip might bear fruitful testimony of my relationship with You.

February 18 — 1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

Lord, help me to be faithful today in meeting the needs of my wife and my family.

REFLECTION...

February 19 — 1 Timothy 6:6-8

But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippian saints in Philippians 4:11: "Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (NASB)

February 20 — 1 Timothy 6:9, 10

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

Lord, Paul's words to the Colossian saints in Colossians 3:2 are in my thoughts this morning: "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (NASB).

February 21 — 1 Timothy 6:11, 12

But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Lord, help me to flee the things that I should flee and follow after "righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness" and to "fight the good fight of faith."

February 22 — 2 Timothy 1:3, 4

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

Lord, my greatest fulfillment this day would be serving You with a clear conscience, faithful to the finish line.

REFLECTION...

February 23 — 2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
Lord, thank You for the resources You have provided for us to be courageous witnesses to our generation.

February 24 — 2 Timothy 1:8

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.
Lord, my witness is that of Paul the apostle in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (NASB).

February 25 — 2 Timothy 1:9

Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.
Lord, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the grace that you have demonstrated toward me in saving me and calling me with a holy calling. Help me to be faithful this day.

February 26 — 2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Romans in chapter 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

February 27 — 2 Timothy 1:13, 14

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

Lord, help me to maintain a high standard of Biblical exposition and to demonstrate the love of Christ and to guard "the treasure" which has been entrusted to me.

February 28 — 2 Timothy 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Ephesian saints in Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might" (NASB).

MARCH

March 1 — 2 Timothy 2:2

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Lord, help me to be a faithful channel of Your truth to the next generation.

March 2 — 2 Timothy 2:3

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Lord, wanting to be a good soldier of Yours this day, I am reminded of Ephesians 6:13: "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

March 3 — 2 Timothy 2:4

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Lord, help me to stay focused on Your purpose and plan and not be distracted so that I may please You as a good soldier.

March 4 — 2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 2:17: "For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God" (NASB).

March 5 — 2 Timothy 2:22

Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Lord, it is the supreme desire of my heart to flee the lusts of the flesh and to "pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with . . . a pure heart."

March 6 — 2 Timothy 2:24

And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

Lord, Ephesians 4:32 seems to be very timely: "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (NASB).

March 7 — 2 Timothy 3:1, 2

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy.

Lord, thank You for these graphic reminders this morning that we truly are living in the "last days."

REFLECTION...

March 8 — 2 Timothy 3:3, 4

Unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Lord, these further manifestations of the last days makes us realize that human nature has not changed very much.

March 9 — 2 Timothy 3:5

Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippian saints in Philippians 2:15: "that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world" (NASB).

March 10 — 2 Timothy 3:12, 13

And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount are a real encouragement: "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11, 12 NASB).

March 11 — 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Lord, this is just a good day to say thank You for Your Word and with the Psalmist the cry of my heart is: "Turn my eyes away from worthless things; renew my life according to your word" (Psalm 119:37 version ?).

REFLECTION...

March 12 — 2 Timothy 4:1, 2

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Lord, I want to accept this solemn charge to be faithful in the preaching of Your Word, to be ready in season and out of season, to reprove, to rebuke, to exhort, and to do it with great patience and instruction.

March 13 — 2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

Lord, I am reminded of the words of the Lord Jesus in John 9:4: "We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work" (NASB).

March 14 — 2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

Lord, it is the supreme desire of my heart to be able to say these three things when my life is complete on earth: "I fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."

March 15 — 2 Timothy 4:8

In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Lord, the crown of righteousness in today's reading reminds me of James 1:12: "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

March 16 — 2 Timothy 4:17

But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth.

Lord, Paul's words remind me of Isaiah 54:17: "no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord" (NIV).

March 17 — 2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, this verse this morning reminds me of 1 Peter 5:10: "And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you" (NASB).

March 18 — Titus 1:7

For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain.

Lord, make me as one of Your leaders who is "above reproach . . . , not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain."

March 19 — Titus 1:8

But hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled.

Lord, the longing of my heart is that You might produce Christlikeness in me as it is described in the words of this verse: "hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled."

REFLECTION...

March 20 — Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

Lord, my prayer is that my lip and life will match so that the result will be a powerful witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

March 21 — Titus 2:2

Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

Lord, as an older man today, I would love to please You with these six things being demonstrated in my life: that I am "temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance."

March 22 — Titus 2:7

In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified.

Lord, the goal of my life this day is to be a good example in these three areas: in my "deeds," "purity in doctrine," and in my dignity.

March 23 — Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.

Lord, this verse this morning reminds me of 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (NASB).

March 24 — Titus 2:12

Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.

Lord, help me to say no to "ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly" in this day that is before us.

REFLECTION...

March 25 — Titus 2:13

Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Lord, I am reminded of some of Your final words in Revelation 22:12 this morning: "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done" (NASB).

March 26 — Titus 2:14

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Lord, thank You that You have paid in full the price for my redemption and that You are in the process of purifying me as an instrument of Your "own possession." I am totally available to do what You want me to do today.

March 27 — Titus 3:4, 5

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Lord, thank You for my eternal salvation that is based not on human performance but on a relationship that has assured my eternal destiny.

March 28 — Titus 3:6, 7

Whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Romans in Romans 8:16, 17: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

March 29 — Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

Lord, James 2:26 comes to my attention this morning: "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead" (NASB).

March 30 — Philemon 1:6

And I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

Lord, this verse reminds me of 2 Peter 1:3: "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (NASB).

March 31 — Philemon 1:7

For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Lord, it is my prayer this day that my brothers and sisters in Christ will have much "joy and comfort" from my love and that their hearts will be "refreshed" by the things I do and say.

APRIL

April 1 — Hebrews 1:10, 11

"Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Thy hands; They will perish, but Thou remainest; And they all will become old as a garment."

Lord, what a joy to face this new day praising You as the great Creator and Sustainer of the universe—the eternal God.

REFLECTION...

April 2 — Hebrews 1:12

"And as a mantle Thou wilt roll them up; As a garment they will also be changed. But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end."

Lord, I am reminded of 2 Peter 3:10 this morning: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."

April 3 — Hebrews 2:1

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Lord, my prayer this day is that I might be found focused, faithful, and fruitful.

April 4 — Hebrews 2:9

But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Lord, Romans 5:8 comes to mind, reminding us that God showed His love for us by sending Christ to die while we were still sinners.

April 5 — Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

Lord, just like the Greeks who came to Philip, our prayer this day is "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

April 6 — Hebrews 3:12

Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

Lord, Proverbs 6:10 and 11 come to mind: "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man" (NIV).

REFLECTION...

April 7 — Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Lord, You are the Potter and I am the clay. Mold me and make me according to Your will, I pray.

April 8 — Hebrews 4:1

Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

Lord, I am reminded of Isaiah 26:3 today: "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you" (NIV).

April 9 — Hebrews 4:9, 11

There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.

The invitation from the Lord Jesus in Matthew 11:28 comes to mind: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (NASB).

April 10 — Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Lord, my response to Your Word this day is like that of David in Psalm 26:2, 3: "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth" (NIV).

April 11 — Hebrews 4:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Lord, my prayer is that of Jeremiah: "Correct me, Lord, but only with justice—not in your anger, lest you reduce me to nothing" (Jer. 10:24 NIV).

REFLECTION...

April 12 — Hebrews 4:14

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Lord, what joy fills my heart this day in knowing that Jesus, our great High Priest and Attorney, has not lost a case yet.

April 13 — Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Lord, thank You for the realization that we are not going to be facing any situation today that Jesus has not already faced and come through victoriously.

April 14 — Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

Lord, I am coming in confidence to Your throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to meet the demands of the day that is before me.

April 15 — Hebrews 5:8

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Lord, I know that nothing delights Your heart more than for we, Your children, to be obedient. It is my supreme desire to do Your will this day.

April 16 — Hebrews 5:11

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Lord, I am reminded of the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 this morning because each states, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (NASB)

REFLECTION...

April 17 — Hebrews 5:12

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Lord, do whatever You have to do in my life today to increase my capacity for food from Your Word.

April 18 — Hebrews 5:13, 14

For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Lord, Peter's words in 2 Peter 3:18 are on my thoughts today, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (NASB).

April 19 — Hebrews 6:9

But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.

Lord, it is the longing of my heart that You would be proud of my spiritual progress toward Christlikeness.

April 20 — Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Lord, as Jesus states in Matthew 10:42, "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

April 21 — Hebrews 6:11

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end.

Lord, John 9:4 comes to mind today, "We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work" (NASB).

April 22 — Hebrews 6:12

That you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Lord, may we not be sluggish, sloppy, and sad as we serve You.

April 23 — Hebrews 6:19, 20

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Lord, thank You that we can face this new day sure and steadfast because we are anchored in the Lord Jesus.

April 24 — Hebrews 7:24

But He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

Lord, thank You so much that You have no future plans for retirement or quitting the priesthood.

April 25 — Hebrews 7:25

Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Lord, thank You that You will always be there to represent us in the high court of heaven. What peace that brings at the beginning of this new day.

REFLECTION...

April 26 — Hebrews 7:26

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.

Lord, thank You that You are the only One who could qualify as our representative and You are willing and available to do so.

April 27 — Hebrews 9:12

And not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

With the hymnist we sing, "Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin hath left a crimson stain, He wash'd it white as snow." Thank You, thank You, thank You!

April 28 — Hebrews 9:14

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 Peter 1:18-19 states: "Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (NASB).

April 29 — Hebrews 9:27

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.

Lord, I want to live this day as though it were my last because one of these days I will be right.

April 30 — Hebrews 10:4

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Ephesians 1:7 states, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (NASB). Lord, my heart praises You for paying the price.

REFLECTION...

MAY

May 1 — Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Lord, thank You for getting the job done once and for all when You died on the cross for our sins.

May 2 — Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Lord, the apostle Paul likewise urges us in 2 Corinthians 7:1 to become clean of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit and perfect in holiness in the fear of God.

May 3 — Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Lord, Jeremiah's words in Lamentations 3:22-23 remind us that great is Your faithfulness, unfailing and new Your compassion and mercy.

May 4 — Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.

Lord, I pray that I might edify, exhort, and encourage my brothers and sisters in the body of Christ to pursue the path of Your will.

May 5 — Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Lord, thank You for this reminder this morning of how much we need one another in the successful pursuit of Your will.

REFLECTION...

May 6 — Hebrews 10:36

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Lord, my thoughts turn toward Galatians 6:9 today: "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (NASB).

May 7 — Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Lord, I am reminded of Your words to Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29 NASB).

May 8 — Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Lord, thank You for the reminder this morning of Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (NIV).

May 9 — Hebrews 11:16

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Lord, I am committed to setting my mind on things above and not on the things of the earth, because I am just a pilgrim passing through.

May 10 — Hebrews 11:24

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Lord, I ask You for the strength and courage to say no today to those things which are not a part of Your plan and purpose for my life.

REFLECTION...

May 11 — Hebrews 11:25

Choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

Lord, my thoughts turn to 1 John 2:17 this morning: "And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever (NASB).

May 12 — Hebrews 11:26

Considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

Lord, the words of Jesus in the sermon on the mount are on my thoughts today: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth.... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal" (Matthew 6:19-20 NASB).

May 13 — Hebrews 11:27

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

Lord, I want to be found going where You want me to go today, doing what You want me to be doing, and saying what You want me to be saying.

May 14 — Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Lord, I ask for sensitivity and strength to set aside anything that would keep me from running a good race today.

REFLECTION...

May 15 — Hebrews 12:2

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Lord, I find myself singing, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

May 16 — Hebrews 12:3

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

As Jesus said in the sermon on the mount, blessed are we when men revile us, persecute us, and speak evil against us because of Him. Our reward in heaven is great (Matthew 5:11-12).

May 17 — Hebrews 12:5

And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him.

In the words of the psalmist in Psalm 119:67 and 71: "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (NIV).

May 18 — Hebrews 12:6

For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.

Lord, help me not to resist anything You are trying to do in my life today to make me more like Your Son.

REFLECTION...

May 19 — Hebrews 12:11

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Lord, my thoughts turn to Philippians 1:11: "having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (NASB).

May 20 — Hebrews 13:1

Let love of the brethren continue.

Lord, You said in the upper room that it was by love that all men would know that we are Your disciples. Fill me with that love.

May 21 - Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Lord, Peter exhorts us, "Be hospitable to one another without complaint"(1 Pet. 4:9 NASB). Lord, help me to be faithful this day in reaching out to others.

May 22 — Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Lord, as Paul wrote the Thessalonian saints: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor" (1 Thess. 4:3-4 NASB).

May 23 — Hebrews 13:5

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."

Lord, I thank You as I face this new day that because I have Jesus in my heart I have everything that I am going to need.

REFLECTION...

May 24 — Hebrews 13:6

So that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

Lord, David's words come to mind in Psalm 54:4 this morning: "Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me (NIV).

May 25 — Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

Lord, I am reminded of the words in Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" (NIV).

May 26 — Hebrews 13:15

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Lord, my attitude is one of gratitude as my lips speak forth praise for Your Person, Your presence, and Your power.

May 27 — Hebrews 13:16

And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Lord, I want to please You this day. Help me to do good and share with others the bountiful blessings You have bestowed upon me.

May 28 — James 1:2

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.

Lord, I can be truly joyful in my trials today because I know that You are going to use them to make me more like the Lord Jesus.

REFLECTION...

May 29 — James 1:3, 4

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Lord, do whatever is necessary to produce the perseverance that keeps me from even thinking about throwing in the towel.

May 30 — James 1:5

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Lord, give me the wisdom You have promised that I might properly respond to the curriculum You have for me today.

May 31 — James 1:12

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Lord, the greatest longing of my heart is to be able to hear from Your lips when I arrive at glory, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys I have prepared for you."

JUNE

June 1 — James 1:13

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Lord, 1 Corinthians 10:13 brings much comfort: "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

June 2 — James 1:14, 15

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Lord, thank You for Paul's words to the Ephesian saints in Ephesians 6:10 and 11: "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (NASB).

June 3 — James 1:16, 17

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

Lord, for the gift of this new day I give You thanks, but I thank You most of all for the Lord Jesus Christ, the gift too wonderful for words.

June 4 — James 1:19, 20

This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

Proverbs 15:1 comes to mind this morning: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (NIV).

June 5 — James 1:22

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Lord, I pray in the power of Your Spirit, I may not just talk the walk, but rather walk the walk in obedience to Your Word.

June 6 — James 2:1

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.

Lord, drive far from my heart any prejudice or partiality, that I might truly love everyone with the love of Christ.

REFLECTION...

June 7 — James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that You do not grade on the curve. My only hope is to be cast upon Your mercy and grace.

June 8 — James 2:14, 17

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Lord, my prayer is that the fruit of my life visible to others will be recognized as Your working in me and through me.

June 9 — James 2:26

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Lord, I yield myself to You afresh this day, that Your Spirit might fill and control my words and actions.

June 10 — James 3:1

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.

Lord, as a teacher of Your Word, I am comforted greatly by Ezra 7:10, where Ezra has determined to study and obey and teach Your law.

June 11 — James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

Lord, I would pray with David in Psalm 19:14 this morning: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (NIV).

REFLECTION...

June 12 — James 3:8

But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

Lord, thank You for the fact that what man cannot do, the Spirit of God can do in filling my mouth with words that edify.

June 13 — James 3:13

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

Lord, my thoughts turn to Ephesians 4:32: "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (NASB).

June 14 — James 3:14

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

Lord, I pray with David from Psalm 139:23 this morning, search me and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, see if there be any wicked way in me.

June 15 — James 3:15, 16

This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Lord, my thoughts to turn to 2 Corinthians 2:11: "in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes" (NASB).

June 16 — James 3:17

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Lord, I would ask that this gift of wisdom from You would be demonstrated in my life this day.

REFLECTION...

June 17 — James 3:18

And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
Lord, my mind goes back to Isaiah 32:17, where we read that the work of righteousness is "peace" and its effect, quiet assurance.

June 18 — James 4:1

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?
As Paul told the Galatian saints: "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another" (Gal. 5:24-26 NASB).

June 19 — James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
Lord, in the words of John: "And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 John 5:14-15 NASB).

June 20 — James 4:4

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
Lord, Galatians 6:14 rings ever true: "But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (NASB).

REFLECTION...

June 21 — James 4:7

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Lord, my thoughts turn to 1 John 4:4: "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (NASB).

June 22 — James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Lord, I am drawing near to You this morning asking You to cleanse my hands and purify my heart that I might bring You glory and honor this day.

June 23 — James 4:9, 10

Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Lord, I find comfort in Psalm 34:18: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (NIV).

June 24 — James 4:13, 14

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Lord, I think of Proverbs 27:1: "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (NIV).

REFLECTION...

June 25 — James 4:15, 16

Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

Lord, those familiar words in Proverbs 3:5-7 minister to us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil" (NIV).

June 26 — James 4:17

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Lord, I would ask You to increase my sensitivity to the Spirit's leading, that I would be eager to hear and quick to obey.

June 27 — James 5:8

You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Lord, I am so excited about the possibility that You could come today! Revelation 22:12: "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done" (NASB).

June 28 — James 5:9

Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

Lord, thank You that Jesus is soon coming as the Judge to set the record straight.

June 29 — James 5:11

Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Lord, I ask You this day for the perseverance to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith.

REFLECTION...

June 30 — James 5:19, 20

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Lord, my thoughts turn to Galatians 6:1: "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted" (NASB).

JULY

July 1 — 1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22). I am facing this new day with a living Savior!

July 2 — 1 Peter 1:4

To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

Lord, my heart leaps with joy when I remember that those reservations were made sixty years when I invited the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart to become my Savior.

July 3 — 1 Peter 1:5

Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Lord, I feel so secure facing this new day protected by the power of God. Your words in John 10:28 bring comfort: "and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand."

REFLECTION...

July 4 — 1 Peter 1:6

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.

Lord, the Puritan Prayer is on my lips today: "You shouldst give me choice to live in pleasure and keep my sins or to have them burnt away with trial, give me sanctified affliction."

July 5 — 1 Peter 1:7

That the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Lord, the words of Job are on my lips this morning: "But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

July 6 — 1 Peter 1:8

And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

Lord, this is Your day and I want to be greatly rejoicing with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

July 7 — 1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Lord, I am reminded of 1 Cor. 16:13: "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

REFLECTION...

July 8 — 1 Peter 1:14

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.

Lord, I am reminded of Romans 12:2 this morning: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

July 9 — 1 Peter 1:15, 16

But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Lord, with the Puritan I would pray this morning: "Purge me from every false desire, every base aspiration, everything contrary to Thy rule."

July 10 — 1 Peter 1:17

And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth.

Lord, my thoughts turn toward 2 Cor. 5:10 this morning: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

July 11 — 1 Peter 1:18, 19

Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Lord, thinking of the blood of Christ this morning, I am reminded of Hebrews 9:14: "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

REFLECTION...

July 12 — 1 Peter 1:22

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

Lord, Paul's words to the Romans are on my mind this morning: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor" (Romans 12:9, 10).

July 13 — 1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

Lord, I am mindful of John 1:12, 13 this morning: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

July 14 — 1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

Lord, reading this list of these five ugly things that can be in our hearts, I have the prayer of David from Psalm 51:10 on my lips: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

July 15 — 1 Peter 2:2, 3

Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

Lord, the confession of my lips this morning is the same of that of Jeremiah in Jeremiah 15:16: "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty."

REFLECTION...

July 16 — 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Lord, David's words from Psalm 34:3 are my passionate desire this morning: "Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together."

July 17 — 1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

Lord, with the Puritan I would pray this morning, "Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings of the mind bring my spirit into subjection, but do thou rule over me in liberty and power."

July 18 — 1 Peter 2:12

Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Lord, the confession of my lips this morning is that of the Apostle Paul in Acts 24:16: "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men."

July 19 — 1 Peter 2:15

For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Lord, the words of the Savior in the Sermon on the Mount come to mind this morning: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

REFLECTION...

July 20 — 1 Peter 2:20

For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

Father, again this morning the words of the Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount come to my mind: "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11, 12).

July 21 — 1 Peter 2:21

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippians: "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake " (Philippians 1:29).

July 22 — 1 Peter 2:24

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Lord, the words of Isaiah the prophet are so meaningful this morning: "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

July 23 — 1 Peter 2:25

For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Lord, I am reminded of Isaiah again this morning: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

REFLECTION...

July 24 — 1 Peter 3:1, 2

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

Lord, my prayer this morning is that my marriage-mate might see more and more of the Lord Jesus in my daily conversation and conduct.

July 25 — 1 Peter 3:7

You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Lord, the prayer of my lips this morning is for a deeper understanding of the needs of my marriage-mate and for an opportunity to honor her as a fellow heir of the grace of life.

July 26 — 1 Peter 3:10, 11

For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days. Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it."

Lord, I am reminded of Colossians 3:8, 9 this morning: "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices."

July 27 — 1 Peter 3:12

"For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Lord, I am reminded of Psalm 34:15, 16 this morning: "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry; the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth"

REFLECTION...

July 28 — 1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

Lord, help me to earn the right to share my faith verbally with those who are scrutinizing my conduct today.

July 29 — 1 Peter 3:16

And keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Lord, the prayer of David is on my lips this morning: "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth " (Psalm 26:2, 3).

July 30 — 1 Peter 3:17

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

Lord, my thoughts turn to Daniel 3:16-18 this morning: "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'"

July 31 — 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's summary of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

REFLECTION...

AUGUST

August 1 — 1 Peter 4:4, 5

And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you; For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 2:14, 15 this morning: "Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world."

August 2 — 1 Peter 4:7

The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

Lord, I am thinking of Paul's words in Romans 13:11 this morning: "And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed."

August 3 — 1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Lord, I am not doing very good on this love thing, can I ask You to fill me with Your Spirit afresh this morning so that Your love might flow through me.

August 4 — 1 Peter 4:9

Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

Lord, help me to take time today to make people feel welcome and relaxed in my presence and to do so without inner-complaining.

REFLECTION...

August 5 — 1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Lord, I am reminded this morning of Paul's words to young Timothy: "And for this reason I remind you to kindle fresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands " (2 Timothy 1:6).

August 6 — 1 Peter 4:11

Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, as I speak and serve this day, may Jesus Christ be lifted up and glorified through my words and my works.

August 7 — 1 Peter 4:12, 13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

Lord, I am thinking of Isaiah 48:10, 11 this morning: "See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another."

August 8 — 1 Peter 4:16

But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

Lord, the words of Job are in my thoughts this morning: "But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold"(Job 23:10).

REFLECTION...

August 9 — 1 Peter 4:17

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Lord, I am reminded of Hebrews 10:31 this morning: "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

August 10 — 1 Peter 4:19

Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Lord, my mind is filled with the words of Romans 8:28 this morning: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

August 11 — 1 Peter 5:4

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Lord, I am thinking of Revelation 22:12 this morning: "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

August 12 — 1 Peter 5:5

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Lord, Paul's words to the Philippians come to mind this morning: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3, 4).

REFLECTION...

August 13 — 1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

Lord, I find myself singing this morning: "Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Your will, while I'm waiting, yielded and still."

August 14 — 1 Peter 5:7

Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

Lord, Paul's words in Philippians 4:6 are on my mind today: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

August 15 — 1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Lord, I find myself thinking about 2 Corinthians 2:11 this morning: "in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

August 16 — 1 Peter 5:9

But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Lord, I am thinking of James 4:7 this morning: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

August 17 — 1 Peter 5:10, 11

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, I find myself rejoicing in Philippians 1:6 today: "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

REFLECTION...

August 18 — 2 Peter 1:3

Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Lord, I am thinking this morning of Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might."

August 19 — 2 Peter 1:4

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Lord, I am reminded of 1 Thessalonians 5:24 this morning: "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass."

August 20 — 2 Peter 1:5-7

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

Lord, as I see these qualities that You would like to see manifested in my life, I am reminded of 2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

August 21 — 2 Peter 1:8

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, my prayer this morning is two-fold. First, that I might be useful in Your hands, and secondly, that I might be fruitful.

REFLECTION...

August 22 — 2 Peter 1:10, 11

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Lord, I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 15:58 today: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

August 23 — 2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

Lord, I am reminded of Revelation 22:6, 7: "And he said to me, 'These words are faithful and true'; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place. 'And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.'"

August 24 — 2 Peter 1:20, 21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Lord, these verses call to mind Paul's words to Timothy: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

REFLECTION...

August 25 — 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Lord, I am thinking of 1 Kings 8:56 this morning: "Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses."

August 26 — 2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Lord, this prophecy reminds me of 2 Corinthians 7:1: "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

August 27 — 2 Peter 3:11

Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.

Lord, my thoughts turn to 1 John 3:3 this morning: "And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

August 28 — 2 Peter 3:13, 14

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

Lord, my thoughts turn to 1 John 2:28: "And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming."

REFLECTION...

August 29 — 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Lord, as I begin this day the passionate prayer of my heart is that I might grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

August 30 — 1 John 1:3, 4

What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Lord, having fellowship with You this morning brings such joy and reminds me of Zephaniah 3:17: "The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

August 31 — 1 John 1:5

And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Lord, Proverbs 4:18 comes to mind this morning: "The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."

SEPTEMBER

September 1 — 1 John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Lord, fellowship with You is so wonderful I wouldn't want to miss a day of spending quality time with You.

REFLECTION...

September 2 — 1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Lord, my prayer this morning is Psalm 119:37: "Turn my eyes away from worthless things; [renew] preserve my life according to your word."

September 3 — 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lord, the prayer of my lips this morning is Psalm 139:23, 24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

September 4 — 1 John 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Lord, my mind turns toward Psalm 51:5: "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

September 5 — 1 John 2:1, 2

My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Lord, my thoughts turn to 1 Timothy 2:5 this morning: "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

REFLECTION...

September 6 — 1 John 2:5, 6

But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Lord, John 14:21 is my thoughts this morning: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

September 7 — 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

Lord, the prayer of my heart this morning is that I might experience victory over "the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life" this day.

September 8 — 1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Lord, I am reminded of Your words in John 15:4: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

September 9 — 1 John 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Lord, Romans 8:16, 17 are in my thoughts today: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."

REFLECTION...

September 10 — 1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

Lord, Job's words come to mind this morning: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27).

September 11 — 1 John 3:3

And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Lord, the prayer of my heart as I read this verse of the morning is recorded in Psalm 119:133: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

September 12 — 1 John 3:18, 19

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We shall know by this that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him.

Lord, I am reminded of Galatians 6:10 this morning: "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

September 13 — 1 John 3:21

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

Lord, my mind turns toward Proverbs 4:23 this morning: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

REFLECTION...

September 14 — 1 John 3:23

And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

Lord, this verse makes me think of Your words in the upper room in John 13:34, 35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

September 15 — 1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Lord, this verse reminds me of 2 Corinthians 11:3: "But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

September 16 — 1 John 4:7, 8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Lord, as I begin this day, fill my heart to overflowing with Your love so that I might be a blessing to everyone I meet today.

September 17 — 1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Lord, I am reminded of John 3:16 this morning: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

REFLECTION...

September 18 — 1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Lord, my thoughts turn toward 2 Corinthians 2:14 this morning: "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place."

September 19 — 1 John 5:5

And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Lord, my thoughts turn toward Revelation 3:5 this morning: "He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels."

September 20 — 1 John 5:10

The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son.

Lord, what a joy it is to know this morning that I have the witness of the indwelling Holy Spirit assuring me by His presence that I am Your child.

September 21 — 1 John 5:11, 12

And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Lord, thank You for making it so clear this morning, that by the fact that I have Your Son, I have life and there was a time before I came to know You that I did not have the Son and I did not have life.

REFLECTION...

September 22 — 1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

Lord, I am so joyful this morning because I know that I have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

September 23 — 1 John 5:14, 15

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Lord, my thoughts turn toward John 16:24 this morning: "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full."

September 24 — 1 John 5:19

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Lord, the Spirit of God is impressing upon my heart 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4 this morning: "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

September 25 — 2 John 1:6

And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

Lord, thank You for this reminder this morning that I demonstrate my love for You by my obedience to Your Word.

REFLECTION...

September 26 — 2 John 1:12

Having many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that your joy may be made full.

Lord, I just want to thank You this morning for the rich treasure that belongs to us as believers in the wonderful brothers and sisters You give to us during our lifetime.

September 27 — 3 John 1:9, 10

I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and he forbids those who desire to do so, and puts them out of the church.

Lord, these words remind of Paul's words in Romans 16:17: "Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them."

September 28 — 3 John 1:11

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

Paul's words in Philippians 3:17, 18 are in my thoughts today: "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ."

September 29 — Jude 1:20, 21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Lord, I pray that I might be focused upon obedience to Your Word and communication with You in prayer during this day.

REFLECTION...

September 30 — Jude 1:24, 25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Lord, I am reminded of what You said to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9: "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

OCTOBER

October 1 — Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Lord, thank You for the blessing that is going to be ours during these coming months as we read and heed the message of this book. It would be wonderful if You chose to come during the time of this study.

October 2 — Revelation 1:7

Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

Lord, I am reminded of Zechariah 12:10: "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."

REFLECTION...

October 3 — Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Lord, there is a peace in knowing You have it all covered--past, present, and future. You were there at the beginning and You will be there at the end.

October 4 — Revelation 1:17, 18

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

What an awesome thought since You are the eternal ever-living One, I just might get to meet You today.

October 5 — Revelation 2:2

"I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false."

Lord, Jeremiah 17:10 comes to mind: "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

October 6 — Revelation 2:3

"And you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary."

Lord, as Paul puts it in Galatians 6:9: "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."

October 7 — Revelation 2:4

"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Lord, help me to be like David in Psalm 63:3: "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you."

REFLECTION...

October 8 — Revelation 2:5

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent."

Psalm 26:2, 3 is an apt response to this: "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth."

October 9 — Revelation 2:7

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God."

Hebrews 5:11 states: "Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing." Lord, my prayer this morning is that of young Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Sam. 3:10).

October 10 — Revelation 2:9

"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."

Lord, Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 6:10 put it well: "As sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things."

October 11 — Revelation 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Lord, as the apostle puts it in Romans 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

REFLECTION...

October 12 — Revelation 2:11

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Lord, thank You for reminding us that a person born only once will die twice, while a person born twice--physically and spiritually--will only die once.

October 13 — Revelation 2:16

"Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth."

Luke 13:3 states, "I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Lord, if there is anything in my life that must be addressed with confession and brokenness, please make it known as I am quiet before You today.

October 14 — Revelation 2:17

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."

Lord, I think of Your words to Satan during Your temptation experience in Matthew 4:4: "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

October 15 — Revelation 2:19

"I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first."

Lord, I pray I might be getting better and better as I get closer and closer to the goal, ". . . forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14).

REFLECTION...

October 16 — Revelation 2:21

"And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality."
Lord, 2 Peter 3:9 comes to mind: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

October 17 — Revelation 2:28, 29

And I will give him the morning star. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
Numbers 24:17 states: "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel . . ." Lord, thank You that Jesus is that bright and morning star and to have Him is to have life. What a gift!

October 18 — Revelation 3:1

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'"
"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (Jn. 6:63). Lord Jesus, I pray that Your Spirit would speak and act through me today.

October 19 — Revelation 3:2

"Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God."
Lord, I want to be faithful, fruitful, and a finisher.

REFLECTION...

October 20 — Revelation 3:3

"Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you."

Lord, Your Words remind us of Paul's urgency in Romans 13:11: "And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed."

October 21 — Revelation 3:5, 6

"He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Lord, my thoughts turn to Isaiah 61:10: "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness . . ."

October 22 — Revelation 3:8

"I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

Lord, help me to recognize the open doors of opportunity You might place before me this day. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 16:9 come to mind: "For a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

REFLECTION...

October 23 — Revelation 3:10

"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth."

Lord, two truths come to mind: (1) "For you have need of perseverance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised" (Heb. 10:36); and (2) "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement. . ." (Rom. 15:5). Thank You that what You require, You also provide.

October 24 — Revelation 3:11

"I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown."

Lord, 1 Corinthians 9:25 & 27 states: "And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. . . . but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."

October 25 — Revelation 3:14

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this.'"

Lord, it is the passionate desire of my heart as I face this day to be like the Lord Jesus, a "faithful and true Witness for Him."

October 26 — Revelation 3:15

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot."

Lord, I pray that the Living Water flowing out of my life today would be either refreshingly cold or purifyingly hot.

REFLECTION...

October 27 — Revelation 3:16

"So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."

Lord, in order to bring You delight today, I am praying to be passionate about You, pleasing to You, and productive for You.

October 28 — Revelation 3:17

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Lord, I am moved to pray with David this morning: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23, 24).

October 29 — Revelation 3:18

I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eyesalve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

Lord, 2 Peter 1:3 comes to mind, "Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."

October 30 — Revelation 3:19

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.

Lord, my thoughts turn toward Hebrews 12:11: "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

REFLECTION...

October 31 — Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me."

Lord, I invite You to keep company with me all day long.

NOVEMBER

November 1 — Revelation 3:21, 22

"He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Lord, as You put it in the conclusion to Your pattern prayer in Matthew 6:13: "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

November 2 — Revelation 4:8

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

Lord, I find myself singing today: "Holy, Holy, Holy is what the angels sing. And I expect to help them make the courts of heaven ring. But when I sing redemption story, they will fold their wings. For angels never felt the joy, that our salvation brings."

REFLECTION...

November 3 — Revelation 4:9, 10

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying . . .

Lord, the prayer of my heart is that I might have some crowns to cast before Your throne on that glorious day.

November 4 — Revelation 4:11

"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

Lord, as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, You alone are worthy to "receive glory and honor and power."

November 5 — Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

Hebrews 9:12 & 14 states: "And not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. . . . how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

November 6 — Revelation 5:10

"And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Lord, 1 Peter 2:9 is meaningful here: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

REFLECTION...

November 7 — Revelation 5:11

And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands.

Lord, this verse suggests Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

November 8 — Revelation 5:12

Saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Lord, John the Baptist's testimony of You in John 1:29 reveals a similar image: "The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

November 9 — Revelation 5:13

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Lord, Paul's words are so meaningful in light of this verse: "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

REFLECTION...

November 10 — Revelation 6:9

And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained.

Lord, your words in the Sermon on the Mount fill my thoughts: "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matt. 5:11, 12).

November 11 — Revelation 6:10

And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Lord, David similarly asks in Psalm 13:1-2: "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?"

November 12 — Revelation 6:11

And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow-servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Lord, there is so much comfort in knowing that Your program is right on schedule. Your purpose will prevail and You will be faithful to fulfill all Your promises.

REFLECTION...

November 13 — Revelation 6:15, 16

And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."

Lord, what a sobering phrase greets this new day, "the wrath of the Lamb." Yes, the writer is correct in Hebrews 10:31: "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

November 14 — Revelation 7:9

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands. *Lord, as I read this verse I find myself singing the last stanza of "How Great Thou Art": "When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!"*

November 15 — Revelation 7:10

And they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Lord, Your words in John 5:24 fill my mind: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

REFLECTION...

November 16 — Revelation 7:11

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

Lord, the words of Jesus to the Samaritan woman in John 4:23-24 come to mind: "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit; and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

November 17 — Revelation 7:12

Saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Lord, I find myself singing again: "O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!"

November 18 — Revelation 7:13, 14

And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Lord, Isaiah's words come to mind today: "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool'" (Isaiah 1:18).

REFLECTION...

November 19 — Revelation 7:15, 16

"For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat."

Lord, these verses remind us of Isaiah 32:2: "Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land."

November 20 — Revelation 7:17

"For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Lord, this verse calls to mind Isaiah 40:11: "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

November 21 — Revelation 8:3, 4

And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.

Lord, my prayer at the beginning of this new day is that my prayers, as they ascend to You, might be a sweet-smelling fragrance, giving You joy and delight.

November 22 — Revelation 9:6

And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.

Lord, my thoughts turn to Isaiah 57:20-21: "But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. 'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.'"

REFLECTION...

November 23 — Revelation 10:5, 6

And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there shall be delay no longer.

Lord, the last part of this verses reminds us of Paul's mourning in 2 Corinthians 6:1- 2: "And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—for He says, 'At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you'; behold, now is 'the acceptable time,' behold, now is 'the day of salvation.'"

November 24 — Revelation 11:15

And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Lord, I find myself wanting to sing the Hallelujah chorus this morning: "And He shall reign forever and ever!"

November 25 — Revelation 11:16, 17

And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign."

Lord, our joyful expectation intensifies as we read this and know we shall actually witness the beginning of Your reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

November 26 — Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night."

Lord, this victory over Satan reminds me of Romans 16:20: "And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet . . . "

REFLECTION...

November 27 — Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

Lord, my heart fills with praise as I sing that great old hymn, "There is pow'r, pow'r, Wonder-working pow'r in the precious blood of the Lamb."

November 28 — Revelation 12:12

"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea; because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

Lord, this verse reminds me of 1 Peter 5:8-9: "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."

November 29 — Revelation 13:9

If any one has an ear, let him hear.

Lord, Isaiah's words are so meaningful in view of this verse: "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isa. 30:21).

November 30 — Revelation 13:10

If any one is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

Psalms 33:11 comes to mind in view of this verse for this morning: "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."

REFLECTION...

DECEMBER

December 1 — Revelation 14:1

And I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Lord, I find myself wanting to cheer and shout, speaking the words of 1 Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

December 2 — Revelation 14:6

And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.

Lord, this verse brings to mind Your last words recorded in Acts 1:8 before Your ascent to heaven: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

December 3 — Revelation 14:7

And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

Lord, Paul's last words in his discourse on Mars' hill are well-suited here: "Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

December 4 — Revelation 14:12

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Lord, as You said in the upper room, "He who has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him" (Jn. 14:21).

REFLECTION...

December 5 — Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

Psalm 90: 17 states aptly, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands."

December 6 — Revelation 15:2

And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

Lord, I think of 1 Peter 5:10: "And after you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

December 7 — Revelation 15:3

And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations."

Lord, my praise of You this day is two-fold: "Great and marvelous are Thy works" and "Righteous and true are Thy ways."

December 8 — Revelation 15:4

"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed."

The words of Peter in 1 Peter 4:11 come to mind: "Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

REFLECTION...

December 9 — Revelation 16:7

And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments."

Lord, Abraham's statement during the time of his intercession for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are in my thoughts: ". . . Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Gen. 18:25).

December 10 — Revelation 17:14

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

Lord, the praise of my lips is found in 2 Corinthians 2:14: "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place."

December 11 — Revelation 19:1

After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."

Lord, what a joy is ours to know that we are going to be a part of that great multitude saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation, glory and power belong to You!"

December 12 — Revelation 19:4

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"

Lord, this verse brings to mind Psalm 9:11: "Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done."

December 13 — Revelation 19:5

And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

Lord, I find my response to the verse for today in Psalm 21:13: "Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength; we will sing and praise your might."

REFLECTION...

December 14 — Revelation 19:6

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."

Lord, Psalm 117 is a fitting tribute for the beginning of Your kingdom: "Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord" (117:1, 2).

December 15 — Revelation 19:7

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

Lord, thank You for the fact that You are still taking reservations for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

December 16 — Revelation 19:11

And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

Lord, what a great verse for this day—heaven opens and You come to execute judgment and bring about peace.

December 17 — Revelation 19:16

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings, and Lord of Lords."

Lord, as "King of kings and Lord of lords" You are worthy of all our praise!

REFLECTION...

December 18 — Revelation 20:11, 12

And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Lord, Your words in Matthew 25:41 are in my thoughts today: "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

December 19 — Revelation 20:13, 14

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Lord, Your words in John 3:36 fill my thoughts: "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

December 20 — Revelation 20:15

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Lord, thank You for the peace that fills my heart because over 60 years ago I invited Jesus Christ into my life and my name is recorded in the Lamb's book of life.

REFLECTION...

December 21 — Revelation 21:1, 2

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. *Lord, Peter reminds us of this in 2 Peter 3: 10-11: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."*

December 22 — Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His peoples, and God Himself shall be among them."
Lord, if this should be the day of Your divine revelation, You are the first One that I want to see.

December 23 — Revelation 21:4

"And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain: the first things have passed away."
Lord, David's thoughts come to mind after reading the verse for this morning: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. " (Ps. 126:5, 6).

REFLECTION...

December 24 — Revelation 21:5, 6

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Lord, this verse calls to mind Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

December 25 — Revelation 21:7

"He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."

Lord, on this Christmas morning my thoughts turn to John 1:12: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

December 26 — Revelation 21:8

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Lord, Paul clarifies this matter in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."

December 27 — Revelation 22:4

And they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

Lord, Your words in Matthew 24:30 fit here: "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."

REFLECTION...

December 28 — Revelation 22:5

And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

Lord, this verse reminds us of John 8:12: "Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.'"

December 29 — Revelation 22:7

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

Lord, it would be so wonderful if You should chose to come now at the end of this millennium.

December 30 — Revelation 22:12, 13

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Lord, what an exciting thought that You could come today! My response is, "Even so, come Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20)

December 31 — Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Lord, Your words to the Samaritan woman in John 4:10 are in my thoughts this final day of the year: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

REFLECTION...

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To glorify God through a teaching ministry of national scale providing excellence in the communication of Scripture in both sacred and secular environments so that all people can come to understand God's Word and apply its timeless truths in their lives.

Colossians 3:11b "Christ is all and in all"

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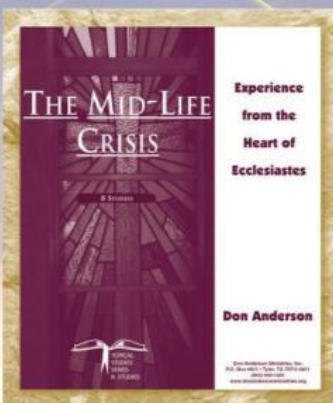
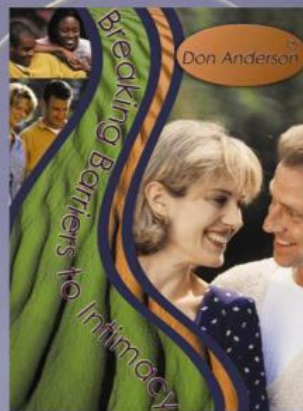
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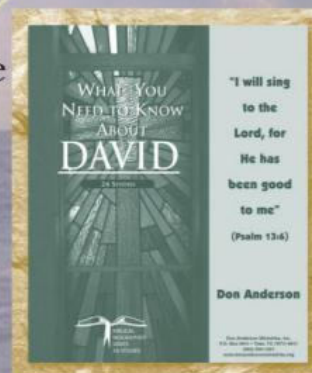


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