**VOLUME IV** DAILY DEVOTIONAL BY DON ANDERSON

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# 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 popular guest speaker at churches, para-church organizations, conferences, 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 degree 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.

Don has been involved in Christian ministry for more than 45 years, serving as a Young Life staff member, youth pastor, and program director at The Firs Bible & Missionary Conference in Bellingham, WA. He was also the founding executive director of Pine Cove Christian Conference Center and pastor of two community churches in East Texas. Don has recently resumed a leadership role at Hide-A-Way Lake Church. His passion for Bible teaching led him, over 30 years ago, to create Don Anderson Ministries. In 2004, the organization's name was changed to Bible Teaching Resources. Its headquarters remain in Tyler, TX. Bible Teaching Resources is committed to providing tools for the body of Christ to teach God's Word.

Don and his wife, Pearl, are proud of their five children and enjoy their ten grandchildren.

For more info on other titles and resources, contact **Bible Teaching Resources** P.O. Box 6611 • Tyler, TX 75711-6611 • 903.939.1201 www.BibleTeachingResources.org

# A GREAT WHILE BEFORE DAY

Volume IV

Daily Devotional

by Don Anderson P.O. Box 6611 Tyler, Texas 75711-6611 (903) 939-1201 or Toll-free 1-877-326-7729

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Scripture quotations are noted within the text.

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# **Bible Teaching Resources**

# by Don Anderson Ministries

# What Do We Do?

Formed in 1972 as a nonprofit organization, the Ministries is dedicated to excellence in the communication of the Scripture, camping, and counseling. Our ministry verse is Colossians 3:11b: "*Christ is all and in all*." This, perhaps more than any other verse, sums up the Ministries' philosophy.

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, the 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 biblically-based messages on cassette and CD. Marriage video and CD 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.

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# A GREAT WHILE BEFORE DAY

he 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 from the New Testament comes from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD and the Old Testament selections come from the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

#### **JANUARY**

#### **January 1** — Acts 1:6, 7

And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority."

Father, I know You are going to make all things beautiful in Your time!

#### January 2 — Acts 1:8

"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."

Lord, help me to be a faithful and consistent witness. I want You to be glorified in my life.

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#### January 3 — Acts 1:9

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Lord, is this how it is going to be for us as we depart for realms on high?

# January 4 — Acts 1:10, 11

And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Lord, I know You are coming back again and it sure would be nice if it were today!

#### January 5 — Acts 2:21

And it shall be, that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Lord, what joy to know that I did that 58 years ago! It is been a GREAT trip.

#### January 6 — Acts 2:25

For David says of Him, "I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken."

Lord, the fact of Your presence with us surely gives peace and a calm assurance that You will be there to handle things.

# January 7 — Acts 2:28

Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with Thy presence.

Lord, I am full of gladness knowing Your presence is a certainty.

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# January 8 — Acts 2:42

And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Lord, I want to be known as a person who is devoting himself to the things that are on Your heart for my life.

# January 9 — Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Lord, I am ready to do whatever it takes to have the times of refreshing come.

#### January 10 — Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.

Lord, in the upper room You said that You are the way, the truth and the life and that no one can come to the Father except through You.

#### January 11 — Acts 4:13

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Lord, thank you that it is our availability and not our ability that qualifies us for Your service.

#### January 12 — Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Lord, this is Your day. I would ask You to fill me and use me for Your glory.

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# January 13 — Acts 5:19, 20

But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, "Go your way, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."

Lord, thank You that You are aware of what is going on in my life today and You are intimately involved.

# January 14 — Acts 5:38, 39

And so in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action should be of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.

Lord, thank You that You give us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

#### January 15 — Acts 5:41

So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Lord, I rejoice in the privilege of being Your servant and if suffering is involved, that is okay, too.

#### January 16 — Acts 5:42

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Lord, it is my purpose to proclaim Christ today by life and lip.

# January 17 — Acts 6:2

And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables." Lord, help me to stay focused on Your priorities as I spend the hours of this day.

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# January 18 — Acts 6:15

And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel.

Lord, I want people to see the glory of Jesus in my face this day.

# January 19 — Acts 8:4

Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. Lord, I am still persevering, pressing on, and preaching Your word.

#### January 20 — Acts 9:13, 14

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Thy name." Lord, like Ananias, I am sometimes fearful of Your assignments. Help me to focus on Your total adequacy.

#### January 21 — Acts 9:15, 16

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

Lord, whatever You desire of my life this day, with Isaiah I say: "Here am I Lord! Send me!"

# January 22 — Acts 10:34, 35

And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him."

Lord, help me to see the people around me, the way You see them! Fill me with Your compassion.

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# **January 23 — Acts 10:43**

Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

What joy fills my heart today, just knowing that all my sins have been forgiven through the blood of Christ.

# **January 24 — Acts 11:21**

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Lord, it is the longing of my heart that people would say of me: "the hand of the Lord was with him."

# **January 25 — Acts 11:23**

Then when he had come and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord.

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

#### **January 26 — Acts 11:24**

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Lord, the cry of my heart is to be a man of faith, filled with Your Spirit, bearing fruit in the lives of others.

#### **January 27 — Acts 12:5**

REFLECTION

So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Lord, I would be focused and fervent in my prayers this morning for friends in need.

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#### **January 28 — Acts 12:16**

But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed.

Lord, help me not to be surprised and to recognize Your answers to my prayers.

#### January 29 — Acts 12:24

# But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

Your words to Isaiah come to mind: "So shall my word be, that goeth forth out of my mouth it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I have sent it."

#### January 30 — Acts 13:2

And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Lord, sensitize my heart so I might hear You speaking to me through Your word this morning.

#### January 31 — Acts 13:13

DEEL ECTION

Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Lord, let us not grow weary in well-doing, knowing that a harvest is just around the corner.

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#### **FEBRUARY**

#### February 1 — Acts 13:22

And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will."

Lord, show me how I can be a man after Your heart. Help me want to do all Your will.

#### February 2 — Acts 13:38, 39

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

Father, help me to appreciate the high cost of forgiveness You have provided through the blood of Your Son.

# February 3 — Acts 13:49

And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

Lord, I know it thrills Your heart when Your word is being spread. Help me to thrill Your heart today.

# February 4 — Acts 13:52

And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Lord, my prayer for today is that You might fill me afresh with Your Spirit and the joy which is evidence of His presence.

# February 5 — Acts 14:17

And yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.

Lord, the gladness welling up in my heart today is partially due to your bountiful blessings.

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# February 6 — Acts 14:22

Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Lord, I want to be an encouragement to others through my faithfulness to You in every situation.

# February 7 — Acts 15:8

And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us.

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.

#### February 8 — Acts 15:26

Men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, I want to be numbered among those who have laid it all on the line. Take my life and use it for Thy glory.

#### February 9 — Acts 15:32

And Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message.

Lord, may the words of my mouth strengthen and encourage my brothers and sisters.

# February 10 — Acts 16:7

And when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.

Lord, help me not to lean on my own understanding but in all my ways to acknowledge You, that You may direct my path.

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# **February 11 — Acts 16:25**

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Lord, may the word of Christ dwell in me richly that I might be teaching others with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

# February 12 — Acts 16:30, 31

And after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

Lord, I am ready today for anybody who wants to know what he or she must do to be saved.

#### February 13 — Acts 17:11

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

Lord, I am eager for you to speak to me through Your word and excited about sharing Your word with others!

# February 14 — Acts 17:24

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Lord, what an awesome thought that You have chosen to take up residence in my heart. Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

# **February 15 — Acts 17:28**

For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, "For we also are His offspring."

Lord, You are my celestial space suit and I am putting You on as the day begins. Thank You for every provision.

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# **February 16 — Acts 17:31**

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.

Lord, I am starting this day fully aware of my accountability before You at the judgment seat. I want Your approval.

#### February 17 — Acts 18:9, 10

And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

Lord, help me to rise above my fears and to be faithful in communicating Your word to others.

# February 18 — Acts 18:20, 21

And when they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

Lord, help me to stay focused and sensitive to Your direction that I might be found in Your will.

# **February 19 — Acts 18:27**

And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he helped greatly those who had believed through grace.

Lord, I want to be an example and an encouragement to others who are walking in Your will.

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# **February 20 — Acts 19:11**

And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul. Lord, there would be no greater joy than being aware that You are using me in the lives of others.

# February 21 — Acts 19:30

And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.

Lord, make me sensitive and receptive to the counsel of my brothers and sisters in Christ.

# February 22 — Acts 20:2

And when he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

Lord, I am ready to go anywhere, to do anything at any cost just so You get the glory.

# February 23 — Acts 20:24

But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Lord, the prayer of my heart today is that I might be a faithful finisher—one who is fruitful and fellowships with You.

# February 24 — Acts 20:32

DEEL ECTION

And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Lord, what a sobering reminder of the awesome power of Your word.

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# **February 25 — Acts 21:12**

And when we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Lord, help me never to be standing in the way of one of Your children who is in the pursuit of Your will.

# **February 26 — Acts 21:13**

Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippians, that He wanted You exalted in his body whether by life or by death.

#### **February 27 — Acts 21:14**

And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"

And the work of righteousness will be peace and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

#### February 28 — Acts 23:1

REFLECTION...

And Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."

Search me O God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. I want to walk before You in purity and in truth.

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without proper citation is unintentional.

#### **MARCH**

#### March 1 — Acts 23:11

But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

Lord, I am reminded of Your words to Joshua: "Be strong and courageous, do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

#### March 2 — Acts 23:16

But the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul.

Lord, thank You for the wonderful way You use people in our lives on a daily basis.

#### March 3 — Acts 24:16

In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

Lord, I am asking You to reveal any areas of my life that are not open to Your scrutiny. I, too, want a blameless conscience before you.

#### March 4 — Acts 24:23

And he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering

Lord, thank You for the little extra things that You do to encourage us in the midst of our trials.

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# March 5 — Acts 24:24

But some days later, Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.

Lord, thank You for the special times that You provide for us to be a witness for You.

#### March 6 — Acts 24:25

And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you."

Lord, I would ask that my life and my lip might give a clear presentation of the gospel so that sinners are brought under conviction.

#### March 7 — Acts 25:24

And Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all you gentlemen here present with us, you behold this man about whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me, both at Jerusalem and here, loudly declaring that he ought not to live any longer."

Lord, once again You have given Paul a wonderful opportunity to be a witness to the powers that be.

#### March 8 — Acts 25:25

But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death; and since he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

Lord, the awareness of Your sovereign hand in Paul's life is such an encouragement.

#### March 9 — Acts 25:26

Yet I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord. Therefore I have brought him before you all and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the investigation has taken place, I may have something to write.

Lord, thank You for this reminder of the power of personal integrity.

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# March 10 — Acts 25:27

For it seems absurd to me in sending a prisoner, not to indicate also the charges against him.

Lord, Your words to Isaiah come to mind: "No weapon forged against You will prevail, and You will refute every tongue that accuses You."

#### March 11 — Acts 26:8

Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?

Lord, thank You for the joy of knowing that You do raise the dead and that my Savior lives!

#### March 12 — Acts 26:14

And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

Lord, thank You for this reminder of the high cost of resistance.

#### March 13 — Acts 26:15, 16

REFLECTION

And I said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you."

Lord, what a privilege it is to be Your servant and to share Your message with the world.

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#### March 14 — Acts 26:17, 18

Delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Thank You for the gift of eternal salvation. You have opened my eyes. I have turned from darkness to light, from Satan to God, and received forgiveness and an inheritance. What an amazing gift!

#### March 15 — Acts 26:19

Consequently, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision.

Lord, I know it delights Your heart when we are obedient. I want to delight Your heart.

#### March 16 — Acts 26:22

And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place.

Lord, I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who indwells me.

#### March 17 — Acts 26:24, 25

DEEL ECTION

And while Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad." But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth."

Paul told the Corinthians: "A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him."

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# March 18 — Acts 26:28, 29

And Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." And Paul said, "I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

Lord, thank You for Paul's clear, concise, courageous, compassionate presentation of the gospel. Help me to do the same. May others be persuaded to become Christians.

#### March 19 — Acts 27:3

And the next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care.

Lord, thank You for those little considerations on Your part which provides us with special privileges. I love it when I get to fly first class unexpectedly!

# March 20 — Acts 27:10

And said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be attended with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."

Lord, thank You for the gift of discernment when things just do not seem right. The Spirit's restraint protects us.

#### March 21 — Acts 27:11

But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship, than by what was being said by Paul.

Lord, it is refreshing to know that sometimes the majority can be wrong.

#### March 22 — Acts 27:15

And when the ship was caught in it, and could not face the wind, we gave way to it, and let ourselves be driven along.

Lord, I ask for persistent perseverance so that I might not give way to the winds of adversity that will surely blow.

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#### March 23 — Acts 27:18

The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo.

Lord, thank You for the storms in my life that strip me of the unnecessary cargo.

#### March 24 — Acts 27:20

And since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

Paul tells the Corinthians: "Indeed we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead."

#### March 25 — Acts 27:21

And when they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete, and incurred this damage and loss."

Lord, it surely is hard to take when someone tells you, "See I told you so."

#### March 26 — Acts 27:22, 23

And yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me.

Lord, thank You for the comfort of knowing that Your presence is made real in the storms.

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# March 27 — Acts 27:24, 25

Saying, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you." Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.

Thank you for the peace that prevails when we stay focused on Your promises.

# March 28 — Acts 27:34-36

"Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation; for not a hair from the head of any of you shall perish." And having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all; and he broke it and began to eat. And all of them were encouraged, and they themselves also took food.

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

#### March 29 — Acts 27:44

And the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And thus it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

Lord, thank You for not telling us ahead of time how things are going to work out to fulfill Your promises.

#### March 30 — Acts 28:10

DEEL ECTION

And they also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed.

Lord, thank You for the way You use people to encourage us and to supply our needs.

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#### March 31 — Acts 28:30, 31

And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Lord, You orchestrated all these circumstances so the gospel could continue to be proclaimed unhindered. Let us remember this truth amidst our circumstances, too.

#### **APRIL**

#### April 1 — Romans 1:6

Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.

Lord, thank You for the reminder that You have called us in Jesus Christ to holiness, honesty, and humility.

# April 2 — 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.

Lord, give me the courage not to be ashamed of the gospel if I have an opportunity to speak of the Person of Christ today.

# April 3 — Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

Lord, thank You that Your righteousness makes it possible for us to have full assurance of our eternal destiny.

# April 4 — Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Lord, it is a fearful thing to anticipate falling into the hands of the living God.

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# April 5 — Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Lord, viewing the works of Your creative hand makes me sing with praise, "How great Thou art!"

# April 6 — Romans 1:32

And, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Lord, the prayer of my heart this day is for those people who are continuing to persist in the path of disobedience.

# April 7 — Romans 2:1

Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that there is really only one judge and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep me from judging others this day.

# April 8 — Romans 2:4

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? Lord, with a repentant heart I want to acknowledge that too many times I have taken Your kindness and Your patience for granted.

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# **April 9 — Romans 2:5, 6**

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds: Lord, may my life this day reflect surrender and a repentant heart.

# April 10 — Romans 2:8

But to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

Lord, I want to be known as a doer of Your word and not just a hearer.

# April 11 — Romans 3:10

As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one."

Lord, thank You for reminding me that my righteousness is like filthy rags to You.

#### April 12 — Romans 3:11, 12

There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.

Lord, the longing of my heart is to understand, to seek Your face, to not turn aside, to be useful, to do good, that You might be glorified.

#### April 13 — Romans 3:14

Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.

Lord, let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart bring You joy and pleasure.

# April 14 — Romans 3:16-18

Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Lord, I want to be found, today, walking in Your path of peace and blessing.

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# **April 15 — Romans 3:19**

Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God;

Lord, thank You that Jesus' death upon the cross paid the full price for my broken law.

#### April 16 — Romans 3:20

Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Lord, thank You for this reminder today that it is not my performance but a relationship with the Lord Jesus that determines my eternal destiny.

# April 17 — Romans 3:21, 22

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.

Lord, I am at peace today because many years ago I laid hold of the righteousness of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank You for that gift.

# April 18 — Romans 3:23, 24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Because Jesus shed His blood, I can be freed from my broken law and declared perfectly righteous in Christ.

# April 19 — Romans 4:3

For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

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 (John 1:12 NASB).

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#### **April 20 — Romans 4:4, 5**

Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9 NASB).

# **April 21 — Romans 4:7, 8**

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.

In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14 NASB).

# April 22 — Romans 4:20, 21

Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

A promise made by God is a promise sure to be kept by Him.

# April 23 — Romans 5:1

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever (Isaiah 32:17 NIV).

# April 24 — Romans 5:2

Through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Lord, thank You for the access that we have into Your presence because we have

become part of Your family through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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#### **April 25 — Romans 5:3, 4**

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.

Lord, thank You for this reminder today of what suffering produces in our lives: perseverance, character, and hope.

#### April 26 — Romans 5:5

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Lord, thank You that Your love is being poured out in our hearts through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

#### April 27 — Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Lord, Jesus said when He was here, "Greater love has no man than this, than a man would lay down his life for his friends." Thank You that this verse reminds us that He died upon that cross while we were yet sinners.

# April 28 — Romans 5:20, 21

And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, I am rejoicing this day in Your adequate grace that will never run out.

#### April 29 — Romans 6:12

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts.

Lord, I am claiming the power of Your Spirit for victory over sin in my life today.

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# April 30 — Romans 6:13

And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Lord, in obedience to this verse I am making a fresh presentation of my total being to You this day.

#### **MAY**

# **May 1 — Romans 6:19**

I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

Lord, I am presenting my members as slaves to righteousness that I might become more and more like Your Son.

#### **May 2** — **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord, thank You for the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# May 3 — Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5 NASB).

# **May 4** — **Romans 7:15**

For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh (Galatians 5:16 NASB).

# May 5 — Romans 7:16, 17

But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please (Galatians 5:17 NASB).

# May 6 — Romans 7:18

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Ephesians 4:24 NASB).

#### **May 7 — Romans 7:19**

For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.

Lord, thank You for this reminder today of how weak we are in the flesh, apart from the power of the indwelling Spirit, to experience victory over sin.

# May 8 — Romans 7:21, 22

I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man.

That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the bold self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind (Ephesians 4:22, 23 NASB).

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# **May 9 — Romans 7:23**

But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Lord, thank You for Paul's transparency in spelling out the struggle of every believer in gaining victory over sin.

#### May 10 — Romans 7:24, 25

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Lord, the closer I get to You the more aware I am of sin in my own life and the continuous need for repentance and brokenness in the presence of Your holiness.

#### May 11 — Romans 8:1, 2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Lord, these two verses make me want to celebrate with great joy for the total adequacy of our new life in Christ Jesus.

#### **May 12 — Romans 8:5**

DEEL ECTION

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Lord, the goal of my life for today is to have my mind focused on the things of the Spirit rather than on the things of the flesh.

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#### May 13 — Romans 8:7, 8

Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Lord, help me to see my flesh the way You see it, as hostile toward You, disobedient to Your Word, and not able to please You.

#### May 14 — Romans 8:13, 14

For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Lord, the longing of my heart is to be led by the Spirit of God this day, saying no to the works of the flesh and yes to the Spirit of God.

#### May 15 — 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.

Lord, thank You for the witness of the Holy Spirit within that reminds us that we are children of God, and because of that relationship, we have a great inheritance.

#### May 16 — Romans 8:18

DEEL ECTION

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.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that anything we suffer now is very small in comparison to the ultimate glory that will be ours when we enter Your presence.

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# **May 17 — Romans 8:23**

And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Lord, it is really exciting to entertain the possibility that You might come today and that this mortal will put on immortality.

#### May 18 — Romans 8:28

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.

Lord, You are famous for taking all of the circumstances that surround our lives and causing them to work together for good.

#### May 19 — Romans 8:29, 30

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Lord, what great words that describe Your determination to make us just like Your Son—in that we are ultimately going to be glorified in Your presence.

# May 20 — Romans 8:31, 32

DEEL ECTION

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Lord, thank You for the thrill of being on Your team and knowing that You have supplied everything that is necessary to live today victoriously.

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# **May 21 — Romans 8:37**

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Lord, this verse reminds us that our victory is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### May 22 — Romans 8:38, 39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord, what joy there is in my heart as I face this day knowing that there is nothing or no one who will be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord.

# May 23 — Romans 9:2, 3

That I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

Lord, increase within my heart he sorrow and grief that should be there for those who are lost who come across my path this day.

# May 24 — Romans 9:15, 16

DEEL ECTION

For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. Lord, thank You for the mercy and compassion made available to me when I heard the good news that Jesus Christ had died for me upon the cross.

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## **May 25 — Romans 9:20**

On the contrary, who are you, a man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? Lord, in humility and brokenness I come facing this new day with only one desire, and that is to accomplish Your will.

## May 26 — Romans 9:28

For the Lord will execute His word upon the earth, thoroughly and quickly.

Lord, thank You for this sober reminder that You are going to judge according to Your Word, thoroughly and quickly.

#### May 27 — Romans 9:30-32

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.

Lord, thank You that salvation comes by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not by human works.

## May 28 — Romans 10:3

DEEL ECTION

For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Lord, help me to be a good witness to people today who are going about trying to establish their own righteousness rather than taking the gift of righteousness which could be theirs in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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#### May 29 — Romans 10:9, 10

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Lord, what great verses greet us this day. Help each of us that read these words to be at peace about our eternal salvation.

## May 30 — Romans 10:13

## For "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Lord, thank You that I greet this day with a memory of calling upon Your name fiftynine years ago and having Jesus Christ come into my life.

#### May 31 — Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Lord, teach me to be content with the fact that Your wisdom and knowledge exceeds our own and that we can trust You completely.

#### JUNE

#### **June 1 — Romans 11:34**

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours" (Isaiah 55:8, 9 NIV).

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#### June 2 — Romans 11:35, 36

Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Lord, I am reminded of these words, "Nothing in my hands I bring simply to their cross I cling." And with this verse I praise You, "To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

#### June 3 — Romans 12:1

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Lord, put me on as a suit of clothes and use me for Your glory and honor this day.

#### June 4 — Romans 12:2

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.

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12 NASB).

#### June 5 — Romans 12:3

DEEL ECTION

For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time (1 Peter 5:6 NASB).

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#### June 6 — Romans 12:9

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Lord, help my love to be transparent, my hatred for evil to be real. Help me to hang on to what is good.

#### **June 7 — Romans 12:10**

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself (Philippians 2:3 NASB).

#### **June 8 — Romans 12:11**

Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Lord, the three words that stand out for today are diligence, fervor, and service. Lord, energize my life to make those a reality this day.

#### June 9 — Romans 12:12, 13

Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Lord, I want to be doing the five things these verses tell us in this brand new day: (1) rejoicing in home, (2) persevering in tribulation, (3) devoted in prayer, (4) contributing to the needs of the saints, and (5) practicing hospitality.

#### June 10 — Romans 12:17, 18

DEEL ECTION

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Lord, I pray that my interpersonal relationships will be such that will glorify and honor Your name.

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#### June 11 — Romans 12:19, 20

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

Lord, help me to remember that You are fully aware of what is going in our individual lives and it s not necessary for us to be plotting or seeking revenge in any of our relationships.

## **June 12 — Romans 12:21**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lord, I want to take the offensive today and overcome evil with good through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

## **June 13 — Romans 13:1**

Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Lord, I lay myself at Your feet this day to be submissive to the governing authorities in heaven and those that are upon earth.

#### **June 14 — Romans 13:3**

REFLECTION

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Lord, I would pray that my behavior would reflect my submission and obedience to the laws of the Lord and to the laws of the land.

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## **June 15 — Romans 13:7**

Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Lord, help me never to hold back anything that is due to someone else.

#### June 16 — 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.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that the day of our salvation is nearer now that it was on the day that we received You as Savior. Help us to live in view of this.

#### **June 17 — Romans 13:12**

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.

Lord, I would forsake this day any deeds of darkness, and I certainly do not want to go out into battle without the armor of light.

#### June 18 — Romans 13:13, 14

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Lord, I am putting on the Lord Jesus Christ as this new day begins and I am not wanting to make any provision for the flesh in regard to its desires.

#### **June 19 — Romans 14:4**

Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you (Matthew 7:1, 2 NASB).

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## **June 20 — Romans 14:5**

One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.

Lord, help me to live by the convictions which have been forged by Your Spirit in my heart so that You might be glorified in my life this day.

## June 21 — Romans 14:7, 8

For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Lord, what a great couple of verses to remind us that whether we live or die, we are the Lord's!

#### **June 22 — Romans 14:12**

So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

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 (2 Corinthians 5:10 NASB).

#### **June 23 — Romans 14:13**

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Lord, help me to not to judge others and be very careful not to put an obstacle or stumbling block in the way of my brother or sister.

#### June 24 — Romans 14:17, 18

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Lord, may the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Holy Spirit be seen in my life because I want to be acceptable to You and approved by men.

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#### **June 25 — Romans 14:19**

So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Lord, I want to be pursuing with reckless abandon the two things that this verse asks me to do: "things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

## June 26 — Romans 15:1, 2

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Lord, help me to be obedient in pleasing others and in doing those things which are for his good and his edification.

#### **June 27 — Romans 15:5**

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.

Lord, I would ask You for the gifts of perseverance and encouragement mentioned in this verse for today.

#### June 28 — Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, I would make the prayer of this verse my prayer for this day that You, as "the God of hope," would fill me with all joy and peace in believing, that I may be abounding "in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

#### June 29 — Romans 16:19

For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil.

Lord, may the report of my obedience be clear to my brother and sisters, that I would be "wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil."

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## **June 30 — Romans 16:20**

And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Lord, thank You that You are going to have the ultimate victory over Satan, and that we can share that victory new because "greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world."

#### **JULY**

#### July 1-1 Corinthians 1:4, 5

I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge.

Lord, it is my prayer that people will see that in my words and walk that I am enriched by You in everything.

## July 2 — 1 Corinthians 1:8, 9

Who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22, 23 NIV).

# July 3 — 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lord, thank You for Your power that forgave my sin, filled me with the Spirit and placed me in the body of Christ.

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# July 4 — 1 Corinthians 1:27

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.

Lord, I am reminded of Your words spoken through Isaiah the prophet, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9 NIV).

### July 5 — 1 Corinthians 1:30

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

Lord, thank You that in Jesus Christ we find every need supplied. Truly, "Christ is all and in all" (Col. 3:11b NIV).

## July 6 — 1 Corinthians 2:2

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Lord, the writer to the book of Hebrews admonishes us to be "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 of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2 NIV).

## July 7 — 1 Corinthians 2:9

DEEL ECTION

But just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

Lord, in the words of the superintendent of the dining room at the marriage in Cana, "... you have saved the best till now" (John 2:10). And with the words of the queen of Sheba, "Indeed, not even half was told me ..." (1 Kings 10:7 NIV). What glorious expectation, even so come, Lord Jesus!

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## July 8 — 1 Corinthians 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak, and He will disclose to you what is to come" (John 16:13 NASB).

## July 9 — 1 Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

"Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6 NASB).

## July 10 — 1 Corinthians 2:16

For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Lord, if the mind of Christ is controlling me today, it will be displayed through sacrificial acts of servanthood. May it be so.

## July 11 — 1 Corinthians 3:1, 2

DEEL ECTION

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able. "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. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12, 14 NASB).

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#### July 12 — 1 Corinthians 3:5

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

Lord, I come to You with the words of John the Baptist on my lips this morning: "He [Christ] must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30 NASB).

## **July 13 — 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11**

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Lord, in the words of the hymn writer: "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

### July 14 — 1 Corinthians 3:12, 13

Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

Lord, I yield myself to Your Spirit and ask that under His control "gold, silver, and precious stones" might be produced through me.

#### July 15 — 1 Corinthians 3:14, 15

DEEL ECTION

If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

"And now, little children, abide in Him so that if He should appear, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming" (1 John 2:28 NASB).

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#### July 16 — 1 Corinthians 3:16

# Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Lord, what joy comes to my heart this day to be reminded of the permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

## July 17 — 1 Corinthians 4:2

# In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

Lord, as Your servant, enable me to make wise investments of my time, talents, and treasures so You can say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

## July 18 — 1 Corinthians 4:4

# For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

The words You spoke to Jeremiah the prophet come to mind this morning: "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve" (Jeremiah 17:10 NIV).

## July 19 — 1 Corinthians 4:20

# For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.

Lord, Your kingdom power will not be displayed by my words but by my changed life. Help people see that today.

# July 20 — 1 Corinthians 4:21

REFLECTION

# What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

"... My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; For these whom the Lord loves He disciplines ..." (Hebrews 12:5, 6 NASB).

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## July 21 - 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

"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" (Psalm 139:23, 24 NIV).

## July 22 - 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10

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. Lord, the sobering words of Revelation 21:8 come to mind this morning: "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murders 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" (NASB).

#### July 23 — 1 Corinthians 6:11

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.

"But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)" (Ephesians 2:4, 5). What a glorious act on Your part, Father!

#### July 24 — 1 Corinthians 6:12

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

Lord, thank You for the full freedom in Christ. Energized by Your Spirit, may I experience victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

#### July 25 — 1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

The words of Paul to the Thessalonian saints come to mind this morning, "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 Thessalonians 4:3, 4 NASB).

## **July 26 — 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's exhortation to the Roman Christians, "and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God" (Romans 6:13 NASB).

## July 27 — 1 Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

Lord, I praise You as Creator and thank You that I exist for You. I am Yours, use me as You see fit.

## July 28 — 1 Corinthians 8:9

DEEL ECTION

But take care lest this Liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

Lord, in the words of Paul to the Romans: "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way" (Romans 14:13 NASB).

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#### July 29 — 1 Corinthians 8:13

Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.

Lord, again this morning I am reminded of Paul's words to the Roman saints, "For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died" (Romans 14:15 NASB).

#### July 30 — 1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

Lord, I am running straight toward the goal with purpose in every step: to finish the race set before me.

#### July 31 — 1 Corinthians 9:25

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.

Lord, help me to keep in mind the words of the apostle Paul to young Timothy, "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" (2 Tim. 4:8 NASB).

#### **AUGUST**

# August 1 — 1 Corinthians 9:26

Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air.

Lord, it is the prayer of my heart that I might run toward the goal today and to land some spiritual punches for the kingdom.

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## August 2 — 1 Corinthians 9:27

But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

Lord, thank You for the power of Your Spirit that enables me to say no to the desires of my body this day, recognizing that I shall give account of myself to God.

## August 3 — 1 Corinthians 10:5, 6

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

Lord, keep me focused on Your desires for this day and not enticed by the devil's distractions.

## August 4 — 1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

The words of Solomon in Proverbs 16:18 serve as a warning today: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall" (NIV).

#### August 5-1 Corinthians 10:13

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.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that we have all the resources we need in the Lord Jesus Christ to experience victory over temptation today.

## August 6 — 1 Corinthians 10:23

All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

Lord, it is my desire to be engaged in those things which are profitable and those things which will edify and build up the body of Christ today.

#### August 7 — 1 Corinthians 10:24

Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

Paul's words to the Philippian saints come to mind this morning: "Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4 NASB).

## August 8 — 1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Lord, my single purpose as I face this new day is to glorify You in everything I do or say.

#### August 9 — 1 Corinthians 10:32

Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God.

Lord, I would pray that no action of mine this day would keep an unbeliever from coming to know You or a believer from growing in grace.

## August 10 - 1 Corinthians 11:31, 32

But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Lord, help me to be walking in the light so I can see things clearly in life from Your perspective.

## August 11 — 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

Lord, thank You for the gift You have given to edify the body of Christ. May Your Spirit empower me to be a faithful steward.

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## August 12 — 1 Corinthians 12:7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Lord, You have given our spiritual gifts to be used in the blessing of others. Help me to be faithful in doing that today.

## August 13 — 1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Lord, as I begin this day, help me to remember to whom I belong and represent.

#### August 14 — 1 Corinthians 13:1

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Lord, I am reminded of the words of Paul to the Ephesian saints, "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love" Ephesians 4:2 NASB).

## August 15 — 1 Corinthians 13:4, 5

Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered.

Lord, because You are love, may Your Spirit produce these qualities in my life this day.

# August 16 — 1 Corinthians 13:6, 7

Does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Lord, I pray that You will enable me to be speaking the truth in love this day and to be bearing all things, believing all things, hoping all things, and enduring all things.

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## August 17 — 1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Lord, hasten the day when we shall see You face to face and everything will be made clear.

## August 18 — 1 Corinthians 14:3

But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

Lord, help my words to be used by Your Spirit this day to edify, exhort, and encourage.

#### August 19 — 1 Corinthians 14:17

For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. Lord, thank You for this reminder this morning that my number one motive and mission is to be edifying others.

## August 20 - 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.

Lord, thank You for this wonderful reminder that our first priority is a clear presentation of the gospel message.

#### August 21 — 1 Corinthians 15:19

If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Lord, I am reminded this morning of Jesus' words to Martha, "... I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies" (John 11:25 NASB).

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#### **August 22 — 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52**

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

Lord, it would be wonderful if that moment, that twinkling of an eye, that last trumpet blast would occur before this day is over. Maranatha!

#### August 23 — 1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, thank You that it is the Lord Jesus who ultimately gives us victory over Satan, sin, sorrow, and death.

## August 24 — 1 Corinthians 15:58

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.

Lord, thank You for reminding me this morning that although I am chronologically challenged, I am still to "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that my toil is not in vain in the Lord."

# August 25 - 1 Corinthians 16:13, 14

DEEL ECTION

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Lord, these five commands certainly provide an adequate job description for today: be alert, stand firm, act like men, be strong, and let all be done in love.

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## August 26 — 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4

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 affliction 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.

Lord, it brings much joy to know that You are going to be there during the times of our affliction and suffering as the God of comfort.

#### August 27 — 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

Wow, what a promise! We have been established in Christ, anointed by the Father, and sealed by the Spirit. What a joyful thought to start this new day!

## August 28 — 2 Corinthians 2:7, 8

So that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.

Lord, these verses remind me of the first words from the Savior as He is hanging on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing ..." (Luke 23:34 NASB).

# August 29 — 2 Corinthians 2:14

DEEL ECTION

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.

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:31, 37 NASB).

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#### August 30 - 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16

For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

Lord, may the sweet fragrance of Christ in my life today draw people to You.

#### August 31 — 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.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to young Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as workman who does not need to be ashamed handling accurately the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB).

#### **SEPTEMBER**

DEEL ECTION

## September 1 — 2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

It was the apostle John who said, "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" (1 John 3:2 NASB).

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## September 2 — 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4

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.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. Fro everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (John 3:19, 20 NASB).

#### September 3 — 2 Corinthians 4:5

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that our message is Christ and our ministry is servanthood.

## September 4 — 2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.

Lord, thank You that Jesus is the treasure in our broken pots. It is our earnest expectation and hope that Christ be exalted in our bodies whether by life or by death.

# September 5 — 2 Corinthians 4:8, 9

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

Lord, the words of Peter come to mind this morning, "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" (1 Peter 2:21 NASB).

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# September 6 — 2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Lord, the words of Isaiah the prophet fill my thoughts this morning: Truly those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31).

## September 7 — 2 Corinthians 4:17

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

The apostle Paul said to the Roman saints, "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" (Romans 8:18 NASB).

## September 8 — 2 Corinthians 4:18

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

John says, "And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17 NASB).

# September 9 — 2 Corinthians 5:1, 2

DEEL ECTION

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

Paul's words to the Philippian saints fill my thoughts this morning, "But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake" (Philippians 1:23, 24 NASB).

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# September 10 — 2 Corinthians 5;6-8

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Lord's, Paul's words to the Colossian saints are filling my mind this day, "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:2-4 NASB).

## September 11 — 2 Corinthians 5:9

Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Lord, the single ambition of my life today, whether I go home to be with You or I continue here, is to be pleasing to You.

## September 12 — 2 Corinthians 5:10

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.

Lord, the desire of my heart on that day of the judgment seat of Christ would be to hear from You, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys I have prepared for thee" (Matthew 25:21 KJV).

# September 13 — 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Lord, overwhelmed by Your love I have a single desire—and that is to live only for You this day.

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# September 14 — 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.

Lord, I am so thankful for the new life that I have in the Lord Jesus Christ. What a difference You make each day.

## September 15 — 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Lord, as citizens of heaven, pilgrims just passing through, help us to be faithful ambassadors of the Christ we represent.

## September 16 — 2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Lord, if there is any relationship in my life that is not right with You, I pray that Your Spirit will make that very clear to me this day.

# September 17 — 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Lord, I am reminded of the way You blessed Daniel because David resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine.

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## September 18 — 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. Paul's words to the Ephesian saints are in my thoughts this morning, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15, 16 NASB).

## September 19 — 2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Lord, I find myself singing that great old hymn this morning: "O the love that drew salvation's plan, O the grace that brought it down to man. O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary."

## September 20 — 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Lord, I want to be known as a good, gracious, glad giver.

# September 21 — 2 Corinthians 9:8

DEEL ECTION

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.

Paul's words to the Philippian saints come to mind, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19 NASB).

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## September 22 — 2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Lord, thank You for this reminder this morning that the greatest gift that could ever be given has already been given by You—the gift of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### September 23 — 2 Corinthians 10:5

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Lord, taking every thought captive suggests Philppians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things" (NASB).

## September 24 — 2 Corinthians 11:13, 15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ... Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

Paul tells the Ephesian saints that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, powers, world forces of darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness.

# September 25 — 2 Corinthians 12:7

DEEL ECTION

And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself!

Lord, thank You that You have the wisdom to mix the blessings and the burdens to keep us humble and broken before You.

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# September 26 — 2 Corinthians 12:8, 9

Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 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.

Lord, thank You fort his reminder this morning that there is adequate grace for whatever we are going to face this day and that Your strength is made perfect in our weakness.

## September 27 — 2 Corinthians 12:10

Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Lord, my prayer this morning is that You will fill my heart with contentment over the curriculum that You have designed for my personal character development into Christlikeness.

#### September 28 — 2 Corinthians 12:15

And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?

These words remind me of Paul's words to the Philippians, "But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all" (Philippians 2:17 NASB).

## September 29 — 2 Corinthians 13:5

DEEL ECTION

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

Lord, again this morning I am reminded of Psalm 26:23,, "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).

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# September 30 — 2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Lord, my goal today is to do these five things: to rejoice, to be made complete, to be comforted, to be like-minded, and to live in peace. God make it real to me.

#### **OCTOBER**

### October 1 — Galatians 1:3, 5

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, ... to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

Lord, as the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian saints: "I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge" (1 Corinthians 1:4, 5 NASB).

#### October 2 — Galatians 1:23, 24

But only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." And they were glorifying God because of me.

Lord, my heart's passion is that people will glorify You for what they see in my life this day.

#### October 3 — Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

Lord, we remember the words of the Lord Jesus in John 12:24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (NASB).

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#### October 4 — Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Lord, Paul put it this way: "and those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:8 NASB). May I please You this day by walking in the Spirit.

#### October 5 — Galatians 3:11

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith."

Lord, thank You for the gift of perfect righteousness that becomes ours by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not works of the law.

#### October 6 — Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried out sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 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 53:4, 5 NIV).

#### October 7 — Galatians 4: 4, 5

But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Lord, as Ecclesiastes 3:11 states: "He has made everything beautiful in its time ..."

(NIV). Because You were on schedule the first time, we know You will be right in schedule the second time.

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#### October 8 — Galatians 4:6

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Lord my mind turns to Romans 8: "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God ... The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (8:14, 16 NASB).

#### October 9 — Galatians 4:19

My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you. Lord, it is the longing of my heart that the work of Your Spirit in conforming me more and more to the likeness of the Lord Jesus will not be hindered.

#### October 10 — Galatians 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Lord, thank You for the glorious freedom that is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ. As Jesus said, the truth makes us free.

#### October 11 — Galatians 5:7

You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

As Paul exhorted the Corinthians: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

## October 12 — Galatians 5:16, 17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Lord, at the beginning of this day I make my declaration of dependence. May I be totally dependent upon the Spirit of God in my conduct and conversation today.

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## October 13 — Galatians 5:22, 23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. My prayer is that this fruit of the Spirit might manifest itself clearly in my life today.

#### October 14 — Galatians 5:24, 25

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. Lord, I know that I am living by the Spirit because of faith in Your Son, but the passionate desire of my heart is that I might be walking by the Spirit today.

#### October 15 — Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

In the words of the psalmist: "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" (Psalm 126:5, 6 NIV).

#### October 16 — Galatians 6:8

For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. Lord, this verse reminds me of a statement of Jesus in John 6:63: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (NASB).

## October 17 — 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.

Solomon also put it well in Ecclesiastes 11:6: "Sew your seed in the morning, and at the evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will be equally well" (NIV).

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#### October 18 — Galatians 6:10

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.

Paul also writes the Romans: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (12:10, 11 NASB).

#### October 19 — Galatians 6:14

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.

Lord, Paul determined to know nothing but Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). I pray that my life this day might reflect the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## October 20 — Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

In the words of the hymnist, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done!"

## October 21 — Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Father, what a glorious reminder that the price has been paid in full through the blood of Your Son.

# October 22 — Ephesians 1:18

Which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight.

Father, Jesus promised in John 16:13 that the "Spirit of truth ... will guide [us] into all the truth ... and He will disclose to [us] what is to come" (NASB).

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#### October 23 — Ephesians 2:8, 9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Lord, thank You for the reminder that our entrance into heaven depends upon Whom we know, not what we have done.

#### October 24 — Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Lord, the prayer of my heart this morning is that Your activity in my life may proceed unhindered.

#### October 25 — Ephesians 2:18

For through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Father, thank You for the privilege of coming into Your presence because we are part of Your family.

## October 26 — Ephesians 3:16

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.

Lord, how this prayer of Paul echoes Isaiah's words: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31 NIV).

# October 27 — Ephesians 3:17, 18

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth.

In the words of Psalm 1:3: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers" (NIV).

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# October 28 — Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

Lord, Your question to Jeremiah resounds this morning: "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27 NIV).

# October 29 — Ephesians 4:1

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.

Lord, as I face this new day, remind me to Whom I belong and Whom I represent.

# October 30 — Ephesians 4:2, 3

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Lord, the words of Isaiah 32:17 are in my thoughts today: "The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever" (NIV).

# October 31 — Ephesians 4:14

DEEL ECTION

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.

Lord, the number one priority in my life is to continue to build upon the solid rock of the Living Word and the written word.

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## **NOVEMBER**

# November 1 — Ephesians 4:15

But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.

Lord, with the Psalmist I would pray: "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name" (Psalm 86:11 NIV).

# November 2 — Ephesians 4:18, 19

Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. Lord, Paul's words to the Thessalonian saints come to mind this morning, "... those who do not know God" and "those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus ... will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9 NASB).

# November 3 — Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

Lord, may we not forget that in Proverbs 6:16-19 You reveal seven things You detest: "... haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers" (NIV).

# November 4 — Ephesians 4:26

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger. Lord, may Proverbs 15:1 be written on our hearts: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stirs up anger" (NIV).

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# November 5 — Ephesians 4:27

# And do not give the devil an opportunity.

Lord, I am reminded of a similar warning to the Corinthian saints: "In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:11 NASB).

# November 6 — Ephesians 4:29

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

James 3:2 agrees: "For we all stumble in many ways. If any one does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well" (NASB).

## November 7 — Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Lord, it would grieve me if I were guilty of grieving the Spirit this day, so I pray the prayer of David: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me ..." (Psalm 139:23, 24 KJV).

# November 8 — Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

James 3:14, 15 speaks of the origin of such: "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic" (NASB).

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# November 9 — Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Lord, I present myself to You afresh this day. Fill me with Your Spirit. Make me easy to live with.

# November 10 — Ephesians 5:15, 16

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Lord, the prayer of Moses in Psalm 90 is on my lips this morning: "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12 NIV).

# November 11 — Ephesians 5:17

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Lord, Romans 12:2 fills my thoughts 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" (NASB).

# November 12 — Ephesians 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Lord, this morning I have searched my heart and am presenting to You a clean and empty vessel for You to fill with Your Spirit and use as You desire.

## November 13 — Ephesians 5:19, 20

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father. Lord, my heart is filled with song; I am entering Your gates with thanksgiving and approaching Your courts with praise!

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# November 14 — Ephesians 5:32

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Lord, thank You that the church is the bride of our Savior and we are looking forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

# November 15 — Ephesians 6:7, 8

With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Lord, please guide me in the investment of my time, treasure, and talents in this brand new day.

## November 16 — 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.

Lord, I have on my armor and I am totally dependent upon Your strength to provide the victory over Satan.

# November 17 — Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Lord, I could be intimidated by this array of forces against me but I lay claim to 1 John 4:4: "... greater is He who is in you that he who is in the world" (NASB).

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# November 18 — 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.

Lord, this suggests James 4:7, 8: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (NASB).

# November 19 — Ephesians 6:14, 15

Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Lord, I just want to thank You for providing all the necessary equipment for successful spiritual warfare.

# November 20 — Ephesians 6:16, 17

In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Lord, my heart is filled with gratitude for the sword, the shield, and the helmet which You have provided.

# November 21 — Ephesians 6:18

DEEL ECTION

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints. Lord, I have taken time this morning to offer my prayers, praise, and petitions, and now I feel prepared to enter this day under Your supervision.

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# November 22 — Philippians 1:6

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.

Lord, this encouraging verse echoes 1 John: "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" (3:2 NASB).

# November 23 — Philippians 1:20

According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Lord, the only thing that really matters about this day is that You be glorified in the midst of it, no matter what happens.

# November 24 — Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Lord, I want to face this day just like the apostle Paul, living it for Christ. If I should happen to die today, I know I will be only gaining more of Him by arriving in His presence.

# November 25 — Philippians 1:29

REFLECTION...

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.

Lord, Romans 8:18 is in my thoughts this morning: "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).

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# November 26 — Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself. Lord, my heart longs to really live this way. Thank You that our thoughts and intentions are known unto You.

# November 27 — Philippians 2:4

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Paul says much the same thing to the Corinthians: "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:5 NASB).

# November 28 — Philippians 2:5

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

Lord, my prayer is that the mind of Christ my Savior would control my thoughts, my words, and my deeds.

# November 29 — Philippians 2:10, 11

DEEL ECTION

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.

Lord, Revelation 5:12 comes to my thoughts this morning: "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" (NASB).

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# November 30 — Philippians 2:12, 13

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Lord, these verses remind me of Jeremiah 16:17 concerning accountability: "My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes (NIV).

#### **DECEMBER**

# December 1 — Philippians 2:14, 15

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.

Lord, the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:16 come to mind: "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" (NASB).

# December 2 — Philippians 2:17

But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

The Lord Jesus came also as a sacrifice: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45 NASB).

# December 3 — Philippians 3:7

DEEL ECTION

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Lord, there is nothing more important in my life than my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

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# December 4 — Philippians 3:8

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.

Lord, thank You for this reminder today that there is nothing more valuable than this treasure which is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ.

# December 5 — Philippians 3:10

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

Lord, the passionate longing of my heart is that my relationship with the Lord Jesus be an ever deepening relationship.

# December 6 — Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Lord, my prayer is that I might be made more like the Lord Jesus through the experiences of this day before me.

# December 7 — Philippians 3:13

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. Lord, I am ready and really excited about what You have in store for me today.

# December 8 — Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lord, in the lyrics of the great old hymn: "I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining ev'ry day; Still praying as I onward bound, 'Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

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# December 9 — Philippians 3:20, 21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Lord, what a joy it is to look forward to our home in heaven. It would be wonderful if You would come today.

# December 10 — Philippians 4:4

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

Lord, this verse reminds me of 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" (NASB).

# December 11 — Philippians 4:5

Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Lord, help me to be patient, gentle, and kind to those with whom I come in contact today.

# December 12 — Philippians 4:6, 7

DEEL ECTION

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lord, I am reminded of Psalm 5:3: "Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

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# December 13 — Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

Lord, this verse reminds me of Peter's admonition to gird up the loins of my mind (1 Peter 1:13) and Paul's instructions to make "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB).

# December 14 — Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Just a few hours before the cross, Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5 NASB).

# December 15 — Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Lord, this verse reminds me this morning that You have promised to supply all of my needs, but not necessarily all of my wants and wishes.

## December 16 — Colossians 1:10

DEEL ECTION

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.

Lord, what a great verse! My prayer is that I would walk worthily, pleasing You in everything, bearing fruit, and growing in Your knowledge this day.

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## December 17 — Colossians 1:11

Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously.

Lord, thank You that Your strength is made perfect in our weaknesses and we can glory in our infirmities because the power of Christ is resting upon us.

## December 18 — Colossians 1:12

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Lord, thank You for qualifying us for a future inheritance by paying the price of our redemption and adopting us into Your family as Your sons and daughters.

## December 19 — Colossians 1:13, 14

For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Lord, my heart is bursting with praise this morning as yesterday I realized You "qualified us," and today I understand You delivered us from the "domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom" of Your beloved Son. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

#### December 20 — Colossians 2:3

DEEL ECTION

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Lord, Romans 11:33 comes to my mind as I think of these wonderful treasures that are ours in Christ: "Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!" (NASB).

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## December 21 — Colossians 2:6

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. As 1 John 2:6 puts it: "The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked" (NASB).

## December 22 — Colossians 2:7

Having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. The prophet Jeremiah said it well: "But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its rots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7, 8 NIV).

## December 23 — Colossians 2:9, 10

For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority. These two verses reveal three wonderful things about my Savior: He's the Son of God, He makes us complete, and all authority is in Him.

## December 24 — Colossians 3:1, 2

DEEL ECTION

If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Lord, the words of the Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount fill my mind today: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21 NASB).

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## December 25 — Colossians 3:3, 4

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Lord, what wonderful verses for Christmas! We are celebrating Your birthday this day, that day of Your first revelation. Thank You that You are going to come again and we are going to be revealed with You in glory. What a wonderful Christmas gift!

## December 26 — Colossians 3:12

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Lord, my prayer is that these five qualities would be seen in my life today: "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

# December 27 — Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Lord, I am reminded of Isaiah 32:17 this morning: "The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever" (NIV).

### December 28 — Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Lord, I am reminded of Paul's words to young Timothy when he says: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB).

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## December 29 — Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Lord, thank You for this reminder that there is no distinction between the sacred and the secular. We are to "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

## December 30 — Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.

Lord, it transforms my tasks today to know that each is to be done as "for the Lord rather than for men."

### December 31 — Colossians 4:6

REFLECTION

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

Lord, I am calling to mind the words of Peter in his first Epistle: "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to every one who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." (1 Peter 3:15 NASB).

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# HOW CAN I PARTNER WITH BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES?

### SPIRITUAL

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

Prayers are our priority. We need supporters who will also partner with us in prayer as we pray for one another and for the work of the ministry.

## FINANCIAL

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# **MINISTRY**

Plan to invite Bible Teaching Resources to conduct a church or community event such as a neighborhood Bible class. Or talk to your pastor about arranging for Bible Teaching Resources to offer a couples weekend for your church—an experience that will touch families forever. Don and Pearl love hosting senior adult retreats, encouraging folks to approach their senior years with passion and perspective. Don is also often invited to present teacher training courses for Sunday school teachers and Bible study leaders.

Joyfully Serving Him,

Dr. Don Anderson

President, Bible Teaching Resources

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"In the morning, O Lord,
you hear my voice; in the
morning I lay my requests before
you and wait in expectation."
(Psalm 5:3 NIV)

# WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THIS FOURTH VOLUME?

This volume is pure Scripture for the soul and a prayer of response to get you on track with the Lord.

# WHY IS DAILY QUIET TIME WITH GOD SO VITAL?

The goal is growth. Getting your assignment for the day from the Lord gives focus and purpose to your schedule. Spending quality time with the Lord ensures that you and He stay on the same page.

# WHAT DOES THE TITLE MEAN?

Jesus Himself gave us the example of prioritizing His time with God. "And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there" (Mark 1:35 NASB).

# HOW CAN I GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS BOOK?

My hope is you will use this devotional as a prelude to your personal time with the Lord. Feed your mind with each day's verses and see if this meditation doesn't make a difference in your prayer time.



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