

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a tropical beach at sunset. Several palm trees are silhouetted against a sky that transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The sun is partially obscured by clouds, creating a warm, glowing effect. The ocean is calm, with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

DEVOTIONS FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

LIFE IN CHRIST 365

Enjoy GOD's
Grace, Peace, Love, & Power!

ROBERT BARRY

LIFE IN CHRIST 365

DEVOTIONS FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

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The author has 55 years of experience walking with and serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This includes 7 years as a missionary, 30 years as a business owner (publishing/advertising), and 14 years in the computer and insurance fields.

His daily study of the Word of God over the years and his wide spectrum of experiences in Christ (Missionary, Assistant Pastor, and Bible Teacher) and the business world provide Robert with a unique perspective on life in a world that desperately needs the Prince of life.

The daily devotions within **LIFE in CHRIST 365** reflect his love for our great God and Savior, his brothers and sisters in Christ, and his wife, children, and grandchildren.

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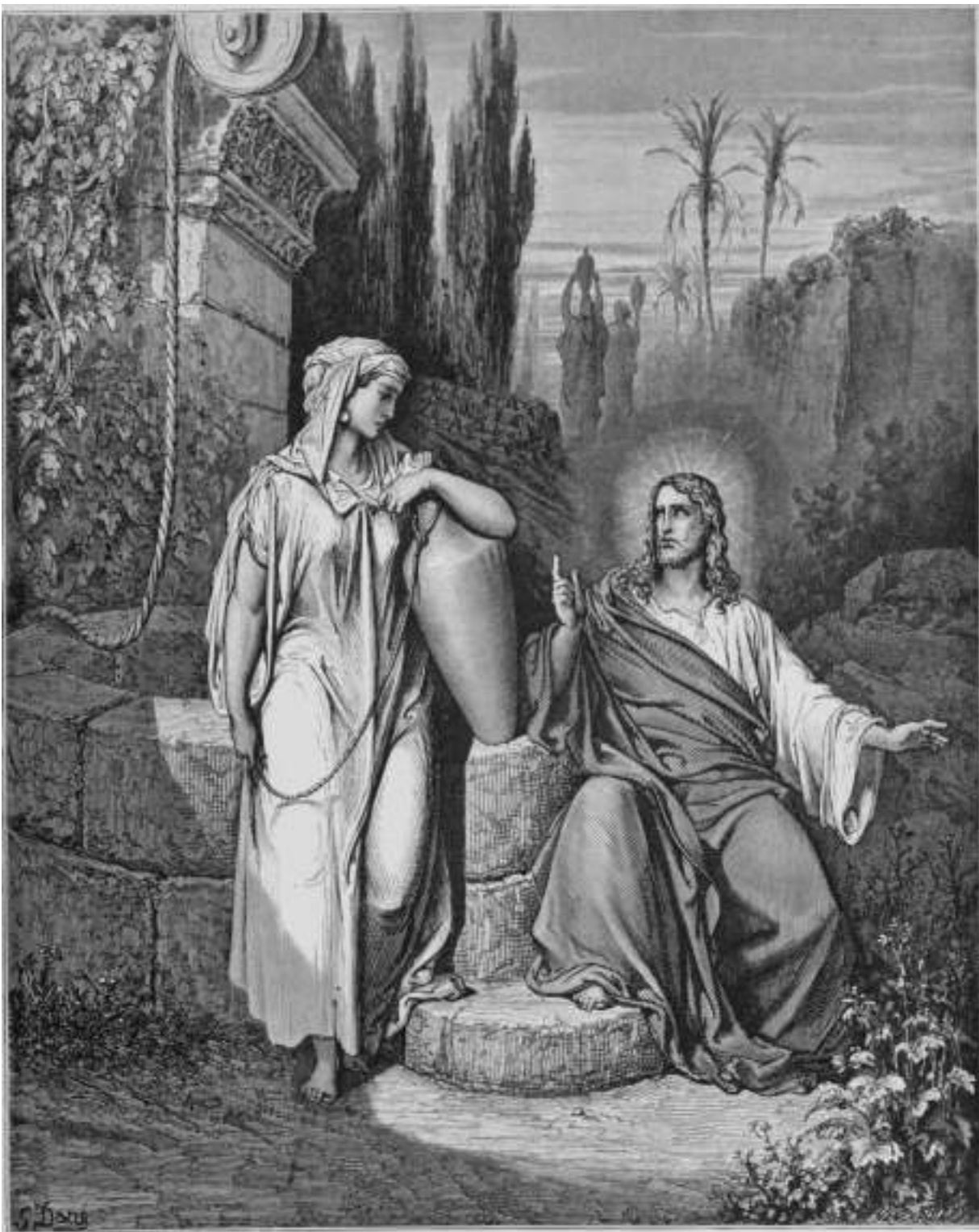
INTRODUCTION

What a wondrous gift to have the Bible! Our Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, has given us a *time machine*. We can visit events from the Genesis creation, the days of Abraham and Moses, the times of the kings and prophets, the wondrous days of the Son of God walking upon the earth, and into the Day of Glory, when we will reign with Christ Jesus, the Risen Savior, and rejoice in the holy city of new Jerusalem.

Scripture references have been included to enhance and support each daily devotion; open the Word and enjoy these wondrous scriptures. I have shared heartfelt prayers and thanksgiving to the God of glory at the close of many of the devotions; may you also join me in these quiet times of prayer and praise to our dear God and Savior; he has answered so many of my prayers through the years!

I share the daily devotions within LIFE in CHRIST 365 with my cherished family of believers in Jesus—to strengthen, encourage, and comfort the hearts and lives of those born again, as Jesus spoke about in John 3. If you, the reader, do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, perhaps after reading some of LIFE in CHRIST 365, your life will be touched in a very special way. Please see the section *You Were Made to Know GOD* near the end of this book.

Dear brothers and sisters, our God and Savior has called us to a glorious and extraordinary life in Christ. I welcome you to join me in the pages ahead as I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Let the journey begin.



Jesus and the Woman of Samaria at the Well *John 4*

365 DAILY DEVOTIONS: JANUARY - DECEMBER

January 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Consider God's everlasting love. Jesus loved you before you received him as your Savior. While you were yet in a life of sin, he loved you. When he created your innermost being and fashioned you in your mother's womb, he knew you and your whole life story—and he loved you. When the Father sent Christ to the agony of the cross at Calvary to die for your sins, he loved you. You were on his mind during the rise and fall of kingdoms and nations—and he loved you. When Adam and Eve walked in the midst of the Paradise of Eden, the God of glory knew exactly where you would be born in their family line. And yes, he loved you then. When he was creating millions of galaxies and the Earth, with its spectacular mountains, oceans, animals, and floral wonders, you were loved. During the eons of eternity, amid the majesty and glory of the kingdom of Heaven, where millions of angelic beings rejoiced with Jesus and the Father—where spectacular sights and sounds indescribably surpass all that would be found on the Earth that he would create—Jesus loved you with an everlasting love!

Almighty God (El Shaddai) created the billions of stars, the Earth, and all the intricate life forms on this planet. When he makes all things new, you will reign with our great and awesome God and Jesus, the King of glory, in the new heavens and new Earth that have been prepared for you. It is not the stars or the intricate flowers of creation that God will cherish and rejoice with throughout eternity. It is you with whom he will live, delight in, and celebrate forever.

No words in any language can fully express the glory and majesty you will experience forever. The most gorgeous sunsets that you have ever witnessed, the most magnificent music you have ever heard, the most beautiful and fragrant floral displays your eyes have feasted upon, the majesty of Earth's grandest mountain ranges, the wonders of the highest waterfalls, and the brilliant glories of a thousand galaxies all pale in comparison to the glory you will experience—for all eternity!

Jeremiah 31:3 • Zephaniah 3:17 • 1 Corinthians 2:9

Revelation 10:26, 21:1-6, 22:1-5 • Psalm 16:11

I give thanks to you, my God and Savior. As glorious as your creation is, your majesty and greatness are so much more—you are the Creator. To be in your perfect Paradise with you will be marvelous beyond description. In your presence is fullness of joy, and at your right hand are everlasting pleasures. I delight in you, my King, for the victory over sin and death that you have wrought. As a joint heir with Jesus, my thankfulness will know no bounds for all eternity. Praise God!

January 2

We honor our everlasting God and Father, the King of salvation, through praise and worship, which his heart warmly receives, for he inhabits our praises and is enthroned in them. It is not always easy to praise the Lord because of circumstances or emotional stress, but it is a good thing to give thanks to our mighty God and sing glorious praises to the Most High! Let us proclaim his loving-kindness in the morning and his faithfulness every night!

After being severely beaten, Paul and Silas were cast into prison, yet they sang praises to their God despite their pain. They trusted him. Their sovereign God proceeded to send a violent earthquake; he also opened the prison doors and loosed the prisoners' chains. After this, the jailer and his family wondrously met Jesus, the mighty Savior, personally. Through faith and hearing God's Word that Paul and Silas shared, they received salvation and the gift of eternal life (the great work of God in Philippi was underway in glorious fashion!).

Centuries earlier, a great multitude came against Judah and Jerusalem to destroy them. The Lord of hosts anointed a prophet, and he declared God's Word to them. He told them that the battle was God's, not theirs. He told them not to be afraid; they were to stand still and see God's salvation on their behalf.

The king and all of Judah fell before the Lord God and worshiped. They had all their singers go before them as they went out to meet the enemy. They thanked God for his everlasting loving-kindness. The Maker of heaven and earth was mighty on their behalf; he set ambushes against the enemy, which was destroyed. Our God fulfilled the people's trust in him in a very

spectacular way. Continually offer up the sacrifice of praise to the Lord who cherishes you. He will always be strong on your behalf, though his deliverance will often not be in the timing or fashion you desire. When fear strikes, look to the God of wonders. Even if matters are getting worse, trust him. He has the perfect plan. Stand still and see his salvation. Remember what he did at the Red Sea for the children of Israel. He is able to do exceedingly beyond all that you can ask or think. He is El Shaddai—God Almighty.

Absolutely nothing is too hard for him. Be strong in faith, and do not lean on your own understanding. From his eternal perspective, your whole life on earth, from beginning to end, is clear before him. He knows what is best for you. Trust him because he has a wondrous plan for you.

Remember to put your songs of praise before you every day. The King of glory will fight for you in every battle of life. And you will rejoice and thank him even more for the victories and blessings he has wrought for you. Amen.

Psalm 92:1, 145:1-13 • Acts 16:22-34

2 Chronicles 20:1-3 • Hebrews 13:15 • Habakkuk 3:17-19

Thank you, God, for all the miracles of love shown throughout your Word. Help me today, by your grace, to abide in Christ and walk in love toward all I meet. Thank you that you will be strong on my behalf and that nothing can be against me. Thank you that by your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, you will do your good pleasure in my life. I rejoice in you, my God and Savior! Amen.

January 3

Our Father has called you from Heaven to be his child for all eternity. This calling is not according to your works or your own righteousness but according to his purpose and grace, which was established before time began.

You are saved by grace, not by works—so no one may boast. Salvation is a gift. No one deserves eternal life. Forgiveness of sin and eternal life are gifts that God gives. Through Christ's shed blood, your debt has been paid. He purchased you with the highest ransom price that could ever be paid—his life, his blood. He now calls you to walk in his grace. Receive the power of

a new life; you are raised in the newness of life, even as Jesus was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father.

He has written his laws upon your heart—a new heart that he miraculously placed within you. You have been born again—this is wondrously real. You have passed from death into life. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If you believe in Jesus, you shall never die.

You are his workmanship; you are his poem to the world. Trust him to write a blessed letter of love via your life to all you meet. May you touch hearts and inspire many to receive God's love and life. God's grace by the Holy Spirit will do the work in your life. Without Jesus, you can do nothing. With him, all things are possible. Is anything too hard for Almighty God? No.

He is the God of miracles. He made blind eyes see, gave hearing to the deaf, healed leprosy, raised the dead, walked on the water, and conquered death itself. Be assured that he can do exceedingly beyond everything you could ever imagine possible in your life.

The Holy Spirit will transform your life more and more into the image of Jesus. Be patient and understand that you will never gain perfection while in your flesh and blood body, but as you behold his image daily in the Word, you will be changed more and more into his likeness. On the Day of Glory, you will be transformed to be perfect in the twinkling of an eye. You will see him as he is and be like him. He will say, "Welcome home, my dearest child."

Ephesians 2:8-10 • 2 Timothy 1:9 • Titus 3:4-7

Colossians 3:4 • I John 3:1-3 • James 1:12

January 4

He is the Almighty God; he is the God of all creation. He has absolute power over heaven and earth. He has shown his power in times past through miracles. He can suspend the laws of nature, as he often did when he walked the earth.

One night, the disciples' boat was being buffeted by strong winds and waves. Before dawn, Jesus went to them, walking on the Sea of Galilee. Believing he was a ghost, they cried out in fear. The Son of God told them not to be afraid. Peter said that if it were Jesus, he should have Peter to come

to him on the water. Jesus told him to come, and Peter walked on the water to meet him.

When Peter saw the strong winds and high waves, he was afraid and began to sink. He cried out for Jesus to save him: "Lord, save me!" The Son of the Most High stretched out his hand, caught Peter, and saved him; Jesus said to Peter, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" They climbed into the boat, and the wind died down—and immediately the boat was at the shore to which they were going! The disciples in the boat then worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly, you're the Son of God."

Do not be afraid when Jesus comes to you during turbulent times. Your extremity is God's opportunity! Call upon the Savior to come to your aid in these times. You need not fear any situation. As he had Peter walk on the water, Jesus can have you walk on the waters of this life in amazing ways. Only believe and doubt not.

When Jesus commands you to come and step out of the boat—the boat of your usual comfort zone—look unto Jesus and not at the winds and waves that are so boisterous about you. People, events, and circumstances may assail you with doubts and discouragement. But they are no match for the power of the Alpha and Omega—Almighty God—to uphold and bless your life. Peter walked on the water by Jesus' power; only the God of creation can perform such a miracle.

He can do this for you in your spiritual walk with him. Ask, and you shall receive. He is able to do immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine. He is at work in your life. He is the true God; believe in him.

Matthew 14:22-33 • John 6:16-21 • Ephesians 3:20-21

January 5

During Israel's wilderness journey, God called Bezaleel, of the tribe of Judah, to be a skilled craftsman. He filled him with his Spirit, with wisdom, knowledge, and a high level of skill in working with gold, silver, brass, stone cutting, and more, to help build a place to honor the God of Israel with worship.

The God who works wonders calls you to fulfill an exceptional work in his kingdom. Your calling is unique; he is transforming your life to bring you into that calling. His purpose for you will often reflect your desires, skills,

and life experiences. But these, by no means, can limit the mighty work he can accomplish through you by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He can give you new skills and a calling far surpassing your natural abilities. When on earth, Jesus Christ stated that the same works that he does, you will also do, and greater works because he was going to the Father. This is still true today.

Look to him for your anointing upon the work he has called you to. Know this: Jesus, King of kings, often calls his children into a very different, yet wondrous and joyful, path than what they might have expected.

Seek him with all your heart, that you might apprehend that for which he has apprehended you. Remember, even as the Father had called Christ Jesus and sent him to earth to fulfill works ordained since before time began, the mighty Savior now sends you to fulfill his calling upon your life—to walk in the works he prepared for you before the world began.

Do not worry; as you seek him, he will perform the work in your heart and life, working all things for your good. He will bring you into the place he needs you to be to fulfill his plan for you. He began the work in you; he will finish it. Just like he did for Bezaleel, he can bestow upon you, by the Holy Spirit, wisdom, understanding, and skill for every endeavor he calls you to.

Exodus 31:1-11 • Psalm 90:16-17 • John 14:12-17

Ephesians 2:10 • Philippians 2:13

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Thank you, Jesus, for calling me like the early disciples. You had a unique plan for each one of them. Please grant me patience as I grow in the Scriptures and prayer as your plan for my life unfolds in the weeks and years ahead.

January 6

Sometimes, God may choose to wait so that he might be gracious to you.

When Jesus had been told that Lazarus was sick, he told the disciples that this sickness would not end in death. He said it is for God's glory so that he might be glorified through it. He waited two more days and then returned to Judea.

Lazarus died. When he arrived, both Martha and Mary said, with much sorrow, that if he had been there, their brother would not have died. Jesus

said that he is the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in him will live, even though they die, and whoever lives and believes in him will have everlasting life.

The sorrows of Lazarus' sisters and friends were overwhelming as Jesus approached the tomb. His heart was so deeply moved that he wept.

He had them take the stone away. Martha protested, saying that Lazarus had been dead for four days and was decaying. With a loud voice, the mighty Savior cried, "Lazarus, come forth!" Lazarus, who had died four days prior, came out of the tomb alive!

Their beloved Lazarus was returned to them. Great glory was given to God, who has all power in heaven and earth. The people marveled greatly; many hearts believed in Jesus, the Prince of life, that day.

Jesus could have gone to Judea when Lazarus was sick and just healed him. But he chose to wait to show his love and power. He came to do his Father's will. The Father's plan was better than what the people would have desired.

Trust in God, dear friend. The trials and problems you face are opportunities for you to trust in his love and his grand plan for your life. He will work all things for your good. God's grace is sufficient for you, for his strength is made perfect in weakness. He will deliver you, and your joy and glory in him will be great!

Isaiah 30:18, 41:10, 43:2 • John 11:1-45 • Romans 8:28

2 Corinthians 1:10 • Psalm 46:1 • Matthew 4:23-4

Dear Lord, help me fully trust you and your plans for my life, even when things seem very contrary to what I expect. If you can raise Lazarus from the dead, split the Red Sea for the children of Israel to escape the enemy, or feed five thousand with five loaves and two fish, then I can trust you for anything. Amen.

January 7

Our Father's heart is warmed, and he rejoices when you are thankful to him. His thoughts toward you are more in number than the sand by the sea. He continually cares for you, so your praise is very meaningful to him.

When Jesus healed the ten lepers, only one returned to give thanks and glorify God. When you are like the one who was healed and offered thanks, God's heart is blessed. He inhabits the praises of his people—he is enthroned in the holy place where your praise is offered. It is an essential part of your fellowship with him. He loves you and desires to be very close to you. When you are thankful to him, it is a blessed experience for you and your wondrous God.

You are a living stone, built into the spiritual house of God—which he inhabits by the Spirit. You are part of his holy priesthood, called to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Sometimes, you may not feel like praising the Lord, so the Scriptures call it a spiritual sacrifice. We are called to be a living sacrifice (one that does not crawl off the altar). This is a child of God's reasonable service.

Our God and Father has done so much for you; he is worthy of praise continually. Whoever offers praise to God glorifies him. If you desire to bring glory to him and his kingdom, be one who always gives thanks. This is God's will in Christ Jesus concerning you. Through Christ Jesus, let us offer the sacrifice of praise daily, the fruit of our lips thanking and glorifying him.

Psalms 22:3, 103:1-5, 139:17-18 • Luke 17:12-19

1 Peter 2:5 • Thessalonians 5:18 • Hebrews 13:15

Thank you, God, for calling me, justifying me, and preparing a place in glory for me. Thank you for your daily provision. Thank you for giving me new life in Christ. I praise your name for giving me a new heart; you raised me from being spiritually dead to being alive in Christ. I now see your truth, whereas I once was blind. I now hear the joyful sounds of Zion; your voice of love I now hear, whereas I had been deaf. I was crippled spiritually; now I am walking, leaping, and praising God. Thank you for the magnificent and priceless promises you have lavished upon me; I believe that you are more than able to fulfill every one of them. Praise God forever! Amen.

January 8

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient for you, for his power is made perfect in weakness.

Gideon felt that he was too young, weak, and poor. But God spoke to Gideon through the angel, telling him he was a mighty man of valor. Gideon went on, with God's guidance and his miracle, to deliver Israel from the hand of the enormous enemy army that was against Israel.

You may feel weak and not unique enough for the work of God, but he has called you to be great in his kingdom (to be great, one needs to be a servant of all). He sees you as a mighty one of valor. With his help, you are more than a conqueror.

You have Jesus Christ, the greatest treasure, in you (a clay jar). His power will be seen to come from him and not from you. The Light of God, the gift of Heaven, resides in you, beloved one.

Gideon and his tiny army had torches in clay jars. They stood all around the exceedingly great enemy army, with no chance for victory—except for the mighty miraculous power of God. Yes, in their weakness, God was about to show that all things are possible to him who believes.

They broke the clay jars, and the torches shone brightly as they blew the trumpets and shouted the victory phrase (“The sword of the LORD and of Gideon”) as the God of Israel showed them. The enemy was defeated by God miraculously. A great victory was wrought that day—a mighty miracle through a weak, lowly person who used his mustard seed of faith.

O mighty one of valor (that's you), will you go forth with God's torch of love (the light of the world) in your clay jar? Let your jar be broken so that your light will shine brightly. Blow the trumpet. Proclaim his love. Great blessings and victories will be wrought through you in the lives of those around you. Yes, in your weakness, God's strength and glory will be made perfect. They will know that only God can do the miracle they behold in your life!

2 Corinthians 12:9 • Philippians 4:13 • Romans 8:37

Ephesians 3:16-21 • Isaiah 40:28-31 • Judges 6 & 7

January 9

Our God has called you to be one of his chosen people—a member of his royal priesthood, a citizen of his holy nation, a treasured possession of his heart. The everlasting God has called you out of darkness and brought you into his glorious light, that you may proclaim the great praises of your King.

He is the King of kings. Come reign in life with him. Rejoice in this glorious and heavenly calling that he has called you to. You are in Christ, and he is in you; you are more than a conqueror through his mighty love.

You are not of this world. Our Father has sent Jesus, and likewise, Jesus, the light of the world, is sending you. Therefore, as a pilgrim just passing through, do not allow the sinful desires of the flesh to ensnare you; be led by the Holy Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Walk in the Spirit, and you shall bear the abundant fruit of the Spirit.

Let the King of kings rule in your heart, and your reward will be beyond your greatest dreams: honor in the kingdom of Heaven, and you will have continual confidence and rejoicing in this life.

1 Peter 2:9-12 • 2 Peter 1:3 • Ephesians 1:3-7, 6:10-18

Colossians 1:13, 26-27 • Romans 8:37

Thank you, Father, for delivering me from the power of darkness and transferring me into the kingdom of light. As more than a conqueror, help me put on the whole armor of God. Help me to be strong in Christ and the power of his might. Amen.

January 10

One day, the Messiah entered a synagogue where there was a man with a shriveled hand. Jesus was moved by the man's affliction. The Pharisees were watching and wanted to bring charges against Jesus if he healed on the Sabbath. How sad; their religion had no mercy.

Jesus then told the man to stretch out his hand. He stretched it out, and Jesus restored it completely, just like his other hand. Jesus miraculously healed this man's hand. When the Son of God told him to stretch out his withered hand, he did not argue or protest, saying it could not be done. Like Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on the water, he took the step of faith and stretched forth his hand.

The mighty God can work wonders in your life. Are you willing to take a step of faith in an area of your life? He can make you whole. Perhaps a relationship needs healing; stretch forth your heart and share love. He will give you that love as you step out of the boat of your usual comfort zone, like Peter. Perhaps you have a particular hope for your employment or a life's dream you hope to fulfill. Are you afraid of failure? Remember, Peter did

walk on the water—but when he started to sink, the great Savior was there to lift him up.

He asks you to come and step out of the boat of your usual comfort zone. Share his gracious love with a neighbor. Use the talents that he has given you and attempt a work that might glorify his name. By studying God's Word and godly counsel, you will expand your horizons as you grow in Christ. The Holy Spirit will enable and anoint you for the works he has ordained for you to walk in. He will bless your relationships. Ask, and you shall receive.

Reach out in his love to a family member, a neighbor, or even an enemy. Be not afraid of rejection. What a great reward it is to share God's love with others. The power of his Word and his love can flow through you and change lives—including yours!

Matthew 7:7-11, 12:10-23

Help me, Lord, to step out of the boat of my usual comfort zone when you call me to do so. I know your blessing awaits me as I obey your counsel. Thank you that I have you and your everlasting love living in me. Amen.

January 11

Dear friend, come before Jesus, your King, with reverence and a thankful heart each new day. He is the Sun of Righteousness—he will rise with healing in his wings. Share your struggles, shortcomings, and sins with him with honesty. He knows your every thought, heart attitude, sin, and fear already, but by your being open and honest, he will be able to transform your life with the Holy Spirit. As you seek him in Scripture, he will reveal truths; these truths will set you free. Behold the image of the beloved Son of God in the Word; open your heart, and his truth will be grafted into your life. You will be changed from glory to glory to be more like him.

There is no condemnation to you who abide in Christ. You are walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh. The law of the Spirit of life that is in Jesus Christ has set you free from the law of sin and death.

The author and finisher of your faith is faithful to continue the work that he began in you. You will fall short at times, but do not be discouraged. Like a child learning to walk, you will sometimes stumble and fall; there is mercy and forgiveness in your God and Savior. He is willing and able to help you;

he will pick you up and strengthen you. Come before his throne anytime for help when you need it; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened. You are accepted in the Beloved; he is not a God that is far off. Your tears, fears, doubts, cares, and worries are important to him. He will answer you; his glorious Word has all truth, and you will find comfort, strength, hope, and resolution. He will guide you and bring all truth to remembrance by the Holy Spirit. Be still and know that he is God; he will speak to your heart and comfort you.

Growth does not always come easy. As a tree struggles to grow, its roots find their way to water, so you must seek the fountain of living waters—Jesus. Your root system will expand through study in his Word, prayer, thankfulness, trust, and faith. Your water and sustenance will be sure. Your leaves will grow, and you will bear fruit in due season. Whatever you do shall prosper.

Malachi 4:2 • Colossians 3:16 • Romans 8:1-2

2 Corinthians 3:18 • Philippians 1:6 • Jude 1:24-25

Psalms 1:1-3

Dear God and Savior, thank you that you can keep me from stumbling and present me blameless and faultless in the presence of your glory with exceeding joy. Thank you for my righteous standing in Christ—because of his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection from the dead. All glory and majesty to you, my Savior, forever!

January 12

Jesus knows the sorrows of mankind. He came to planet Earth to bear sin's heavy burden and turn mourning into joy. He came to heal and bring wholeness to all who would receive him.

In the days ahead, he desires to touch your life with the Holy Spirit. The Risen Savior will set you free; if he sets you free, you shall be free indeed. He will teach you to be strong in his grace.

Cast your burden upon Jesus, and he will sustain you. Take his yoke upon your shoulders and learn from him, for he is gentle and humble in heart; his yoke is easy to bear, and his burden is light. The great Shepherd will give true rest to your soul. You, who are weary, trust in him. He shall cause you to

rise up with wings like eagles. You shall run and not be weary. You shall walk and not faint.

John 8:31-32, 36 • Romans 8:2 • 2 Timothy 2:1

Isaiah 40:31

Dear God, I cast my cares upon you today. Please do your will in these areas that I am sharing with you now. I know that you have all power in heaven and on earth. Please strengthen me by your Spirit, in my heart, to share your words with others—like apples of gold in settings of silver. Lead me to do the works that you have planned for me today. Help me to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus today. I pray in his name and for his glory. Amen.

January 13

As high as the myriad galaxies are above the earth, so are God's ways, knowledge, and power higher than our ways, knowledge, and power. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so is the fullness and the glory of Almighty God's love above any love you have ever experienced.

He is the Most High God, yet he dwells with the one who has a humble heart. He is your heavenly Father and deeply desires that you experience the riches of his love.

As many as receive Jesus, the Son of God, he gives the power and the right to be his child; you can enjoy abundant life here on earth and eternal life with God in his perfect world. He inhabits eternity and will cherish and rejoice exceedingly forever with each of his children. The value of each of his children transcends all the jewels of the world.

Our Father's loving heart greatly delights in you; there are no limits to his love in his relationship with you. Come and let Christ Jesus love, care for, and guide you through this journey of life. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Trust him without doubting. Give him your heart; take his hand. He will lead you into a most glorious life now and through eternity.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He loves you with the same love he shared with all mankind when he lived on earth. He embraced the little children and richly blessed them. He washed the disciples' feet. He showed great mercy to all, even the woman taken in adultery. The love of Jesus was shown to those who crucified him as well.

The greatest love that a man may have is to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so love one another." Love has great power. Lives will change when you allow his love to flow through you. Let him reign in your life. He will honor you for the love that you show others. Freely you have received, so freely give. Your God will add the increase to your life and provide your every need according to his riches in glory.

Hebrews 13:8 • John 12:26, 15:12-13

Philippians 4:13, 19

Dear Father God, thank you that I am in Christ and that he lives in me! May your grace work wonders in my heart and life so that I may bear the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, goodness, gentleness, faith, and more). Please help me touch lives with the same love you richly shared through Jesus when he lived among us. We beheld his glory, full of grace and truth—what a Savior!

January 14

When you received Christ Jesus, you became a new creation; the old has gone, and all things have become new. Though your sins were as scarlet, they became white like snow. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to become sin for you so that you might become the righteousness of God in Christ. Your Father sent Jesus, the Son of God, the exact representation of his being, in an astonishing display of his great love for you. Jesus knew the cross awaited him, even before coming into the world. Even through great sorrow, shame, and pain, Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, stretched out his arms and pleaded for your soul, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

He is the resurrection and the life. By his love and the power of the Holy Spirit, he has brought you to life from the dead! As his special clay jar, he desires to keep you filled to overflowing with his living water so that you will bring life to others who are dead in their sins. Go now with a heart of forgiveness and love, on Christ's behalf, so that others who do not know what they are doing may know forever the glory of God's wondrous love.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 • Isaiah 1:18 • Hebrews 1:1-3

Thank you, dear Father, for sending Jesus to redeem us, not with gold or silver, but with his own precious blood. Thank you for making me a joint heir, with Jesus, of your eternal kingdom. Thank you for giving me everything that pertains to life and godliness. It is so good to have Christ in me. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!

January 15

Today is a day to forgive others. Oh, how others have hurt you throughout your life; our Father has seen every instance. He knows that it is hard to let it go. People have difficulty forgiving because they feel they are owed by the one who trespassed against them. They want to be paid back for the pain and the losses they have suffered.

But you can be free of any resentment and anger. Forgive those who have sinned against you. Resentment and anger only hold you captive to their debilitating influences. Forgive and be free. Trust the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort to repay and renew you with his wondrous blessings. Whoever he blesses from Heaven is blessed indeed. Trespasses others have perpetrated against you can not hinder his rich blessings in your life, which he will bestow in his way and in his timing. Forgive others and trust him for the rest. It is a step out of the boat of your usual comfort zone. Sometimes, it is hard to do, but you will be healed and blessed through it.

Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, suffered greatly. He lost contact with his family for many years. He felt the rejection of his brothers. God, the Judge of all, had a grand plan for him, his family, and the nation of Israel. He had allowed this terrible hurt to come upon Joseph, as well as another great travesty of justice—a false accusation that sent him to prison. Our God had worked in his heart, and he was able to forgive his brothers. He also forgave his false accuser. Joseph was free to live with an unfettered faith in his God. He was able to rejoice in his life.

Our faithful God soon honored Joseph's faith and forgiveness. By a miracle from God's hand, Joseph became a ruler over the whole land of Egypt. He also saved his entire family from famine and was reunited with them. Joseph's love for his brothers was exemplified when, in a most beautiful scene, he met with them and shared that he forgave them fully. Almighty God's prophets and Christ Jesus' apostles were to be born through

the ancestral line of Jacob (Joseph's father), who came to Egypt and was rescued from famine because of Joseph. Jesus, the Savior of the world, also came to earth through this ancestral line.

Being unforgiving does not hurt the one who caused your pain; it hurts you. It prevents you from growing in grace. Our Father will honor you when you forgive others; he will bless your life as you do.

Genesis 41:38-44 • Matthew 5:44-45 • Luke 7:36-50

Ephesians 4:32

Dear Lord God, like the man who said, "I believe; help my unbelief," I say, "Lord, I forgive; help my unforgiveness." Help me, Jesus, to grow in your grace and the knowledge of your Word. May your Holy Spirit transform my heart to shine the light and love of the Risen Savior. Lead me each day by the Spirit, so I might bear the fruit of the Spirit in abundance. I pray in Jesus' name and for his glory. Amen.

January 16

As his beloved child, our Father has loved you with everlasting love. He is with you and has the power to bless your life in many ways. He knows your heart's desires, hopes, and dreams. There is a deep longing in your heart at times that yearns for fulfillment. It is most important to trust him with your future. Seek his kingdom and righteousness first, and everything pertaining to your physical and spiritual life will be added to you. If you delight yourself in the Lord God, he will give you the desires of your heart.

You know the hurts and sorrows of your heart well. Our heavenly Father knows them better; he has known your every thought and action since you came into this world. He knows your physical, emotional, and spiritual makeup precisely; only he can bring fullness and healing to every area of your life.

What is essential is that you come into an intimate relationship with him; this will lead to your most profound healing; you will be transformed into his image, from one degree of glory to another. The God of love will touch those deep areas of your heart and life through the Holy Spirit. It will be nothing short of miraculous, just like all of his mighty miracles. It will happen to you. Come before him each day; open your heart in prayer and the reading of his

Word—let him speak to you. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your life, empowering you each new day.

Your expectations of how and what God should do for you are not helpful for you to cling to. Be patient. He will be working in many areas of your life. His miracle of life will happen in you as it does in a tree. A tree grows and bears fruit in its season. You will grow and bear fruit, and your fruit will remain for eternity. Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith, will do this through you. You can accomplish nothing without him, but all things are possible with him.

Be content and rejoice as you get to know Jesus; he is the mighty God and the Prince of Peace. What a great and wonderful truth: you know the God who created all things—the One who created you. Trust him; he began a great work in your life and will complete it until the Day of Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:3 • Matthew 6:33 • Psalm 37:4, 42:8

John 14:23 • Hebrews 11:16 • 2 Corinthians 3:18

Philippians 1:6

Thank you, Father, that you command your loving-kindness toward me each morning, and at night, your wondrous song is with me—blessed are the people who know the joyful sound. Thank you for your abundant grace and the fruit of the Spirit you have gloriously worked into my life. Thanks be to God for his great goodness! Amen.

January 17

Jesus is the master jeweler. You are a precious stone, a jewel whose value is priceless! He has proven how much he values you by laying down his life for you.

Though you were in the miry pit of this world, he sought and redeemed you. As the master jeweler, he is cutting facets in you, his jewel. He is polishing you. When his light shines upon and through you, all will see the beauty he has placed in you. Jesus is the hope of glory that lives in you; rejoice in this truth.

When you received him, you were transferred into his kingdom; all things became new. When you received him, you received the power to be his

child. You received the Spirit of life, who has freed you from the law of sin and death.

You are his crown and joy. You are a royal diadem in Jesus' hand.

Malachi 3:17 • John 1:12-13 • Romans 8:2 • Isaiah 62:3

Colossians 1:27

Father God, as you are working in my life to do your good pleasure, please help me to trust your promise that all things (100% of things, not 90%) are working together for my good according to your eternal purpose. As your jewel on the lapidary wheel, help me to know I am in good hands with you, the master jeweler: whether you are shaping, grinding, polishing, or engraving, I rejoice that I will be more in the image of Jesus through your miracle of grace that you are accomplishing in my life. Amen.

January 18

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, loves you and desires to give you his peace. His peace is not like the peace that the world offers to you. His peace surpasses all understanding! The disciples and Jesus were in the boat one evening. A fierce gale of wind arose, creating waves close to swamping them. Jesus was sleeping but was awakened by men quite fearful for their lives. The Son of God rebuked the wind and told the waves, "Peace! Be still!" The wind fell silent, and there was a great calm. He asked his disciples why they were so fearful and asked where their faith was. Awestruck and terrified, they wondered who this was, who could command the wind and the waves to obey him.

Jesus is the express image of the invisible God, the Word of God made flesh, possessing all power in heaven and earth. Beloved friend of the Savior—you are so dear to his heart continually—there are fears you have each day when the winds and waves of life assail you. Come under the shadow of his wings. He will say to the wind and waves in your life, "Peace! Be still!"

The stormy waves of life are, at times, almost swamping the boat that you are in; this can be terrifying for you. The Son of God alone has the power to deliver you. By trusting and allowing him to do his will in each situation and not trying to deliver yourself, you will behold his everlasting love and care for you. You will be delivered in his timing and will have grown in faith while learning more about him and his love for you.

And by the way, he knew the waves and the wind would be fierce that day with the disciples. He sometimes sets up or allows situations to occur so that you may learn of his power and love. Our God does this to set you free from worldly ways of thinking that you may have. He is renewing your mind and transforming you daily.

Allow his peace that passes understanding to reign in your heart today.

Mark 4:35-41 • Isaiah 41:13, 43:2 • Colossians 1:15-17

Hebrews 1:3, 13:6 • 2 Timothy 1:7 • Philippians 4:7

Psalms 23:4-6, 91:1-16

January 19

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your true life, appears, you shall also appear with him in glory!

In this world, you will endure tribulation on your journey to the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus has called you to be a servant, seeking to please your Father, who is in Heaven. You are called to endure hardship and put on the whole armor of God as a good soldier. Be strong in the Lord—through your union with him—and in the power of his might. The battle is not fought and won by your strength but by his Spirit.

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Take his yoke upon you; learn from him. He will give rest to your soul, but there is a daily battle. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are strong contenders for your affection. Seek the Lord with all of your heart. Do not be discouraged in your day of adversity. He is your strength and your shield. For the joy that was set before Jesus—that many would receive life everlasting and become God's children—he endured the cross. He set his face like a flint; he scorned the shame of the cross and pressed on to do the will of his Father. He conquered sin and death that you might reign with him today and forever. The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ honored him; he now sits at the right hand of the throne of Almighty God.

Look to Jesus always. Humble yourself and pray daily that the Holy Spirit may lead you; ask, and you will receive. He will transform your life. Endure hardships, even as Jesus did; he lives in you and will give you the grace to

overcome. When he appears, you shall also appear with him in glory. He will rejoice exceedingly that you have done well and been faithful. Pleasures forevermore shall you enjoy in the Paradise of God!

Colossians 3:4 • Zechariah 4:6 • 2 Timothy 2:3

Matthew 11:28-30, 25:21 • Ephesians 6:10-18

1 John 2:15-17 • Galatians 6:8 • Hebrews 12:2-4

January 20

Through mighty miracles and wonders, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob brought his people Israel out of Egypt; he gave them the land that he promised for their inheritance. During the forty years that the children of Israel were in the wilderness, he humbled and tested them to know what was in their hearts and to see if they would keep Almighty God's commands. He caused them to hunger but fed them with manna faithfully. The God of Israel wanted them to learn that man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell during those forty years.

At times, you will suffer. These times will test your faith. Our God is teaching you that he is your provider. If you are financially hurting or lacking employment, look only to him for your provision or the open door he provides. He is your healer, whether it is for a sickness or a broken relationship. The Maker of heaven and earth will provide all of your needs according to his riches in glory—which are infinite. Trust him and say from the heart, "Your will be done, Lord."

As a man disciplines his son, so does our God and Father discipline you. He must work with you when you stray to get you on the right path. You may suffer consequences for your sin. He allows this so you might learn to walk with him according to his Word. Keep his ways and honor his Word. He is bringing you into an abundant life here on earth. His blessings will be rich as you abide in the Lord Jesus Christ. Be thankful and rejoice in what he has done in your life. He promises to bring you and all of his children who believe in him to his heavenly kingdom. There will be no hunger, thirst, pain, or tears there. Our Wonderful Creator will make all things new. You shall inherit God's glorious kingdom, and he will be your God forever.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 • Philippians 4:19 • Hebrews 12:11

Revelation 21:1-7

Thank you, my God and Savior! The Holy Spirit has wondrously transformed my life through your Word, the miracles of Christ, his sacrifice on the cross, his mighty resurrection, and the power of your amazing grace. I rejoice that you are the great Shepherd who guides me through trials and tribulations and blesses me with every good thing that pertains to life and godliness. Please help me to grow strong, for I am your tree planted by the rivers of water. Dear Lord, please refresh me by your Spirit in times of drought and cause me to bear fruit in due season. By your grace, whatsoever I do in Christ will prosper. May I bear abundant fruit unto eternal life, as you have promised. Glory to God, forever!

January 21

Rejoice greatly in the Lord your God, for he has clothed you with the garments of salvation. He has covered you with the robe of righteousness. When you received Jesus, he gave you the right to be his child. By God our Savior's great love and kindness, he saved you—not by works of righteousness that you have done but by his mercy alone. His grace has justified you, and you have been made joint heirs with Jesus, having received the gift of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the ages of time began.

Abraham believed God's great promises, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Like Abraham, having believed God's promises, you have been accounted as righteous; you believe in God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who took away all of your sins through Christ's blood sacrifice and was raised from the dead for your justification. Now you have peace with God, being justified by faith. For by grace, you have been saved through faith. Eternal life is a gift from our God and Father—the God of infinite mercy. This fantastic gift cannot be earned by following religious rules or performing good deeds. Our God does not want anyone to boast. All glory to Jesus, the mighty Savior; he has given the greatest love and sacrifice in the history of mankind! Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Isaiah 61:10 • John 1:12, 3:16 • Titus 1:2, 3:4-7

Romans 3:22-28, 4:3, 24-25, 5:1-2 • Ephesians 2:8-10

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for saving me and calling me with a holy calling that is not based on my goodness or my deeds but according to your own purpose and grace established before time began. I believe in the precious promises that you have freely given to me. By these great promises, you have enabled me to be a partaker of your divine nature. Thank you, dear Father, for giving me every good thing that pertains to life and godliness! Thank you for making me a joint heir with Christ Jesus! Amen.

January 22

You are never alone; Jesus, your Wonderful Savior, is always here with you. You do not need to suffer as much as you do in some situations. Please turn to him and let him speak to your heart and comfort you. The Holy Spirit, which is in you by faith, will be your counselor. He is the Comforter—your Helper. He will guide you into all truth and bring everything that Jesus said while on earth to your remembrance. He will provide wisdom and encouragement for your journey.

When on earth, Jesus had deep sorrows and was familiar with grief. He knows your hurts and pains; they can be intense. Let the Holy Spirit comfort you and give you peace. Rest in Jesus and be patient. During your darkest hour, remember that the light of his love will shine brightly for you soon and bring you blessings because you trust in him.

John 14:26-27 • Isaiah 53:3-8 • 2 Corinthians 1:2-7

Psalms 27:13-14, 42:5

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being there for me during my suffering and sorrow. Great is your faithfulness, and your mercies are new each morning. Please, God, give me a hunger for your glorious Word that I might grow in grace and the knowledge of your truth. Teach me to cast my cares upon you and trust your love, guidance, and provision.

January 23

Whenever you gather in the name of Jesus with one or more other believers, he is in your midst. You have been raised up and are now seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus; he has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms in him. You are not of this world anymore. You are a jewel in the kingdom of God.

When you have fellowship with others, Jesus is there and listening. He is writing a book of remembrance for those who honor the Lord and love to think and talk about him.

Your Savior Jesus has given a new commandment: "Love one another, just as I have loved you." He added, "If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples." Your faith and love will be communicated effectively if you acknowledge every good thing that is now in you, in Christ Jesus. His divine power and grace will help you to love even as he loved. He said you will likewise do the same works he did—love is his greatest work. Encourage your brethren to let the light shine through their words and works so that many will glorify your Father in Heaven.

Matthew 18:20 • Philippians 3:20 • Ephesians 1:3, 2:6

Malachi 3:16-17 • John 13:34-35

Thank you, Father, and Jesus, my great Savior; thank you for calling me into the fellowship with you and my wonderful, everlasting family. May your Spirit guide my words that they may be like apples of gold in settings of silver when I share your Word of grace with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Please help me to comfort, build up, and inspire others in their walks with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

January 24

You are being kept by the power of God through faith. He has saved you and will bring you to his kingdom on that Day of Glory. These are excellent reasons for great rejoicing. Think about it; you have eternal life. You will reign forever with Jesus! You, who have received an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, will reign in life through Christ Jesus—beginning today.

Yes, rejoice, even though you may have to endure various trials and temptations for a little while. Your faith is more precious to God than gold. These trials will prove the genuineness of your faith. As gold is tried in the fire, so shall your faith be tried. Your praise to him shall be great, as you behold the mighty work he will continue to do in your life. Your light affliction—the trials you endure—is working for you an exceeding eternal weight of glory and blessings beyond all measure.

The disciples of Jesus, when he walked upon the earth, were blessed to have seen him, and they believed. It is a wonder and a joy to God and the angels as they behold your faith; blessed are you who have not seen Jesus in the flesh yet believe. Many prophets and kings have desired to know what you know of him and his Word.

Jesus can keep you from falling and present you faultless before his glorious presence with triumphant joy and indescribable delight!

1 Peter 1:3-9 • Romans 5:17 • 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Luke 10:24 • Jude 1:24-25

Thank you, Jesus, for revealing your glorious truth to me. Please give me the grace that I might endure the trials I will go through with joy and prosper with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places through these testings.

January 25

May this be a day of rejoicing for you; this is the day the Lord has made. The power of his word upholds all things. Be glad that Christ Jesus, the hope of glory, lives in you. May his abundant grace and peace be with you today. His divine power has given you everything pertaining to life and godliness. By God's magnificent and precious promises, you have been made a partaker of his divine nature. May the Holy Spirit guide you and bring forth the wondrous fruit of the Spirit in your life—love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

David, the king, who endured much hardship and trial, often began his days with joy-filled praise and song. Our God and Father is enthroned on and inhabits your praise. He rejoices when he sees that you trust him to give you the victory for each day. Trust him fully; he will guide you. Rejoice by faith in the hope of the glory of God. Whoever offers praise as a sacrifice unto God honors and glorifies him.

Psalms 50:23, 118:24, 145:1-13 • 2 Peter 1:2-4

Galatians 5:22 • Romans 5:2 • Hebrews 13:15

I thank you for your wondrous Word and your precious promises by which I am a partaker of your divine nature. Please help me to be filled

with praise, even during the storms and trials of life, knowing that all things are working together for my good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

January 26

You are the Father's beloved child, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. He has saved you and called you with a holy calling, not according to your good works, but according to his own purpose and his majestic grace—given to you in Christ Jesus before time began. You have been crucified with Christ and raised in the newness of life by the resurrection power of God. You are living the miracle life in Christ by God's Spirit. You are like Peter—walking on the waters of life.

Jesus encouraged his disciples not to worry about the things of the day. Do not look to the right or the left (the winds and waves may be raging), but look to Jesus. The world will try to distract you from God's Word and his will. Your mind may doubt that God is able to accomplish what you have been praying for. Remember Peter, who began to sink as he looked at and feared the winds and waves while walking on the water. Call upon Jesus; he will save you and lift you up as he did for Peter. Jesus, the great wave walker, also stilled a storm with his word, "Peace, be still."

He has heard your every prayer and knows each dream that you possess. He values them; trust him, and he will accomplish what is best in every area of your life. This day, you will walk boldly with Jesus, the captain of your salvation. You represent his kingdom; he has called you to be the light of the world. Your work today is to believe in him, keep your eyes on Jesus, and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Rest in our Father's immeasurable love. Do not let the small worries rob you of the confidence and rejoicing that are yours today. Seek God's kingdom and righteousness first; he will care for all your needs. You are a joint heir of the kingdom of Heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ. What an inheritance you have!

Ephesians 1:4 • 2 Timothy 1:9 • Matthew 5:14-16, 6:33

Philippians 4:6-7 • Galatians 2:20 • Romans 8:17-18

January 27

Fear not; the Lord your God, who holds you by his right hand, will surely help you. He will replace your fears with confidence and hope as you trust in

him and wholly lean on his strength. He has not given you the spirit of fearfulness; he has given you the spirit of love, power, and self-discipline.

You, a partaker of the heavenly calling, consider Jesus the Apostle of your faith. He was faithful to the Father. Though many were against him while he lived on earth, he was determined to fulfill the work the Father sent him to accomplish.

Build yourself up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Continue in God's Word, the Scriptures. Be established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself as the chief cornerstone.

If you trust solely in the Lord, your strength will be renewed; you will soar with wings like eagles; you will run and not be weary; you will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31, 54:14 • 2 Timothy 1:7 • Hebrews 3:1-2

Jude 1:20-21 • Ephesians 2:19-22

Thank you, dear God, for your faithfulness. Your promises in the Scriptures continue to come true in my life. Comfort me during my times of worry and fears for the future. You hold my future and have all power in heaven and on earth. I trust you with my life, my relationships, and my work. Thank you that I am seated with you in heavenly places in Christ. Thank you for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life.

January 28

You are God's workmanship, created in Jesus Christ for good works that he has prepared before the world began for you to fulfill.

Your life is like a mist appearing for a little while and then vanishing. Whatever you are called to do, let it be done with your whole heart. Nothing more can be accomplished on earth once your allotted days have been fulfilled. Whatever your daily work, it can make a significant difference. A job well done helps provide your fellow man with quality products or services. Let your light shine. You represent Jesus, the King of glory. People are watching you. Ask Jesus to bless your work and your relationships. Pray for those in your sphere of influence; your earnest, continued prayer for others will avail much. Expect the Lord to answer you in very special ways. He will also give you wisdom in the areas you pray about. Let him be the

Lord of your life. When asked by someone, always be willing to share the reason for your hope in Christ with respect and kindness.

Ephesians 2:10 • Psalm 90:16-17 • James 4:14

Matthew 5:16 • 1 Peter 3:15

Thank you, Lord God, for having infinite wisdom; you know the beginning from the end. You are omniscient, and you inhabit eternity. Please guide me by your perfect counsel so I may please you in my words and deeds. Help me grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus and the Scriptures. May I be led by your Spirit so that I may be like Jesus, who always shared the right words in every circumstance—like apples of gold in settings of silver. Thank you, Lord God, for all of your blessings!

January 29

Jesus, King of kings, will be returning soon. He will come with his mighty angels in his Father's glory and power. His reward is with him to give to each one according to what his work deserves. Only one life will soon be past—only what is done in Christ will last. Jesus said that you had not chosen him, but he has chosen you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in Jesus' name, he may give it to you. As you abide in Christ, you will bear abundant fruit that will last forever.

If your words and works are built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ—gold, silver, and precious stones and not mere wood, hay, and stubble—they will abide the testing fire of God on that Day; and you will receive a full reward (the eternal kind).

Our heavenly Father has lavished upon you such amazing love; he calls you his beloved child! When Jesus, our glorious Savior, appears, you shall be like him—for you shall see him as he is (in all his glory) and be like him. Let this hope anchor your soul, anchoring you into the most Holy Place of his kingdom, where Almighty God dwells.

Matthew 16:27 • Revelation 22:12 • John 15:16

1 Corinthians 3:11-14 • 1 John 3:1-3 • Hebrews 6:19

Dear Father, guide me by your Holy Spirit to share the words and do the works you have appointed for me to fulfill. May they be gold, silver, and

precious stones built upon the foundation of your Son, Jesus Christ. I ask this in his name. Amen.

January 30

During Jesus' work on earth, thousands beheld the miracles he performed and heard the Word of truth that he shared. They wondered who he was; some said he was John the Baptist; others said he was Elijah or Jeremiah.

One day, the Son of God took Peter, James, and John to the top of a high mountain. Jesus was transformed before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothing became white as light. Then Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with him. A bright cloud overshadowed them; the Father spoke from Heaven, saying that Jesus was his beloved Son, in whom he was well pleased. Our Father said, "Listen to him."

The disciples were filled with fear when they heard the Father's voice. Jesus touched them and said not to be afraid. When they looked up, they did not see Moses (the servant/lawgiver) or Elijah (the great prophet). They saw only Jesus, who perfectly fulfilled the Law of Moses and all the prophets' prophecies regarding the Messiah.

Moses, Elijah, and the prophets were men whom God called. They were of this world, as are you and all mankind. Jesus is from Heaven. He is the Word of God. Christ Jesus is the Creator of the Universe. He is the author of eternal salvation—our Wonderful Savior.

Jesus spoke much about the Father to the disciples. Philip one day asked Jesus to show him the Father. Jesus shared with him that if he has seen Jesus, he has seen the Father. Jesus said he is in the Father, and the Father is in Jesus. The Savior told him that the words that he speaks, he does not speak on his own authority, but he speaks the Father's words, and the Father does his miracles through Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of God with all power. He will be a friend to you who is closer than a brother. Share your heart with him—he is the Wonderful Counselor. He will be strong on your behalf. Our heavenly Father told the three disciples on the mountain, "Listen to him." Jesus has the words of eternal life. He is the great Shepherd—his sheep hear his voice. He will lead you and guide you now and forever.

Matthew 17:1-8 • 2 Peter 1:16-21 • Isaiah 9:6

John 10:27-30, 14:6-11

January 31

All the rivers flow into the ocean, and yet the ocean is not full. People continually try to fill themselves with things that will never fully satisfy them. Jesus offers abundant life here on the earth and the riches of his kingdom forever—the price is free.

The Lord God is a sun and shield to you. He will light your path and warm your heart. He will guard you from the enemy. The Lord will not withhold any good thing as you trust and abide in him.

If you love Jesus and keep his word, the Father will love you, and they will come and make their unique home in your life. Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid. Our God freely and abundantly gives you his peace; it is a peace that is not of this world. Receive this peace from him today—perfect peace as you trust him wholeheartedly.

Isaiah 26:3, 55:1-3 • Psalm 84:11, 103:1-5 • John 14:27

Thank you, Jesus, that I have every good thing pertaining to life and godliness through you. Thank you for the abundant life! I rejoice that you are the great Shepherd and will lead me beside still waters and have me lie down in green pastures. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. Amen.

February 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Before you were born, the eternal God knew every word and action that you would ever say and do. He loved you before you were born; he loves you now and forever.

Jesus, the express image of the invisible God, died for your sins over two thousand years ago. Since you were born, the Holy Spirit has worked in your life to bring you into full knowledge of his love and his free gift of eternal life.

Our Father desires that you be transformed inwardly more and more into the image of his Son as he guides you on the path of life. He will lead you on a path that is not known to the world. The world is ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Choose his path today. He is the great Shepherd and knows what is best for you. If our God is for you, nothing or no one can be against you. Seeing that he gave his life for you, he will also give you all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Psalm 16:11, 139 • Romans 8:28-32

Thank you, dear God, for your everlasting love, infinite wisdom, and power. Help me to trust you, the great Shepherd, as you lead me each day, whether beside still waters and green pastures, through the valley of the shadow of death, or on a turbulent sea. Thank you for all things working together for my good, according to your grand purpose for my life. Thank you that the greatest treasure on earth is mine—Christ in me, the hope of glory! Amen.

February 2

The first man, Adam, who was created in God's image, was from the earth, made of dust. Jesus Christ is the last Adam, and he came from Heaven. As you have borne the image of the man of earth, so shall you also bear the image of the beloved Son of Heaven.

He has been victorious, conquering both sin and death. The wages of sin is death; he paid for your sins on the cross and took the sting of death. He then rose from the dead to give assurance of eternal life to all who believe (trust in, cling to, and rely on him, the Messiah). Rejoice today in the victory that he has wrought for you, beloved child of God.

By receiving Jesus, you became a partaker of his divine nature. He will continue to give you foretastes of his heavenly kingdom and his love as you seek him wholeheartedly.

Your flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Heaven. You have been created with a corruptible body. But at the last trumpet, the dead shall be raised and be changed into incorruptible. Your corruptible and mortal body will put on incorruption and immortality. You will see Christ as he is, and you will be like him. In the twinkling of an eye, you will be changed into his image and will enjoy the kingdom of Heaven for all eternity. It sounds like a dream, but it is more real than anything on earth!

1 Corinthians 15:47-58 • 1 John 3:2-3

Thank you, Jesus, for the most wondrous truth: I will be changed in the twinkling of an eye to be like you forever. I will know even as I am known. I will reign with you, Lord God, forever in a perfect world—the kingdom of Heaven. I rejoice in hope of the glory of God! Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! Amen.

February 3

One day, a great crowd followed Jesus because they saw the miracles he performed on those who were diseased. His heart was always moved by the infirmities of his people, whether they believed in him or not. He healed many that day and taught about his kingdom.

It was evening, and the people were hungry. The disciples wanted Jesus to send everyone back to the villages so they might buy food. He asked his disciple Philip about buying bread to feed the people. He said this to test him, for he knew what he was going to do.

Andrew said that a little boy had five barley loaves and two small fish, but he felt they were insignificant among such a multitude. Jesus, the Son of God, gave thanks, and the food was distributed to the crowd. He blessed the food and multiplied it, enabling it to feed five thousand men, besides women and children; nothing is too hard for him. Twelve baskets full of fragments were gathered up as well.

He brings streams to the desert, sight to the blind, and life from the dead; he also provides all the needs of mankind. He is the bread of life. The bread and fish that he supplied that day were essential for the well-being of each person. But the true bread he gives to every living soul is himself, and whoever eats this bread will live forever. Do not work feverishly for the bread of this world; look to Jesus to give you an endless supply of the bread from Heaven—it fully satisfies and endures unto eternal life.

John 6:1-15, 32-35 • Matthew 14:13-21 • Isaiah 55

Thank you, Jesus, for giving me the bread that came down from Heaven—yourself. You gave your life for me and have blessed me with an abundant life. Your Word is my sufficient food; I have received everlasting life through you, the bread from Heaven. Someday soon, I will be rejoicing with you and the entire family of God in your perfect Paradise of righteousness and love. I will thirst or hunger no more. There will be no

*death, pain, or sorrow. What a day of rejoicing that will be—forever!
Amen.*

February 4

At times, you may experience loneliness—everyone does. Whether someone has many friends, heads up a business with many employees, or lives an active, event-filled life, loneliness will be experienced sooner or later.

Modern media, in its many forms and the worldviews it expresses everywhere, will seek to lead you away from the spiritual life that is found in Christ. The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life are what prevail in the world. It is all like cotton candy. It tastes good, but it provides no true spiritual sustenance at all.

Relationships are sometimes like this as well. They may not be adding to one's spiritual health, life, and fullness. Our Father created you to know him in a personal way—he is not a God far off. You can experience his love and care in ways that will bring you the deepest joy and peace that surpasses understanding. No relationship on earth can bring you the fulfillment that he can. He created you with a deep need for Christ to be in the innermost heart of your being.

Jesus is the lover of your soul; he cherishes you and cares for your every need. Come to him today. Listen to his words of comfort. Receive and embrace the many promises that fill his Word. He will enrich your life with a friendship that is beyond anything the world knows. When you feel lonely, come to Jesus; he created humanity and relationships. He is not a force or a higher power. He is the Son of the living God, the one who walked the earth. He knew pain, sorrow, and great joy; he desires to be your best Friend.

John 14:16-21, 16:33 • Matthew 11:28

Psalms 27:13-14, 147:3 • Romans 15:13

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Thank you, Jesus, for always being there for me. Today, I humbly come to you with my concerns, worries, and fears. You remind me to ask so that my joy may be full. Please be strong on my behalf regarding these requests, according to your will. Amen.

February 5

All things were created by our God through Christ, whether in heaven or upon earth, things seen and unseen. The billions of stars, our planet Earth, and all life on it have been spoken into existence by the word of his power. He holds together every atom in your body, and he rules over all circumstances in your life.

There are areas of your life that are not the way that you would like them to be. Our Savior desires that you trust him in these areas. He is working all things together for your good, not just some things—all things. Thankfulness for the many blessings that surround your life will help you experience his peace more fully. Take your eyes off your problems and look only to Jesus. He is the answer to every dilemma and concern. Shall not the one who gave his very life for you also provide for you in times of need?

His ways are not your ways. Endure and be patient. He is developing you in many areas. He will always be merciful to you, even though, at times, it seems that he is not giving his full attention to you. At times, he allows situations to arise so that he may test your faith and purify it. As gold is refined in the fire, so he is burning away the dross in you. You have prayed for God to work in your life; this is what he is doing, and he uses ways that are often hard to understand. But dear child of God, look at the many men and women in the Scriptures who have also endured great trials. He blessed each of his children in very unique ways through the trials and tribulations that they endured.

You are a greatly treasured child of his—a living gemstone—that is being built into God's spiritual house. You are a royal member of his family, called to walk in his love and the power of a new life. Trust him today—he says that the finished jewel that he is creating you to be is so very wonderful that you would greatly rejoice if you could see the future he has for you. Rejoice, child of God, in the hope of his glory that will be rich in your life. He promises to be faithful; he will complete the wondrous work that he began in you. Please rest in his great love for you.

Colossians 1:16-17 • Hebrews 1:2-3, 11:3, 13:20-21

Job 23:8-10 • Romans 5:3-5, 8:28, 32 • Isaiah 55:8-9

James 1:2-8, 5:11 • 1 Peter 2:5

February 6

A great mystery, a great wonder: God became flesh and tabernacled with mankind. We beheld the glory that Jesus Christ shared with the Father, full of grace and truth.

A great mystery, a great wonder: when you received Jesus, he came to live inside you. Most fantastic, would you not agree? Realize how glorious this is. The God of all creation now lives in you. Jesus, the Risen Savior, lives in you. He chose to come to Earth two thousand years ago, but he also chose you and desires to live and reign in your life.

This mighty and priceless treasure (Jesus, the Son of God) is now living in you—an earthen vessel, a jar of clay—so that it's evident that the awesome power working in you is from God and not from yourself. Do not be discouraged. Though you encounter trials daily and your outer body is gradually dying over time, inwardly, you are being renewed by the Holy Spirit day by day.

John 1:1-14 • 2 Corinthians 4:6-18 • Romans 5:17

Thank you, dear God, for saving me by your abundant grace. Thank you that I am in Christ and that he is in me. Please strengthen me using the trials you lead me through, that I might reign in life by Jesus Christ. Amen.

February 7

God, our Father, rejoices greatly as he beholds you. You are so very dear to his heart. As his glorious child, you will reign with him forever. He has clothed you with the garments of salvation; he has covered you with a robe of righteousness. He has adorned you with the finest of jewels, as a bride is readied for her wedding. He is your husband; he is your Maker. He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, and the God of all creation.

Rest in the finished work of Christ; you have been redeemed by the power of his shed blood. Christ now lives in you—he is the hope of glory. Let his peace rule in your heart today and always. He loves you with a love that will last forever!

Isaiah 61:10 • Zephaniah 3:17 • 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

Colossians 3:15 • Jeremiah 31:3

Thank you, Father, for rejoicing over me with singing. Thank you for the great exchange—your Son, Jesus (who knew no sin), becoming sin for me, that I might become your righteousness in Christ. What a Savior! I rejoice and thank you for such great salvation that you have freely given me through the sacrifice and love of Jesus.

February 8

Our God desires to spend more quiet time with each of us. So often, the activities of the week keep us too busy.

Once, when Jesus visited the home of Martha, she was overly busy serving him. Her sister, Mary, was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to his words. Martha asked him if he cared that Mary had left all the work to her. Martha wanted Jesus to tell Mary to help. Jesus told Martha that she was fretting and troubled about many things. He said that there is only one essential thing: Mary has chosen what is better, and that will not be taken from her.

Spending time with Jesus, the God of the Universe, is the best choice. It cannot get any better. He takes great delight when you set aside time to have quiet moments with him. When you open your heart to Jesus, he can speak to you by the Holy Spirit. He will profoundly impact your life during these times. They become part of a rich, deep fellowship that you and the Savior share now and forever. Your relationship will grow deeper in love.

He is not a God that is far away. As he was with Mary that day, so he is with you. Intimacy in the heart can be experienced with your God. This is the meaning of life on earth. You are not called to have mere religion; you and God can have a rich relationship. You can be very close.

Continue in his Word so that you may come to know his voice more clearly. Man's heart and mind can be quite deceptive, and the voice of the Lord may be muddled amid all the distractions competing for your attention. But he is a rewarder of all who diligently seek him. You will find him when you seek him wholeheartedly. He will speak to you through his Word and the Holy Spirit (his still, small voice); he will reveal himself to you clearly. You will greatly rejoice that you personally know Jesus, the Risen Savior.

He will show you the path of life. In his presence is a joy unspeakable and everlasting pleasures. Come and enjoy many quiet times with the Savior,

Jesus; he is the Friend who is closer than a brother.

Luke 10:38-42 • Jeremiah 29:13 • Hebrews 11:6

Psalms 16:7-11

Thank you, beloved God, for the wondrous friendship that I have with you. Help me to grow in grace and your Word, that I might hear your voice more clearly. Amen.

February 9

God had promised, through the prophet Samuel, that David, the shepherd boy, would be king of Israel. God had promised, through the prophet Nathan, that David's son would build the temple of God. He also added a wondrous promise: the Messiah would be born through David's offspring, and his kingdom would endure forever! God fulfilled each of these promises. He also worked deeply in David's heart to prepare him for the work he was calling him to.

David said, "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me." So shall it be for you if you also will put your trust in the only One who can fulfill the grand purposes of God. The Lord has given you exceedingly great promises in his Word. Stand on, trust in, and live by these promises! Be strong in faith, giving glory to God—he will honor your faith, for it is faith that honors him!

There will be times of brokenness and sorrow. God, the great lapidary, is doing wondrous work in you, his precious jewel. He will cut, polish, and engrave. He is transforming you into the image of the infinitely beyond priceless gem, Jesus. Only the God of creation's skill can perform what would be thought impossible.

Behold some of the living stones in the grand temple of the living God: Paul (once helping to kill Christians), Peter, Andrew, James, and John (the fishermen), Matthew (the hated tax collector), and Mary Magdalene (out of whom seven demons were cast out). They were unattractive and plain little rocks of the earth. But God, through the miracle of Christ and enough time on the lapidary's wheel of grace, transformed them into treasured gems of the Lord.

Psalms 138:8 • Romans 4:20-21 • Hebrews 11:13-16

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9 • Ephesians 2:20-22 • Malachi 3:17

Thank you, Jesus, that I am one of your chosen living stones. Help me to trust you, the great lapidary, as you cut, polish, and engrave me. You are building me upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets—with you as the chief cornerstone—in the glorious temple of God, to be inhabited by your Holy Spirit. As a living stone in your grand spiritual house, I now and forever offer praise for your wondrous works and your everlasting love. Amen.

February 10

Our God, the King of glory, has wonderful plans for you, a future filled with hope and the richest of his blessings.

Christ Jesus is the great Shepherd. Yes, that means you are his sheep. This may be humbling, but it reveals a great deal of truth. Without Jesus, you go terribly astray. Even with a well-marked path, you wander right toward grave dangers (like sheep walking near rushing waters; they can easily be swept away). You cannot see over the hill or around the bend as you journey on. He sees all and will give you perfect counsel. He will hold you so very close at times. Jesus will bring you into green pastures and beside still waters.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 • Romans 15:13 • 1 Peter 2:25

Isaiah 40:11 • Hebrews 13:20-21 • Psalm 23, 73:24

Dear great Shepherd, Jesus, thank you for promising to guide me with your counsel and afterward receive me to glory. Whether I am traveling through the valley of the shadow of death, resting in green pastures, or being led beside still waters, you are working in me that which is well pleasing in your sight, making me complete in every good work to do your will. Thank you for your protection and guidance. All praise to you forever.

February 11

One day, Jesus entered a town called Nain, accompanied by many of his disciples. A widow's only son, who had died, was being carried out of the town gate. Many folks from town were with her, and she was weeping so sorrowfully. With his heart overflowing with compassion, Jesus gently told her, "Do not weep." He walked over and touched the coffin. The Son of God then said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!"—he that was dead arose! Sitting up, he began to talk to his mother. Great fear was upon all the people; they

glorified God, exclaiming that a great prophet had arisen among them and that God was visiting his people.

With a love deeper than the sea, with the power that holds the universe together, and with the same great mercy that brought Jesus Christ from Heaven itself to the cross for all mankind, he visited this widow that day.

There are no words to express the rich love that he feels for you. He comes to you this day. Trust in Christ Jesus. Since he has the power to raise the dead, he can surely work in your life situations today. He felt the widow's sorrow, and he also profoundly cares about everything you are going through. He desires to hold you close to himself even now. Welcome the Savior's love and compassion; he desires to comfort you and persuade your heart not to fear.

He cannot easily explain to you why he allows some circumstances to be in your life. Your whole future is in his hands, and he sees it all from now into eternity. What he does in your life will impact you now and forever. He is the master jeweler—you are his priceless gem. As he cuts the facets in you, it hurts, but this is needful for what he intends to create of you. Circumstances are often the cutting agents. Broken or troubled relationships, tragedy, closed doors of opportunity, and disappointments cause such a depth of pain and stress that it is often difficult to even get your bearings emotionally or spiritually. But he is working all things together for your good. You have wondered how this can be. He is Almighty God; if he can raise the dead, he will also work all things to your good according to his divine plan for your life.

Dear child of the living God, you will be richly blessed. Trust him to be faithful in performing all that he has promised, and he invites you to always rest in his love.

Luke 7:11-16 • Matthew 5:4 • James 5:10-11

Romans 5:3-5, 8:28

February 12

The God of heaven and earth revealed the glory of the holy city, new Jerusalem, to his apostle John. There will be new heavens and a new earth. God will dwell with his people. There will be no more tears, pain, sorrow, or death. All things will be made new. You and all of his beloved children

will inherit the kingdom, and you will reign with him forever. You, whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life, will have the name of new Jerusalem and Jesus' new name written upon you.

You will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and Daniel in the golden city. You will enjoy the most fantastic eternal fellowship with them. You will rejoice exceedingly in your friendship with the apostles. These all faithfully bore witness to God's love and glory in a dark world that desperately needed Jesus, the Light.

The glory and blessings of the love you will share forever with loved ones and those you helped come into the faith while on earth are beyond your ability to comprehend. Untold numbers of the people of God, who were more than conquerors through their faith in Christ, will be there. They bring with them the richest blessings as their glorious works follow them into the kingdom. You and all of these brothers and sisters will have been changed in the twinkling of an eye, transformed into the image of Jesus, the Son of God, sharing his perfect righteousness with love and joy beyond measure.

Those whose names are written in the book of life have been victorious and have overcome the world; this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. Whoever overcomes will be given the right to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. Whoever overcomes will be given the right to sit with Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, on his throne, even as he was victorious and sat down with his Father on his throne. And to the overcomer, he will also give the Morning Star.

Come, child of the glorious King of kings. Come. He has loved you with everlasting love and welcomes you home. Come drink of the water of life freely.

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:1-7

February 13

Happy are you who are in the family of the living God; you know the joyful sound. His power and love have touched your heart. He has rescued you from the dominion of darkness and miraculously brought you into his kingdom of light—the dominion of his dear Son, Jesus. He took you out of a horrible pit of destruction and set your feet upon the rock—the Rock of life. He has established your steps to walk his path. Our God has put a new song

in your mouth, even the rich praises of your King. Many will see the glorious work that he has accomplished in your life and shall put their trust in our great God of salvation.

Let this day be one of rejoicing for the miracle of new life. He has transferred you from death to life. Be thankful. Enter into his presence with songs of praise. Share his love. Freely you have received, freely give; many need God's touch in their life. Let the Spirit of God love them through you; he will do great things as his light shines from your life. Ask and you shall receive.

Psalms 40:2-3, 89:15-16, 100:4 • Colossians 1:12-14

Deuteronomy 32:4 • Chronicles 16:8-12

I will rejoice and give thanks to you, O Lord, for you are beyond great! Your thoughts toward me are more in number than the sand by the seashore. Your power and wisdom are infinite, and your love is beyond measure; I will trust in you all my days on earth and rejoice forever in the kingdom of Heaven! Amen.

February 14

The glories of Almighty God's creation that you see with your eyes and hear with your ears are only the beginning of the display of the richness of his love: sunsets, flowers, waterfalls, oceans, mountains, music, delicious foods, sun, moon, and stars are a small taste of the glory of his love. We have the five senses to enjoy these amazing blessings of God here on earth. But as we have borne the image of Adam, the first man, we shall also bear the image of the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Man of Heaven. We shall have glorious new senses to luxuriate in the wonders of the kingdom of Heaven when we are transformed into our new incorruptible bodies on that Day of Glory; we shall see Christ as he is and be like him!

Our Father's love is not of this world—it is of the eternal kingdom of Heaven. His everlasting love compelled him to send Jesus from Heaven to earth for you.

You are never alone. He is very close to you; he is the lover of your soul. Draw near to him, and he will surely draw near to you. The depth of friendship and love that you and Jesus, the Risen Savior, can share is fathomless. The love that he desires to show you is vastly richer, fuller, and

more glorious than the love the world offers. Come close to him today. Rest your head on his shoulder and know this day that he loves you.

Psalms 23:5-6, 63:3 • John 15:9 • Song of Solomon 2:1-16

Zephaniah 3:17

Dear God, thank you for this wondrous creation that I have enjoyed for so many years. Thank you for the new life that I have in Christ. You delivered me from the kingdom of darkness and transferred me into the kingdom of your beloved Son. Father, your Word says that you rejoice over me with gladness and singing! I, in turn, lift my voice to you, dear God, with praise and thanksgiving for who you are, all that you have done in my life, and all that you have prepared for me! Amen.

February 15

Upon seeing a glorious vision of the Lord of Hosts (Jehovah Sabaoth) seated on his throne, Isaiah heard God asking, “Who shall I send, and who will go for us?” Almighty God is still on the throne and desires for you to fulfill his call in your life. He desires to enter into a richer relationship with you.

Ask God, and by his abundant grace, he will give you a new heart of compassion and boldness to share his love within the calling or vocation that he has called you to. You have been chosen to be the light of the world, an ambassador of God's glorious kingdom; as the Father has sent Jesus, so the Risen Savior now sends you. Receive his love and power for your calling. The Holy Spirit will surely comfort and guide you to do God's will.

Isaiah 6:1-8 • 2 Corinthians 5:20 • Titus 2:11-14

John 20:21

Thank you, dear God, for calling me into an eternal fellowship with you. Thank you that by Jesus' work on the cross, his resurrection from the dead, and abundant grace, I am now seated in heavenly places with Christ. Help me by your Holy Spirit to apprehend that for which I have been apprehended by Jesus. By your grace, please bring me into the calling you have for me here on earth, as I look for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of my Wonderful Savior! Amen.

February 16

By faith, Moses stretched out his hand over the Red Sea as commanded, and Almighty God divided the vast waters so the children of Israel could walk across on dry ground. By faith, Jericho's walls fell down after the children of Israel marched around them for seven days. By faith, Elijah struck the Jordan River with his mantle, and God split the waters, allowing him to cross over on dry ground. Being full of faith, Stephen, by the Holy Spirit, wrought great miracles among the people. By faith, Peter went into the room of the dead disciple, Tabitha, and after praying for her, saw her rise from the dead. By faith, Paul was used by Christ Jesus when the Lord healed a man who was born crippled, making him perfectly whole and able to walk.

When Jesus walked the earth, he healed many with his power. Lepers were cleansed, demons were cast out, the lame walked, blind eyes were made to see, the deaf were made to hear, and the dead were raised back to life again. Our great Savior is able to suspend the laws of nature and perform miracles that no man on earth could do.

All things are possible to the believer in Jesus Christ. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to a mountain to move, and it will move. Be strong in the faith that God has placed in you by the Holy Spirit. Be strong in the power of his might. Be led by his Spirit, and he will help you to accomplish the works and share the words that he has planned for you to fulfill and share.

Acts 6:8, 14:7-10, 19:11-12 • Hebrews 11:1, 6

1 Corinthians 2:5 • Luke 17:6 • Matthew 21:21

Mark 16:20 • Ephesians 2:10

Dear Jesus, every one of your mighty miracles in the Scriptures was beyond what man is able to do. Help me to live today knowing that you, the miracle God, live in me and can do exceedingly above all that I could think or ask. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! Help me to be strong in faith, giving glory to God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

February 17

Jesus, our beloved Savior, was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief while on earth. He knows your sorrows and heartaches. He is always present and feels the hurts you feel. He is close to you when you have anguished thoughts and a tearful heart.

At times, relationships can be so enriching and blessed. At other times, the demands of change and communication gaps between people can be a cause of much distress.

God is the creator of man, relationships, and emotions. He understands completely every trial and emotion you experience. You can pour out your emotions or share your confusion and sorrows with him. Cast all of your cares upon him, for he deeply cares for you. He will heal your broken heart. He will comfort you when you are crushed in spirit. He is the God of healing. God is love. Entrust him with your deepest hurts and allow him to anoint you with the Holy Spirit. Rest in his presence and let his Word speak gently to your heart. Your God will give you understanding and the words to share in your relationships. Hope and healing will be yours.

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Rest in his love. Be patient; he is working in you and your situations to bring his blessings and comforts to your heart. He is your God forever!

Psalms 31:9-10, 34:18, 63:1-8, 73:26, 147:3

Matthew 5:1-4 • John 11:35, 14:27 • 1 Peter 5:7

1 John 4:16 • 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Lord God, you know the sorrows of my heart. Please comfort my heart, give me faith (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief), and trust in you during my times of trials and confusion. Please grant me wisdom as I listen and understand others; may your grace abound in my relationships. Help me to share your words of comfort with others. Amen.

February 18

Peter, in the Scriptures, wrote that he and the apostles James and John did not follow cunningly devised stories when they told about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but they were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For Christ was suffused with honor and heavenly glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Peter states that they heard God's voice that came from Heaven when they were with Christ Jesus on the sacred mountain.

Cunningly devised stories? No way! Nearly every apostle died a martyr's death as their lives proclaimed the truths of Jesus the Messiah. They would

have denied their faith in the face of severe persecution if they were not 100% sure. They beheld hundreds of life-changing miracles and healings that overwhelmingly proved Jesus is the very power of God himself. Their hearts were warmed for 3½ years by a love that was not of this world. They learned deep truths and gathered the wisdom of Heaven when the Master spoke.

The One who had walked on the water, raised the dead, and given sight to the blind is the Master of all creation. He is the Light of the world. As Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John on the mountain, his face shone like the sun, and his clothes appeared as white as the light. Almighty God authenticated that Jesus is his Son. He added, “Listen to him!”

2 Peter 1:16-18

How would you have felt after 3½ years of experiencing the multitude of miracles, the glorious wisdom from heaven, and the majestic yet humble love of Jesus?

We would do well to respect what God our Father said on that mountain about Jesus: “Listen to him.”

February 19

Be filled with the praises of the Lord your God. He has done wondrous things for you continually. He has forgiven all your iniquities. He is the healer of your sicknesses. He opens the windows of heaven and provides bread for you daily. He has redeemed your life from the pit. He has crowned you with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Our heavenly Father is preparing a place for you in his kingdom and preparing you for that place, transforming your life by the Holy Spirit. Lift up your heart and rejoice with thanksgiving.

Solomon had just finished building a house to the glory of the Lord God of Israel. He offered praise to God, proclaiming that there was no God like the God of Israel in heaven or earth—the God who keeps his covenant of love with his servants who follow him fully. He desired that God would clothe the Lord's servants with salvation and that his faithful people would rejoice in God's goodness.

When Solomon finished his prayer and praise, God sent a fire from heaven that consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices! God's wondrous

glory then filled the temple! So amazing was the sight of the fire coming down from heaven and the glory filling the temple that all the people bowed down with their faces to the ground. They worshiped their God; they praised him for being good and for his mercy that endures forever.

Offer praise to the King of creation, dear son of the living God. Give glory from your heart to the Lord of life, dear daughter of the King. He will send down his fire of love. He will warm your heart with the glory of his love. He will fill you (you are the temple of the Lord God) with the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 103 • 2 Chronicles 6:1-15, 40-42, 7:1-3

February 20

God's ways are certainly not the world's ways. The prince of this world wreaks havoc in lives and relationships. Jesus came to earth to restore lives, to heal the brokenhearted, and to comfort all who mourn. He came to open the prison doors to the captives who were bound.

He has shown you how to love and how to forgive. As Christ Jesus has loved you, you should also love others. Be kind to one another, compassionate, and tenderhearted. Forgive others with your whole heart, even as our Father has forgiven you fully and freely through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Ask God to fill you with his love by the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from Heaven. Ask, and you will receive. With his love, you will be able to show patience and kindness toward others. You will seek what is best for them. With the love of Jesus reigning in your heart, you will bear much fruit in all of your relationships. Love will not be easily angered. Love hopes, trusts, and perseveres. Love will never fail!

Our God and Father will give you opportunities in the days ahead to show his love to others. Some people are hard to love (but they really need to experience his love). God chooses you to walk in the newness of life—you who are raised from the dead life of your past. Christ lives in you; let his love warm the lives around you. You will greatly rejoice that you did. Love changes lives—love changed yours!

Luke 4:18 • John 15:13 • Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:12-14 • 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Dear Father, please heal my heart and the hearts of those I love from the hurts of the past. May your abundant grace fill our lives so that we might walk as Jesus walked—full of grace and truth. Please lead me by the Spirit so that I might bear the fruit of the Spirit.

February 21

Jesus came unto his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as do receive him, he gives the power and the right to be a child of the living God.

When Jesus Christ walked the earth, many people wrongly judged him. Some said that he was a blasphemer, others that he was possessed by a demon, or that he was a drunkard. Others accused him of being a Sabbath-breaker; he was also proclaimed a liar or insane by some.

Being rejected hurts, especially when you greatly love the one rejecting you. When you experience this kind of pain, you need to draw near to Jesus (who was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief). Allow him to comfort your heart. He knows what you are going through. As the Wonderful Counselor and the mighty God, he has words of comfort that will give you truth, hope, and his great love—a love that will help you weather any storm. If you are walking with Christ, when you are being falsely accused or misunderstood, the God of consolation will offer great comfort. You have Christ Jesus living inside of you. You have hope and know that he loves you deeply and will bless your life fully.

Spend time with God in prayer and his Word. The Holy Spirit will bring you peace. God has his way in the whirlwinds of life. He calmed the storm at sea for his disciples. He will say to your storm, “Peace, be still.”

Hebrews 13:6 • Isaiah 12:2 • John 14:27

Dear Lord God, you see the storms that I face in my life. Please guide me by Scripture and the Holy Spirit to patiently endure, grow in grace, and quietly hope in your salvation and blessings that you have for me. I am weak, and you are strong; thank you that your strength is made perfect in my weakness. You have brought me through so much in years past; I trust in your mercy and faithfulness to lead me into the place you have prepared for me in Christ Jesus. I rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Amen.

February 22

Our Father God's eyes are watching closely throughout the whole world to show himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Joshua and Caleb were the only two men among all the children of Israel who left Egypt as adults whom God allowed to enter the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Why? Because they had a different spirit, they followed God wholeheartedly. They were not supermen; they were ordinary men who had humble hearts and desired all that the God of Israel had for them. They gave him their hearts and lives.

God does not usually call the great and mighty of this world to be his light bearers. He chooses those poor in spirit who desire to be rich in faith. These are the joint heirs of his kingdom. When on earth, Jesus called four fishermen, a tax collector, and other ordinary men. They made many mistakes but were willing to learn—they grew profoundly in their knowledge of Christ Jesus over the years—his miracles, wisdom, and love were exceedingly life-changing. By his Spirit, they were willing to do his work in all circumstances. The apostles (not Judas Iscariot, though) were all willing to die for him and the glorious kingdom of Heaven, for the love he shared with each of them was so deep that it was much stronger than death itself.

Will you share your heart with your Father today? Will you let him reign in your life in a deeper way than yesterday? He has been with you, watching you and loving you. He desires to be strong on your behalf. Give him your heart, and he will give you the deepest love you could ever know. Trust him with your life and future. He will guide you continuously by his Spirit, his heavenly counsel, and perfect wisdom. It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom of Heaven. Welcome the Holy Spirit to transform and guide you. You will never be the same. He will bless you in all that you do and say.

2 Chronicles 16:9 • Numbers 14:24 • John 16:13

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 • Zechariah 4:6 • Romans 5:5

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 • Psalm 32:8, 73:24

Help me, dear God, to walk worthy of the high calling in Christ, that I might please you always, being fruitful in my words and works. In Jesus' name and to his glory, I pray.

February 23

As high as the heavens are above the earth and deeper than the deepest ocean is how great our Father's loving-kindness and mercy are to you, dear child of God.

There are times when you feel guilty for sins you have committed in the past and in the present. He sees how you hurt, and his heart is toward you so that you might have his freedom and complete healing. Your tears of repentance for your sins are as diamonds to the Father's heart. Godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation (worldly sorrow produces death). If we confess our sins, our God and Savior is faithful and just; he will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Every human being on earth will fall short of perfection every day. No one can stand before the Father based on their own righteousness, even on a person's best day. Our own righteousness is as a filthy rag (strong words but true, as per Scripture). The great news is that by the death of Christ Jesus, the debt has been paid for any and all of your sins, past, present, and future. By his redeeming shed blood, every transgression since the day you were born has been forgiven.

He has also covered you with his robe of righteousness. He is God, perfectly righteous, and he lives in you. Today, rejoice, for when your Father in Heaven looks upon you, he sees Christ in you, the hope of glory. There is no sin remembered from the past. He has forgiven all sins and absolutely forgotten them forever.

Peter denied our Lord Jesus Christ three times. This was after walking with him for over three years. He had seen a multitude of miracles and experienced his eternal love in such rich ways. Oh, how bitterly he wept. The guilt and shame broke his heart. No sin could be greater (was the thought coursing through Peter's mind) as his tears flowed.

Very early on the first day of the week, some disciples came to the tomb. By this time, the sun had risen; Jesus, the Son of the living God, had also risen—the most glorious *SonRise* in history!

Accompanied by a great earthquake, the angel had rolled away the stone. The angel was as bright as lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. He told them not to be afraid and that Jesus of Nazareth, whom they were

looking for, who had been crucified, had risen. He said that Jesus was not here, and you can see the place where they had laid his body.

God's special message through the angel also conveyed a most important note of comfort: to inform his disciples and Peter that Jesus was going before them into Galilee and that they would see him there. A special look of love (and a smile from Jesus to Peter) went with Jesus' special mention of Peter through the angel. Jesus was telling Peter (regarding his denial of Jesus) to receive the Savior's forgiveness and comfort, which Peter would shortly thereafter receive in person from the Risen Savior. He was saying that he loves Peter beyond measure. Everyone falls short. This is why Jesus died on the cross.

Jesus, the Son of God, now shares this comfort with you. The stone has been rolled away. He is alive. Your sins are forgiven. The Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in his wings. Receive his forgiveness; receive his healing. Leap for joy, and let your songs of praise be great, for he has done great things for you, dear child of God. You are a true treasure in his heart. Enjoy his presence and the deep love that he has for you today and forever!

Psalm 71:14-23, 95:1-3, 103:8-14 • 1 John 1:9

Isaiah 61:10 • Hebrews 8:12 • Mark 16:1-7 • Malachi 4:2

Romans 8:1

February 24

Jesus had communion with the Father every day while he was on earth. Sometimes he desired to be alone with his Father before dawn in a quiet place, or he would even spend a whole starry night on a mountain in prayer. The wondrous eternal fellowship that he enjoyed with his Father before the world began was richly a part of his life during his years on earth.

The time was nearing for Jesus to fulfill his mission. He is the perfect Lamb of God—foreordained before he spoke the world into existence to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world. As fully God and yet fully man, his sacrifice would show forth the greatest wonder of the grace of God. Jesus would soon take upon himself all of the horrendous evils and sins of man. He would become sin for you, he who knew no sin, so that you might become the righteousness of God in Christ. He would be cut off from the glorious

presence and eternally rich communion that he had forever known with his Father. Jesus would be separated from his Father for the only time ever.

With his sacrifice (foreordained before the world began) at Golgotha fast approaching, Jesus labored excruciatingly. With loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, he was heard by his Father. In the deep turmoil of his soul, the Savior cried from the depth of his heart—his strength was being broken in midcourse, and the number of his days was being reduced—as his crucifixion was looming just ahead. Jesus, the Son of Man, asked the Father not to have him taken away in the middle of his life!

With the warmth and profound depth of everlasting love, the Father's response certainly comforted Jesus. Almighty God's reassurance was that Jesus was the beginning of the creation of God, the very one who had laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of his hands. The Son of God was told that they would perish and that he would endure. They will wear out like an old garment; like clothing, Jesus would change them. He said that Jesus would remain the same and his years would never end. The Father said that the children of Jesus' servants would continue, and their descendants would be established before God the Father.

The great love our heavenly Father has for Jesus is evident as he comforted him at this time when Jesus' soul and heart were deeply troubled. Christ Jesus was fully determined to do his Father's will. Jesus, the author of eternal salvation, went on to fulfill his purpose on earth. He went to the place called The Skull (Calvary, Golgotha)—his place of great suffering and death. For the joy that awaited him forever, Jesus endured his being executed on the cross like a criminal. You are the joy that awaited him! You are the crown of his heart! You shall reign together with the Son of God forever in Paradise!

As the Father comforted him in his greatest time of suffering and sorrow, so shall he comfort you when you come to him in your times of need. As the Father honored Jesus with the crown of life and the glory of Heaven—that he had with him from everlasting to everlasting—so shall he give you the crown of life for overcoming by faith. You will share the glories and pleasures of Paradise with the God of your salvation forever, beloved child of the King!

Luke 6:12 • Hebrews 5:7 • Mark 14:34-36

Psalms 102:23-28 • Hebrews 1:8-12 • James 1:12

February 25

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, dismayed, or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Almighty God gave this advice to Joshua after Moses, God's faithful servant, died. Joshua now shared the burden of a vast multitude, which for forty years trekked through the desert. The eternal God would soon split the Jordan River and bring the children of Israel into their inheritance—the Promised Land.

Trust God on your journey into his Promised Land for you. He has given you exceedingly great and precious promises of his love, righteousness, guidance, provision, and spiritual fulfillment. He is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:1-9 • 1 Peter 5:7 • 2 Peter 1:2-4 • John 16:33

1 Corinthians 15:58

Thank you, Jesus, that I am more than a conqueror through you and your resurrection power. Help me to walk as you walked—led by the Spirit and always ready to share your love. In the day of adversity, help me to be strong and not faint. Father, when I am faced with temptation, may your Spirit guide me to resist the enemy and stand on the Scriptures and the promises in them—just like Jesus did during his 40 days of temptation. May the power that raised Jesus from the dead work mightily in me so that I might be pleasing to you, dear Father. I thank you for your eternal love! Amen.

February 26

It was not easy for Joshua and the Israelites; they had many battles to fight to claim their inheritance. So it is with you, child of the living God.

Take upon you today the whole armor that he provides for the battles ahead. Take the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the sword of the Spirit (which is his Word), and wear *good news* shoes, ready to share his Word of peace.

As you seek God in prayer, remember that Jesus is continually making intercession for you according to the Father's will. Also, the Spirit is helping you in your weakness by pleading for you with groanings too deep for words. You have God, the Creator of the Universe, on your side. Nothing and no one can be victorious against you. He sees the end from the beginning—and has

all power. The battle is not yours; it is God's—our God says that it is not by your might or your power, but by his Spirit.

A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of your sanctuary. Come into his presence for help in time of need. He is here to comfort and encourage you. He will be strong on your behalf and will fight every battle with you.

Ephesians 6:10-18 • Romans 8:26-28 • Zechariah 4:6

Jeremiah 17:12 • Revelation 3:21

Dear God, I come boldly before your glorious high throne—where you reign as King of kings through eternity past, present, and future. As I put on my spiritual armor today, help me to be strong in thanksgiving as I abide in Christ. Guide me, please, by the Spirit to do your will and to share your love and Word. I know that the battle is not mine but yours; since you are for me, I know nothing can be against me. Glory to God!

February 27

Dear child of the living God, our Father knows you perfectly and loves you perfectly. Every heartbeat, every breath, and every thought you think is before him. He fashioned your innermost being; he formed you in your mother's womb. He was with you then and remains with you today. He is the God of all power, wisdom, and glory. He loves you dearly and will always enjoy sweet communion with you.

Today, rest in his presence, knowing how much he cares. As much as possible, be thankful, even for your hardships. He has allowed these trials in your life. They are producing patience and endurance in you. Endurance, in turn, produces a confident hope in God. This hope will not disappoint because, by his Holy Spirit, he has poured out his glorious love into your heart.

You need not spend your time worrying. Draw near to him, and he will draw near to you. Look single-mindedly toward Jesus. In his presence is fullness of joy. With Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The wonders of sweet communion that you can have with him are readily available to you. Just give him your whole heart, and he will truly fill

it. He will make known the great riches of his love and the wonders of his grace as you seek him.

The day is coming when you will no longer hunger or thirst. The trials of the earth will be no more. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who gave himself for you, will soon shelter you forever in his presence. He will reign as King of kings upon the throne of Heaven. He will be your Shepherd and lead you to springs of living water. He will wipe away every tear from your eyes. How wonderful it will be!

Psalm 16:11, 25:14, 73:28, 139:1-18 • Romans 5:3-5

Colossians 2:3 • Revelation 7:15-17

February 28

The longer that you walk with Jesus, the more you realize that you are not of this world, even as he is not of this world. You are a pilgrim, a temporary resident on earth. In this world, you will have suffering and tribulation. But take heart, he has conquered the world.

Christ Jesus was tempted fully and never sinned. He was acquainted with grief and suffered, even unto death on the cross. He will help you when you go through temptation and suffering. Greater is he who lives in you than Satan, who is in the world. You are truly more than a conqueror through Christ the Savior. By the Spirit of God, the victory is yours. Let Christ, the King of glory, reign in your life today.

Open your heart today to his peace. The peace that he gives you is not from this world—it surpasses all understanding. Let his peace be your guide. If you are overanxious, come into his presence. Be filled with thanksgiving, for he has richly blessed you and always will.

John 14:27, 16:33, 17:16 • Romans 8:37-39 • 1 John 4:4

Thank you, mighty Jesus, for conquering sin and death. By your miracle in my life, you have brought me to the Highway of Holiness; you promise to give me wisdom and your abundant grace as I walk that highway, even until I meet you in glory. Amen.

February 29

When facing a daunting task or insurmountable obstacles, look to Jesus, who has all power in heaven and earth. When hope seems to be almost gone, he is waiting to help you. He is the God of the impossible. What is impossible for man is not hard for him. Man's extremity is God's opportunity.

Remember the man called Legion? He was a wild man living among the tombs; he would often scream and cut himself with rocks. He was a demon-possessed man who could not even be chained; he would break the shackles into pieces.

Jesus had great compassion for him and cast the demons out of this man. He gave him complete wholeness and a perfectly sound mind. This miracle man went his way and boldly proclaimed the mighty marvel that God had performed in his life to the people of Decapolis. All who heard were amazed!

To most, this was a hopeless case. Do you know someone like this wild, insane, demon-possessed man? Perhaps not, although an employer, neighbor, or family member may seem to be hard to get along with, or you may even think the person is beyond help. Nothing and no one is too hard for God to perform his miracle!

In earnest prayer, bring that difficult person before God. Your tiny mustard seed of faith, combined with God's power, may work wonders. Be patient; continue praying with thanksgiving for this person, and be willing to show them love. As Jesus has loved you, so love this person. It is not hard to love. Acknowledge that Jesus, the Son of God, is living in you; let him love that person through you by yielding to his Holy Spirit. Miracles do happen; in his timing, he will be strong on your behalf. He alone can transform that person's life if they are willing. But perhaps as wondrous as that person coming into the faith is the miracle of you reflecting the glory of God's love to that person!

Jeremiah 32:27 • Mark 5:1-20 • Psalm 34:17 • John 15:7

James 5:16 • Thessalonians 5:17 • 1 John 5:14-15

Ephesians 6:18

March 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Sometimes, our heavenly Father sets up situations that are quite contrary to our ways and plans. He desires to work mightily in your heart and life

through these situations. He will be glorified and bring you freedom as well.

God told Moses the exact location by the Red Sea where the children of Israel were to encamp. He knew Pharaoh would harden his heart and follow them to this point.

Over four hundred years earlier, Almighty God had told Abraham that he would judge the nation that had afflicted his people with bitter bondage for these centuries, and the time had arrived. By the miracles he would now carry out, the world for millennia to come would know that he is the Lord God, the mighty Deliverer!

The Egyptians came after the Israelites. God's people were trapped and were terrified at the sight of the powerful Egyptian army closing in. They thought they were going to die! Our God had a much better plan. He had a Promised Land for the children of Israel; it was time to get them on their way.

As instructed by the God of heaven and earth, Moses lifted his hand over the sea, and God divided the waters. The vast multitude crossed over on dry land. Once again, Moses lifted his hand, and God returned the waters, covering all the chariots, horsemen, and the entire Egyptian army. The chosen people were free of the bitter slavery and fear that they had known for four hundred years!

Sometimes, our Father will direct your life in a direction that is hard for you to understand. It may be an uncomfortable situation. You may even complain. He knows your feelings and confusion at these times. Trust him with all your heart. Submit to the direction he shows you in prayer, in his Word, and by his Spirit. His ways are so very much higher than your ways (as the stars are higher than earth), but he has your best interests in mind. He will fight for you; he will do wonders, and you will be very blessed and thankful!

Genesis 15:13-14 • Exodus 14 • Deuteronomy 28:1-13

Romans 8:32, 15:13 • Isaiah 55:8-9 • Psalm 28:7

Proverbs 3:5-6

March 2

You have not come to a physical mountain that can be touched, like Mount Sinai, with flaming fire, blackness, darkness, tempest, the sound of trumpet

blasts, and a voice speaking words; so fearful were the people that they begged for Almighty God (El Shaddai) to not speak to them anymore. The whole sight was so terrifying that even Moses was trembling with fear.

You have come to Mount Zion and unto the city of the eternal King, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to countless multitudes of angels in joyful assembly. You are part of our loving God's everlasting family, whose names are written in Heaven. You've come to Jesus, the Messiah and mediator of the new covenant.

The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus, the Son of God—the Rock of our salvation. Almighty God called the children of Israel at Mount Sinai to follow commandments and statutes so they might learn of sin and holiness. You are not called to live under laws but under the abundant grace of the Prince of Peace. You are called to walk with Jesus and be led by the Holy Spirit. God our Father has written his laws upon your heart and mind. Jesus, the root and offspring of David, fulfilled the law perfectly. Jesus now lives in you—he is your righteousness. Be filled and led by the Holy Spirit; by the inner working of God's grace and power, you shall be transformed over time to be more and more like Jesus. You will grow to love your God and Father with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Almighty God spoke from Heaven, a sign to the children of Israel and the world that he is real. The giving of the Ten Commandments was truly a fearful event for the people. But your heavenly Father, the God of all comfort, calls you now to come close to him as his dear child. You now hear his voice (Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice”). He is your Savior and your God, and will speak to you every day as you draw near to him. Through his Word and Holy Spirit, you will be led forth with peace into green pastures and beside still waters. He is the great Shepherd and has only good plans for you. You are seated with Jesus, the King of glory, in heavenly places. Come boldly before his throne of grace to fellowship with him—anytime, night or day. You are loved with an everlasting love. Thank you, dear Savior!

Therefore, the redeemed of our God will return and come with joyful singing to Mount Zion, crowned with everlasting joy; tears and mourning will be no more.

Hebrews 12:18-24 • 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1 Corinthians 1:30 • 1 Peter 2:9 Philippians 3:20

Psalms 23 • Jeremiah 31:3 • Isaiah 51:11

March 3

Come to Jesus, you who are weary and burdened, and he will give true rest to your heart and soul. Come learn from him; he is the Lord God, the Prince of Peace—your Redeemer. He is the one who will guide you into the bountiful riches of his grace. He only has your highest benefits in mind; he will teach you the ways of his kingdom. The Son of God will enrich you with his love and will guide you on the path of life. Take the time to rest with Christ, the Risen Savior, even as he rested and enjoyed his Father's communion while Jesus was on the earth. He will restore your soul. Jesus, the Holy One of Israel, will teach you to profit.

Do not be like the woodsman with the dull axe head. He would chop and chop without getting much done—he only needed to stop briefly to sharpen his axe. Jesus will sharpen your life (axe) for service in him. Share quiet times with him in prayer and his Word; his wisdom, guidance, and power will help you to be sharp. Life will be so much better when you seek God first. His wisdom from above is profitable to direct you.

Matthew 11:28-30 • Isaiah 48:17-18

Psalms 23:3, 25:4-6

Thank you, Jesus. You are the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to fully trust you in every area of my life. Strengthen me by your Holy Spirit, and help me to grow in grace and the knowledge of your ways. Amen.

March 4

Long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, of the ancestral line of Abram and King David, God called Abram to a walk of faith. Almighty God told him to leave his country and go to a land that he would show him. He said that he would make a great nation of him, make his name great, and all families of the earth would be blessed in him. By faith, he obeyed God's Word and left. He was seventy-five years old. He and his wife, Sarai, had no children.

About ten years later, God's Word came to Abram in a vision, encouraging him not to be afraid. He told him that he is his shield and his very great reward. Abram was wondering why he was still childless, despite God's promise to make him a great nation. God Almighty (El Shaddai) brought him outside and told him to look up into the heavens and count the stars if he was able to number them; God said that is how many descendants he would have. Abram believed his Creator with steadfast trust, and it was counted unto him as righteousness. By God's miracle, when Abram was ninety-nine and Sarai was ninety, she conceived; Abram was given the new name of Abraham, meaning "father of many nations."

God was Abraham's shield and his exceedingly great reward. He did have innumerable descendants. Even the prophets and apostles were his descendants, and Jesus is a descendant, in the flesh, of Abraham. And certainly, all who have faith like Abraham (those who believe God's Word of promise and salvation through Jesus, the Messiah) are Abraham's spiritual descendants. Truly, Abraham's reward is great beyond measure; all families of the earth are blessed because of his faith.

Know this today, dear child of the living God, that he is your sun and your shield. He will give you daily light to walk his path. He will protect you in more ways than can be numbered. Your God and Savior will give you his wondrous grace, empowering you to walk with him. He will give you his glory; you are a joint heir with Jesus of his everlasting kingdom. He will also bless your words and deeds as you abide in him. You will have eternal fruit—treasures in Heaven. By your faith in Christ Jesus—in his blood sacrifice for your sins and Christ's resurrection from the dead—you are like Abraham; your faith will be counted unto you for righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6 • Psalm 84:11-12

Romans 4:17-25, 5:1-2

March 5

After his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus the Messiah appeared to his disciples for forty days. By many infallible proofs and miracles, they were assured that their Lord was truly alive. He spoke with them during this time

concerning his kingdom. He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, for in a few days, they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Wondrously, the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, filled the disciples in Jerusalem, and they spoke in other languages. Devout men, who were there from every nation under heaven, heard them speak of the mighty works of God in their own languages.

Peter was now boldly proclaiming spiritual truths of the kingdom of God. He was clothed with power from above. As the Risen Savior had promised the disciples, there were now rivers of living water flowing from their innermost being. Peter spoke the words that the Spirit gave him to say. The Spirit worked a mighty wonder that day, as three thousand souls whom the Father loved came to believe in Jesus with their hearts; they were born again.

This was just the beginning. From that point on, many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles.

Peter was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask, and you shall receive his transforming power to be bold. Out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water. The God of love and peace will fill you to overflowing with his grace and love. The fruit of this blessing in your life will be as a tree of life; you will inspire others to desire to know and receive Jesus unto life eternal.

Acts 1:1-12; 2 • John 7:38-39

Proverbs 11:30 • Daniel 12:3

March 6

Peter and John were truly becoming fishers of men, just as Jesus said they would. As they went into the temple, a man lame from birth was asking them for money. Peter told him that he did not have silver or gold, but what he did have, he would give him. He told the lame man to rise up and walk in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gave that man's feet and ankles strength—a miraculous healing.

As the man walked, leaped, and praised God, the people were amazed at the miracle they had witnessed. The people recognized the one who was now leaping as the one who usually was begging.

Once again, Spirit-filled Peter boldly spoke of Christ's death and resurrection to the multitude gathered. He proclaimed the truths of the prophecies of the Messiah's coming. He explained the need the people had for the God who had fulfilled these prophecies.

While he was still speaking, the religious leaders came and arrested Peter and John; they were placed in prison until the next day. The Sadducees were grieved that Peter and John were proclaiming the resurrection of the dead in Christ Jesus. However, a great multitude who heard the Word that day became believers.

It was not by Peter's or John's power that the man was healed. It was not fancy words of man's wisdom that touched lives and saved the multitude. The wondrous Holy Spirit performed the healing. The Spirit revealed the truth and convinced the many hearts of their need for repentance.

He is the great and awesome God—the God of wonders. Behold the many miracles that the Father had Jesus work; you will see that each one is beyond what man would perceive as possible—they all are beyond the laws of nature. Jesus, the mighty God, desires to do miracles in your life. Many are not of the Red Sea splitting type or a Lazarus being raised from the dead type. But if you ask and allow Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, to change your heart through his Holy Spirit, you may experience personal miracles that will bring you the same joy that filled Lazarus' heart. The Wonderful Counselor (who was also a man of sorrows) will heal your broken heart. The God of love will transform you and impart love where there was no love before. He can replace deep sorrow with hope and joy; he will perform miracles in your life in so many ways. Rejoice, for people will be amazed when they see that it is Jesus who now lives in you. Trust in him; he is able to do exceedingly more than you can think or imagine!

Acts 3; 4:1-22 • Zechariah 4:6 • 1 Corinthians 2:4-7

2 Corinthians 3:18 • Ephesians 3:20-21

March 7

While our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ lived on earth, he rejoiced greatly to be with the people he had created. His love for humanity is everlasting; his sacrifice for all of mankind was his grand purpose and passion for coming into the world.

After ascending back to Heaven in full view of his disciples, he sat down at the right hand of the Father. Exactly as he had told his disciples before his ascension, the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost; he would now guide them. The Holy Spirit was working with them and confirming the word they preached with signs and wonders.

The day after he healed the lame man (the one Peter and John met at the temple gate), Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly proclaimed the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection, as well as the power of his name. This time, it was the religious leaders who were the hearers. After threatening the two apostles, the chief priests and elders released them.

The disciples returned to their companions and told them of the threats of the leaders. With one heart of faith, the whole company lifted their voice to their Father in Heaven. They acknowledged the power and providence of the Father and humbly implored that he would stretch forth his hand and perform miraculous signs and wonders by the name of his Son, Jesus.

Right after praying, the God of glory shook the place they were meeting in and filled them with the Holy Spirit. They spoke his Word with boldness to many. The community of believers was of one heart and one mind, sharing all things; no one lacked anything. Our Father richly blessed them as they continued to love God and one another. He also gave great power to the apostles as they bore witness to the resurrection of the Prince of life from the dead. He placed his loving-kindness and favor richly upon all of their lives.

Like the apostles, be led by the Holy Spirit. Share Christ's love and words. Do not fear what man says. Seek your God and King with your whole heart, and he will work mightily on your behalf. You will be richly blessed as you bless others.

Acts 4:1-33 • John 15:7, 16 • Isaiah 65:24

March 8

The God of all grace loves you dearly, and his heart goes out to you when you have anxieties and fears. It is very natural to have them, but he desires to set you free and bring you into a new walk with him. Confidence, strength, and peace will fill your life as you draw near to him and let the power of God's Word transform you day by day.

When the cares of this life begin to crowd your mind, humbly ask in prayer, with thanksgiving, for your needs to be met by God, your Father. He already knows every need you have; casting your cares on him in prayer will help you trust that he has heard you and that he will work on your behalf—and he will. After praying about your needs, you will know that it is in his hands. You will not have to try to get things done or meet a need through your own efforts. It is better to be patient and let your Father work in your heart and life as you await his fulfillment of each need. This is an important part of walking with the King of kings; he will honor your patience. You will have grown in character by trusting in him, and you will see him work in special, loving, and sometimes wondrous ways.

Philippians 4:6-7 • 1 Peter 5:6-7 • Isaiah 43:1-3

James 1:5 • Matthew 6:31-33

I rejoice in the great love that you have shown me, dear God. Your ways are higher than my ways, as the stars are high above the earth. May your Spirit and grace bring me into the knowledge of your ways so that my life will reflect Christ more and more in the days ahead. I cast my cares upon you today. Amen

March 9

The kingdom of Heaven is more real than the creation that you see around you. The things that you see with your eyes are temporary, so focus on that which is unseen—the eternal realm.

The disciples witnessed Christ's ascension as he returned to his eternal kingdom. As they were watching, a cloud took the Risen Savior out of their sight. His two white-robed messengers (angels) told them that the same Jesus that they had seen being taken up to Heaven shall return in the same way they saw him go.

During his walk on earth, Jesus shared with his disciples that he would be going to prepare a place for them; he has been doing that since he ascended to his kingdom. Christ is soon returning to come for you and all his sons and daughters who believe so that they all might be with him where he is. This is a great reason for you to rejoice. You will soon be reigning with him as a joint heir of the kingdom of Heaven.

Behold the beauty of this world: the great mountain ranges, mighty rivers, vast wonders of the floral and animal kingdoms, awesome sunsets, wondrous waterfalls, and brilliant star-filled nights; these have displayed a sampling of God's majesty for many centuries.

Your eyes have not seen, nor have your ears heard, nor have any of your senses experienced the exceeding great glories of his soon-appearing kingdom. Open your heart to him today; rejoice and be thankful for all that he has promised—all his great and precious promises will soon be fulfilled! You will inherit all things and be with God your Father and Jesus, the King of kings, forever! Glory to God!

Acts 1:9-11 • 2 Corinthians 4:18 • Titus 2:13

John 14:1-3 • 1 Corinthians 2:9

Thank you, Father, for the abundant grace that brought me salvation. By your Spirit, please work in my life that I would deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and help me to live in Christ—righteously and godly—as I look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of my great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

March 10

The God of glory loves you with an eternal love whose depth and richness cannot even be fathomed by your mind. His ways and thoughts are exceedingly higher than yours, as the galaxies are high above the earth. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ shares these truths to comfort you, even to the depths of your soul. He only desires that you experience the wondrous blessings of God in this world and in the one to come.

Trust in the God of all creation. Nothing is too hard for him. Allow him to work in all situations. His ways are the best. Do not rely on your own wisdom; he sees the end from the beginning. Always be patient, for he will complete the work that he has begun in your life and will work out all things (not just some things—all things) for your good. Even in times of sorrow and disappointment, he will absolutely use them for your good.

Give him your whole heart. Let him reign supreme, and he will raise you up to be a great blessing; all that you do will prosper, and the love you share shall be an inspiration to others.

Isaiah 55:8-13 • Proverbs 3:5-6, 10:22

Philippians 1:6 • Romans 8:28

Dear God, thank you for continuing to accomplish your plan in my life. You chose me in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in your sight. Strengthen me always to do your will, especially when I am tempted. Help me to be like Jesus in those times and be strong in your Word. Thank you that I am more than a conqueror through Jesus, the King of glory. Amen.

March 11

We know that we are of God and Christ lives in us; he is the hope of glory. But the whole world is under the power of Satan, and the motions of spiritual death that have enslaved the populace revolve around the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. These three entities and their temptations worked very well in the Paradise of Eden, bringing down the race of Adam. But they did not fare well against the great Apostle of our Profession, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He conquered Satan on the Mount of Temptation, as well as during his entire life, and most gloriously at Golgotha; the author of eternal salvation took all of our sins upon himself, paid our penalty with his blood, and then assured us of eternal life by rising from the dead, thereby vanquishing the greatest enemy of mankind: death!

Satan has also deceived many to cause them to believe that they can become righteous by self-help, not realizing that no one is good; our own righteousness is as a filthy rag, and it will never change from that status before God until one receives Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, into their heart!

As God's child, you need to be Son-focused, not sin-focused, to facilitate your growth in Christ. Having been born again by the Spirit, you cannot become more righteous or transformed more into the image of Christ by focusing on your sins and trying in a fleshly effort to change your heart and behavior (of course, it is essential to repent of the sins of the flesh). But to be set free from any sin you struggle with, you need to fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. You are in Christ by the miracle of the Spirit of God. Having begun in the Spirit, can you be made perfect by the flesh? Christ Jesus has become for you righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. By God's divine power, you have been given everything that

pertains to life and godliness—Christ in you, the hope of glory. Paul the apostle clearly states that it is the grace of God that brought great transformation in his life through the working of the Spirit.

You need to be Son-focused; as you behold his image in the glorious Word of God, you are being transformed into Christ's image, from one degree of glory to another—all the work of the Holy Spirit, not by your might nor your power, but by his Spirit! Grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior. Let God's Word dwell in you richly; this, along with earnest prayer to the God of grace, and transformation will occur in your heart and life.

You know that when Christ appears, you will be like him, for you will see him as he is; everyone having this hope in Christ purifies himself, just as Christ Jesus is pure. The mighty God of love and power, who began this amazing work in you, will continue it until the Day of Glory—trust your God and Savior. He loves you with an everlasting love!

1 John 2:16, 3:1-3, 5:19 • Colossians 1:27, 3:16

2 Peter 1:3-4, 3:18 • 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Zechariah 4:6 • Jeremiah 31:3 • Philippians 1:6

March 12

You were once a dried-up branch: withered, dying, and bearing bitter fruit. But now you are a branch grafted into the living vine whose sustenance comes from the very power of the God of all creation. Jesus is the true vine, and you are absolutely a part of him—a living branch with his life in you.

He is the Light of the world. He is the Sun of Righteousness. Open your heart to him. Let the glorious light of his love be a transforming power to you. You will grow in grace as you come to enjoy his presence each day—Christ Jesus lives in you.

Let your roots be deep in Christ; let him be the foundation of your life. Just as leaves reach toward the sun, let your leaves reach out in faith to Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness. Let your life flow with thanksgiving to the God who loves you. Your praise is a blessing to him; you are acknowledging the many gifts he bestows upon you daily. Rejoice in the Lord and praise him, the God of hope and the Rock of our salvation, for he inhabits and is enthroned on the praises of his people.

John 15:5 • Ephesians 3:17 • Malachi 4:2

Colossians 3:12-17 • Psalm 22:3

1 Thessalonians 5:18 • Romans 15:13

We rejoice in you, our dear Father. Every good gift comes from your hand: food, clothing, shelter, good health, love and friendships, your Word of life and its multitude of promises, and so much more. Dear Savior, who is my hope, please fill me with all joy and peace in believing that I may abound in love and hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

March 13

Each day, acknowledge our God in all of your ways and pray to be led by his Spirit in everything you do and say.

As you abide in Jesus, your life will be transformed in wonderful ways. You shall be like a tree planted by streams of water. You shall bear abundant fruit in due season. You shall flourish with the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. A love that surpasses knowledge will flow from your life. Fountains of an inexpressible, glorious joy will spring up inside of you. The peace of God, which passes understanding, will guard your heart and mind.

Since God is for you, nothing can be against you. Seeing that Jesus, the beloved Son of God, gave his life for you, will he not also provide you with everything that pertains to life and godliness? He will!

Psalm 1:1-3 • Galatians 5:22-23 • Ephesians 3:16-21

1 Peter 1:8 • Philippians 4:7 • Romans 8:31-32

Thank you, Lord God, for your surpassing goodness, grace, and kindness to me. You are my sun and shield; you have not withheld any good thing from me. All of your promises continue to come true in my life. You are with me, whether in the valley of trials and sorrows or the green pastures by still waters. I rejoice in the gift of eternal life because of the greatest love ever shown on earth—Jesus died for my sins.

March 14

You are being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Jesus is the chief cornerstone. You are a co-laborer with Christ now that he lives in you. When you are led by his Spirit and share his love through word and

deed, you are building with gold, silver, and precious stones on this glorious foundation. When you are led by the flesh, you are building with wood, hay, and straw. The Lord God is a consuming fire; on the Great Day, his fire will test every man's work. If your work upon the foundation was gold, silver, or precious stones, you shall receive your reward. If it is wood, hay, or straw, it will be burned, and you will suffer loss, but you will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Therefore, beloved child of God, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in his work, inasmuch as you know that your labor in Christ is not in vain. Build well on the foundation; your reward in glory shall be very great.

Ephesians 2:20 • 1 Corinthians 3:8-15, 15:58

Hebrews 12:29, 13:20-21 • Galatians 6:9

You are the great master builder, Lord. Please guide me with your counsel so that I might do your work in the building of your spiritual temple. Guide me in my growth in the Holy Scriptures that I may bring glory to you through my words and deeds. Amen.

March 15

After teaching the multitude from Simon's boat by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus told Simon (later named Peter) to put out into the deep water and lower his nets for a catch. He answered that they had worked all night and had caught nothing. Nevertheless, upon Jesus' request, he did so. They enclosed such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. He called his partners, James and John, who were in the other boat, to come and help.

Both boats were filled to the point that they began to sink. Simon and his partners were totally astonished at the miracle. Simon fell down before Jesus and told him to go away because he was a sinful man. The Son of God told him not to be afraid because, from now on, he would be fishing for people. When the men pulled the boats up on the shore, they forsook all and followed Jesus.

Jesus, the Light of the world, came here to seek and to save that which was lost. He will use every power he has—even to his death on the cross as God's chosen sacrifice for sin—to reach every one of his children so that they might come into his kingdom forever. The King of glory has all power in

heaven and earth; he can hold back fish or give such abundance that even the boats start to sink. The Messiah called these men with a wondrous miracle that would be especially amazing to them.

These ordinary men followed Christ from that day on. By the power of his Spirit working in their lives, these living stones are now part of the foundation of God's everlasting dwelling place, where he lives by his Spirit.

Luke 5:1-11, 19:10 • Revelation 21:14

Ephesians 2:19-21

Thank you, Lord God, for calling me into your kingdom of love. Thank you, Jesus, for living in me and promising me eternal life. Today, I give you thanks for your great love, forgiveness, and the multitude of blessings you have showered me with. Amen.

March 16

Sometimes, the Father of lights will withhold certain blessings in life to capture your attention. Perhaps he desires for you to see that these gifts are precisely that—a gift of love from him to you. Being thankful from the heart is an important part of your relationship with the God who loves you dearly.

Sometimes, he is holding back from giving because he wants you to know that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from his mouth. He desires that you live by faith and not by sight. Our Father does not want you to love him only because of what he does for you, especially if what he does for you must be according to your plans.

Our God, the King of glory, desires for you to love him for who he is; he certainly loves you for who you are and not for what you do for him. You are his beloved child, a treasured member of his family, who will be rejoicing with him forever in a world that is much more real and glorious than this present world. He is the God who created the Universe, and he loves you with a love beyond words.

He loves you so much that he wants you to experience his life in you. He wants you to live by faith, the faith of the Son of God. Be strong in your faith, giving glory to God, just as Abraham did. He believed in the promises of a personal God. Abraham embraced God's precious promises and trusted him.

By his mercy, Jesus, the Messiah, humbled the fishermen with the sinking ships that eventful day. It was to help free them from serving this world and their own selves so that they might walk with Christ Jesus and forever share the glory he had with the Father since before he spoke the worlds into existence. Blessed were these men, for they beheld his miracles. They knew the Son of God personally on earth for over three years. But blessed are you who have not seen Christ in the flesh and yet love him from the heart. You, who know the joyful sound of the eternal God's song in your heart day by day, are rejoicing with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Trust the Son of the Highest always, especially when a prayer is not being answered quickly enough for you or circumstances are unfavorable—he has all power and will work all things to your good. Humble yourself before his mighty hand, and in due time, he will exalt you. Be content to know him and let your relationship with him grow deeper. You have an eternal friendship with the living God.

You see what he did for those fishermen (he gave them an overwhelming catch of fish). If he desires, he could rain down any blessing upon your life at any time. But he desires your love for him to be pure, loving him not for the gifts he gives but because he is the God who loves you. He treasures you just for who you are; you are his child. He will always provide for you according to his riches in glory, beloved one.

Let him be everything to you: Savior, Lord, King, Comforter, Wonderful Counselor, and everlasting God!

Isaiah 30:18 • Romans 4:17-25 • John 17 • 1 Peter 1:3-9

Philippians 4:19

March 17

Within the church at Antioch, there were certain prophets and teachers. While they were ministering unto Jesus through worship during a time of fasting, the Holy Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the special work that God had called them to do. After prayer and laying on of hands, they were sent forth to fulfill their calling.

Thus began the journeys of Saul (later known as Paul) and Barnabas, who were richly used and blessed by the Lord God. His Word, shared by men whose lives had been changed mightily by the Holy Spirit, transformed many

lives wherever they journeyed. Paul and Barnabas sought God with their whole hearts daily in prayer, and he blessed them by working signs and miracles through them.

Paul, God's instrument in writing many of the New Testament letters to the world, continually was in rich worship and thankfulness for all that our great God and Savior did for him. He prayed daily to do his will, knowing that God would work mightily in his heart and life by the Spirit. Through many tribulations, God transformed his life to the praise of the glory of his grace.

You are a child of the Father of glory and, like Paul and Barnabas, are chosen and loved. They also were only human, with faults, fears, and emotions. However, these men did not dwell on their weaknesses; instead, they rejoiced and boasted about God's power. They knew that he was able to do immeasurably more through them, as yielded vessels, than they could ever imagine. Through the faith of men like these, millions of lives have been blessed and inspired through the centuries.

Come before God's presence and minister unto him, the King of kings. In prayer and worship with your church leaders or others who have dedicated their lives to him, seek him so that he might show you the work that he has called you to do. Seek him and his Word with prayer and thanksgiving; he will reveal his will to you. He will anoint you and guide you into a rich ministry of love and care for others. The God of Heaven will fill you with his Spirit and his love. He will do the work in and through your life. He raised the dead, cleansed lepers, and made the blind see; he can change your heart and life in so many ways. Rest in his love and power. All things are possible to you who believe. Being thankful for all things in all situations is a key to your victory.

Acts 13:1-5, 15:12 • 2 Chronicles 15:7 • Ephesians 3:20

Joshua 1:9 • Isaiah 43:1-4 • 1 Thessalonians 5:18

March 18

By the wondrous miracles that Jesus, the Son of God, worked while on earth, by testimonies of transformed lives in Scripture, and through his glorious Word, you believe in him. He has delivered you from the bondage of sin and this present evil world.

Through mighty miracles, he also freed the children of Israel from their bitter bondage in Egypt. For forty years in the wilderness, he loved them, guided them, and taught them his ways. He also humbled them that they might learn that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord God.

At one point, the Israelite congregation had no water to drink and came to Moses, bitterly complaining against him. They did not know God, nor did they look to him for their daily provision. Almighty God (El Shaddai) told Moses to take the staff with which he struck the Nile River, whose waters God had turned to blood, and strike the rock in Horeb. God told him that water would gush out of the rock for the people to drink. He did what God told him to do, and the congregation had an abundance of water.

The children of Israel ate manna that God sent to them for forty years. That bread could not give them eternal life. But Jesus is the bread of life that came down from Heaven. The bread that he gives for the life of the world is his flesh. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

The waters they drank from the rock in Horeb only satisfied the Israelites temporarily. Jesus is the spiritual Rock. By his crucifixion, foreordained before the world began, his body was struck—like the rock in Horeb. True living waters flow from him daily for you to drink, that he may impart to you the newness of life. As he was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so have you been raised by his power; he is the resurrection and the life. On your journey through this wilderness world, drink from the everlasting Rock. Drink, and you will never thirst again. Drink every day freely from his living waters. Drink and live forever, beloved child of God.

Psalm 78:1-35 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

Revelation 22:17 • Isaiah 55:1-3 • John 6:29-35, 7:37-39

March 19

Moses, the leader; David, the king; Elijah, the prophet; and Paul, the apostle, all suffered times of weakness amid their successful lives of service. At times, they despaired of life itself. But they all knew to cry out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for help. They came confidently before his throne to receive mercy and grace in their time of need.

When you are humbled by your weaknesses, allow God's power to reside in you. He will provide the strength needed for each day. His power is made perfect in our weakness. Trust in the Lord God forever; he is the God of everlasting strength—the Rock eternal! His glory will be seen more clearly when he is seen to be the one who delivered you or blessed you and that the provision was not by your own hand (look only to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith—do not trust in your own abilities). Jesus knew weakness well. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was crucified in weakness, but he lives by the power of God. You are weak, but you will live in Christ by his power working in you and through you.

Colossians 1:11 • Hebrews 4:16 • Isaiah 26:1-4, 40:28-31

Philippians 4:13 • 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, 13:4

1 Corinthians 10:13

Thank you, everlasting God, for your faithfulness to the saints of old. You answered their prayers miraculously, and you strengthened them in times of weakness, bringing glory to your name. As Christ Jesus was raised from the dead by your power, please guide me to walk in the newness of life, working through me that which honors you.

March 20

Take heed and be on your guard against covetousness, for your life does not consist of the abundance of your possessions. Jesus led a simple life for over thirty years on earth. He greatly enjoyed communion with his Father, delighting in the everlasting fellowship that he has with him. During his ministry, he often did not even have a place to lay his head. He esteemed the riches of loving others during those years to be of exceedingly higher value than all the gold, jewels, and possessions on earth.

Be free of the love of money, for the chief Shepherd, Jesus, will never leave you or forsake you. You brought nothing into the world, and you certainly are not bringing any possessions from earth to his kingdom of Heaven. There truly is great gain in possessing godliness with contentment. Store up for yourselves in Heaven treasures that are eternal. Let his love fill your heart that you may bring life to the lost.

Luke 12:15 • Hebrews 13:5 • 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Matthew 6:19-21

How blessed I am, dear Lord, with the food, clothing, and shelter that you provide. Your thoughts toward me are as numerous as all the grains of sand. Your love and mercy are so very great. Thank you for providing all of my needs according to your riches in glory. I shall soon be rejoicing with you and your whole family in Heaven in your perfect world, forever. I trust you, God, to fulfill the many promises you've given me.

March 21

Many people continue to learn, but they never attain true wisdom. Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, spoke pure words, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times. His Word, his promises, and his testimonies will bring much wisdom to the soul who embraces them. The wisdom from above is more valuable than all the treasures found in every kingdom that ever existed on earth.

Happy is the one who receives his wisdom. Seek his wisdom as most men would seek after gold and silver. Come daily into his presence and seek him in the Word and prayer. Call unto him, and he will show you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Solomon had great wisdom, but a greater than Solomon now lives in you. He will make known to you the deep things of his love and his kingdom. Follow his counsel; he will guide you on the path of righteousness. Our heavenly Father will honor you forever if you serve Christ while on earth.

Proverbs 2:3-9; 8:10-35 • John 1:14, 12:26 • James 3:17

Jeremiah 33:3

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge dwell in you, Jesus, King of righteousness. My relationship with you is worth more than all the gold and silver on earth. Your majestic light and truth now shine in my heart; I have the greatest treasure—Christ in me, the hope of glory—in this jar of clay. May the Light of the world shine from me—that others would glorify you, my God.

March 22

Is this not the most wonderful thing, that you know our great God and Savior personally? He rejoices greatly in his friendship and love relationship with each of his children. He is the God of life, and it is his children who always brighten his heart.

He created love and relationships. Mankind has written many books and songs extolling love, relationships, and wondrous emotions. But a relationship with the God who created them is considered by most to be nonexistent. Many doubt that he is a personal God or that he even exists.

The eternal King of glory proclaims to all today that he is the living God with all power over all creation. The God of all grace who inhabits eternity also dwells in the hearts of his beloved children who have received him. Jesus, the express image of the invisible God, came into the world so that you might know him in a very personal way. He ate, drank, walked, talked, loved, laughed, and cried just like you. He experienced life to the fullest with his family and friends during his life on earth.

Through his Word and his miracles, he instilled faith in his disciples. Jesus, the Messiah, bore all sins in his body on the cross. He shed his life's blood in sacrificial love on the cross and, through it, made payment in full for every person's trespasses. He can now live fully in your life, reigning in your heart and mind.

You can now have a rich love relationship with him—the Risen Savior, the King of kings, and the Lord of heaven and earth. The experience of the beauty and depth of his love relationship, which he warmly offers to each of his children, is far more wondrous than the relationships one knows without him. As amazing as his myriad of miracles and the love he has shown mankind while he was on earth, so also is how profound and extraordinary his relationship will be with you if you would like.

Jeremiah 31:3 • 1 Peter 1:3 • Ephesians 1:3-7, 3:17-19

Romans 8:37-39 • John 3:16 • Isaiah 54:10

I rejoice in you, my mighty and Wonderful God and Savior. You continually bless my life and have transformed my heart in so many ways. Please guide me by your Spirit, and help me to hear your still, small voice daily. I thank you and glorify your name!

March 23

Forever, our Father in Heaven, the Creator of heaven and earth, will rejoice with you as he reveals the glories of his everlasting kingdom to you. He is the One who spoke the innumerable galaxies into existence, each with a myriad of stars and celestial wonders. The glories of the Universe are

beyond anything that man on earth can know. Yet, the wonders of the kingdom of Heaven are exceedingly far beyond all the glories of all the galaxies combined.

You shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye. He will transform you into an immortal and incorruptible body, changed to be in the image of Christ Jesus, that you might experience forever his kingdom that is filled beyond measure with love and peace. The pleasures, the unspeakable joy, and the love that will be shared by you and God are astronomically beyond what could be known by man on earth. His love for you is so rich and immeasurable that it will take all eternity to share it with you.

Colossians 1:12-17 • Ephesians 2:6-7

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 • Revelation 22:1-5 • John 14:2-3

Thank you, God, that as I have borne the image of the earthly man, Adam, I shall also bear the image of the heavenly man, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. Thank you for the five senses that I enjoy here in this world; the senses that I will be endowed with in your heavenly kingdom will be beyond words amazing! My eyes have not seen, nor have my ears heard, what majesty and glory I shall enjoy forever in Heaven, but I do know that I shall see you as you are, Jesus, and I will be changed to be like you! One thing I desire, dear Lord God, and that I shall seek after: that I may dwell in your house, know your perfect love, and behold the glories of your kingdom forever! Amen.

March 24

The children of Israel had witnessed the great miracles that Almighty God (El Shaddai) had worked in Egypt. By his mighty hand, he delivered them from the cruel bondage of Egypt. He then saved the vast multitude by splitting the Red Sea and having them cross on dry ground. There was great rejoicing with songs and dancing on the other side of the sea as they were finally free of their enemy, who perished when God returned the great waters to their place.

As they journeyed three days into the wilderness, they came to a place where they could not drink the water. It was bitter and was named Marah (bitter). They murmured against Moses. He cried out to the Most High God;

he showed Moses a tree, which he threw into the waters, and they became sweet and drinkable.

After the miracle, Almighty God told them that if they would diligently listen to his voice, do what is right, and give ear to the commandments of the Lord, he would not bring upon them any of the diseases that he brought upon the Egyptians, for he is the Lord that heals (Jehovah Rapha).

The everlasting Father, the God of hope and mercy, has set you free from the bondage of "Egypt" (bondage to sin and the resulting death) by great miracles (by Christ in the Scriptures and in your heart), his wondrous Word, and his many precious promises. You, too, have rejoiced greatly for what he has done for you, like the children of Israel. As you travel on your journey with him, you will also encounter bitter waters, whether it is a time of lack of provision, suffering, a broken relationship, or any trial of your faith.

The cross of Christ is the tree that, when thrown into your bitter waters, will make them sweet. By the work of the cross of Christ, God has delivered you from the kingdom of darkness and transferred you into the glorious kingdom of his beloved Son. His cross, the tree, has transformed the bitterness of sin and death in your life into the sweetest of living waters flowing with forgiveness from his throne to your heart—true life-giving drink indeed. By the power of the cross, you can now freely forgive others, bringing sweetness to your relationships.

Let the tree of God—the cross—be thrown into the bitter waters in your life. The God of wonders will do the impossible. Your work is only to believe. He is the Lord God (Jehovah Rapha) who heals you. He works all things together for your good. As you place your trust fully in him during any trial of your faith, you will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit. He will give you wisdom from above, open just the right door at just the right time, or heal your broken heart or a troubled relationship according to his will. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all things of the abundant life that he promises you will be yours.

Exodus 15:18-27 • Colossians 1:13 • James 1:1-6

Matthew 6:33

March 25

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has called you and chosen you to have the greatest treasure fill your life. The Holy Spirit will fill your life to overflowing as you entrust your heart to him. By knowing and embracing his many great and precious promises, you are enabled to share his divine nature. He is the God of all creation, perfectly holy and righteous (Jehovah Tsidkenu: the Lord our Righteousness), and he lives in you, a jar of clay. Truly, this is a miracle—God dwelling in you!

He is calling you to be holy; give him every area of your life. Any sin that you might be clinging to is absolutely not worth it. Ask him, and he will help you achieve victory. He loves you vastly beyond what any words could express. Fear not; he knows your every sin and weakness; the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort understands you perfectly. He knows you exceedingly more than you know yourself. He knows what will bring you complete joy and peace. The author and finisher of your faith will greatly help you to be set free by the Holy Spirit so that he might reign in every area of your life. Sin will blind you and make you a slave. His love, glory, and truth are of the kingdom of Heaven, and when they replace sin in your life, you will soar like an eagle. Your joy will be complete when you sit daily with Christ in heavenly places.

Dear friend, consider the life of Christ on earth. You rejoice in the way that he showed love and mercy to all. You also believe that his miracles and the truths of his teachings were awesome. Jesus desires that the same life that is in him would dwell richly in you and shine forth from your life. Let him rule in every area of your heart. Let Christ in you, the hope of glory, be so real in your life.

Press on toward the prize of your heavenly calling in Christ as shown in his Word. He will complete the work that he began with you. He will transform your life in so many wondrous ways. His love and his life will shine more and more from you. You will truly be blessed and a blessing to many. You will rejoice throughout your life while on earth and throughout the endless ages of eternity.

2 Peter 1:1-11 • Romans 12:1-2 • 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1 Peter 1:13-23 • Philippians 1:6, 4:8 • Colossians 1:27

March 26

In the third month after Almighty God (I Am That I Am) brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, he called to Moses from the mountain in the desert of Sinai. God told him what to declare to the Israelites. Through Moses, God said that the Israelites had seen what he did to the Egyptians, and he had carried the Israelites on eagles' wings, bringing them to himself. If they would truly obey God's voice and keep the Lord's covenant, they would be his treasured people above all nations. They would be a kingdom of priests—God's holy nation.

God told Moses that he would come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. On the morning of the third day, as he had promised, he came to visit. With thunder and lightning, a thick cloud upon the mountain, and an exceedingly loud trumpet blast, the God of heaven and earth made his presence known. All the people were trembling with fear. He descended upon Mount Sinai in fire, and the mountain was covered with smoke, as from a furnace. He shook the whole mountain violently. He made the sound of the trumpet blasts louder and louder.

God called Moses to the top of the mountain. He also charged the people through Moses that no one was to force their way through the boundaries set up around the mountain to gaze upon God. If they did, many might perish. Moses came to the top of the mountain.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob spoke from Heaven out of the midst of the great fire. The people heard his voice and understood what he was saying, but they did not see him. He declared his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded them to follow, and wrote them on two stone tablets.

The Lord had promised to Abraham that he would make of him a great nation and would deliver the nation after four hundred years of bondage. He foretold that they would leave with great wealth, which they did. This great multitude, who knew only slavery, had seen the mighty miracles the everlasting God (El Olam) worked in Egypt. Now he was speaking to them, accompanied by a most fearful display; this was just a small touch of his power. They were learning that it truly is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Never had he spoken to a nation, but now he was revealing his holy laws for a nation to live by.

The God of Israel is holy; his Ten Commandments are holy, and no man can fulfill these commandments in their flesh. Only Jesus, the Son of God and our Savior, fulfilled every law perfectly when he lived on earth. If you fail any of the commandments, the penalty is death. The soul that sins shall die. But Jesus, our Redeemer, paid the debt for any and all of your sins by his blood sacrifice on the cross. Jesus Christ is the end of the Law (he fulfilled the complete Law of Moses), allowing righteousness to be granted to everyone who believes in him as Savior. When he came into your heart, you received him with his abundant grace and gift of righteousness. You shall not die; you shall live with him in his everlasting kingdom of Heaven.

Exodus 19, 20:1-22 • Deuteronomy 4:7-13

Romans 6:23, 5:17 • John 3:16

March 27

By the seventh day of creation, the heavens and the earth, in all their beauty and splendor, were completed. And God rested. It is done!

The people of his creation were lost and had no way to get to God's kingdom of Heaven. Jesus, the great Shepherd, came from Heaven and found his lost sheep. He made a simple bridge from earth to Heaven with an old, rugged cross. He now knew the people of his heart could get home. Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished." It is done!

A most glorious new heaven and new earth have been prepared for his treasured people. He will live with them and be their God. There will be no more death, pain, or sorrow, for the former order of things has passed away. He who sat on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Our God says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty, I will freely give of the fountain of the water of life." "It is done."

Beloved family of God, soon, very soon, we shall all be rejoicing in the glorious new kingdom together. After a twinkling of an eye, clothed in our incorruptible bodies, reigning with the King of kings, we shall shout with great joy, "It is done!"

Genesis 2:1-3 • John 19:20 • Revelation 21:6

Have you struggled with discouragement lately? Are trials and tribulations taking you to your limit? The truth of Jesus Christ and his great promises are the only way to make it. Trust him and look only to him

for help. He will give you the grace that you need. And he will change you day by day into his image. It's hard to see at times, but it is happening. Look how far you've come already!

March 28

When Almighty God brought to mankind the old covenant, his Ten Commandments were delivered in a most fearful manner upon Mount Sinai. He is holy, and man needed to know of the great gulf between man's sinful human nature and the God of all creation. From that day until now, no man has been able to keep all of the Ten Commandments without sin. All have fallen drastically short of his perfection—only Jesus Christ fulfilled the Ten Commandments and the law that Almighty God delivered to the children of Israel; he never sinned.

Jesus—the true Light—came into the world to bring us to himself by way of a new covenant in a most glorious fashion. He became human and lived among us. Mankind saw his glory and majesty, the glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. He was not the untouchable, unapproachable mighty God of Sinai, but mankind beheld the Word of God made flesh, felt the warmth of his love, heard the words of Heaven, was healed by miracles of mercy, and was given hope by his precious promises.

Every sin that all human beings had ever committed against the Ten Commandments, against the Holy God of heaven and earth, was placed on Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, the day he was crucified; he bore the punishment of all of mankind's sins. A great miracle among all the wonders wrought during his life on earth—washing away all sins, providing eternal forgiveness, and making it possible for Christ Jesus to live in your heart—happened that day! The Sovereign Lord's new covenant (his new agreement with mankind) was delivered to the world and was signed and sealed by Jesus' very own blood; the King of kings shed his own blood for you.

His new covenant is not like the covenant he made with the children of Israel when he took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, for he has placed his laws into your mind and written them on your heart (not on tablets

of stone). He will be your God, and you shall be his child forever. He has forgiven all your iniquities and will never remember your sins—they have been wiped off planet Earth, and your Father remembers them no more.

As many as receive Jesus, to them he gives the power to be children of the living God forever. If you love the Risen Savior and keep his words, his Father will love you, and they will come and live inside you. They are not far off, as in Sinai; you have been brought into a most wondrous oneness and communion with the Father and the Son. They desire to make their love profoundly known to you. They have come to you in a most personal way. The Holy Spirit is calling you now and encouraging you to make every effort of the heart and in your life to get to know your Savior and God, who cherishes you with a love that is vastly beyond any love you have ever known or could even imagine. He will greatly bless you. Open your heart to him and let him fill you with his love.

Behold, beloved child of the God of glory, you who are a member of his royal nation and chosen people, you shall soon reign with him in the new heaven and the new earth. His dwelling will be with you for all eternity. He will be with you and be your God, and you shall be his cherished child. Amen.

John 1:14, 14:23 • Hebrews 2:9-18, 8:7-12, 13:20-21

Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Matthew 26:28 • Ephesians 2:12-13

Revelation 21:1-7

March 29

The God of Israel is the one who brought forth the great multitude from the bondage of Egypt. By mighty signs and wonders, he was made known to them. He brought them into their Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey. He gave them a king named David, who brought praise and worship to the people called by the name of the Lord God, the wondrous God of Israel, who richly blessed the nation for many years.

Come into his presence today with singing and praise, for he has dealt bountifully with you. He is the one who provides your every need according to his riches in glory. He fulfills all of his promises to you, guides you with his counsel, heals your diseases, and forgives your iniquities. Jesus, the beloved Son of God, conquered sin and death for you. God has given you the

Holy Spirit (the Comforter), lavishes you with his love, and guides you into all truth every day. Offer the sacrifice of praise today. Be filled with thankfulness always, for his steadfast love for you endures forever.

Psalm 100:1-5, 103:1-4, 136:1-26

Hebrews 13:15 • Jude 1:24-25

Thank you, Lord God, for showing your love and power; you delivered the Israelites from Egypt through mighty signs and the splitting of the Red Sea. As our Savior, you came to earth and fulfilled so many prophecies; you touched the multitudes with healing miracles and shared your redeeming Word of love from Heaven. Please bless my life and my family with your healing touch; set us free to walk in your love and blessing today and always. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

March 30

You may face many troubles, sorrows, and trials between now and when you come home to reign with Jesus; the Lord God will deliver you, comfort you, and always show you the way. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the resurrection and the life. Cling tightly to him and remain faithful through these hard times. He will never leave you. Be patient and allow the Holy Spirit to work deeply in your heart at these times.

Your strength is small if you faint on the day of adversity. Remember, in your struggle against sin and for the truth, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood, as Christ Jesus did. Jesus, the captain of your salvation, has won the battle for you. You can do all things through the strength that he gives you. You are more than a conqueror through Christ. Trust him wholeheartedly and know that he will be mighty on your behalf.

John 16:33 • Romans 5:3-5, 8:18 • James 1:2-4, 12

Proverbs 24:10 Revelation 21:1-7 • 1 Peter 4:12-13

Isaiah 35:10, 61:1-3

Thank you, dear God, for being my rock, my strength, and my deliverer through the storms of life. Help me to abide under the shadow of your wings. Please be my sun and shield; light my way and protect me from the enemy. Help me by your Spirit to grow in the grace and knowledge of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray in his name.

March 31

Jesus, the author of eternal salvation, came to this world that you might have abundant life. Ask of him, and he will show you great and mighty things that you do not know; the secret of the Lord is revealed to them that fear (honor) him. He will open up your understanding of his Word. He will guide you each day on the glorious path he has prepared beforehand for you to walk on. Almighty God will hold your hand; fear not, your battles are not yours; they are God's. He will conquer, for he is the God of all power. There is nothing too hard for him.

Listen to him daily; through the study of the Scriptures, in earnest prayer, and with an open heart to the Holy Spirit, you will hear the Lord talking to you—"My sheep hear my voice." He will open your understanding to his goodness and his abundant grace.

The world, Satan, and the lusts of the flesh will tempt you and desperately try to draw you to fulfill the desires of the flesh. Jesus was fully human, though fully God; he became like you to show you the way. He was tempted in all points just like you, yet without sin. He will always make a way of escape in your times of temptation. Call upon him; he will help you to overcome. You can do all things through Christ who lives in you.

With each victory over sin, you will become more confident in Christ; you will rejoice that he is transforming your life. Rejoice even now for the many victories of times past. Though you may have fallen short in recent times, fret not; a godly sorrow from within a humble heart will allow God to continue a great work in your life. Jesus paid the debt for your sins by the blood he shed on the cross—he said, "It is finished." Your sins are forgiven and forgotten. There is no condemnation for you who are in Christ—for you do not live according to the flesh but live according to the Spirit.

The path of those who live in Christ is like a shining light that shines more and more unto the perfect day. Press on, child of the King, toward the goal of the heavenly prize, which our heavenly Father has called you to win through your faith in him. He that overcomes by faith will receive the crown of life.

Jeremiah 33:3 • Psalm 25:14 • Ephesians 2:10

Colossians 3:16 • 1 Corinthians 10:13 • Romans 8:1

Hebrews 2:18, 4:14-16 • Proverbs 4:18 • Phil. 3:12-14

April 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

The day our Savior rose from the dead, he drew near to two gloomy-countenanced disciples on their way to the village of Emmaus. Jesus restrained their eyes from recognizing him. He asked one of them, Cleopas, about their deep discussion. This disciple shared all about how Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet mighty in deed and word, had been delivered to be crucified. He went on to share that they had hoped that it was Jesus who would redeem Israel and set them free. He added that certain women from their company amazed them with the news that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb and that angels had said he was alive.

Two brokenhearted and confused disciples were about to hear the best news of their lives. The Risen Savior spoke up and said that they were dull in their perception and slow of heart in believing all things that the prophets had spoken. He shared with them that the Messiah, as predicted by the prophets, had to suffer all that he did and then enter his glory. Jesus began with Moses and, proceeding through the prophets, interpreted the Scriptures to them concerning all things related to himself.

He was invited to stay as a houseguest in Emmaus. As they dined, Jesus—the bread of life—broke bread and gave thanks. He instantly opened their eyes, and they recognized him; he then vanished from their sight. With newly invigorated hearts and minds, they returned to Jerusalem that very hour and found the eleven apostles with others who were with them. These two disciples, with hope and excitement, rehearsed in full all that had happened on the road and how they recognized Jesus, their Lord, in the breaking of bread.

When your hopes have been dashed and sorrow has filled your heart, be ready for Jesus to come alongside you, as he did for these two on their way to Emmaus. Jesus, the bright Morning Star, will be there to remind you to believe and embrace his promises. His precious promises—and he will fulfill them all—can turn your mourning into joy. He loves you and wants you to be filled with hope, joy, and love.

Luke 24:13-35 • Proverbs 13:12 • Psalm 43:5

Romans 15:13

April 2

The two from Emmaus returned to Jerusalem and shared with the apostles what had just happened regarding the Messiah. Jesus suddenly appeared to the apostles and stood among them, greeting them with the words, "Peace be with you." They were terrified and thought they were seeing a spirit. The Risen Savior asked them why they were so troubled. He showed them his hands and his feet and said that a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see him have. They beheld the marks of the nails and were now amazed, filled with joy, and somewhat disbelieving. Jesus asked them if there was anything to eat. They gave him a portion of broiled fish, which he ate in their presence.

The Prince of life shared with them that he had fulfilled what had been written about him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Then he thoroughly opened their minds so that they might understand the scriptures concerning him. The Lord Jesus then said that Christ, the Messiah, should suffer and, on the third day, rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. He added that the disciples, having seen these things, are his witnesses. The Risen Savior declared that he would be sending the promise of the Father upon them. Jesus, their leader and commander, instructed them to stay in the city of Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high.

Jesus led them out as far as Bethany. As he lifted up his hands and blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up into Heaven. He undoubtedly rejoiced greatly in his heart as his beloved disciples worshiped him upon their return to Jerusalem with great joy. And they were continually in the temple, celebrating, praising, and blessing their God.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah had redeemed them and given them the richest hope that anyone could possess. He would continue to be a personal God, the same one he had been for the three-plus years he walked with them; he would love them every day. The Lord would soon send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and endue them with power. As his Father had sent Jesus, the beloved Son of God, now Jesus was sending them. He would fill them with the Holy Spirit, guide them, and soon bring them to glory forever.

Luke 24:36-53 • John 14:26-29

April 3

O beloved son of the living God, O treasured daughter of the King of kings, how he desires to richly bless you in the same ways that he blessed his early followers. His grace will be abundantly granted to you as you rely on him. He will pour out the Holy Spirit upon you so that rivers of living water flow from your innermost being. Our God will bless and anoint your words and works as you seek him with your whole heart. You will touch many lives with his everlasting love.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for all eternity. As he performed miracles in thousands of lives then, he has the same power and will do so today. As he filled his disciples with the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, so shall he do to any today that seek him wholeheartedly and obey him.

How he loves you; no words on earth in any language can sufficiently express the depth and richness of his love! For all eternity, he will reveal to you his kindness, goodness, grace, and love.

John 7:38 • Psalm 90:17 • Luke 11:13

Ephesians 3:16-21

Father, sometimes I feel like I'm in a spiritual desert. I come to your oasis today for living water from your Word. Please strengthen me with your Spirit. Help me to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for your great faithfulness, and your mercies are new every morning. Thank you that living in me is Christ Jesus, the hope of glory! Amen.

April 4

During your times of suffering, lean on the God of all comfort. Having lived on earth, Jesus experienced the same tribulations of everyday life as you do. During the last three years of his life, he experienced sorrow and grief, as many rejected him as their Savior and God. His suffering at the time of his crucifixion was extreme. By his Father's supreme love, Jesus was raised from the dead three days later; after forty more days, he ascended back to Heaven to reign in glory forever with the Father.

Share your sorrows, trials, frustrations, and all of your sufferings with the Wonderful Counselor. He is the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory. He will personally restore, strengthen, and establish you.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 4:8-10, 17 • Psalm 34:19

Philippians 3:10 • Romans 5:3-5 • 1 Peter 5:10

James 5:10-11 • Revelation 21:4

Thank you, Jesus, my Wonderful Savior, for taking my place when you died for my sins. Thank you for washing away my sins and for conquering death. You were a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief when on earth. You see the many sorrows and worries that I have each day. Please grant me wisdom from above to help me do your will and to share your words in the various situations I face. Please grant me your grace and comfort through the Holy Spirit so that I may endure patiently as I await your blessings. Thank you that weeping may endure for a night, but joy will come in the morning. I look for the SonRise of your love in the morning. In Jesus' name. Amen.

April 5

You have been called by the Lord God to be a member of his eternal family. What a great honor to be one of his children.

You are greatly loved by God. He is not a *force*; he is the everlasting Father, who desires to care for all of your physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

You are kept by Jesus Christ; you are preserved (secure, protected, and set apart) by the Creator of life—the King of kings. Rest in the love of the great Shepherd. Trust in Jesus; he will shield you from the enemy. You are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus, who loves you with eternal love. You know whom you have believed and are persuaded that he is able to keep that which you have committed unto him until the Day of Glory.

Without Jesus, you can do nothing, but as you abide in him, all things are possible. He can open doors that no man can shut and shut doors that no man can open. As you seek him, he will hold your hand and walk with you; he will direct your every step. You can do all things through Christ, who will strengthen you.

Your every heartbeat and breath is a gift from the God of heaven and earth; you are alive by a miracle. Humble your heart today and rejoice in thanksgiving for this gift of life. Seek him in prayer with expectancy, for he will enrich your day. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. He will lead you by the Spirit and bless your words and works today.

You have been called, you are loved, and you are kept by your Wonderful God! Now, mercy, peace, and love will be yours in abundance. God, who is rich in mercy, will always give you freely of his compassion. The Prince of Peace will fill you with the peace that surpasses all understanding. The God of love will cause you to overflow with the love that transcends knowledge.

Jude 1:1-2, 24-25 • Philippians 4:6-7, 13 • James 1:17

Hebrews 11:6

Thank you, God, my Father, for the gift of life. I especially thank you for the new life in Jesus. Please transform my life to be more like Jesus by your abundant grace. Help my work and my words be blessed by you today. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

April 6

Your old life of sin was crucified with Christ. He was buried and rose from the dead. By faith in him and the miracle of the new birth, you also have been raised from the dead into the newness of life. Set your mind on the things of his kingdom above, where he reigns on the throne of glory.

Your old life has died, and your life is hidden in Christ. He will lead you each day to do his will. Your words and works will be to honor Christ Jesus and not you. When you do God's will and love the brethren with his love, you are strengthening them in his everlasting kingdom. You often will not see the result of your loving words or deeds while here on earth. You are living by faith and are storing your treasures in Heaven and not on earth, where treasures can rot, rust, or be stolen.

When our mighty God and Savior appears, then shall you also appear with him in glory. Your faith and hope that have been anchored into Heaven shall be greatly rewarded. You have an incorruptible inheritance whose glory will never fade.

Galatians 2:20 • Colossians 3:1-4 • Matthew 6:19-21

1 Peter 1:3-5

Thank you, God, for forgiving me of all of my sins through the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Thank you for the miracle of the new birth. Help me today to set my affections on the things above. Please increase my faith that I might do your will today. Thank you, Jesus, for suffering for my sin

—you became sin for me that I might be the righteousness of God in you. What a Savior! Thank you that I have been justified by faith and for giving me your peace in my heart. I rejoice in the hope of your glory—to be changed to be more and more like you as the days go by, then finally to be miraculously transformed to be just like you in the kingdom of Heaven. Praise God for his wondrous love and grace! Amen.

April 7

Dear child of God, do not be surprised at the fiery trials that come your way. The genuineness of your faith is more valuable to him and you than gold. As gold is tried in the fire, so does he try your faith; it is painful when the flames are all around you. You are a partaker of his sufferings. By abiding and trusting in Christ during these trials, your reward will be extraordinary, and you will greatly rejoice at the revelation of his glory.

As you grow in the ways and faith of Christ, he allows these trials to purify your faith. Our Sovereign Lord is entrusting you to grow through these fiery ordeals by fully clinging to him and trusting in his provision. He is actually honoring and trusting you when he allows these trials. You have the opportunity to honor the God of your salvation by the choices you make; be led by the Holy Spirit, and express your faith by your words and deeds. It is during these times of affliction and suffering that your faith is truly tested, revealing whether it is genuine.

The King of glory will be with you as he was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego during their fiery furnace trial. Let your fears and doubts be cast onto Jesus; he will not let you down but will fulfill all of his promises to you.

1 Peter 1:6-9, 4:12-13 • Romans 5:3-5

James 1:2-12, 5:10-11 • Isaiah 43:2 • Daniel 3

Lord God, thank you that you are able to do abundantly more than can be imagined (like you did with the three men in the fire). Please be with me during the fiery trials that I go through. You are my hiding place; I shall be safe from trouble and the enemy as I abide under the shadow of your wings. I know that all things are working for my good, according to your plan for my life. Please comfort my heart with your Spirit and your Word,

give me your peace, and grant me wisdom from above that I might prosper in Christ in all that I say and do. I pray in Jesus' name and for his glory.

April 8

Three wimpy men, falling to pieces, screaming hysterically, "I don't want to die! Please don't let me die!!" Not a chance! Not these guys!

Hananiah (Heb. Jehovah has favored), Mishael (Heb. Who is what God is), and Azariah (Heb. Jehovah has helped), renamed by the Babylonians as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, lived up to their Hebrew names and were faithful to their God. These three men refused to bow down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had erected. Just before being bound and thrown into the fiery furnace as punishment for not bowing, they boldly proclaimed, "Our God whom we serve can deliver us from the blazing fiery furnace, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the gold image you have set up."

With the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual, the three men, bound in their clothing, were thrown into the blazing fire. The astonished king jumped up and asked his counselors if three bound men were thrown into the fire. They said it was true. He exclaimed that he saw four men, unbound and unhurt, walking in the midst of the fire. He added that the fourth looked like the Son of God.

When you are walking with Jesus in a life of faith, he will always be there for you. When you are thrust into a fiery trial (and they will come at times), he will walk amid the fire with you. Fear nothing, for you are more than a conqueror through Christ.

The three men were unharmed by the flames. The only thing that happened to them was that their bonds were burned off! The king, governors, and advisors all saw that the fire had no power over the three. Their hair was not singed, their clothing looked the same, and not even the smell of smoke clung to them.

The king issued a proclamation about these three men and their great God. He stated that they trusted their God and had refused to serve any other. These three men were then promoted within the province of Babylon.

Christ Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep. He will always protect you. Do not fear what man can do to you. He rules all circumstances in your life; he will work all things for your good. Our God will set you free through your fiery trials. Trust him. His counsel and his deeds will stand forever. Follow his Word, be strong in faith, and trust that he will be with you. God will prosper you according to his perfect plan for your life; he will bless your life.

Isaiah 41:10, 43:2 • 1 Peter 3:13-15, 4:12-14 • Daniel 3

Deuteronomy 31:6 • Romans 8:37 • Psalm 23:4-6, 56:3-4 Wow, Lord God. If you could protect and deliver the three men who trusted you in their fiery furnace trial, I know that you can protect and rescue me as well during my times of trials and testing. Jesus, you saved Peter when he started to sink after he was walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee. Thank you, dear God, that you can do immeasurably more than I could ever think or ask, according to the power that raised Jesus from the dead. I am so glad that you are my God and Savior.

April 9

Almighty God (El Shaddai) created the stars and knows them all by name. He cares for every creature on earth and sees even when a sparrow falls to the ground. He upholds and maintains the entire Universe by the word of his power.

Our everlasting Father greatly delights in having communion with you. The stars and the earth will pass away, but you who have received Christ in your life will live forever with God. Therefore, he greatly enjoys spending quality time with you. You really can get to know him in a profound and rewarding way.

The world may scoff at you for stating that you know God personally, but he will richly bless you, pour out his Holy Spirit upon you, and lead you on a very fulfilling journey through life as you seek him above all else.

Psalm 147:4-5 • Matthew 10:29-31 • 1 John 1:1-4, 3:1-3

Each day, Father, as I spend time with you in the Word, please speak to my heart clearly. Guide me by your counsel, for you see all things past, present, and future. Help me to grow in my personal relationship with you through prayer, praise, and the Word of God. Please strengthen me with

your Spirit in the depths of my heart. Help those around me to see the love of Christ and his light shining from me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

April 10

Draw near to our great God and Savior with a humble heart each day. The Lord will make his will known and guide you on the path he has chosen for you. The great Shepherd will talk to you by the written Word and by the Holy Spirit; let the peace of God bring quietness to your heart and mind so that you might hear his still, small voice.

The Holy Spirit of promise, by whom you were sealed in Jesus Christ, will teach you all things and bring to remembrance all things that Jesus said while he lived on earth. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly so that the Spirit of the living God may remind you of the truth and guide you without all the clutter of the world filling your mind. You need to be single-minded. Jesus is the Light of the world; let the light of his Word fill your heart and mind.

Jesus is the Word of God; every Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Diligently seek his Word; you will find your answer, comfort, guidance, or revelation regarding questions, problems, or decisions you face. Trust in the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort; his love for you is everlasting; he will be faithful to talk to you and guide you. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice.”

John 14:26 • Ephesians 1:13 • Colossians 3:16

Romans 12:1-2 • 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Thank you, Jesus, my great Shepherd, for always being there for me. You have guided me (and carried me at times) through trials of my faith, suffering, sorrow, and sickness. Thank you for being the great physician—you have healed me so many times, both spiritually and physically. Your thoughts to me are more numerous each day than can be counted. Thank you for your indescribable gift! Glory to God, my Savior! Amen.

April 11

The God of all grace cares for you exceedingly beyond how much you think or imagine he could care for you. At times, you may even doubt that he is concerned about your problems, such as a broken relationship, illness, financial struggles, emotional stress, or sorrow that you are going through.

Our God is compassionate and tenderhearted toward you; he desires to richly bless you as he guides you through these problems.

Your heavenly Father will answer your every prayer in his way, in his timing, and always with perfect love. These trials are where you will grow much in Christ. These very trials are often an answer to your prayers for growth in your life with the Lord. Trust him fully, for he will transform you more into the image of Christ through these trials.

He will also work all things for your good. Be strong in faith and ask God to give you endurance during these times. He will always be with you. Cast all of your worries on him, for he cares for you. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with a heart of thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to your Wonderful God of love; the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:11 • Isaiah 55:8-12 • James 1:4

Hebrews 10:35-36 • 1 Peter 5:7 • Philippians 4:6-7

Heavenly Father, I rejoice in the everlasting love that you have for me! Help me to trust you more during my trials and sufferings. Since you are for me, nothing can be against me. Please help me to be filled with thanksgiving, knowing that you bless me both spiritually and physically according to your great riches in glory. Amen.

April 12

After Jesus, the Son of Man, was baptized and came up out of the Jordan, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and rested upon him. Then the Father's voice from Heaven said that Jesus was his beloved Son in whom he was well pleased.

Being full of the Holy Spirit, the Messiah was led into the wilderness by the Spirit and was tempted by the devil for forty days. He ate nothing during those days. Each temptation that the devil threw at him, he answered with Scripture. The devil tempted Jesus using the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—just like the temptations that the serpent (Satan) offered Eve in the Garden of Eden. Jesus was victorious on every count!

In Christ's extreme physical weakness, he quoted Scripture to overcome. Having suffered and been tempted, he can help you when you are tempted and

tried. Call upon God; rely on and proclaim the Scriptures at these times. You can overcome through Christ; let him reign in your heart.

Luke 4:1-15 • Hebrews 2:14-18 • 1 John 2:15-17

1 Corinthians 10:13 • James 4:7

Thank you, Jesus, for conquering sin, Satan, and death; you are the Word of God. May your Word be a light for my path, as I am led by your Spirit. Please give me a hunger for the Scriptures so that I may grow in grace and know you more deeply. The entrance of the Word into my heart will help me understand what the riches of my inheritance in your kingdom are and guide me to do your will by word and deed. Thank you for calling me and justifying me; soon, I will be glorified in Heaven! Amen.

April 13

There are many giants to be conquered as you claim your Promised Land. If you look at your own strength compared to the size of the giants, you will get discouraged. If you look past today and take on the burden of the battles that lie ahead of you in the future, dread might even begin to set in.

Our glorious Father knows the plans that he has for you; many great blessings have been ordained for you since before the world began. Do not worry about tomorrow; he will be there to fight the battles. Trust him with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. God told Joshua, who was about to cross the Jordan, to be strong, of good courage, and not to be afraid or lose hope, for the Lord God would be with him wherever he would go. Today is the day to greatly rejoice, for God, the King of heaven and earth, is with you and will be strong on your behalf. Since he is for you, nothing can be against you!

Jeremiah 29:11 • Proverbs 3:5-6 • Joshua 1:9

Romans 8:31

Thank you, God, my Father, that I am more than a conqueror through Christ, who lives in me and strengthens me! Please help me to trust you fully as you fulfill your will in and through my life. I am weak, but your strength is made perfect in weakness. Help me to be strong in faith, giving glory to you as you fight my battles with and for me. You are my rock, my sun and shield, and my Savior. Praise the Lord. Amen.

April 14

Your glorious Father, through Christ Jesus, will bless you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places as you abide in him. Everything that pertains to life and godliness is yours through his divine power; he will provide for all of your needs according to his riches in glory. Godliness with contentment is truly great gain.

Be not envious of others' blessings or circumstances. Even Solomon, in all his glory, did not have most of the blessings, both spiritual and physical, that you have. You have the complete Word of God to help you grow spiritually. You have Christ living in you—the hope of glory. You have been given many precious and magnificent promises. You have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, and as you are led by the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh but will bear the glorious and abundant fruit of the Spirit. You have received an abundance of grace and mercy from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. What an honor to be called of God, to be a child of the King of kings!

Many people seek to have more goods. Material things do not provide fulfillment. Knowing our great God and Savior and letting his life shine from you in word and deed is true fulfillment. Jesus was poor when on earth. He did the Father's will daily—even to death on the cross—and forever, he possesses glory and honor beyond all earthly riches. Yield to God through the Holy Spirit. Invite the will of Christ Jesus to be accomplished in your life. Be ever thankful; you will be blessed in great measure now and forever.

Ephesians 1:3, 11-20 • 2 Peter 1:3 • Philippians 4:19

1 Timothy 6:6 • Hebrews 13:5 • Luke 12:15

2 Corinthians 8:9

Thank you, Jesus, for your wondrous grace; though you were rich with the infinite wealth of the kingdom of Heaven, you became poor for my sake, so that through your poverty, I might become rich. You, who knew no sin, became sin for me so that I might become righteous by faith in you. I am now a new creation; I am born again. I am crucified with you, Jesus, yet I live, for you live in me, and the life I now live, I live by faith in you, who so greatly loved me and gave your life for me. By the miracle of your death and resurrection (raised up by the glory of the Father), I also am

raised from the dead in the newness of life. I will praise you and glorify you today and forever! Amen.

April 15

Isaiah prophesied regarding the Messiah, saying that he would be a witness, a leader, and a commander to the people.

Jesus, the Son of God, is the faithful witness. As the great Apostle of the kingdom of Heaven, he was faithful to speak words of the kingdom and do the works that the Father sent him to do—perfectly faithful, even unto death.

He is the great Shepherd of the sheep, leading his sheep beside still waters and into green pastures. Jesus leads them through dark and dangerous valleys but cares and fights for his sheep so that he may preserve every one of them.

As your commander, he has engraved two commandments upon your heart and mind: love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Isaiah 55:4 • Revelation 1:5-6

Thank you, Lord, that as the perfect witness of Heaven, we beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. You are the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to walk in the light of your love today. Without you, Jesus, I can do nothing, but with you, all things are possible. It is only by your grace that I am able to love others; you have worked mightily in my life. Please transform my heart to be more like yours, Jesus. Amen.

April 16

Come to Jesus when you are growing weary and exhausted; he will give you rest. Come to the Prince of Peace when you are loaded down with the burdens of everyday life; he will take your burdens and refresh your soul. Come to Christ, the true oasis, when you are spiritually thirsty; he will give you living waters that will thoroughly quench your thirst. Come boldly before the throne of grace for help in time of need that you may obtain his rich mercies; your Father in Heaven loves you.

By taking his yoke upon you and learning from him, you will find true rest and refreshment for your soul. He is humble and gentle in heart. Jesus, the Son of the Highest, came as a servant. He blessed the little children and

comforted the brokenhearted. He touched and healed the lepers and the paralyzed, raised the dead, and loved the outcasts of society. Yes, dear child of the eternal King, come learn of him and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which will transform your life. Your fellowship with him will bring you abundant life.

Matthew 11:28-30 • Hebrews 4:16

Psalms 116:1-9 • 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 • Isaiah 61:1-3

Dear Jesus, I humbly bow my heart to you; I thank you for your great love to all of us on earth; I ask that you would transform my life—my thoughts, words, and deeds—to be pleasing to you. Help me to hunger for the Word of God and seek you in the Scriptures so that I might flourish like the palm tree and grow strong like a cedar. Please do a great miracle in my life so that I might bear abundant fruit that will last forever. Amen.

April 17

According to the old covenant that Almighty God had with the children of Israel, the high priest needed to enter the Holy Place each year with the blood of animals (the sacrifice for the sins of the people).

Not by the blood of goats and calves, but by Jesus' own blood, he entered in once into the true Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for you. He entered into Heaven itself to appear in the presence of the Father for you. By one offering—himself—he has brought righteousness forever to those who are set apart for his service.

You are now united with Christ Jesus, who became for you wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. He gave his life's blood for your sins—"It is finished"—your sin's debt has been paid in full. He has given you an abundance of grace, the gift of righteousness, and eternal life. He who did not spare his own beloved Son but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not freely and graciously give you all things that pertain to life and godliness? Therefore, come confidently with full freedom before his throne of grace into the Holy of Holies that you might receive and rejoice in God's mercy and grace.

Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:14-22 • 1 Corinthians 1:30

Philippians 3:9 • Romans 5:17, 8:32

Thank you, Jesus, that you have made me a king and a priest unto you and your Father; I come boldly and confidently by faith before your throne. I offer spiritual sacrifices of praise for the great things you have accomplished in my heart and my life. I offer myself as a living sacrifice; may your will be done in my life. May your blessings be rich in my life; establish the words of my mouth and the works of my hands to glorify you and the Father forever. Thank you for your everlasting love!

April 18

It is easy to get your eyes on your circumstances and problems—like Peter looking at the waves when he was walking on the water. Fears and doubts will cause your human nature to try to worry and take things into your own hands. Look only to Jesus today, not at the winds and the waves. You will be *walking on the water* as the King of glory leads you to do his will.

Incline your heart to trust in Christ each day. He knows what is best for you. Delight yourself in the Lord and God's Word, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Your life is in God's hands. You were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ; therefore, offer yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him. Do not be conformed to this world, which lives by the desires of human nature, but let the living God transform you by renewing your mind each day with his Word and the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 • Psalm 37:4 • 1 Peter 1:18-22

Romans 12:1-2

Please guide me today, dear Lord, by the Holy Spirit, so that I bear fruit of the Spirit and not fulfill the works of the flesh. Help me to keep my eyes on you, though the winds and the waves of this life rage. Help me to grow in grace and your love. Amen.

April 19

Do I hear Paul and Silas cursing the Roman guards ("You lousy #!*#!xx Romans, I'll sue you!xx#* You#x!!xx#*!!")? Not a chance! Not these guys!

These two men had been severely flogged and thrown into prison, their feet fastened in the stocks. With an attitude of love and worship, they sang songs to their God, who they knew would work all things to their good!

When your heart is right with God, he will sometimes greatly surprise you with blessings, experiences, and deliverance. After a violent earthquake, doors flew open, chains fell off, and the powerful Word of God was shared; a whole family met Christ and received eternal life.

Attitude and commitment—Paul and Silas trusted and loved Christ Jesus, their Savior. God honored that then, and he honors that today.

Acts 16:25-34

Help me, Lord Jesus, to never doubt you are working your will in my life. If anyone could have doubted, Paul and Silas, who had just been wrongfully beaten, might have. They kept their faith, and you blessed them beyond what could have been thought possible. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. Please help me be thankful and rejoice by faith, even during tribulations. Please lead me today to seek first your kingdom and its righteousness so that all things in Christ will be added unto me. Help me to be patient in tribulations, like Paul and Silas, knowing that all things are working together for my good, according to your plan for my life. You are able to deliver me from trials or tribulations, or to give me the grace to abide in you during them—as you work deeply in my heart. Amen.

April 20

Earnestly contend for the same faith that Christ Jesus delivered to his first disciples. They beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father when Jesus walked the earth: they witnessed multitudes of miracles, listened to his Word, and experienced his everlasting love. The Holy Spirit was sent to give them power to follow Christ wholeheartedly. They did not let the enticing lusts of the world draw them away from their holy calling.

You, like the early disciples, now also may behold the Savior's glory: his miracles, truth, and love are in the Scriptures. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Rejoice, for the fruit of the Spirit will be abundant in your life as you continue to give your heart to him each day and let your life be guided by the Spirit. Be led by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—will be increasingly evident as you live in Christ Jesus; many will see this in your life and be inspired by it.

As God's child, be compassionate and forbearing toward others. Forgive others as your God in Christ has forgiven you. Let the peace of God rule in your heart today. Be thankful for all that he has done for you and the wondrous future he has planned for you. Do these things, and you will be truly blessed.

Jude 1:3 • Romans 8:14 • Galatians 5:17-25

Ephesians 4:32 • Colossians 3:12-17 *Lord*
God, you took me out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay of this world—thank you! I was crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I have a new life because Christ lives in me! Thank you, Jesus, for spanning the gulf between Heaven and this world; thank you for redeeming me with your precious blood; I have hope, which is an anchor to my soul, giving me continual access to your very presence where you dwell. Thank you that I am seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!

April 21

When you have times of sorrow, confusion, or worry, Jesus, the Shepherd of your soul, understands how you feel. He is with you when you are going through these dark, cloud-filled days. All things are working together for your good, although this may be hard to believe during these times. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith, for help; he is your God and can bring peace to your heart. Trust in the Lord your God, for he rules all circumstances and will accomplish his purposes through them. Submit yourself to the Lord and his will regarding the outcome of your circumstances; this is true growth in your faith.

In this world, you will experience much tribulation, but take courage, for Christ has overcome the world. The sufferings that you go through are certainly not worth comparing to the glory that is to be revealed both in your life and in the wondrous kingdom you will soon be reigning in. Tears may endure through the night, but joy comes in the morning. The redeemed of the King of glory will return and come to Zion with singing, crowned with everlasting joy; sorrow and sighing will flee away.

John 14:27 • Psalm 27:1-14, 30:5 • Romans 8:18

Isaiah 35:10

Thank you for living in me, Jesus; what a miracle! Greater are you, who reigns in my heart, than he (Satan) that is in the world. All things are possible for me because I believe in you; you have all power in heaven and on earth. Thank you for the countless times you have comforted me during times of trial, trouble, and sorrow; your Holy Spirit and the Scriptures have given me hope and the faith to persevere. Amen.

April 22

You can do all things through Christ Jesus, for he is your strength. He is your rock, your fortress, and your deliverer. Do not fear what man can do to you. Do not fear circumstances. He is with you; do not be dismayed. Ask to be strengthened and led by the Holy Spirit, and it will be done. You may feel weak, but your God and Savior will give you the power to do his will. Trust him with your whole heart.

He is your strong tower. The Father sees the end from the beginning—he sees every person who has ever lived and every nation throughout all of history. He has perfect counsel and wisdom to guide you. Diligently follow the Word of God and trust in the Lord. He will renew your strength. You will soar with wings as eagles; you will run and not get weary. Be strong by abiding in Christ and trusting in the power of his might.

Isaiah 40:31, 41:10 • Ephesians 3:16-17, 6:10

Psalms 18:1-3

Dear Savior Jesus, today I trust you; you are the great Shepherd of the sheep. Please guide me with your counsel that I might prosper in you, in all that I say and in my works. I am your workmanship, created in you for good works that you have prepared for me before the foundation of the world. Thank you for the honor of walking with you today.

April 23

The mighty God and Savior Jesus ordained twelve men, whom he named apostles, who would continue with him during his work on earth. They would hear the truths of God's everlasting kingdom and experience the love that the Father and Jesus have for mankind. The Lord then sent them out by the power of the Holy Spirit to share the Word of life and do the same works that Christ has done.

Since the day Jesus ascended back to Heaven, he has continued to call men and women to receive his holy anointing for their work in this world. Christ Jesus is calling you. Receive his rich blessing, that you might bear everlasting fruit in his wondrous kingdom. God will blend the talents and desires that he created in you, along with gifts he will bestow upon you by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, the chief Shepherd, will be with you every step of the way. He will give you the words to share. He has works for you to do, ordained since before time began; he will do these works through you. Be willing and obedient, and you shall rejoice forever in the glory that will be revealed in Heaven for you.

Mark 3:13-14 • John 15:16 • 1 Peter 4:10-11

Ephesians 2:10 • 2 Timothy 1:9 • Colossians 1:9-12

Thank you for calling me into your wondrous, eternal family. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever; you will be strong on my behalf as you were to the early disciples. Your everlasting love is ever toward me; great is your faithfulness, Father, and your mercies are new every morning. Glory to your name forever! Amen.

April 24

Jairus' little daughter was dying. Her father pleaded with Jesus to come and lay his hands on her so that she would be healed and live, and the Lord went with him. While on the way to his house, some people came and said that his daughter had died, but Jesus, the mighty Son of God, told Jairus not to be afraid and just to believe. At the house, Jesus told the twelve-year-old girl to get up, and she arose from the dead; the parents and the disciples were totally astonished.

People had told Jairus that his daughter was dead and not to trouble the Teacher any further. But when all hope seems lost, remember that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He has all power in heaven and on earth. Trust him, for he is able to do exceedingly above everything you can think or ask.

Mark 5:22-24, 35-43 • John 11:25 • Ephesians 3:20

Thank you, Father, for being the God of the impossible! Nothing is too hard for you. I humbly ask that you answer these prayers that I now present to you. Please do your will in these areas. Help me to trust you for

the outcome of each prayer. You have everlasting love for me and those that I am praying for. Your ways are higher than my ways, even as the stars are above the earth. I thank you for your great goodness, mercy, power, and love. I ask these things in Jesus' name and for his glory. Amen.

April 25

You may feel weak and insignificant at times. But Jesus, the Lord of glory, has blessed you and called you from Heaven to be an ambassador for his eternal kingdom. He does not choose those who are self-righteous or of great strength in their own eyes. Blessed are the poor in spirit, who are rich in faith, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. He will exalt the humble and meek by blessing their works and shining from their lives. The King of kings looks over the face of the whole earth for those who humble themselves and follow him with their whole heart; he will be strong on their behalf.

You are not insignificant; you are a precious jewel to Christ Jesus, and he treasures you. Whoever has received him in their heart is a child of the living God; this is the greatest honor that one may have. Enjoy your communion with Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, today. The Holy Spirit, who lives in you, will comfort you and guide you. This is a day to rejoice.

Psalms 37:11 • Matthew 5:3-9 • Isaiah 66:2 • Micah 6:8

Malachi 3:17

Therefore, the ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful singing to Zion; they will have everlasting joy; sorrow and mourning shall flee away. Praise the Lord for his great goodness and love! Father, thank you for this gift—abundant life; soon, I shall reign in life with you in your wondrous and perfect world forever. Amen.

April 26

Our compassionate and gracious God hears and values every prayer you offer. He knows every one of your hopes and dreams for your life. The everlasting God (El Olam) sees your whole life on earth from beginning to end; he even sees through all eternity. He has all power to provide any need that you have; he knows what is best for you. The God of all grace will help you regarding relationships, as well as where to live and work. He will guide you on how to best bring glory to the Father through your work in the kingdom.

Do not worry about your circumstances or provisions. Let the Lord of glory know your requests, with a trusting and thankful heart. Cast your cares upon him, for he greatly cares for you, and he will do what is best for you—providing what you need at just the right time. Be patient and trust in his infinite power; you will learn of God's ways and grow strong in Christ Jesus during times of tribulation. Abide steadfastly in Christ, be unmoveable, always abounding in the work of Christ Jesus, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain; you will receive a bountiful reward on the Day of Glory.

Psalms 139:1-18 • Philippians 4:6-7 • Hebrews 10:35-36

Father, thank you for your abundant provision to me through the years. I trust you with my future—you know my hopes and dreams. By your grace and Holy Spirit, help me to be a blessing to all I meet; let my light so shine through my deeds and words so that they will glorify you. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Praise the Lord!

April 27

Come before the Father today with a heart of praise. As you abide in Christ and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, great things will happen. You will be acknowledging your God and his love for you—with much peace and joy in this knowledge. Cast all of your cares upon Christ Jesus, for he cares for you. Your burdens will be cast upon the shoulders of your God; you will not need to carry them anymore. If you abide in Christ, and his words abide in you, whatever you ask for in faith, in the name of Jesus Christ to the Father, you shall receive.

Prayer has changed lives and the world. Centuries ago, Daniel and his three friends pleaded for mercy from the God of Heaven in prayer, and he revealed the mystery of a king's dream. The history of the world was revealed at that time through their prayers. Daniel and his friends were made rulers in the Babylonian kingdom.

Hannah, being childless, prayed from the depths of her heart, and God gave her a son, Samuel, who would become a mighty prophet of the Lord.

Elijah prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and the Lord answered by withholding the rain for three years as a witness to Ahab and the nation of Israel. On another occasion, Elijah prayed that the Lord God would send fire

upon the sacrifice on the altar. God did just that, and it was a remarkable testimony to the entire nation that the God of Elijah was indeed the true God.

The apostles of Christ often prayed, and the Lord God answered them in miraculous ways. You are just like Hannah, Daniel, Elijah, or the early disciples of Christ—they were people with a human nature like yours. The effectual fervent prayer of a believer in Jesus can accomplish much.

Ephesians 6:18 • John 15:7 • Matthew 21:21-22

Luke 11:9-10 • Daniel 2:17-49 • 1 Kings 18:21-39

James 5:17-18 • Philippians 4:6-7

Lord God, I seek you today earnestly for help in my time of need. What I share with you now, I entrust into your hands. Please work mightily on my behalf; I pray in Jesus' name and for your glory. Amen.

April 28

After you heard the Word of Truth and received Christ Jesus into your heart, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit—the deposit guaranteeing your inheritance in the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit (Helper, Comforter, Advocate), whom the Father sends in Christ's name, shall teach you all things and bring to remembrance all that Jesus told us when he was on earth.

Fan the flame of this great gift from above that has been given unto you. Your body is the very sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. You are not your own, for the Savior bought you for a price—his blood. Therefore, honor the God who loves you by offering your body as a living sacrifice. This is true spiritual worship. Ask your Father to guide you and transform your life by the Holy Spirit and his wondrous grace. The fruit of the Spirit will be evident in your life in greater and greater measure. Many will see Christ, the Light of the world, shining from your life. Your rejoicing will be rich forever.

Ephesians 1:13 • 2 Corinthians 1:20-22 • John 14:26

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 • Romans 12:1

Galatians 5:22-23

Father, I offer myself unto you as a living sacrifice. Help me not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by your Holy Spirit into the

child of God you would like me to be. I want to honor you and bring you glory. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

April 29

In your times of suffering and sorrow, please do not cast off your confidence in Christ Jesus. These are times to draw close to him with all of your heart. He understands what you are going through, and he feels your emotions—he is the Wonderful Counselor and the God of all comfort. Let him hold you close—speaking words of comfort to you. Jesus will revive you and give you his peace—a peace that is not of this world—amid these trials. Let not the distresses and frustrations of life have a mastery over you. Trust fully in the Prince of life as you go through these trials. He will overcome them for you—even as he overcame the world. Jesus endured scorn, a crown of thorns, being spit upon, being beaten, and being nailed to a cross. He knows pain, suffering, and shame. Dear child of the King, he deeply loves you and promises to help you through these times. You are more than a conqueror through the eternal God who loves you.

We read of many in the Scriptures who endured much suffering, like Job, Joseph, and Paul. God honored their patience amid their pain, sorrow, and suffering. Remain confident in your faithful God; there is a great reward in doing so. You need to persevere; after you have done the will of God, you will receive the promise.

John 16:33 • Isaiah 43:2 • 2 Corinthians 1:3-10, 4:16-18

Romans 8:37 • Hebrews 10:35-36

Why are you cast down, O my soul? Hope in the Lord, my God, for I shall yet praise him for the help of his presence and his grace. I will trust you, Lord, during my present sorrows and troubles. I cast my burdens upon you, knowing that you shall sustain me. You have promised to lead me, great Shepherd of the sheep. You have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms. Since you are for me, nothing and no one can be against me. I will offer the sacrifice of praise to you today; glory to my God!

April 30

A man's son was possessed by a spirit that made him mute. It would also throw him violently to the ground, make him foam at the mouth, cause him to grind his teeth, and go into a motionless stupor. The spirit would often cast the child into the fire and water to try to kill him.

The boy's father pleaded with the Master to help him. Jesus told him that all things are possible to him who believes. With tears, he said, "I believe," but pleaded with Christ Jesus to please, "Help my unbelief." The Lord rebuked the demon, and he came out of the boy, who was healed from that moment on.

Jesus has all power and authority in heaven and earth. Do you have what appears to be an insurmountable problem? There is nothing too hard for your mighty God. You may be saying what the child's father said, "I believe, but help my unbelief!" The King of glory will greatly honor your faith in him and your honesty regarding your weaknesses. He is your God and your Deliverer today and through all your days on earth. He will also raise you up on that Day of Glory, for he is the resurrection and the life.

Mark 9:17-27 • Matthew 17:14-18, 28:18

Ephesians 1:11-23

Dear God, I call upon you today in my weakness; I believe; please help my unbelief. Your strength is made perfect in weakness. Please answer these prayers from my heart. I trust you, God; you have all power in heaven and earth. In Jesus' name. Amen

May 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Our heavenly Father gave his only begotten Son that you might have everlasting life through faith in Christ. The Lord Jesus will richly bestow upon you every spiritual and physical blessing you need for life and godliness. You are a treasured member of his eternal family.

He is continually interceding for you. Out of the rich treasury of his glory, Christ the Savior will empower you with inner strength by the Spirit. Welcome God fully to make his permanent home in every area of your heart by faith. Be rooted deeply and established in his eternal love that surpasses knowledge. Seek the Lord God wholeheartedly. Our gracious Father desires to make you complete with the fullness of his grace, love, and abundant life. You will know him as the Most High God, who is able to do superabundantly more than you could think or imagine. The resurrection power that brought Christ back from the dead to live and reign forever works mightily in you.

Romans 8:31-32 • 2 Peter 1:3 • Ephesians 3:16-21

Dear Father, thank you for the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus. You give me my breath and heartbeat every day. Now, through Christ, I have a new heart and breathe the wondrous spiritual air in my new life in Christ. Glory be to God. Amen.

May 2

Jesus, the Messiah, is risen from the dead. He conquered death for you. Rejoice, for by your faith in him, your sins are forgiven, and you will live forever in the glorious kingdom of Heaven. The King of kings reigns in Heaven forever, but he also will reign in your heart and life today and throughout all eternity.

Let your whole heart sound the praises of your God. How pure and full of love your praise can be as you forget the things of this world and are seated in heavenly places with Jesus. Joy and peace are yours today as you look to him and lift your praises.

Open your heart, and he will fill you with the Holy Spirit. The author and perfecter of faith will give you the power to walk in his steps in this world. He will give you his love, kindness, and gentleness. He has the power to transform your life. Ask, and it shall be given to you, dear child of the living God.

Psalms 27:4, 92:1-5 • Ephesians 5:20 • John 16:24

Great is the Lord God, and greatly to be praised; his greatness, power, love, mercy, and grace are immeasurable. Dear Jesus, I offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving even during times of tribulation, knowing that you will be strong on my behalf and that I will come forth as gold. As I offer praise to you, may your joy be my strength. Amen.

May 3

Cast all your cares upon the great Shepherd, for he deeply cares for you. Let him bear your burdens today—and always. He will give peace to your soul. Remember what he did the day of the storm on the Sea of Galilee with his disciples; the Lord calmed the storm with his Word. Yield fully to Jesus in the trials of life. He will give you wisdom and patience as you endure these turbulent times. He will calm your storms at just the right time, and great shall be your peace.

The eternal King has given you exceedingly great and precious promises in his Word—embrace them. He will perform what he has promised and produce great blessings in your life. Rest and trust in him. Come and spend quiet times with Jesus each day; he will fill your empty cup to overflowing.

1 Peter 5:6-7 • 2 Peter 1:1-4 • Psalm 28:6-9

Proverbs 3:5-6 • Psalm 23

Thank you, Jesus, that I am more than a conqueror through you. Help me to wait on you and be of good courage, for you will strengthen my heart. Amen.

May 4

When you learn to trust and obey Christ more fully through the trials and circumstances he allows into your life, you have learned a most important lesson—to walk in his steps. Even Jesus, the Son of God, obeyed the Father through the many trials in his life. He was delighted to do the will of his Father in Heaven. When you do the will of the God of your salvation, you bring much glory to him and the kingdom of Heaven.

Do not be conformed to this present world, but let the Holy Spirit transform you. He will equip you with everything needed to do the Father's will. The God of all grace is doing a glorious work in your life. Do not limit yourself by who you were before you received Christ into your life. You are a new creation in Christ, and the old things have passed away. The Almighty One—the Alpha and Omega—created the heavens and the earth by his Word. He, indeed, can transform you into the image of Christ from one degree of glory to another. Be guided by the Spirit of the Lord, and let Christ live through you. Remember to give thanks always for all things to your Father, in Jesus' name. The Father's and Jesus' love is upon you from everlasting to everlasting.

Hebrews 13:20-21 • Romans 12:1-2

Psalm 90:16-17, 103:17, 138:8

2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:17 • 1 Thessalonians 5:18

I rejoice greatly in you, my God and Savior! You have clothed me with the garments of salvation and covered me with your robe of righteousness. I have been lavished with an abundance of your grace, which is teaching

me to deny ungodliness and the lusts of the flesh. Please strengthen me by the Holy Spirit to live a godly and self-controlled life in Christ. You are able to do exceedingly abundantly more than I can ask, by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. I believe all the wondrous promises that you have freely given to me; I know that you can perform what you have promised! May your will be accomplished in my life. Thank you, dear God! Amen.

May 5

Today, you may be facing turmoil or a daunting task. You need not carry the burden yourself. The best resolution will be attained in a perplexing situation, not by your power or wisdom but by God's Spirit. If you wait upon the God of love, he will give you the answer to any problem that you face. His wisdom will be given generously to you when you ask; it will bear good fruit in your life. Christ's wisdom is greater than Solomon's—and Christ lives in you. It is so important to seek his personal word for you in the Scriptures—they are spirit and life.

It is easy to lean on your own understanding and to accomplish works in the flesh. The Lord calls you to humble yourself before him, the living God. All things are possible when you put your complete trust in him. He opens doors that no man can close and closes doors that no man can open. He parted the Jordan River for the children of Israel so they might enter and inherit their Promised Land. Since our God and Father is for you, nothing and no one can be against you. He will bring you into the land of abundant life that he has promised to you.

Zechariah 4:6 • James 1:5, 3:17 • Romans 8:31

Jeremiah 17:7-8 • Proverbs 3:5

Dear Father, please guide me in your Word in my times of confusion, sorrow, or suffering. May your grace be abundant upon me; let my times with you in prayer and the Word be like an oasis to my soul. Thank you for your promise to give me living waters freely. Lead me into green pastures and beside still waters each day. Please speak to my heart, by your Spirit and your Word, in a very personal way. Thank you.

May 6

You can do everything through Christ, who will empower you through the Holy Spirit. When David faced Goliath, the giant, the mighty God gave David boldness, skill, and deliverance. David remembered that God had rescued him from a lion and a bear that he killed while they were attempting to carry off sheep in his care. You should also remember the victories the Lord has given you and the times he has delivered you; this will provide confidence and boldness for you to step out in faith to do God's work and bring glory to his name.

Cast not away your confidence, but be strong in faith today. Great shall be your reward in the kingdom of God; whoever serves Christ Jesus, the Father will honor him. The earthly treasures will all perish, and you cannot take them to Heaven. But to you who walk by faith and overcome, there is an incorruptible and glorious inheritance reserved in Heaven for you.

Philippians 4:13 • 1 Samuel 17:34-37, 45-50

Hebrews 10:35-36 • John 12:26 • 1 Peter 1:4

Help me, dear Father, to be strong in Christ Jesus and in the power of his might. Help me to put on the whole armor that you have provided for the battles ahead: the belt of truth around my waist, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one, the good news shoes to ready me to share the glorious gospel of Christ, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's Word. Thank you that Christ Jesus has all power in heaven and on earth and that he lives in me! Help me to be bold in the faith of Christ. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

May 7

Today, and every day, is a day of rejoicing and thankfulness. You are one of God's chosen people, a member of his royal priesthood, and a citizen of the kingdom of Heaven. He called you out from the darkness you were living in and miraculously transferred you into his glorious kingdom of light. Our great God and Savior has given you a reason to live and has put a new song in your heart. Today and every day is the time to rejoice and be thankful for his loving-kindness, mercy, grace, and power.

Let the peace of God rule in your heart. Let the eternal Word of God fill your life, guided by the wisdom from above as you share with others; sing

psalms, hymns, and songs of his love, with gratitude in your heart to your God. And whatever you do or say should be done in the name of Jesus Christ, giving thanks and glory to the Father through him.

1 Peter 2:9 • John 15:16 • Colossians 1:13; 3:15-17

Psalms 100

Dear Lord, today I give my deepest thanks for the everlasting love that called me to you and saved me. Thank you for providing my daily bread, both physically and spiritually. Thank you that through Christ, I am a joint heir of the kingdom of Heaven with my great King. Thank you that I am a partaker of your divine nature through believing your great and precious promises. Thank you for creating such a beautiful planet with mountains, woods, streams, oceans, animals of every kind, tropical fish, birds, butterflies, and so much more. Thank you for the five senses to enjoy the abundant life that you have given me. You are an amazing God! Lord Jesus, what a Savior you are!

May 8

A great army with horses and chariots compassed the city where the prophet Elisha was; the king of Syria wanted him killed. When Elisha's servant beheld the army, he was fearful. Elisha confidently stated that there are more with us than with them. He prayed for the eyes of the young man to be opened. When the mighty God answered that prayer, the young man beheld that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

When the enemy came down to him, Elisha asked the Lord God to strike the army with blindness; the Lord blinded them as Elisha had asked. He led the army to Samaria, where he prayed that God would now open their eyes, which he did. The king of Israel asked if he should kill them. Elisha told him to give them food and water. After the Syrian army consumed the great feast, they were sent on their way. These raiders did not return to the land of Israel again.

When your natural eyes behold the enemy's forces encamped against you, it is easy to be gripped by fear, as Elisha's servant was. But the eyes of faith peer profoundly and clearly into our faithful Creator's eternal realm. What they see and apprehend gives you the strength and boldness to accomplish our great God's will.

Greater is the one who is in you than the one who is in the world; Jesus, the Son of God, lives in you. The enemy will assail you from every side. He appears very strong, and you may feel very weak. But Christ the King conquered death and reigns in your heart. The battle is God's. In your weakness, his strength is made perfect. Fully trust in the God of heaven and earth to prevail in every encounter with the enemy. You will always triumph in Christ; you are more than a conqueror through his power and love!

2 Kings 6:14-23 • 2 Corinthians 2:14, 4:18 • 1 John 4:4

Romans 8:37

May 9

Elisha showed love to the enemy army that was made blind by Almighty God; he restored their sight soon after. Elisha fed them and sent them on their way. This victory was won by love.

You are ambassadors of Christ, the Son of God; you are sent on a special mission to show his love to all in boldness and the power of the Holy Spirit. Let his glorious light—that brings truth and warms hearts—shine from your life. Yield to the Spirit's leading that you might do the works he has ordained for you; others will see them and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Jesus has loved you with the same love that the Father has loved him. Continue in this glorious love. The Savior loved all, even those who crucified him. Love is the conquering force. Millions of his enemies have received forgiveness and eternal salvation through this wondrous love. Nothing could destroy Christ; he arose from the dead and conquered death, the great enemy of mankind.

As he has loved you, so love one another. If you walk in his love, great blessings will be yours—in your work and relationships with friends and enemies. Trust in the God of all grace; he will bless you richly as you love others.

2 Kings 6:14-23 • Matthew 5:14-16, 43-48 • 1 Peter 2:12

John 15:7-14

Thank you, Father, for loving the world so much that you gave your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but receive eternal life. You have loved me with an everlasting love; by your loving-

kindness, you have drawn me to you. You have conveyed me from being dead in sins to having Christ in me; he is the hope of glory! Amen.

May 10

Herod, the king, was persecuting God's people. He had killed James, the brother of John, and had jailed Peter. Prayer was continually being made for him by the church. The night before Peter was to be executed, he was sleeping between two soldiers. Peter was securely bound with two chains.

Nothing is hard for the Sovereign Lord. He sent an angel and a shining light to the prison cell. As the angel woke Peter up, the chains fell off his hands. The angel led Peter past the two guard posts, and upon reaching the iron gate, it opened up for them. As they walked on the street, the angel departed.

Peter proceeded to a disciple's home, where many people were praying. The girl who answered Peter's knock did not open the door but ran to tell the others that Peter was standing outside the door. They did not believe her.

But Peter continued to knock, and when they finally opened the door and saw Peter, they were astonished. The many disciples of Jesus had been fervently praying, without ceasing, to their great God and Savior for Peter to be delivered from the hands of Herod. Their faithful God answered their prayer, but they did not believe it. Of course, disbelief quickly turned to amazement and great joy.

If you live in Christ and his words live in you, ask for whatever you will in faith, and it will be done for you.

Acts 12:1-19 • John 15:7 • Luke 11:9 • Isaiah 65:24

Psalms 91:14-16

Thank you, God, for answering so many of my prayers; you are merciful and faithful. Sometimes, you have waited to answer so that you might be gracious to me in a much better way for my life. I trust you, dear Father, to work in my relatives' and friends' lives; your hand is not shortened that it cannot save; your ear is not heavy that it cannot hear. Thank you for providing my needs (godliness with contentment is great gain). Amen.

May 11

Almighty God is creating new heavens and a new earth wherein righteousness dwells. Be glad and rejoice forever, for the holy city, new Jerusalem, awaits you. Our glorious God and Savior will rejoice over his people and will dwell among them. He will wipe away all tears from the eyes of his cherished people. Pain and death shall no longer exist. The former things will pass away, for he will make all things new.

Our faithful God wondrously loves you, and you will soon be reigning with Christ in the glorious kingdom of Heaven. Consider that your life on earth is but a vapor, and learn to make each day count. Let Christ live through you, that your life might continually bring glory to the Father. The Spirit of God will guide you to walk on his path as you acknowledge God in all your ways. By his counsel, you will be doing his will and the works that he has ordained for you to accomplish. You will bear much fruit as you abide in Christ Jesus, even bringing everlasting glory to the kingdom above.

Isaiah 65:17-19 • Revelation 14:13, 22:1-5 • Psalm 32:8

2 Peter 3:10-14 • Ephesians 2:10 • Proverbs 16:3

Thank you, Jesus, for all the opportunities I have had to share your Word or show your love through the years. You said that you have chosen us—we did not choose you—and you ordained that we should go and bear fruit and that our fruit would remain forever. Our works will follow us into Heaven—even as your works followed you there. I have an abundant entrance into your everlasting kingdom of glory.

May 12

You were united with Christ when you received him as your Savior. You became one with him; Christ is in you, and the Father is in Christ. The fullness of the Deity (the Godhead) dwells in Jesus, and you are complete in him. By faith in Christ and embracing the precious promises that he has given you in his Word, you have been made a partaker of his divine nature. Remember, you are not justified or saved by your good works or by fulfilling the Ten Commandments. Your own righteousness is like a filthy rag (strong words but true, as per God's Word). You now possess the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ by faith—a gift from the everlasting God. Almighty God said through Jeremiah, the prophet, that he would raise unto David, the king, a righteous Branch; God said that a King will reign and

prosper, and his name will be called The Lord is our Righteousness. Jesus, the King of kings, is our righteousness!

In the same way you have received Christ, by faith and with a heart of full trust, continue to walk with Jesus. Let your first love toward him be renewed. Do not let the world, its temptations, and the sins of the flesh rob you of the victorious life you have a right to live. Be filled and led by the Holy Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Your past life of sin has been crucified with Christ Jesus on the cross. Consider that old life dead; Christ now lives in you by faith. Therefore, whatever you do in word or deed, do all to the glory of your God and Father in Heaven.

You are a beloved child of the Everlasting God; you know him personally. He has a glorious plan for you here in this world and in the eternal kingdom of Heaven. Our great God and Savior is with you always and loves you beyond words!

John 17:21-23 • Colossians 2:6-10 • Romans 4:3-8, 5:17

1 Corinthians 1:30 • Philippians 3:92 • 2 Peter 1:3-1

2 Corinthians 5:21 • Galatians 2:20-21, 5:16-25

Jeremiah 23:5-6, 29:11-13

May 13

Many areas of life can cause you great anxiety, even to the point of despair. You do not know what the future holds for you, and this can also bring distress. But the Sovereign God, the One who inhabits eternity, does know the future, for he is the Beginning and the Ending.

You must fully trust him as your provider in all areas of your life. The earth is his and everything in it. He will liberally provide for your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Remember how our wondrous God and Savior fed the five thousand, filled the fisherman's boats with fish, raised the dead, cleansed lepers, put a coin for the taxes in a fish's mouth, turned the water into wine, calmed the storm for the disciples, gave Abram a child in his old age, gave water from the rock for the children of Israel, and gave them the Promised Land. Our glorious Father and King will provide for all of your spiritual, physical, and emotional needs; you are his child, and he cherishes you dearly.

As Creator of heaven and earth, he has the power to be mighty on your behalf in all areas of life. But his having your whole heart and trust is essential. Seek his kingdom and righteousness first; all your needs will be provided. Delight yourself in him, and he will give you the desires of your heart. As you grow in the grace of Christ Jesus and rejoice in getting to know him personally through his Word, your life will be transformed to be more like Jesus; his desires will become your desires.

The Holy Spirit will give you a new power to walk confidently in this world, as you now trust Christ for many areas that were once the cause of distress. His peace will rule in your heart. His joy will be your strength. By experience, you will learn that he is working all things together for your good. You will echo what the shepherd, David, sang long ago about: goodness and mercy following him all the days of his life. Praise the Lord!

Revelation 1:8 • Deuteronomy 8:1-10 • Philippians 4:19

Psalms 23:1-6, 37:3-5, 84:11 • Matthew 6:33

May 14

Seven men, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, were chosen to help distribute daily provisions to widows among the disciples shortly after Christ Jesus ascended to Heaven. The apostles prayed and laid hands on these men. Their care for the needy was a work of love; God blessed them, and the sharing of the Word of God flourished, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem multiplied rapidly; also, a great company of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen, one of the seven, filled with the marvelous grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, performed amazing wonders and signs among the people. He shared the Word with boldness and wisdom. The enemies of the faith stirred up the people and brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin, where false witnesses lied about him. Before the council, Stephen courageously proclaimed the God of Israel's reality and his workings with the children of Israel; he expounded truths beginning with Abraham and going through Moses, the prophets, and Jesus, the Righteous One—the Messiah.

The Jewish leaders were cut to the heart and were furious upon being confronted with the truth. They shook their fists and ground their teeth at Stephen. But being filled with the Holy Spirit, he looked steadfastly up into

Heaven and saw Jesus, his Savior, in glory. When he told the council that he saw the heavens open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God, they began shouting, stopped their ears, and rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

As they stoned Stephen, he called upon his Savior, saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees and cried out to the Lord, asking Jesus to forgive them and not hold this sin against them. With those final words of love, the faithful servant of God fell asleep (he died) in Christ.

The King of kings welcomed Stephen, the faithful servant, into the joy of the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus reigned in Stephen's short life on earth, and forever, he would now reign with his glorious God and Savior in Paradise. He walked Christ's chosen path of life for him on earth; now, in God's presence, he would have fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

Acts 6:5-8; 7 • Ephesians 4:32 • 2 Corinthians 5:8

Psalm 16:11

May 15

Stephen was not ashamed of the testimony of his Savior and Lord. He was a partaker of the sufferings of Christ, and as such, he would then experience the power of Christ's resurrection and eternal glory with him.

You, child of the living God, should likewise not be surprised at a fiery trial when it comes to test you. As when Jesus, the wondrous Savior, appeared to Stephen at just the right moment to comfort him and give him an abundance of grace, so shall Jesus, the Lord of glory, stand by you when you need him. As the strong Deliverer was with the three men in the fiery furnace, he is also able to deliver you. You will have trials and tribulations in this world, but be strong in faith and encouraged, for Jesus has overcome the world. If you endure tribulations for Christ, you will also reign with him. The sufferings of this present life are not worth comparing with the glory that shall be revealed in and to you forever. Jesus, the Lord of glory, is the resurrection and the life!

1 Peter 3:15, 4:13 • 2 Timothy 1:8 • Isaiah 43:2

John 16:33 • Romans 8:18

Thank you, dear God of my salvation; no weapon formed against me will prosper, and you will condemn every tongue that accuses me in judgment, Lord. This is my heritage as your servant, dear God, and my righteousness is from you. Since you are for me, nothing can be against me. Help me put on the full armor you provide and guide me by the Holy Spirit so that I might glorify you in word and deed. Amen.

May 16

Saul stood by and consented to the death of the martyr Stephen. Shortly after the stoning of Stephen, Saul was on his way to Damascus to capture and persecute more believers. The light of Jesus, the Messiah from Heaven, shone all around him. When he fell to the ground, Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting him. Trembling and astonished, he asked Jesus what he would have him do. After three days without sight, Jesus sent Ananias to welcome him more fully into God's kingdom. Saul received his sight, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and a grand life of service to his King began.

Over time, Christ Jesus transformed Saul, the persecutor and blasphemer, into Paul, the apostle and servant of the faith. Trust your great God and Savior for those you love and pray for. He has the power to reveal himself from Heaven, as he did to Paul. He shined his light around him. But the Sovereign Lord has now chosen you to be his light to the world. Ask your God and Father for

strength, and do not be ashamed of Christ's good news; it can bring new life to someone who needs it—like Saul.

Acts 9:1-31 • Proverbs 11:30 • Ephesians 3:16-21

Father, this is the day you have made; help me rejoice and be glad in it. If there is someone that you have for me to reach out to with your Word of life, please guide me and strengthen me to share with that one. Jesus, you said that as the Father has sent you, you now send me. Please lead me by your Spirit to do your will. Amen.

May 17

People brought their children to Jesus, the gracious Son of God, so that he might place his hands upon them and bless them, but his disciples rebuked them for doing so. Jesus was quite displeased and told them to let the little children come to him, for the kingdom of God belongs to ones such as these. The Lord added that whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it. Jesus then took each of the children, placed his hands on them, and blessed them with his abundant love.

It is not the proud in heart, the mighty in his own strength, or the self-righteous that are chosen by the Lord; those who have the humble heart of a child are the inheritors of the kingdom. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, respects the lowly in heart; blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Mark 10:13-16 • Matthew 5:3 • James 2:5

Thank you, Lord God, for giving grace to the humble. In many ways, I am like a little child. I ask you to guide me as I go deeper into your Word; teach me to walk as Jesus walked. I know that a miracle of your grace accomplishes this. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 18

It is easy to despise the day of small things and to think small beginnings are unimportant. But the Lord of glory has called you with a high calling; you are his ambassador. He is guiding you to do the works that he has ordained for you. If you are abiding in Christ and doing his work, whatever task he gives you to fulfill is no small thing. Your service to the King of righteousness is a blessed and grand thing in his eyes.

When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, this was not a small thing, as Peter thought, but rather, it was an example of the Savior's great love. It showed that Jesus' disciples need to be washed and renewed by him daily, through his Word and by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ would soon serve man's greatest need—to sacrifice his life through death and to shed his life's blood to wash away their sins.

When the children were brought to Jesus to be blessed, his disciples thought this was too small a thing to trouble the Master with—but Jesus told his disciples to allow the little children to come to him, for the heavenly kingdom belongs to such as these. The Father sent Jesus to bless all of God's

precious children. As our Father in Heaven sent Jesus, so Jesus now sends you. Love others in *small things*, and you will be blessed.

Zechariah 4:10 • 1 Corinthians 15:58 • 2 Timothy 1:9

John 20:21

I rejoice greatly, Father, that Christ lives in me, and by your grace and your Spirit, Jesus lives through me. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord. Jesus, you loved the unloved, the sick, the lonely, the hungry, and the abandoned. May your grace work wonders in my heart so that I might walk in your steps; help me to bring love, life, and healing to those in need. Amen.

May 19

As a member of the eternal family of God, show forth a humble and gentle heart to your brothers and sisters. Be patient, forgiving, and forbearing as you walk in Christ's love. Earnestly strive to maintain harmony with others by yielding to the Holy Spirit's leading.

You are a member of the body of Christ; you are that much a part of him through the miracle of your faith. Just as the human body has many members, so does the body of Christ. And you are members one of another—miraculously united with your brothers and sisters. Each member is like a facet of the glorious jewel, Jesus Christ. Seeing that you are mutually dependent upon one another, seek to build up and encourage others to receive the fullness of Christ in their lives.

Ephesians 4:1-16 • 1 Corinthians 12:14-31

Romans 12:4-13 • Proverbs 27:17

Please help me, dear Father, as one of your family, to put on mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Please give me your grace to forbear and forgive others, even as your Son, Jesus, has forgiven me. Thank you for your forgiveness, Lord. Amen.

May 20

Jesus is the living God, the Risen Savior, the Lord of heaven and earth. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Christ Jesus is the same as he was before he created the heavens and the earth, the same as when he walked the earth, and the same now, as he reigns forever with all power.

Many say that he is not a personal God. But he says to you that he will be strong on your behalf in a very personal way as you draw near to him, humble your heart, and be willing to be guided by his Word and the Holy Spirit. He will work in your life powerfully, just as he did for the early believers in the days after he ascended from the earth to Heaven.

As the rains come down from above and water the earth to bring forth bud and fruit, so shall the God of glory rain down his blessings, through the power of the Spirit, into your life. Open your heart and seek God diligently; no good thing will he withhold from you. All things are possible to you through faith. Ask, and it shall be given. Our heavenly Father, through Christ Jesus, desires to bless you richly.

Hebrews 13:8 • 2 Peter 1:1-11 • Isaiah 55:8-13

Psalms 84:11-12 • John 15:7

I am so glad that you came to this world to save me. Two thousand years ago is like two days to you (your Word says that a thousand years is as a day). Help me live as if it were only two days ago when you performed all your wondrous miracles, spoke your glorious Word, and were crucified and rose again. Please help me have the same excitement the early disciples had after you conquered death and walked with them. Help me to rejoice each day with a first love toward you, dear Lord. Amen.

May 21

The journey back to the land of Judah was underway. Naomi (her husband and two sons now dead) set before her two daughters-in-law the trials and tribulations that would await them. Under already gloomy circumstances, Orpah returned to her idolatrous friends, but Ruth clung to Naomi, God's people, and the God of Israel.

Wholeheartedly, Ruth devoted herself to following Naomi, and together, they would seek to come under the shadow of the Almighty in the Land of Promise; they would trust in his provision and protection.

On your journey to the Land of Promise, will you follow Christ wholeheartedly, though you face dark valleys and rocky paths on the way? Jesus had no place to lay his head; many were against him, and the cross was his destination. Will you cleave to Jesus, the Prince of life—the true Light of

the world—though you may also have to travel a path of suffering? Will God's people be your people?

May God, the Father, be your true dwelling place and high tower—he will be your provider and protector. Since you trust in God through Jesus, the Son of God, you soon shall be delighting in Paradise with Christ Jesus as co-heirs of the incomparable inheritance of the kingdom of Heaven. The gloriously joyful family of your God (the church of the firstborn) awaits your arrival!

Ruth 1:15-17 • Joshua 24:15 • Philippians 3:8-14

Hebrews 12:22-23

I rejoice today with you, my Savior and Lord, for all you have done for me. As I rest under the shadow of the Almighty, I proclaim to you: where you go, Jesus, I shall go; your people are my people, your Father is my Father, and for me to live is you, my King, and to die for you is gain. Amen.

May 22

Naomi (Hebrew: pleasant, delightful) was returning to the Land of Promise with Ruth, her loyal daughter-in-law. Poor and bereft of hope (with her husband and two sons dead), Naomi sorrowfully told her Israelite neighbors to call her Mara (Hebrew: bitter). The Sovereign Lord was weaving the tapestry of her life. Unfortunately, on earth, one only sees the back of the tapestry, not the finished work. Naomi only saw the knots and the darkest threads being spun on the God of Israel's loom of life. Perhaps you also are beholding the back of your life tapestry and have become quite discouraged.

The Most High God (El Elyon) was crafting a wondrous tapestry of her life (as he is for you). Heavenly fine gold and purple threads were being woven in, and a glorious masterpiece would be revealed on the Day of Glory. Through Naomi's poverty, Ruth would meet and marry Boaz, and Obed would be born. He would be the grandfather of David, king of Israel. Jesus, the glorious Savior, was also born into this world through this lineage. This story of love and faith is found in the written Word—honoring Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz—forever.

Have you been distressed as you view the dark strands and knots on the back of the tapestry lately? Dear one, do not look at what can be seen with your eyes, but by faith view that which is eternal; rejoice in the great work that the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort is working in your life and the glory that awaits you. You, who have come to take refuge under his wings, will be richly blessed for your devotion to him. You shall call yourself *pleasant* and not *bitter* when you see the other side of the tapestry of your life on the Day of Glory.

Ruth 1:15-17 • 1 Corinthians 13:12

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 • Colossians 3:1-4

Thank you, Sovereign Lord, for binding up the brokenhearted and giving the oil of joy for mourning. When you turned the captivity of our brothers and sisters of old, like Naomi and Ruth, Joseph, and David, they were like those who dream. Their mouths were filled with laughter and singing. Turn again our captivity, Father. Thank you for your mercy, Lord; those who sow in tears will reap in joy. We shall go out with joy, and you, Jesus, will lead us with peace; mountains and trees will break forth into shouts of joy. We shall see you soon, Jesus, our great King of glory! Amen.

May 23

The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life motivate those living without faith in Christ Jesus. Riches, lust, prestige, power, and other cravings overshadow their acknowledgment of his everlasting kingdom.

You have been called to be God's ambassador—representing the eternal kingdom of Heaven. No higher calling can be realized in one's life. No greater service can be rendered to mankind. Earthly careers may bring accolades from men and vast earthly riches to the one who performs well. Neither is guaranteed to you as you serve Christ Jesus here on earth.

Jesus is the true and faithful ambassador of our heavenly Father. His riches were not on earth, and he did not even have a place to lay his head during his ministry. Yet for the joy set before him, he endured the cross. He was not moved by the shame and contempt men poured upon him. How wonderful is the Father's love! Christ's crown of thorns was soon replaced with many incorruptible crowns, and the Father highly exalted Christ; he was given a name that is above every name: that at the name of Jesus Christ, every

knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of our Father in Heaven.

Whoever serves Jesus, the glorious Son of God, will be highly honored on the Day of Glory. Blessed is the one who endures the trials and temptations; that person will receive the crown of life that God promises to those who love him.

1 Corinthians 9:25 • Hebrews 3:1 • James 1:12

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Dear Jesus, as an ambassador of your eternal kingdom, help me seek those things above, where you sit at the Father's right hand. Please help me to set my affections on things above and not on things of the earth. I was crucified with you and died, but by your wondrous miracle, I live and have a new life. My life is truly hidden in you, Lord Jesus; when you return in glory, then shall I also appear in glory with you! By your grace, please help me to take hold of that for which you have taken hold of me. Help me press on, reach the end of the race, and receive the prize of this high calling in you, my Savior and King! Thanks be to God for the great gift of eternal life! Amen.

May 24

Throughout all generations, the Lord God has been a rewarder of those who diligently sought him. All who lived faithfully in him bore fruit in their lives in due season. When God's people faced fiery trials, he was there to deliver and provide for them; he will never forsake his children.

When you mourn, he will comfort you. When you are hungry, he will fill you from his infinite storehouse. When persecuted for your faith, he will let your heart know that yours is the kingdom of Heaven. When you are faced with a dilemma, he will give you his counsel and wisdom that will bear much fruit in your life.

The faithful of millennia past, whose footprints are preserved in his Word for your eyes to behold, show the pathway to Heaven. The testimonies of the people of our mighty God are recorded in his Word; they show his love, faithfulness, mercy, and power to deliver and provide according to his riches in glory. These men and women of faith showed that they esteemed the riches

of God's kingdom to be of much greater value than all the treasures of this world, along with its pleasures of sin.

With such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding you, throw off every weight that slows you down and the sins that entangle you; with perseverance, run the race that Christ Jesus has set before you. The Prince of life died for your sins, shed his blood for you, and rose from the dead to give you forgiveness, his righteousness, and assurance of eternal life. Press on; the race will be finished with the help of the Spirit; the prize of the heavenly calling, the crown of life, will be yours, cherished child of the King.

Hebrews 11:6, 12:1-2 • Psalm 145 • Proverbs 4:18

Philippians 3:12-21

Thank you, Jesus, Risen Savior, for your assurance that whoever hears your word and believes the Father who sent you has eternal life and will not come into judgment but is passed from death unto life (John 5:24). Thank you for forgiving—and your promise to forget—my sins. Thank you for the right to be your child. Please lead me by your Spirit so that I do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh but fulfill the works that you have ordained for me since before the world began. What an honor for you to have called me to be a member of your everlasting church. Thank you for being the Wonderful Counselor; please guide me with your counsel so that I may be richly blessed in glory on that Day of Glory! Thank you for your amazing grace, faithfulness, and love! Amen.

May 25

Jesus, King of the nations, loves you with an unfathomable love. He has such glorious plans for you, so do not worry about anything. Cast your cares upon him, for the Lord cares for you. The God of all comfort knows well the dilemmas you face, the sorrows you suffer, the burdens you bear, and the trials of your faith that he has allowed. Entirely rely upon him to take care of all of these. He is your God, the Sovereign Lord, and the Ruler of heaven and earth. Draw close to him, and he will draw close to you.

Whoever the eternal God blesses will be blessed indeed, and nothing is impossible for him. Trust him fully to accomplish his will in your life. He is the God of all grace who has called you with a holy calling. The Lord will guide you with his counsel and afterward receive you into everlasting glory.

After you have suffered for a little while, he will complete, restore, strengthen, and establish you in Christ upon his everlasting foundation.

The Sovereign Lord called David, the shepherd boy, to be a king, a prophet, and a psalmist. God called Joseph to save many people, but first he was led through a wilderness of trials and tribulations—as was David. The same can be said for Paul, the apostle. Let us not forget Moses, who spent decades in the desert before receiving his big assignment from God.

Jesus said that you did not choose him, but he chose you. He has a glorious plan for you, works for you to fulfill, appointed before the foundation of the world. The Lord will command his blessings upon you from Mount Zion. He will guide you continually with his counsel and comfort you with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:35-39 • 1 Peter 5:6-11 • Psalm 138:1-8

Dear Sovereign God, I rejoice that you have called me. Please help me, by your mighty grace, to be faithful to you and your Word so that my words and works glorify you. Amen.

May 26

The day Jesus, the great Shepherd, rose from the dead was glorious—he conquered sin and death for all who believe. With a great earthquake, one of the Lord of hosts' angels from Heaven rolled away the stone from the tomb's door. The Risen Savior then appeared to some of his disciples, who told the apostles of these glorious happenings. They did not believe them and considered their reports nonsense and idle tales.

On the evening of this same day, the disciples were assembled and locked the doors for fear of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus, their Messiah, stood in their midst and saluted them with a greeting of peace. He showed them his hands and his side where he had been pierced. The disciples were filled with joy to see their Lord. But Thomas, one of the twelve, was not there and refused to believe this account. He insisted that unless he saw the mark of the nails in Jesus' hands, put his finger into the mark of the nails, and put his hand into Jesus' side, he would not believe.

Eight days later, the disciples were gathered together, and Thomas was with them. Then the Lord appeared, the doors being shut, and standing in their midst, greeted them with, "Peace be to you." Then Jesus told Thomas to

reach out and put his finger in the nail prints and his hand into his side. The Savior told him to stop doubting and to believe. Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus told Thomas that he believed because he had seen with his eyes, but blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

Dear child of God, blessed are you, for you have not seen Christ Jesus in the flesh yet believe in, trust, and love him. Great shall be your reward as you overcome with this precious faith.

Matthew 28:1-7 • John 20 • 1 Peter 1:8-13

Romans 15:13

I proclaim today to you, my Savior and King, "My Lord and my God, how great and wondrous you are!" The stone was rolled away from your tomb; nothing could stop you, the resurrection and the life. You rolled away the stone from the tomb that had me living in darkness; I was deaf and blind to life. You took me out of that tomb; I now see the glory of your love and kingdom; I hear your awesome and life-giving words in the Scriptures and know the joyful sound. Thank you, glorious God and Savior, for my new life. I will rejoice in Paradise forever with the family of God in new Jerusalem! Amen.

May 27

The one who overcomes and gains victory in life by faith—the faith of Christ Jesus that dwells in you—great and precious promises will be fulfilled upon your entrance into God's great kingdom of glory:

- You shall be clothed in God's righteousness forever. The King of the nations will announce your name, that you are his beloved child, before the Father and his angels.

- Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, will give you the right to eat the fruit of the tree of life, which is in the midst of his Paradise in glory.

- Jesus, the King of kings, will give you the right to sit beside him on his throne, even as he sat down next to his Father on his throne.

- The second death will not hurt you.

- You will eat of the hidden manna.

- Jesus, the author of eternal salvation, will give you a white stone with a new name engraved on it, a name that no one knows or understands except

you.

- The King of glory will make you a pillar in his holy sanctuary, and you will never have to leave it. He will write upon you the name of the city of Heaven, new Jerusalem, and will write upon you his new name.

- You shall inherit all things; the God of love and peace will be your God, and you shall be his child forever.

Revelation 2 & 3; 21:1-7 • 2 Peter 1:1

May 28

The Lord God sent the angel Gabriel (the same angel sent to the young virgin Mary) on a mission to Zacharias as he was fulfilling his duty as a Hebrew priest. His wife was barren, and both he and Elizabeth were well stricken in years. Gabriel told Zacharias that his prayer had been heard and that his wife would bear to him a son, whom they were to name John.

To most people, for this couple to have a baby at their age is a hopeless cause. But they prayed and prayed over the years and did not give up. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob heard their prayers and gave them more than a son; John the Baptist would bring many of God's people, the children of Israel, to repentance as John prepared the way for Jesus, the Son of God. As prophesied centuries earlier by Isaiah: "The voice of him crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; in the desert, make straight a highway for our God."

Though Zacharias and Elizabeth endured many years of trials regarding their blessing, Almighty God's timing was perfect for them and their son, John, to fulfill a glorious work in the God of Israel's kingdom.

Do not lose heart, dear child of our loving Father; all of your prayers have also been heard. He knows what is best for you and his kingdom. Sometimes, the answer to a prayer is no. Sometimes, it is the Father's will to wait to fulfill a request. He may be working in your heart to prepare you for the blessing when it is finally granted. Other circumstances may also need to be arranged or changed by the Sovereign Lord to bring about what is best for you.

Continue in prayer with thanksgiving, with reverence and trust, for all of your needs, hopes, and dreams for your life. Be open while in prayer, for he may speak to your heart, comfort you by the Holy Spirit, or reveal a calling

or his will for you regarding your circumstances. Believe the wondrous Word of God and its promises. When the eternal King speaks personally to your heart or from Scripture, believe him and be willing to do what the Spirit shows you to do. Remember, Zacharias did not believe the angel Gabriel's words, and the Lord took away his ability to speak until John was born. But how gracious and loving was our Father in placing Zacharias and Elisabeth in such a unique place in God's wonderful plan of salvation. The mighty God works all things for your good, according to his holy purposes.

Luke 1:5-25 • Isaiah 30:18; 40:3-5 • Philippians 4:6-7

Romans 8:14-32

May 29

Jesus is the Friend who sticks closer than a brother; he loves you exceedingly more than anyone in the world. Your heartaches, loneliness, and emotional stresses are close to his heart. He is always with you, listening to you as you share your burdens and troubles with him.

Family, friendship, or marriage bonds are often powerful; they also tend to be very fragile. When you feel hurt, confused, rejected, or hopeless, come spend time with the Wonderful Counselor, the God of all grace. Do not try to fix your relationships in the flesh—mainly when motivated by raw emotion. Humble your heart before the everlasting Father, acknowledging that you do not have all the answers. Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart at this time; open your heart and let the Holy Spirit give you peace that surpasses understanding.

Quietly examine your own heart and be willing to honestly share one of these three-word statements from the heart, which can bring healing to relationships: "I am sorry" or "I forgive you." Pray that the God of compassion will give you conciliatory words to share with others and that harmony will be the tone of your relationship. Be willing to share how you feel without accusatory statements toward others, calmly. Open your heart so that you might listen and truly hear the feelings and concerns of others.

In Jesus' name, ask the Father that he would work wonders in your relationships and send the Spirit of the Lord to deeply move in each heart so that the Holy Spirit would guide actions and words.

Christ Jesus came into this world to share the good news: there is more to life than just this world. By faith and fully trusting in the Savior, abundant life will be experienced in this world and everlasting life in the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus came to earth to bind up the brokenhearted and to proclaim freedom to those held captive to sin. He will give joy instead of mourning and the garment of praise in place of discouragement. He will heal and gently care for you. You shall be called a tree of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that brings glory to his name. Let your roots go deep into the rich soil of God's Word; he will send the life-giving living waters for you to grow, and you shall bear much fruit in his kingdom.

Proverbs 18:24 • 1 John 4:9-12 • Ephesians 4:29-32

Isaiah 61:1-3 • Colossians 3:12-17

May 30

After being tempted for forty days by the devil (our Savior was victorious), Christ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Nazareth, where he had been brought up, Jesus had just finished reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah about the Messiah's ministry of deliverance and healing; Jesus, the promised Redeemer, told the synagogue that these scriptures are being fulfilled this day. He shared a little more, and everyone listening became so furious that they ran him out of town, leading him to the brow of the hill upon which the city was built to throw him over the cliff. But Jesus, the Son of God, walked through the crowd and went on his way.

The people Jesus of Nazareth grew up with treated him like that. There would be many others during his ministry who would accuse him of being a drunkard, blasphemer, Sabbath-breaker, demon-possessed man, liar, and more. One would think that the gracious Prince of Peace would be discouraged by this kind of treatment. He was not; he had a mission to fulfill—to give his life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. He would not fail or be discouraged until his work of love had been completed. Christ, the great spiritual Rock, set his face like flint and pressed on. His complete trust was in his Father, whom he served; the Most High God would raise Jesus the Savior to glory after his death—the death that would bring life to the world.

Luke 4:13-30 • Isaiah 42:1-7, 50:6-7, 61:1-3

Thank you, Jesus, for being the pioneer of my faith. I am more than a conqueror through you; your grace has imparted to me every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. Please lead me by your Holy Spirit (give me ears to hear your daily guidance) so that I do not fulfill the lust of the flesh; strengthen me by your Spirit in the inner man so that I might bear the fruit of the Spirit. Help me not to be weary in well-doing, for in due season I shall reap if I faint not. I thank you and glorify you, my God and Savior, for conquering sin and death, giving me the new birth, and preparing a wondrous world for me in your everlasting kingdom. Praise the name of the Lord!

May 31

Do not be discouraged by what others say or do to you. The enemy will use people and circumstances to try to trip you up. Ask the Lord God, and he will empower you by the Spirit to press on and fulfill the call of Christ in your life. The Holy Spirit transformed the early disciples to do the same works that Jesus did—like Jesus promised they would. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can work mightily through you. He has all power in heaven and earth; wonders will happen in and through your life, by word and deed, as you seek the Lord wholeheartedly and fully trust him. Let the Lord of glory transform your life. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus now sends you. You are not insignificant in his kingdom; you are his ambassador. By his grace, he will help you live up to the honor of the calling. He loves you with everlasting love and is with you always.

John 16:33 • Joshua 1:9 • 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Ephesians 1:3-18 • Jeremiah 31:3

Thank you, Lord God, for calling me to be an ambassador for your kingdom. I know it is not by my might or power but by your Spirit. Guide me by your Scriptures and your Spirit to do your will this day. Help me be thankful for everything because that is your will—you inhabit your children's praises and are enthroned in those praises. Thank you, dear God, for all of your overwhelming blessings! Amen.

June 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

The Father, the Maker of the Universe, has given to Christ Jesus all power in heaven and on earth. Incredibly blessed are you, who, through the

revelation of the Holy Spirit, have come to know Christ and the Father. Before Jesus walked the earth as the Son of Man, many righteous men, prophets, and kings desired to see the fulfillment of the many prophecies of the Messiah. Some of the marvelous prophecies regarding the Messiah, foretold by Spirit-inspired men of God centuries before Christ Jesus came into the world, are that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, of a virgin, in the lineage of Jesse and David; he would perform miracles: blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, the mute would speak, and the lame would leap like a deer; he would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver by someone close to him; the Messiah would be crucified and die as a sacrifice for mankind's sins; Jesus foretold of his own death and resurrection to his disciples; and Jesus and the prophets foretold of the return of the Savior and his eternal reign over the kingdom of God. Over three hundred prophecies have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

You, through the Word and the Holy Spirit, know all about Christ, the Messiah—his birth, ministry, miracles, wisdom, truths of Heaven and hell, his death and resurrection, and his gift of righteousness and salvation. But most wondrous of all, you know the Risen Savior personally, for he lives and reigns in your heart and life. The Wonderful God who created heaven and earth lives in you, and he will continue the miraculous work that he began in you until the Day of Glory.

Luke 10:21-24 • Isaiah 35:5-6, 53 • John 1:1-18, 14:6-26

Philippians 1:6

Thank you, Father, for sending your beloved Son, the Messiah, to earth so that we might be set free from sin and receive eternal life. Thank you for giving hundreds of prophecies of the coming Messiah and for fulfilling them all in Jesus—Immanuel, Prince of life and the King of kings. I especially thank you, Father, that I have Christ in me, the hope of glory. Please help me to be strong in faith, glorifying you today. Amen.

June 2

Jesus, the King of kings, was faithful to Paul during his many perils: shipwrecks, being beaten many times for his faith, robbers, false brethren, imprisonments, hunger, labor, lack of clothing, and more. Though Paul's outward life was perishing, Christ Jesus was renewing him inwardly every

day—to be transformed more into the image of Christ. The apostle struggled with discouragement but received great hope and help from the Spirit. Over time, he learned to triumph and rejoice in his sufferings, knowing they worked unswerving endurance in his life. Through patience, he gained experience—that Christ would be strong on his behalf and bless his life richly. God's love, flowing through Paul's yielded life, inspired millions. Be patient and strong in faith, committing your heart fully to your God and Savior, and no good thing will he withhold from you, beloved child of God.

2 Corinthians 4:6-18 • Isaiah 43:2 • Romans 5:1-5

Psalms 84:11 • Titus 3:3-7

Thank you, dear Father, for the gift of salvation. I, like Paul the apostle (Saul before the miracle conversion), was ungodly, blasphemous, foolish, deceived, and serving various lusts. But your amazing kindness and love appeared miraculously; you lifted me out of the deep pit and the miry clay and set my feet upon the Rock—Christ Jesus. It was not by my works of righteousness, but by your mercy, that you saved me. You abundantly poured out your Holy Spirit and grace through Jesus, my Savior. I am fully justified by faith and have been granted the gift of everlasting life; I am a joint heir with Jesus, your Son—the King of glory; it is your good pleasure, Father, to give me the kingdom! Wow! Amazing—thank you! Please help me, Jesus, to look only to you and not at the winds and the waves that are so boisterous. Jesus, you walked on the water, gave sight to the blind, cleansed lepers, put a coin in a fish's mouth (from far away) to pay the taxes, raised the dead, and washed all of my sins away. What a Savior! What a Wonderful God and Father! I love you, Lord God! Amen.

June 3

Do not let your soul be discouraged or cast down. Though you are going through fiery trials and temptations, your God shall soon bring you rich blessings; peace and comfort of heart shall be yours. Though you now feel the heat of the fire, trust in God, your Savior; he will burn away your dross—you will come forth from the fire as pure gold. Our Lord and Savior told Paul, the apostle, that God's grace is sufficient, for his strength is made perfect in weakness; he also encourages you with the same wondrous truth.

In these most challenging times, know this: Jesus is with you and desires that you come close to him. Trust in him, and lean upon your God, who has everlasting strength; he is a mighty fortress you can enter into in times of trouble. Draw near to him and let him speak to your heart; enjoy quiet times with the God of all comfort. He is mindful of your tears and profoundly listens to your every prayer. Great is his faithfulness, and his mercy and compassion are ever toward you. He will command his loving-kindness in the daytime, and his song shall be with you at night. He will answer all of your prayers—in his way, in his perfect timing, and in his perfect love. Your faithful Creator treasures your hopes and dreams; he will do more for you in this world and the world to come than you could ever ask or imagine. Be patient and trust that his will is best for you, even if you do not understand it fully. Continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 • Job 23:8-10 • Psalm 42:1-8

Ephesians 3:16-21

I know that many are the afflictions of the righteous, but you, dear Lord God, deliver the believer out of them all. I do not fully understand why I am going through these times of sorrow and suffering, but I know that by patiently enduring these trials, I shall be granted the crown of life, which you, Lord God, have promised to all those who love you. Thank you for strengthening me with your glorious power to help me wait upon you. Thank you, Father, for qualifying me, through the work of the cross of Christ, to share in the inheritance of your people in your eternal kingdom. What a God and Savior!

June 4

Jesus, the Son of the living God, is the Alpha and Omega; he is the Word of God (the Word of God made flesh when he walked the earth). He spoke the worlds into existence, and man was created in the deity's (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) image after their likeness. Jesus, the bright Morning Star, who spoke light into existence, has shone the true Light into your heart to give you the knowledge of the glory of God, as revealed in Jesus Christ.

You have this precious treasure in a fragile jar of clay (your human body); let yourself (your jar) be broken (humbled and allowed to be used) by God's everlasting love and the Holy Spirit working in you. Let the fragrance of life

(Christ in you) be poured out to a desperately needy world. Let your jar be broken—like the alabaster jar of perfume that the woman broke and poured over the Messiah. Let your jar be broken—like Gideon's men, who broke the jars to let their torches shine bright, as Almighty God fought for them and gained a great victory. Let your light (Christ in you, the hope of glory) shine to all those around you. Let them see your good works and glorify your heavenly Father. They will see the true Light and then receive Christ Jesus, the true Life!

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 • 1 Peter 2:9 • Matthew 5:16

Colossians 1:27

Thank you, Almighty God, for the myriad wonders of creation. Thank you for your inexpressible love and your infinite power. How blessed I am to have your loving-kindness in the morning and your faithfulness every night. Thank you for rejoicing over me with singing. How wondrous is the fact that your thoughts toward me each day are more in number than the sand by the sea. Dear Lord God, please bless my life so that I might be like a tree planted by streams of water, bringing forth fruit in due season; may your blessing be so very rich that whatsoever I do will prosper. I want to seek you as someone would seek after silver or gold. Your Word and your love are worth more than all the riches of this world! I love you, Lord!

June 5

The Most High God spoke to Joshua and told him that there was still much land to be possessed by the children of Israel. It was theirs by inheritance and promise from Almighty God, but they were required to go in and take possession of it actively. The glorious Land of Promise is your spiritual inheritance in Christ Jesus as a born-again member of his holy nation, and it has bountiful treasures and riches in its valleys and hills. Much of this land has yet to be explored and possessed by you.

The Lord bid Peter to come out of the boat onto the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus gave him power to walk on the water. Christ now bids you to go and seek out the vast wealth of promises you are yet to embrace. Come out of your boat and walk onto the Promised Land that our God gave you. You will receive gifts from your King and God. He will give you words of promise from the Scriptures, which will supernaturally enable you to defy the enemy's

winds and waves; you will walk on the waters of this life by the power of the Holy Spirit. Go through the land. Claim and possess the wondrous truths of God's magnificent Word. You will grow to be mature in Christ, and as you are led by the Spirit of the Lord, you will bless many others by your words and deeds that have been wrought in Christ. You are his light to the world; rejoice and be thankful as you share his love with many in your Promised Land of abundant life in Christ!

Joshua 1:9 • 1 Peter 1:3-9 • Colossians 1:12-19

2 Peter 1:1-11

Dear Father, you have saved me and called me with a holy calling, not according to my works, but according to your own purpose and grace established before time began. Please help me to apprehend that for which you have apprehended me. By your grace, working mightily in me, help me to be complete in every good work to do your will, pleasing you in my words and deeds. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

June 6

Jesus is the eternal Son of God, the heir of all things, and King of kings, who was delivered up for you. He washed away all of your sins and promised you the gift of everlasting life! The Lord has given you the gift of righteousness through your faith, like Abraham. Will not the Father also freely give you all spiritual blessings that are found in Christ? Yes, he will. You are his, chosen in him before the foundation of the world, that you should be holy and blameless before him in Christ's love; by God's abundant grace through the Holy Spirit, you will be able to live godly and righteously in Christ, as you look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

You are a joint heir with Christ Jesus. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom of Heaven, with all of its glory and splendor. Many of the rich blessings of the abundant life that Christ Jesus has promised will come to you as you seek him wholeheartedly. Jesus has chosen and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit that will remain forever. You are genuinely his workmanship (Greek: *poiema*: masterpiece; work of art); you are his poem to the world. The Holy Spirit will guide you to do the works ordained for you since before the world began. As Jesus fulfilled the Father's

will and then reaped great honor and glory in Heaven, so will you if you go on and serve Christ Jesus; may he guide you continually by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:3-7, 2:10 • Titus 2:11-14 • Hebrews 11:6

2 Timothy 1:9 • John 12:26

Thank you, Father, for loving me with everlasting love; with loving-kindness, you have drawn me to you. You rejoice over me with singing, and your thoughts toward me each day are as numerous as the sand by the sea. I am so thankful for being called into this wondrous fellowship with you and Jesus, the Risen Savior. Help me by your miracle of grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to abide in Christ, so that I might bear much fruit unto your eternal kingdom. I will glorify you, O God of my salvation; I will rejoice in your love, mercy, and power, King of heaven and earth. The wonders of creation, the incredible miracles of our Savior when he walked amongst us, the amazing testimonies in Scripture, and the great and precious promises you have lavished upon me all speak of the glorious majesty of your kingdom. I will trust you and seek you today, with thanksgiving and joy, for you are Almighty God, the everlasting Father, and the God of all grace, who has given me life eternal! Amen.

June 7

Cast all your cares on Jesus, the Messiah, because he deeply cares for you. Throughout the wondrous Word of God, you are encouraged to trust in the Lord. Ironically, we sometimes find it easy to trust in him for the big things, like forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life, which we could never take care of on our own. At times, it is the little things that can cause us much anxiety.

Your mighty God will answer prayers for big and little cares. Seek him for your needs and problems. Do not lean on your own understanding or try to change circumstances in your own power. Be patient, let Christ work in your heart; by his grace and the Holy Spirit, he desires to transform areas in your life. He knows what is best for you and has all the power in heaven and earth to do great and little things for you according to his perfect plan.

As you care for your own body, Jesus also cares for his spiritual body; as a member of his body, you can trust in his love. Keep your mind always on

Jesus, seeking those things that are above, allowing the peace of God to rule in your heart as he works in your life and your circumstances.

1 Peter 5:7 • Isaiah 26:3, 65:24 • Proverbs 3:5-6

Colossians 3:1-4

Jesus, I rejoice greatly that you have given me a peace that is not of this world—your glorious peace. You are my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; though the mountains were to be cast into the sea, I would not fear. I trust in you, Lord God; I shall be like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever. Amen.

June 8

There was a glow and a joy that flowed from the early disciples. For over three years, they beheld the Son of God, full of grace and truth. They had seen mighty miracles of healing. They soaked in the wisdom of the ages whenever Jesus spoke. They fared sumptuously at the table of Heaven. It is no wonder, therefore, that when it was their turn to speak, they declared, “We cannot stop speaking about the things that we have seen and heard.” With their hearts filled with the Holy Spirit and the precious words of Christ, the world received a powerful inspiration from these lowly disciples.

Let the word of the Lord Jesus Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. As a vessel of God, let his living waters fill you to overflowing. You will bring the words of life and salvation to those who hear you. Jesus said, If you believe in him, from you shall flow rivers of living water.

This same Jesus, the glorious Son of God, who walked the earth and brought the miracle of eternal life to mankind, wondrously lives in you. The most profound aspect of abundant life in Christ is your personal relationship with him. To know him, the Creator of life, is to know a love that surpasses knowledge, a joy unspeakable, and a peace that transcends understanding. Many only know him as a God who is far off. The early disciples who walked with the Savior had a special privilege in their closeness to Jesus. He desires to have an intimate relationship with you. Today and every day, spend time with Jesus—your Friend. When he speaks to you, the warmth of his love will greatly bless you.

John 14:21-27

Please bless my times with you in your Word, Jesus; help me to hear your still, small voice. Please help me to be led daily by the Holy Spirit that I might bear abundant fruit of the Spirit. May your glorious light shine in any dark places in my life. Set me free that I might glorify you. You are the Morning Star; shine brightly from my heart always.

June 9

Jesus is the great Shepherd, and he desires to restore your soul. He has set times of rest for you who labor for him. Come and learn of Jesus; he is gentle and humble in heart, and you shall find refreshment for your soul. In the heat of the day, sit down under the shadow of his mercy and grace. Come to his banqueting house; his banner over you will be love. Taste and see that he is good; blessed is the one who trusts in Christ.

Follow close to Jesus, the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul, so you may rejoice with him as he ushers you into green pastures; he will guide you beside peaceful brooks. The peace that is not of this world is yours to receive as you abide in Christ. He cares for you; cast your burden upon him, and he will sustain you.

As the sheep of his pasture, we will continually benefit in extraordinary ways. The mighty God protects us, provides for all of our physical and spiritual needs, and transforms our very hearts and lives. A gracious light of God's grace and love will emanate from us as we allow Christ's influence to profoundly touch our hearts. Moses' face shone after his 40-day visit with the Lord. Stephen's countenance had that special glow that day he shared a most beautiful testimony. It was also clear to see that the early disciples had been with Jesus. The warmth and knowledge of God's love were powerfully evident in their lives.

As we enjoy the company of our Savior, we shall be changed from glory to glory into his image. This sweet influence of his Spirit will promote true kindness, gentleness, faith, and love. What a glorious truth: Christ in you, the hope of glory. A needy world awaits the touch of Christ; his love and light shining through you will inspire those around you; the Word of God you share will feed the hungry souls. The words of Christ and salvation will set the captives free and banish the darkness from their lives. Let your light shine.

Psalms 23; 55:22 • Colossians 1:27, 3:16

Song of Solomon 2:4

Thank you, Jesus, the great Shepherd, for leading me through the years to lie down in green pastures and to refresh by still waters. Thank you, Jesus, for the peace that surpasses understanding, unspeakable joy, and your everlasting perfect love. Thank you for letting me know that I am a joint heir of the kingdom with you. You bought me with a price, your priceless blood. Please help me to glorify you today and always. I rejoice in the gift of eternal life—thanks be unto God! Amen.

June 10

Jesus, the Messiah, has given you a priceless gift. As Savior of the World, he has shed his blood in payment for your sins. The chastisement of your peace was upon him, and with his stripes, you are healed. He freely forgives anyone who comes to him with a repentant heart. Truly happy is the one whose sins have been washed away. On the cross, Jesus became sin for you, that you might become the righteousness of God in Christ.

You are washed, you are sanctified, and you are justified (*just-as-if-I'd never sinned*). Who will bring any charge against you, chosen child of the mighty King? No one; Christ Jesus justifies you. If your heart condemns you for some past sin, Jesus is greater than your heart and knows all things; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed your transgressions from you—they are remembered by God no more. Rejoice and walk confidently in this newness of life. You have Christ's perfect righteousness; he lives in you.

You will never be perfect in the flesh—you will have a perfect, immortal, incorruptible, and sinless body in Heaven. Being born again, while on earth, you are called a saint of God by the Scriptures; you will sometimes fall short and sin (you are still a saint!). When you do, you have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous One! When you sin, repent (godly sorrow), and know that Jesus himself is the propitiation for your sins; the blood of Christ Jesus cleanses you from every sin. You have redemption through his blood—the forgiveness of sins. Our gracious God and Savior also promises to remember your sins no more! What a Savior!

Psalm 32:1, 103:12 • Isaiah 53:5 • 2 Corinthians 5:21

Romans 5:1-2, 8:33-39 • 1 John 1:7-10, 2:1-2, 3:20-21

Hebrews 10:17 • Colossians 1:14

I rejoice greatly today, dear Lord God, for taking away my sin and for Christ, my righteousness, who now lives in my heart. Since you are for me, nothing can be against me. Please let me shine your light of love to those around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

June 11

Sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell—the five senses are gifts the eternal God has given you to enjoy while you are in your earthly body. Behold the beauty of the stars, waterfalls, or thousands of varieties of flowers and animals. Listen to a babbling brook, your favorite music, or the laughter of children playing. Savor the delicious tastes of one of hundreds of culinary delights. Feel a mountain lake's refreshing, cool waters on a hot summer day. Enjoy the touch of holding hands with someone you love. Enjoy the aroma of a freshly baked apple pie. How fragrant is the rose or the lilac, to name only two of thousands of floral delights. Our God has fully blessed you with a body ideally suited to experience this glorious creation you inhabit for a vapor of time.

But you shall put off your corruptible body and be clothed with an incorruptible and immortal one. Just as you have borne the image of the man God created from the earth, so shall you bear the image of Jesus—the man from Heaven. You shall be endowed with new, glorious senses of a divine and eternal nature. You shall see God as he is, and you will be changed as you receive your incorruptible body. Your earthly body will be transformed to be like Christ's glorious, imperishable body, changed in the twinkling of an eye. He will make all things new. The wonders of the kingdom of Heaven will be yours to delight in forever!

1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 15:42-53 • 1 John 3:1-3

Philippians 3:20-21 • Psalm 16:11

Dear awesome God, how wondrous is this creation, but how much more glorious is your eternal kingdom of Heaven that awaits me! Thank you for giving me so many great and precious promises by which I have been enabled to share your divine nature, having escaped the corruption in this world caused by lust. Amen.

June 12

A battle is ever being waged with the flesh lusting against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. Life is miserable when you are a casualty in this war. The only way to be more than a conqueror is to be led by the Holy Spirit. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord God. Adultery, fornication, hatred, drunkenness, wrath, idolatry, and envy are some of the enemy soldiers in this war against our souls. They have won the world. Let none of them prevail in your life. When tempted, humble yourself before the Lord. Ask for his grace, strength, and guidance. Set your heart to follow him. If you follow the flesh, you will reap corruption. If you are led by the Spirit, you will not fulfill the sinful desires of the flesh. There is no temptation that has enticed you, except what is common to man. Our faithful God will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to withstand the temptation, but he will always provide the way of escape so that you may be able to endure it; gaining a victory over temptation will bring you joy. Jesus, our great high priest, was tempted in all points as we are, yet he never sinned. Christ lives in you; he will endue you with his grace by the Holy Spirit. Our Father encourages you to come confidently before the throne of grace to receive mercy and find help in your times of need.

Jesus promises honor and glory in a life everlasting to the one who lives godly. May God’s grace be with you as you choose life in the Spirit. Our Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Jesus the Savior, the Wonderful Son of God, desires a warm and loving relationship with you. He will open up his spiritual treasures to all who seek him diligently. You will not be denied if you thirst to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As you abide in Christ and are led by the Spirit, the glorious fruit of the Spirit will be bountiful in your life: love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience, faith, and self-control. You shall be like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding its fruit in due season and whose leaves will not wither. Whatever you do shall prosper. When you pray, our God and Savior listens; he will compassionately care for, bless, and establish you. For his eyes search the whole earth to show himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are devoted to him.

Psalm 1:1-3 • Galatians 5:22-23 • 1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Chronicles 16:9 • Hebrews 14:14-16

Jesus, I come to you, the oasis of my soul. Please help me to flourish like the palm tree. Please guide me by the Spirit to grow in your grace and your Word. Please give me an understanding of your ways, wisdom from above when I face dilemmas, and your personal words of comfort to my heart. Thank you for who you are and what you have done in my life. Amen.

June 13

For many years, Jesus served as a carpenter in Nazareth; he knew a lot about creating fine pieces of workmanship. His tools were sharpened and ready to use as needs arose. Today, he is the carpenter and builder of his eternal kingdom; he is constructing the spiritual temple of the living God. The originator of God's creation is now fashioning works that shall abide forever in glory. You are his workmanship and are being built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets—Jesus is the chief cornerstone. You and each of his cherished children are living stones that are all joined together, growing into a holy sanctuary of the Lord, a dwelling place where the eternal God lives by his Spirit.

Marvelous as it may seem, you also are one of his tools, created in Christ to do good works—ordained before the world began. He will employ your words, deeds, talents, and gifts (many given to you by the Holy Spirit) to build others into his spiritual house.

Let his Word dwell in you richly, bringing you wisdom, knowledge, and love. Be ready always to share his love and the truths of his eternal kingdom; he will open doors for you to do so. Build upon the foundation of Christ Jesus, the prophets, and the apostles using the gold, silver, and precious gems he provides for you, doing his will and sharing his Word. These works shall abide the fire on the Day of Judgment and endure forever.

Ephesians 2:10, 19-22 • 2 Timothy 2:15 • Colossians 3:16

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Thank you, Father, that I am in Christ. I am a new creation, reborn by the Holy Spirit; old things have passed away, and everything has become new. By your priceless promises, I have become a partaker of your divine nature; your power and heavenly provision have given me everything I

need to live godly. Your grace, through the Holy Spirit's working in me, will help me to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live a godly life, showing the light of Jesus in my words and works. Thank you, my God and Savior, for this indescribable gift! I will rejoice greatly in your majestic grace! Amen.

June 14

Jesus chose disciples to be with him during his three-plus years of ministry. They beheld a myriad of merciful healings, fantastic miracles, and listened to heavenly truth and wisdom; all of these would forever transform their lives.

The treasured days of friendship with the Messiah had drastically ended! Or so it seemed to the many disciples immediately after his crucifixion. But because of Jesus' great love, after his resurrection, he gave his heart for forty days to them. He showed himself alive by many infallible proofs, and he spoke much regarding the kingdom of God. There were hearts to warm and reignite on the road to Emmaus. Peter's broken heart, because he denied Christ Jesus, was to be mended and fully restored. The doubts and fears of Thomas and the others were to be washed away. The greatest Friend was to continually eat and fellowship with the people of his heart during these days. Through many signs and the comfort of his words, a full joy was imparted to the disciples before Jesus' ascension home to Heaven.

By the love of Jesus and God's Spirit working through the faithful and joy-filled disciples, thousands were turning to Jesus, the Messiah, for salvation. A glorious work upon earth was underway. What excitement, blessedness, and love flowed in those glorious days. But Satan was working through Saul of Tarsus to try to destroy the newly created church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Saul versus Almighty God; guess who won?

Saul was blinded when the light of Christ shone around him. Jesus sent Ananias to tell Saul that he had been chosen to know God's will, to see Christ, the Righteous One, to hear his voice, and to be his witness to all men. Saul received his sight. He was no longer on the road to Damascus; now, with new spiritual eyesight, Paul would see the Righteous One each day as he now walked Christ's road on earth, with the final destination—the heavenly city of new Jerusalem.

Our glorious God and Savior has also chosen you to know his will. He will give you abundant grace as he transforms your life. He will speak to you words of love and guidance. You will be blessed with opportunities to share with others about God's love, eternal life through Christ, and his many precious promises. You will be receiving a great reward on the Day of Glory. Rest in his love; may God's peace reign in your heart.

Acts 1:3, 9:1-22 • 2 Timothy 1:9 • Ephesians 1:1-6

Thank you, dear God and Savior, for the amazing miracle you have wrought in my life—the same salvation that our dear brother Paul received. Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever; by your grace and Holy Spirit, please transform my life according to your perfect plan so that I may be a blessing to you and others. Amen.

June 15

With great joy and everlasting love in his heart, Jesus, the Risen Savior, continued to teach the disciples after his resurrection. As Master of all creation, he had directed all fish to steer clear of the seven disciples as they fished one night. In the morning, Jesus appeared on the shore, and the disciples told him that they had caught nothing; he told them to throw the nets out on the right side, and they would find some. Similar to the day Peter was called to be a disciple of the Messiah through a miraculous fish catch and a good dose of two sinking boats, Jesus miraculously employed his finned friends again. A colossal catch of 153 large fish astounded his seven disciples.

The Son of God added a big helping of kindness to a miraculous lesson; when they landed on shore, they saw a fire of coals and fish cooking on it. The Lord proceeded to serve them a fine meal of bread and fish.

The lesson was profound: without Christ Jesus, you can do nothing, but with him, all things are possible. Jesus is calling you to be a fisher of men. Walking with him and the power of the Holy Spirit working through you, you will touch the world with his wondrous love and bring many into the kingdom. Praise the Lord for his marvelous love!

John 15:4-16, 21:1-14 • Philippians 4:13

Dear God, as you have called the early disciples (in unique ways, at times), you have called me to walk with you as an ambassador of your

*kingdom. All things are possible to the one who believes. I believe that you can transform my life to be more merciful, loving, and open to the truths in Scripture. Help me grow in grace and the knowledge of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your eternal love. Amen.***June 16**

Will there one day be no more temptations and trials? Will there one day be no sorrow? Can it be that someday, there will be no pain or suffering? Yes. Yes. Yes. In the kingdom of Heaven, all things will be made new. The Day of Glory is fast approaching. The redeemed of the Lord will enter his glory with unspeakable joy, peace that passes understanding, and a love that surpasses knowledge. The God of all comfort will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Death, crying, or pain will be no more. Our God and Savior understands how trials and temptations can sometimes be overwhelming. Take some alone time with Jesus; he will impart new hope to you. Let his Word of life comfort you. Rejoice, knowing that the glory of Christ shall be revealed in your daily life and to you on that great Day. Life is short—soon, you will have forever joy.

Isaiah 51:11 • 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 • Colossians 1:27

Dear Lord, you see my fears, emotional turmoil, and relationship concerns. Please give me the wisdom to know your will in each situation. I know your Word says that many are the afflictions of the believer, but you deliver your child from every one of them. Please speak to my heart by Scripture and the Holy Spirit, and comfort me that I might walk in Christ during these trying times. How wondrous it will be on that Day of Glory when I see you as you are and will be changed to be like you, Jesus; I await your perfect kingdom of love and glory! Amen.

June 17

After the mighty God of Israel had given David, the king, rest from all of his enemies, David desired to build a house for God, because David lived in a cedar house and the ark of God was only in a tent. God spoke to Nathan, the prophet, and had him share some wondrous news with David regarding his loving, devoted desire to build a house for the glory of the Lord.

The Lord told Nathan, the prophet, what to say to David: that God had not requested the children of Israel to build a house for him to dwell in; he had moved from place to place with a tent as his dwelling; God had taken David

from the pasture and his flock of sheep to be the ruler over God's people; he had cut off all of his enemies and made his name great in all the earth; he will also provide a place for his people, Israel, and give them a home of their own; he will build a (spiritual) house for his faithful servant David—Almighty God will raise up his offspring and establish his kingdom; David's son shall build a house (a glorious temple) for the name of the Lord God; the throne of his kingdom will God establish forever; and David's house and kingdom will endure before the Lord forever.

After David heard the prophecies that the Lord God gave Nathan for David, he came before his God with the most glorious prayer of thanksgiving and honor that man could offer—it brought joy to the heart of God. David was so grateful for the wonders that the Lord had shown toward his people, Israel, and the glorious promises that God would fulfill in David's life through his son and the great blessings that would honor David forever.

Solomon would build a most magnificent house to bring glory to the name of the God of Israel. The grandest of blessings to honor David would come twenty-eight generations later when Jesus the Messiah (in the ancestral line of David) would be born as a baby in the little town of Bethlehem—Jesus is the Root and the Offspring of David.

Like David, you may have plans of love toward the Lord God—plans to glorify his name. As you abide in Christ Jesus, many of your plans will be fulfilled, and Jesus' heart will be blessed by your trust in him and your faithfulness. But know this, beloved of the King—he will build you a house; he desires to establish you in his kingdom and bless you so richly that only eternity can hold the glory and blessings awaiting you! Praise the Lord!

2 Samuel 7:1-29 • Jeremiah 29:11-13

June 18

Centuries before David, the shepherd, psalmist/prophet, and warrior, reigned as king of Israel, a great rejoicing reverberated through the vast multitude of the children of Israel. With mighty miracles, Almighty God had brought them out of the land of Egypt, where they had been in cruel bondage for four hundred years. Their songs of praise came before God in Heaven, the hour that he returned the Red Sea upon the Egyptians, who were in hot pursuit of their former slaves. The children of Israel were now absolutely

free—their enemy gone forever. They stood astonished beyond measure with thankfulness and joy on the Promised Land side of the Red Sea.

Child of the God of glory, he has set you free from your enemies of sin and death, now and forever. He took every sin upon his body on the cross; Jesus the Savior died, was buried, but rose again three days later. Like Israel being freed from bondage in Egypt, you also have been freed from your bondage to sin; you died to your old life of slavery to sin when you and your sins were crucified with Christ. As he rose from the dead, you also are raised with Christ Jesus by the glory of the Father into the newness of life. Just like the children of Israel rose from the waters to stand on the Promised Land side of the Red Sea, you now stand on the Promised Land (abundant and eternal life) side of the cross. Rejoice and walk with the Prince of Peace in this newness of life. Be filled with and be led by the Holy Spirit, and enter the Promised Land of God—abundant life now and forever—by the faith of the Son of God, who lives in you and loves you with an everlasting love. How great is our God! Thank you, King of glory!

Exodus 15:1-6 • Galatians 2:20 • Romans 6:1-13

Thank you, Jesus, for being the great Shepherd and for leading me into my Promised Land: I have abundant life in you; you lead me by your Spirit; you are my sun and shield; you provide my daily bread, guide me to refreshing waters and green pastures, speak to me daily with your still small voice of love, stand beside me in times of fiery trials (helping me to grow in faith), comfort me in times of sickness and sorrow, and give me every good thing that pertains to life and godliness. What shall I say to you, my God and Savior? Since you are for me, nothing can be against me; I shall go in the strength of my God, proclaim the glories of his kingdom, and speak of his righteousness (his righteousness only) and his work of grace in me. Great is your faithfulness. Glory to my God and Savior! Amen.

June 19

You, who sow in tears, will surely reap with songs of joy. The everlasting Father is the God of compassion and mercy. He will never forget your labor of love that you have shown toward his name. You, who have gone forth weeping, carrying the good news of Christ, the Word of God, to a hurting world, will doubtless come again rejoicing with a bountiful harvest. As the

rains come down to water the earth and bring forth fruit, so shall the words of life in Christ that you have shared with others not return empty; they will accomplish what God desires. Your Father in Heaven will rejoice as broken lives are made whole and those who were lost are found. So do not cast away your confidence; your reward is great. Persevere so that after you have done the will of your Wonderful God, you will receive what he promised.

Psalm 126:5-6 • Isaiah 55:10-13 • Hebrews 10:35-36

Thank you, dear Father, for always being here for me. You hear my every prayer and see my every tear. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning—for great is your faithfulness, and your mercies are new every morning. I rejoice in the hope of your glory and blessings to be revealed in my life here on earth and on that Day of Glory in the kingdom of Heaven. I rest in your love and your great and precious promises. Thank you for all that you've done in my life. Praise to you, my God! Amen.

June 20

Almighty God said, from Heaven, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Our Father actually spoke from Heaven to declare his love and pleasure in Jesus. What a privilege to be friends with Jesus. No one on earth has ever been like him. Every good and wonderful attribute that could ever be desired in mankind was in Jesus.

He came into this world to seek and save those who were lost. He was faithful and persevered in his battle against Satan, temptation, and sin so that you may enter his victory. His compassion and goodness reached out and healed the hurting and needy so that we may know his love. Today, his gentleness and mercy are as real as when the Father spoke to him at the Jordan. May God’s grace abound in your life today through your friendship with the greatest Friend.

If you took a time machine back to the three-plus years of Jesus’ earthly ministry, how different would you be today if you experienced all of his miracles of love and beheld his wisdom? Reading God’s Word is like going back in a time machine; it can make a profound difference in your life, similar to what the disciples of Jesus had! Come experience marvelous miracles never seen by man before. Listen to Jesus speaking like no man ever spoke. Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, spoke words that are spirit and

life; even to this day, his words transform lives by their power. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Jesus always had the right words to share to meet a person's needs. A word spoken at just the right time is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. You can minister life or death by the power of your tongue. When you walk in the Spirit and share with others, you will reap the sweetest fruit. When you share the Word of God, do so with his love and kindness; your heavenly Father will be glorified.

Jesus came into the world to do his Father's works and speak his words—full of the Holy Spirit and life. As the everlasting Father has sent Jesus, in like fashion, the King of kings sends you to speak his Word and truths, filled with the Spirit and life. Share words of hope to the despairing and lonely, words of comfort to the fearful, and words of faith to the weak. God's Word is pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times. Seek him with your whole heart, and he will fill you with his Word and his Spirit. Go and share apples of gold with those in need.

Matthew 3:17 • Proverbs 18:21, 25:11

Ephesians 4:29-32 • Psalm 12:6

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ Jesus, for it is the power of God unto salvation to whosoever believes. Thank you, dear God, for calling me to be a minister (servant) of your grace and love. Please give me wisdom from above so I might share your counsel with believers and unbelievers—and glorify you. Amen.

June 21

With a measure of faith in the living God and a heart filled with courage, Jonathan and his armor-bearer took on the Philistine outpost. Jonathan believed the Lord would act on his behalf. He was willing to fight the battle as if it all depended on him, while knowing it all depended on his God. Jonathan confidently said that nothing can stop the Lord from winning the battle, whether with a few soldiers or a whole army. Almighty God (El Shaddai) created an earthquake and panic in the Philistine army; the two courageous men (with their heavenly King's help) battled and won a great victory that day for Israel. The battle is not yours, but God's. The Lord of heaven and earth will be mighty for those who seek him wholeheartedly.

Almighty God told Joshua that no one could stand up against him all the days of his life. The God of wonders promised to be with him as he had been with Moses; he promised he would not fail or forsake him. Ask your heavenly Father for Spirit-led strength, faith, and courage as he leads you. All things are possible to the one who believes.

1 Samuel 14:6 • 2 Chronicles 20:15 • Joshua 1:5

Zechariah 4:6

Thank you, Jesus, my Savior, for fulfilling the many promises you have given me in the Scriptures. You are so faithful and infinite in wisdom and power. Please give me the gift of courage that Jonathan, Joshua, and David had. I know I am weak, but your strength is made perfect in my weakness. I rejoice in you for your great love.

June 22

The everlasting Father is omnipotent, omniscient, and has an everlasting love for you. He also has a wondrous plan for your life. His great love led him to become a man, forgive and take away your sins, and conquer death. When you received Christ as Savior, he placed his seal upon you—the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the earnest (down payment) of your inheritance. You have been given the firstfruits and foretaste of the kingdom of Heaven. You are a joint heir with Jesus Christ of his glorious kingdom. He is truth and cannot lie; the King of kings will fulfill his pledge. You will soon acquire complete possession of your glorious inheritance.

Until that wondrous day, our Father will perform the greatest miracle of this life; he will transform you day by day by the Holy Spirit and mold you into the image of Christ. Our Father desires that you share inwardly the likeness of Jesus. The Risen Savior is in Heaven preparing a place for you, and the Spirit is preparing you for that place—for you are being transformed into Christ's image from one degree of glory to another.

Colossians 1:12-22 • Psalm 139:1-18

Ephesians 1:13-14 • Titus 1:2 • 2 Corinthians 3:18

Thank you, God, for placing the priceless treasure of Christ in me—a mere jar of clay. May those around me see that the light that shines in me is Jesus, the glorious Savior. May I walk in his steps and bear much of the fruit of the Spirit. I rejoice greatly and am so very thankful for your calling

me, justifying me, and soon glorifying me in your everlasting and majestic kingdom of righteousness and love. Praise be to God! Amen.

June 23

Our majestic God has taken you into the Promised Land of milk and honey. You, who once dwelt in the bondage of sin, can now freely enjoy the blessings of walking with the God of all creation. You possess his written Word, which includes the truth about creation, Adam and Eve in the Paradise of Eden, the fall of man, Abraham and the children of Israel's history, multitudes of prophecies of the coming Savior of mankind—Jesus Christ fulfilling over 300 prophecies, the complete story of salvation, the abundant life, Christ's wondrous miracles and wisdom from Heaven shared, the birth of the church, and marvelous testimonies of God's people—whose lives he has changed by his everlasting love. Our God and Father has given you every good thing that pertains to life and godliness. He is ever so merciful, even in your trials and times of discipline—all designed to bring you into the fullness of Christ in your life.

Be thankful to the Father, in the name of Christ Jesus, for all your rich blessings: salvation, love, family, health, and all your needs that your God and Savior will provide according to his riches in glory. God inhabits the praises of his people; whoever offers praise glorifies him.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 • 2 Timothy 3:16

Ephesians 1:3-12; 5:20

Thank you, Lord God, for saving me and calling me, not according to my own righteousness (which your Word states is like a filthy rag) but according to your mercy and grace. Thank you for having a purpose for me (appointed for me since before the world began); your Spirit will accomplish your good pleasure in my life to fulfill that purpose. I rejoice in the hope of your glory to be expressed in my life here on planet Earth and through eternity. Amen.

June 24

The apostles and disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and were walking in the power of Jesus Christ after the day of Pentecost. The Son of God was working miracles through these dedicated men and women. They were preaching with boldness. A number of these had seen Christ crucified.

They knew the same death that their Lord and Savior experienced might be their end as well. But they also had seen the Risen Savior for forty days and watched as he ascended back to glory. They lived life fully convinced that they were more than conquerors through Christ. They knew that he is the way, the truth, and the life, and were willing to give their hearts and souls to the true God as they shared Jesus' love with the world. They were not ashamed of Christ's gospel to mankind, for eternal salvation is secured to all who believe through its power.

Humble yourself before the Father, and ask him in the name of Jesus Christ to send the power and boldness of the Holy Spirit into your life. You can do all things through Christ, who strengthens you—great blessings will be yours as you share his everlasting love wherever he calls you to serve.

Acts 4:29-33 • Romans 1:16, 10:14-15 • John 3:16

Thank you, beloved Father, for the honor of walking with you and being called your friend. You have blessed me with every spiritual blessing and provided for all my needs according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Please give me a hunger for your Word so that I might grow more into the fullness of your Son and share the glorious gospel that will bring salvation to those who hear me and believe in Christ.

June 25

Astonishing miracles of God freed the children of Israel from Egypt. The wondrous deliverance using a parted Red Sea propelled them on their journey to the land promised to Abraham and his descendants 400 years prior. But their whole lives had been in bondage under the tyranny of a cruel Egyptian pharaoh. They knew straw and brick, sorrow and discouragement. They had lived under the shadow of the Egyptian gods for centuries.

They now needed to know their Deliverer, the true and living God! Forty years in the wilderness were to be their proving ground. God would prepare them for the great blessings of the Promised Land, which possessed abundance beyond their dreams. God told them (through Moses) that he would be bringing them into a good land—a land with brooks of water, with fountains flowing through valleys and hills; a land of barley, wheat, pomegranates, and fig trees; a land with olive trees and honey. God would lead them to the Promised Land—but they had much to learn, for they were a

stiff-necked people. For forty years, they would need to be humbled, disciplined, and taught that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

You, likewise, have come out of Egypt (your Egypt was a life of bondage to sin). But you are very different from the children of Israel. You have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the glorious kingdom of light—where Christ Jesus reigns as King of kings. Like the Israelites (they witnessed 10 plagues sent by Almighty God against Egypt), you have seen mighty miracles (the multitudes of miracles of Christ). The children of Israel were delivered from Egypt: The Israelites applied the blood of the lamb to the doorposts of their home; the angel of death passed over (Passover). You have applied the blood of the perfect Lamb of God to the doorposts of your heart (death has passed over you). By the great sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus, you have been delivered from Egypt (your land of sin and bondage). He took your every sin upon himself, shed his blood, and paid the debt for your sin; he died and then was wondrously raised from the dead by the glory of the Father.

As the waters returned upon the Egyptian army, so did our great God cover and vanquish your enemy—sin and death—never to have mastery over you again! Christ in you, the hope of glory, has given you the victory. You are more than a conqueror through Christ. Your old life of sin was crucified with Christ; you died and were buried with Christ—you were in him when he died, and you were in him when he rose from the dead. As Christ Jesus was raised from the waters of death, you have been raised with him by the glory of the Father. You died to your old life and are now alive in Christ, walking in his grace by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He will enable you (not by your might or power, but by his Spirit) to walk in righteousness in his Promised Land now! You do not need to go through forty years of discipline (yes, he will sometimes discipline you, as your very loving Father). You are his child, accepted in the beloved—Jesus Christ, your Savior and Lord! Walk with Jesus; he is the way, the truth, and the life. Enter your Promised Land today. Since you are now a partaker of the divine nature, God has only the best in store for you. Your Promised Land is more glorious than you could imagine. It begins now and will continue throughout endless ages in the kingdom of Heaven. Glory to God!

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 • Ephesians 1:2-7 • 2 Peter 1:2-11

June 26

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, holding the two tablets of the covenant law (Ten Commandments), he was unaware that his face was radiant from being in Almighty God's presence and having spoken with him. A veil was placed over Moses' face because of its brilliance so that the Israelites might not gaze upon his face. This old covenant glory was to fade and pass away when Jesus Christ would bring mankind the abundant grace and brilliant glory of the new covenant. And if what was transitory had glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts forever!

The law of sin and death was given through Moses on Mount Sinai. But the glorious law of the Spirit of life is the new covenant that the Son of God brought to earth when he came down from Mount Zion (Heaven). The ministry of doom (the old covenant law revealed mankind's exceeding sinfulness), brought by the hand of Moses, pales in glory to the infinitely more abounding in glory ministry that brings righteousness. The law was given by Moses—grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

You have been set free from the law of sin and death. The Sun of Righteousness, the Light of the world, has come, bringing abundant grace and truth. Christ's righteousness and his glory will never fade away. And you shall behold his face and reign with him throughout all eternity.

Jesus, the head of the church, has chosen you to be a minister (servant) of the covenant of grace. You, who with an unveiled face reflect his glory—for you have been in his presence and spoken with him, and he has ministered to your heart by the Holy Spirit—are being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ Jesus from one degree of glory to another.

Exodus 34:29 • 2 Corinthians 3:6-18, 4:6 • John 1:17

Jeremiah 31:31-33 • Romans 8:29-31

June 27

Without having seen the Son of God, you love him; even though you do not see him now, you trust fully in Jesus Christ, the Lord, and are filled with inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your soul.

The most extraordinary telescope man has constructed cannot behold what your eyes of faith have seen. Scientists have searched the stars that span the universe, craving the wisdom they believe is woven in the tapestry of the heavens. The God who spoke the stars into existence has revealed himself to you. Your spiritual eyes have seen the King of kings. You have embraced the One who freely gives love and wisdom beyond time and creation. Kings and prophets have desired to see what you see. Though you have not seen Christ Jesus with your physical eyes, you have experienced his miracle-working power. When you received Christ, you became a new creation; through his many precious promises, you are made a partaker of his divine nature. Jesus, the Son of God, who gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and life to the dead, has also done all that for you. You now see the truth, hear his Word, and you, who were dead in sin, now live an abundant life—an eternal one!

1 Peter 1:8-10 • 2 Corinthians 4:18 • 2 Peter 1:3-4

Thanks be unto our God for his indescribable gift! I will rejoice in you today and forever, O mighty King of kings. I join with ten thousand times ten thousand angels who are before your throne and say, "Worthy is the Lamb of God who was slain; he has conquered sin and death for his redeemed from the earth; may he receive power and riches, wisdom, strength, glory, honor, and infinite blessings. Glory in the highest to the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, praise, and honor forever and ever!" Amen.

June 28

Jesus went up on a mountainside; he called to him those he wanted to be his disciples. He appointed twelve to be apostles (one who is sent; messenger)—that they might be with him (to be taught much about the kingdom). Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, would send them out to preach that the kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He gave them power to heal all manner of sickness and disease, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons.

Since the day that Jesus ascended back up to glory, he has continued to call those he wants. From Mount Zion, he has chosen you that you should go in his power and bear much fruit of the everlasting kind. He has appointed you and designated you according as your work shall be. Yours is a special

assignment in which the great King of glory will blend talents and desires that he created you to have, along with the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

You are not alone; Jesus loves to be with you every step of the way. He promises to never leave you and to do great works through you. Let the Word of Christ dwell richly in you that you might fulfill his call for you to share the great blessings of God's Word by what you say and do. You will rejoice greatly in time to come, even eternally, if you will let your light shine. You are on a mission for the King. Greater is he that lives through you than he that is in the world. You will prosper in all that you do, and the enemy will flee before you.

Since you have been raised from the dead into the newness of life in Christ Jesus, seek those things above, where the King of righteousness sits on the Father's right hand. Today, rejoice and praise your God, who has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You are God's treasured child, one of his chosen people, and a holy priest; you have been called out of darkness into his marvelous light, that you might declare the praises and the mighty works of your God and Savior.

Mark 3:13-15 • Matthew 10:1-8 • Colossians 3:1-3

Ephesians 1:3-6 • Romans 8:29-32

Dear Father, I rejoice in all you have done in my life. Thank you for calling me, justifying me, and promising to glorify me in your heavenly kingdom forever. Thank you for sending Jesus to us so that we might know your love, grace, mercy, and power. Amen.

June 29

Some people may ask you about your Savior and Lord. There is much to be shared, but here are a few thoughts: Jesus Christ is the radiance of God's glory and his express image—his perfect imprint. He was the Word of God made flesh when he came to earth. He told his disciples that if they have seen him, they have seen the Father. Jesus Christ and the Father are one; Christ is in the Father, and the Father is within Jesus. As the Word of God, Jesus spoke all things into existence and upholds and maintains the universe by the mighty power of his Word. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created man in their image. The prophets spoke of God being born into this world as a man and that he would be called the mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of

Peace. The Father proclaimed that all the angels should worship the eternal Son of God. Jesus is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the King over all the kings of the earth. All the fullness of the Deity (the Godhead) lives bodily in Christ Jesus; and you are complete in him. He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the One who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. Our glorious Lord Jesus knows the entire history and future of the world, every thought of every living creature, and every word and action you have had and will have for your whole life on earth—all of these even before he created the world. He inhabits eternity and rejoices that you, who believe in Christ, will reign with him in Paradise, enjoying pleasures forever and ever.

Dear God, thank you for your thoughts toward me, which are more numerous than the sands by the sea. You have loved me with an everlasting love, and by your loving-kindness you have drawn me to you. I am so glad you revealed your love and the truth of Jesus to me. Please help me to rest in you and be led by the Spirit and your Word.

June 30

Isaiah's call began with a glorious vision of the Lord of hosts sitting on the throne and surrounded by angels. When Isaiah heard God's voice ask, "Who shall we send, and who will go for us?" he said, "Here I am, send me." When on earth, Jesus, the Son of God, revealed Almighty God's glory with miracles. Yet his call to the fishermen was a simple instruction to follow him, and he would make them fishers of men. You, too, have seen the truth of Jesus Christ and his glory in the Word and have heard his gentle call.

Will you follow in the footsteps of Isaiah and the early disciples? They said, "Here I am, send me." The rest of their lives exemplified the acknowledgment of God's great glory; they lived for and loved their Wonderful God and Savior.

You have a partnership, communion, and participation (Gr. *koinonia*) with Jesus Christ. He calls you his friend. Whoever does the will of his Father is in his intimate family. You are a member of his body.

Being a partaker of his divine nature, allow the Holy Spirit to enrich you in God's Word. He will strengthen you to do his will. He will give you

words of refreshing and power to share with others that will quench the thirst of the spiritually thirsty and guide them to the way, the truth, and the life—that they might rejoice for eternity in the Paradise of God. Let Jesus' love run deep in your life. The world hungers to know of this great fellowship.

Yes, your partnership with Jesus brings you power and love. But communion with the Son will also give you an abundant supply of assurance. He who began a good work in you is faithful and will definitely complete it. Your God and Father will keep you strong; you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. He, who called you into this glorious fellowship with Jesus, the Son of God, is faithful; he is able to keep you from falling. On the day of the revelation of Jesus, the King of righteousness, you will be presented faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy!

Isaiah 6:1-8 • Philippians 1:6 • 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

Jude 1:24-25

Dear Father, Here I am; please send me with your love, joy, and peace to the world around me. May your glorious light shine through me, by my words and works, so that others will glorify you. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus' name, amen.

July 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Jesus (Immanuel, God with us) came into this world by a miraculous birth. He healed thousands, brought comfort to many by teaching the things concerning the kingdom of Heaven, and lived a life of perfect love. Through his sacrificial death and shedding his own blood, the Lord Jesus Christ conquered the power of sin that had plagued man since the beginning of time. By his resurrection, Christ triumphed over the enemy—death—and, by doing so, brought new hope and everlasting life to all who would believe in him.

His apostles and many of his disciples had seen Jesus accomplish a multitude of amazing miracles during the three-plus years with their Savior. After his suffering on the cross and his resurrection, he presented himself alive by many infallible proofs for forty days. Now it was his time to return to the kingdom of Heaven to be with his Father and have the glory he knew for eternity.

With jaws dropped, the awestruck disciples (who thought they had seen it all) were gazing into the sky where their Messiah, Jesus, had just ascended

out of view to the kingdom above. Two angels then said to them that this same Jesus would return in the same way that you have seen him go into Heaven. The disciples of Jesus had known him as the bread of life, the Light of the world, the Son of David, the Lamb of God, and now the ascended One. He is coming back from Heaven with a commanding shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God. He returns as King of kings, and every eye shall see him. Christ Jesus is returning for you; you will reign with him forever. Look up, for your redemption draws near.

Acts 1:9-11 • Revelation 1:5-8 • Luke 21:27-28

Thank you, Jesus, for spanning the great gulf between Heaven and earth. I owed a debt I could not pay; you paid my debt that you did not owe. Thank you for the forgiveness of all of my sins through your blood sacrifice; thank you that the Scriptures assure me that you also have not remembered my sins. Praise God for your great mercy. You came to earth as the Lamb of God; you are returning in majesty and glory as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. I look for the blessed hope and your glorious appearance! Amen.

July 2

The Ten Commandments and the Law had been delivered to the children of Israel. The tabernacle and the many elements of testimony had been built and were in place. The sin, burnt, grain, fellowship, and wave offerings had all been fulfilled as the Lord had commanded.

Aaron, the high priest of the Lord God, lifted his hands and blessed the people. Then Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting. After they came out and blessed the children of Israel, the glory of the Lord God appeared to all of the people.

A greater than Aaron has come. Jesus created the Levitical priesthood to provide service in a physical tabernacle, a copy, a shadow of what is in Heaven. Yes, the great high priest from the kingdom of Heaven has come. Jesus, the Son of God, who is holy, perfect, separate from sinners, and exalted above the heavens, delivered the law of the Spirit of life to mankind. He then offered himself, the Lamb of God, a perfect sacrifice, once for all men and all sin. By this one sacrifice, he has wholly cleansed and perfected those who are sanctified forever.

After his resurrection and having shared forty days with his disciples, to whom he showed himself alive by many unquestionable demonstrations and convincing proofs, Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed them. While blessing them, he left them and was carried up into Heaven.

The glory of the Lord appeared to the people after Aaron's blessing, but now the glory of the Lord God in the person of Jesus Christ—the Son of the living God—lives in you; Christ in you, the hope of glory. You are now seated with him in heavenly places. Your heavenly Father encourages you to come boldly before his throne of grace to obtain mercy and help in time of need.

Throughout the centuries and even today, Christ, the great high priest, has continued to bless us and is at the Father's right hand interceding for us. Since God is for us, nothing and no one can be against us. Rejoice greatly in the Lord, for he has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms.

Luke 24:50, 51 • Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:14

Romans 8:31, 34, 37

Jesus, I come into the tabernacle of the Lord today and ask you, the great high priest, to bless me. I come boldly before your throne of grace for help in time of need. Jesus, you were in all points tempted like me, yet you never sinned. Please help me in my relationships and work; please provide wisdom and guidance for my everyday circumstances. When you command your blessing from on high, it will come to be. Help me to be more than a conqueror through your grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

July 3

Christ Jesus came into this world to radically change your life. The world says, "Go to work, come home, play, go to work, come home, play, and after a while, you will die. And that's life." No, that is not life. Your mighty God and Savior came into the world so that you might have abundant life. He has added a whole new dimension to living. By the Spirit of God, he has been transforming you increasingly into his image, with new ideals and attitudes.

He desires you to press on toward the prize of your high calling in Christ. There are great riches to dig up in his glorious Word. There are gifts to receive from the Holy Spirit that you may strengthen other believers. The

communication of your faith will be powerful and very fruitful if you acknowledge every good thing that is in you through Christ Jesus dwelling in you.

Paul, the apostle, said it was the grace of God that had made him the man of God he is—the Sovereign Lord had worked through Paul by God's abundant grace.

We are not only saved by grace through faith, but grace is the power that changes our lives—teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live righteously and godly in this present age as we look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever!

May you grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, abundantly in the days ahead.

Romans 12:2 • Philippians 3:12-14 • 1 Corinthians 15:10

Titus 2:11-14 • 2 Peter 3:18

Thank you, glorious Lord God, for calling me to be your child forever. Thank you for often leading me, as the great Shepherd, beside still waters and into green pastures. I rejoice in you and thank you for the many times you reached out and saved me—as you did when Peter began to sink after walking on the Sea of Galilee (you have blessed me as I walk on the waters of this life). I am a new creation, and Christ in me, the hope of glory, is a miracle. Glory to God, the maker of heaven and earth. Amen.

July 4

The four beasts that are before the throne of the King of kings never cease to give glory, honor, and thanks to the Lord God Almighty. The twenty-four elders lay their crowns before the throne as they worship the Creator of heaven and earth, glorifying him for the wonders of creation.

Beloved, continually remember all of God's rich benefits; they are given with everlasting love. He has forgiven all of your sins and redeemed you from destruction. He is the God that heals you—spiritually, physically, and emotionally. He crowns your life with loving-kindness, and his mercies are new every morning. Your great God and Savior provides for your many needs according to his riches in glory. He renews your strength and youth like the eagle's.

Come into his presence every day. Offer your praises to the Father, in the name of Jesus, for the blessings you have received. Join the multitudes of Heaven as they shout, "Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty reigns!"

Revelation 4:1-11 • Psalm 103 • Philippians 4:19 • Hebrews 13:15 • Revelation 19:4-6

I rejoice in you, O Lord God, and thank you, for you have created all things for your good pleasure. By your grace, you have made me a joint heir of Jesus! I will soon be reigning with you in your perfect world, wherein dwell righteousness and everlasting love. I will be changed to be immortal in the image of Christ Jesus. Thank you. Amen.

July 5

David often spoke of being in the midst of lions and ravenous beasts, that is, men whose mouths were open wide against him and whose spears and arrows were drawn, ready for the kill.

King Saul was hunting David to kill him. David hid in the caves of Adullam and Engedi, next to an oasis. He would cry out to the Most High God, trusting that he would fulfill his eternal purpose in David's life. God had promised him, through the prophet Nathan, that David would reign as king—and he later did for forty years. Though his cave was just steps away from a beautiful oasis at Engedi, David was also a step away from death, as Saul was bearing down on him.

Our Wonderful God has given you exceedingly precious promises that will all be fulfilled in your life. Trust the Lord during your times of trial and tribulation; take refuge under the shadow of Almighty God and drink from the living waters of his Word and his love—he is your oasis. As David generously praised his God during his calamities, so should you—for great is God's faithfulness and mercy toward you.

Psalm 57 (When David, in the cave, fled from King Saul)

(Robert Barry, Author's note) When I visited Israel in 1985, I went to Engedi, a beautiful oasis in the wilderness. There is a waterfall, a stream, and palm trees. Adjacent to this lovely haven is a steep, rocky cliff. I observed several caves lining the cliff walls. It was in one of these caves that David offered much prayer. David fled from King Saul, who was seriously trying to kill him.

As with David, we, at times, are in the throes of an agonizing trial. We find ourselves so close and yet so far from the oasis, which is but a stone's throw away! We know that God is right here with us. Why must we go through this anguish and suffering? Our only desire is to drink from the refreshing stream that proceeds from the waterfall and lie in the shade of the palm trees.

Father God, sometimes I feel like I am in the cave of fiery trial and tribulation, and the oasis is so close, yet so far. Please, dear God, my Savior, comfort me by the Holy Spirit and your abundant grace—and deliver me in your will and your timing. Please help me to learn of your ways and see your mighty hand. Lead me to once again bask under your palm trees and drink from the stream in your oasis. Amen.

July 6

The end of something is better than the beginning; it is better to be patient in spirit than proud of heart. God's servant, David, went through much tribulation on his way to being crowned king of Israel—and finally dwelling with Almighty God in the kingdom of Heaven forever. The same patience was needed by the apostles and prophets of the living God; they endured great suffering before they wore the crown. Jesus, the Messiah, was despised and rejected by men and experienced much sorrow and grief while on earth. He wore a crown of thorns before many royal crowns were placed upon his head in glory.

Be patient through your trials. Our great God and Savior is always with you to strengthen you. It is very easy to become discouraged—even David and Paul sometimes despaired. The key to their success was to trust the God of hope with all their hearts, by faith, even during the worst circumstances. Let the Holy Spirit comfort you and give you patience as God, your caring Father, works in your heart and life to help you mature in Christ. What he has promised, he will do. Great is his faithfulness.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 • Isaiah 53:3-5 • Philippians 4:13

Hebrews 10:23 • 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Father, you see the tribulations that I am going through. Please give me grace and wisdom during these times. You delivered the three men who were thrown into the fiery furnace; they were not affected at all by the fire

(only the bonds that had them tied up were burned off); please deliver me according to your will—set me free from my ways so I walk in your ways, and bring me into the glorious liberty that Christ has for me, in every area of my life. In Jesus' name and for his glory. Amen.

July 7

You are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus. As you abide in Jesus and are guided by the Spirit, you will accomplish his will and bear much fruit, which will remain forever.

Although the Lord God promised them the whole land of their inheritance, the children of Israel still had to set their feet upon it and claim it. As a mighty token for good and a foretaste of his mighty power that would be with them, he performed a spectacular miracle as they were entering the Promised Land. As promised, when their feet touched the Jordan River, though, at flood stage, the great and awesome God stopped its flow upstream. They walked across on dry ground, crossing into their promised territory.

Your Promised Land has wondrous spiritual blessings and gifts that your God and Savior will give you. But you must set your foot of faith upon the territory he has given you. By his divine power, he has lavished upon you all things that have to do with life and godliness. Walk in the newness of life and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. He has split the *Jordan* for you; rejoice in the promises and the blessings in your Promised Land.

Joshua 1:3, 23:8-11 • 1 John 4:4 • Psalm 84:11-12

2 Peter 1:3

Father God, you were awesome on behalf of the children of Israel: ten plagues in Egypt and the splitting of the Red Sea to deliver them; manna provided for forty years; water from the rock; a cloud by day and a fire by night for the people. All things are possible to the one who believes. I come to you, dear God, and ask you to please increase my faith and help me go deeper into my Promised Land so that I might inherit every blessing that you have appointed for me. Please help me to glorify you. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

July 8

Lazarus had been dead for four days. Our Lord and Savior Jesus told Martha that if she believed, she would see God's glory. Upon the Messiah's

request, the stone was taken away, and the Son of God raised Lazarus from the dead.

The Lord of Glory can do the impossible—bring life to a dead area in your spiritual walk, heal relationships, or alter circumstances. Sometimes, a dilemma is presented by the Lord so that he might be glorified by helping you be victorious. Seek him wholeheartedly and trust him to do his sovereign will—in his timing.

Abraham did not waver concerning God's promises to him. He was steadfast in faith, giving glory to God, and fully convinced that the Almighty had the power to do what he had promised. Your glorious God and Savior has all power in heaven and earth. Rest in his love; he will be strong on your behalf.

John 11:39-45 • Romans 4:17-25 • Jeremiah 17:12

Almighty God, I come before your glorious high throne, which from the beginning is the place of my sanctuary. I place my fears, doubts, unbelief, and the circumstances facing me before you. I know that it is not by my own might or my power, but by your Spirit. I look to you to be strong on my behalf, give me wisdom, and bless these areas of concern with your gracious blessings from Heaven. Thank you.

July 9

Jesus, the Lord of glory, had cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. She was totally healed and had followed the Messiah as a dedicated and loving disciple. But suddenly, all was very dark for her. She had watched Jesus, her Lord, die through crucifixion. Now, three days after his death, while it was yet dark before dawn, she was crying outside the tomb where Jesus had been placed. As Mary looked inside, she saw two angels who asked why she was crying—not only did the mournful disciple believe Jesus was dead, but now it seemed that someone had taken away the body she had come to anoint with spices. Mary told them she was crying because the body of her Lord had been taken away. She then turned and saw the Messiah—thinking he was the gardener. The sorrowing woman asked if he had taken the body away. Jesus, the Risen Savior, then said, "Mary." She cried out, "Rabboni" (which means Master).

Mary's very darkest hour became a glorious dawn for her. The Son had risen, and her heart was now healed—the most profound sorrow turning to the greatest joy! Beloved child of the King, when your darkest hour is upon you—when all hope seems gone—turn and look to Jesus. He is here with you. He is the Sun of Righteousness; he will shine brightly and show you his path. He will comfort you in your grief and replace it with everlasting hope.

John 20:11-18 • Isaiah 61:1-3

Thank you, Jesus, for revealing your love, mercy, and power at a time in my life when I was in the domain of darkness. Your Holy Spirit transformed my life miraculously, like you did for Saul (Paul) and Mary Magdalene. You are Almighty God, the God of miracles; nothing is too hard for you. What a wondrous day for Mary Magdalene when she turned and saw you outside the tomb—that could not hold you. What a glorious day for me when the SonRise brilliantly shined your light into my life. You raised me from being dead in sin; I once was blind, and now I see. I will rejoice and be thankful unto you, my Savior and King, forever! Praise God! Amen.

July 10

Jesus is the great Shepherd, who is seeking his lost sheep. He will find every one of his dear elect lambs that he has loved with an everlasting love. All those that the Father has given to him shall come to him. His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save. He rescued Israel from their bitter bondage, split the Red Sea, and carried them to their Land of Promise; he will care for and reach out to those you love and are praying for. The Lord your God is mighty—mighty to save. He saved Saul on the road to Damascus miraculously.

Jesus, the Messiah, preached the words of the kingdom to the multitudes. He also personally came to lepers, outcasts, and those who were suffering. One day, Jesus was sharing with a Samaritan, who was looked down upon as a group (hated is more accurate) by the Jews. Though he was tired and thirsty, Jesus reached out most creatively and lovingly at the well of water to touch her soul for the kingdom. At one point, he told her that if she knew the gift of God and who he was, she would ask him and he would give her living water. He shared more with her, and he revealed much about her life. Convinced that Jesus, who told her everything she ever did, was the Christ,

she not only believed that he was the Messiah, but she became an evangelist. Many Samaritans came to believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world because of her! Through the Messiah's love, many were now asking to drink of the living water. They would never thirst again, for they would have a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life!

When you are worried about your unsaved loved ones, bring them before the Lord God in prayer and thanksgiving. Trust in our omnipotent God, who is able to do immeasurably above all that you could ask for or imagine.

John 4:7-30, 6:37, 10:11, 27-30 • Isaiah 40:9-11

Ephesians 3:17-21

Dear Father, Thank you for saving me; having this wonderful, abundant life in Christ is a miracle. Please reach out to my family members and friends through this same miracle power; reveal your truth about Jesus Christ to them. Please give me opportunities to share the Word of life with those who are thirsty and hungry for the truth. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

July 11

Almighty God called Abram (Abraham) to leave his country and his people; God was to make Abram a great nation, with children as numerous as the stars of the heavens, and give them a rich and flourishing land as their inheritance. Abram obeyed God and, by faith, walked toward the Promised Land physically and spiritually. He believed God and his promises, and Almighty God credited it to him as righteousness, and God called Abram his friend. There were trials and fears, but God told Abram not to be afraid; he said he was Abram's shield and his exceedingly great reward.

Dear brothers and sisters, by your faith in Christ Jesus, you have received an abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness; you are now a friend of God the Father and Christ Jesus, the mighty Son of God. He will be your shield and strong fortress. All the riches of the universe are at his command. He holds all wisdom and knowledge. He is the God of perfect love. Yes, he is your very great reward!

Genesis 15:1-6 • Romans 4:16-25, 5:1-2, 17

Psalms 84:11-12

Thank you, dear God, my Father, for calling me from Heaven to walk into my Promised Land, as you did Abram. Your grace, faith, and salvation are wondrous gifts. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God you will bring me into on that Great Day; I also rejoice that you will transform my life, from one degree of glory to another, to be more like Jesus, as we move swiftly toward that great heavenly reunion. Thank you, Lord God, for your precious promises to me! Amen.

July 12

In the same way that Almighty God called Abram to leave his country and culture, he has called you to leave your old country and lifestyle (the land of sin). He promised the most wondrous blessings to Abram: children as numerous as the stars of heaven, a Promised Land that his ancestors would inherit, flowing with milk and honey, and the Lord God would be his protector and his reward. Similarly, he has promised to bring you to a land flowing with the glory of God. Jesus, our Savior, promises abundant life to those who trust in him. Your Promised Land (abundant life) is available today as you walk in the Spirit with the Lord Jesus Christ; he has chosen you and appointed you that you will bear much fruit unto eternal life. You will also enjoy the fruit of the Spirit as you are led by the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, kindness, and self-control. You, who are looking for the city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God, will soon behold the heavenly city, new Jerusalem, and the wondrous heavenly Promised Land, which awaits your arrival. There will be no death, sorrow, or pain there. You will see Christ Jesus as he is and be changed to be like him. Our great God promises that you will inherit all things. The Lord of glory will bless you with all spiritual blessings and immeasurable glory in Heaven throughout the endless ages.

Beloved friend of God the Father and Jesus the Risen Savior, always rest in God's love. All of his promises will come true. Rejoice and be thankful; you will soon reign with the King of the kings in glory forever.

Genesis 12:1-3 • Hebrews 11:8-16 • Romans 8:29-32

John 15:16 • Galatians 5:22-23 • 2 Corinthians 1:20

Father, thank you for your everlasting love that has drawn me to Christ Jesus; you have saved and called me with a high and holy calling. My

prayer is, "Not my will, but yours be done." Please help me fulfill the purpose for my life that you have appointed for me since before time began. What a glorious God and Savior you are! Please work in me by your abundant grace; by the Holy Spirit, may I share the Word of life with those I meet, and may my works be wrought in Christ. Amen.

July 13

In Daniel's vision, he saw one like the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven and approaching the Ancient of Days. He was given dominion, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples and nations of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingdom shall never be destroyed. Jesus Christ is the Son of Man revealed in this vision to Daniel.

Many think that Jesus was just a great teacher who brought religion. But he is the Son of God with all power in heaven and earth. Before he created the myriad galaxies, he reigned in Heaven eternally. While on earth, he had authority over all creation. Jesus, the Prince of life, performed thousands of miracles: he calmed a storm with his Word, walked on water, gave sight to the blind, cleansed lepers, gave the lame the power to walk, cast out demons, gave hearing to the deaf, and even raised the dead to life again. He is the same today as before creation or when he walked the earth. Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, is coming back soon. The first time, he came as the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for all of man's sins. But the Messiah is returning as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is your Creator and the lover of your soul.

Daniel 7:9-14 • Colossians 1:16-17 • Hebrews 9:28

1 John 3:1-3

I look to you, Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith, to continue to work mightily in my heart and life by your grace. Please help me to present my body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to you; this is my reasonable, spiritual service of worship. You gave your life for me—the greatest act of love in the history of the world. You died for me; now, by your grace, help me to live for you. Please transform me so that all that I say and do will be in Christ, that I may glorify you today and forever. I

look to you, the God of miracles. Thank you for the multitude of blessings you have lavished upon me.

July 14

All the wisdom and knowledge possessed by mankind is relatively minuscule. The depth of the riches of wisdom, knowledge, and the power of the God of glory is unfathomable and infinite. Man, through all his wisdom, cannot escape death nor ascend to God's glorious heavenly kingdom in his own power. But through what man considers foolishness, Jesus, the Light of the world, made a path for you to the Paradise of the God of all creation; through faith in the power of his atoning blood, his death, and resurrection, you have been given the greatest gift in the Universe—forgiveness and everlasting life.

Our God and Savior's counsel and wisdom will bear the sweetest fruit if followed. He who created the glorious Universe and gave his life for you will also freely give you, by his divine power, all things that pertain to this life and the one to come. Draw near to the Lord God, and he will draw near to you. Since you are risen from the dead with the Lord Jesus Christ, seek those things that are above, where Jesus, the King of glory, sits at the right hand of the Father. Focus your mind on the things of the kingdom of Heaven, not on earthly things. For you (your past sin-filled life) died with Christ Jesus on the cross, and your new life is hidden with Christ (who is in Heaven). When Jesus, the King of glory, who is your life, appears, then you will also appear in God's majesty and glory with him.

Romans 11:33-36 • John 3:16-17 • 2 Peter 1:1-4

Colossians 3:1-4

Dear God, thank you for the miracle of the new birth and for bringing me into a personal relationship with you. Thank you for your guidance each day—you are the great Shepherd—your wisdom and understanding are infinite. Help me to rejoice in you and trust you fully today. Glory to you forever and ever!

July 15

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is close to the brokenhearted and rescues those crushed in spirit. He will be very gracious and merciful to you; his heart is

opened wide to your tears and pain. He is moved whenever you experience sorrow. In tumultuous times, Jesus will calm your storms.

While on earth, he was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The Wonderful Counselor profoundly understands what you are going through. As his born-again child, you have entered the fellowship of his sufferings. Draw near to him in a close-knit fellowship, seeking his help in your time of need. Allow him to put his arm around you. Listen to the God of consolation's words of comfort and care; he truly loves you more than you could ever imagine—an everlasting love. He will give you peace and bring you fully into his fellowship of joy. Rejoice, since you are a partaker of his sufferings; when his glory is revealed, you will be joyful beyond measure—forever.

Psalms 34:18 • Isaiah 9:6, 53:3-5 • Hebrews 4:13-16

1 Peter 4:12-13

Thank you, Lord, that in my weakness, your strength is made perfect. Thank you for working all things together for my good. Thank you for your great love, mercy, and gentleness toward me during my sorrows and troubles. I love you, Lord. Amen.

July 16

Even as your body is one and has many parts, so it is with Christ Jesus. Every member is unique and fulfills a special part of his body. You and each member will grow more and more to be like Christ, the head of the body; the Holy Spirit will perform the transformation.

Honor your God and respect each brother's and sister's special role in Christ's body. You need not be jealous of someone else's calling. Your loving God will reveal his wonderful calling for you in his kingdom—ordained since before the world began. Give yourself wholly to his love and his Word. His grace will work in your life—in his time and in his way. Pray for your brethren. You will be amazed at how God, your Father, honors and answers prayers of love for your brothers and sisters; prayer is a rich ministry. Always rest in the peace that passes all understanding that Jesus gives you.

Ephesians 4:13-16 • 2 Peter 1:3-11

I thank you, God, my Father, for all my brothers and sisters who have faith in Jesus Christ, rejoicing in the hope stored up for us in Heaven. Thank you for our hope, which is an anchor of the soul, entering the most

Holy Place, where your presence dwells. We have all been sealed by your promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance. We all joyously await the redemption of your purchased possession (all of your children), to the praise of your glory. Help us all to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus; to him be glory and honor forever. Amen.

July 17

Through the foreknowledge of Almighty God, the deity predetermined that the only way man could receive the promise of eternal life was through the sacrificial death of his Son. At the exact foretold time, the Savior entered this dark world. The light shined, and like a desperately needed lighthouse during a raging storm, beams of hope shone for all of us who were about to be shipwrecked.

God never lies. He promises eternal life to all who have faith in his Son. He has also given us great assurance through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Through this precious faith and the knowledge of Christ, you are confident that you are one of the elect, soon to enjoy the glories of Heaven. You are no longer like a rudderless ship adrift in the Sea of Sin. Your boat is secure in the harbor of the Lord; your soul is anchored to that which is within the veil—into the very presence of Almighty God.

Beloved child of God, rejoice that he has called and justified you. Soon, the majestic King of creation will glorify you when you enter the Paradise of God.

While you await the glory of Heaven, please share the great news of salvation through Jesus Christ with those in your world. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; the one who wins people for Christ is wise.

Titus 1:2-3 • 2 Peter 1:2-4 • Romans 8:28-32

Proverbs 11:30

I rejoice in you, Lord God! How wondrous is the gift of salvation and my abundant life in Christ! May I be a lighthouse of hope to others adrift on the Sea of Sin. Empower me by your grace and the Holy Spirit not to be conformed to this world but to walk in Christ so that I might bear fruit unto eternal life, as promised by you, my Savior. Thank you for giving me every good thing that pertains to life and godliness. By your resurrection

power, please work in me so that I might be complete in every good work, doing what is pleasing in your sight. Glory to Jesus, forever! Amen.

July 18

The Son of God has all power in heaven and earth. He can change circumstances so very quickly for you. But what is most necessary for you is to get to know him in profound and heart-changing ways. To transform your life into his likeness through the power of the Holy Spirit is exceedingly more valuable to you and Christ Jesus than your circumstances being more favorable to you. To possess the treasures of his wisdom, the knowledge of his kingdom, and to experience his glorious hand of care and deliverance through trying times is beyond measure, more valuable than all the gold, silver, and precious gems of the world.

By placing your complete trust in the Sovereign Lord while you endure the trials of your faith, you will come forth as gold out of the furnace of affliction. Do not be surprised when these trials—that God allows—come into your life. He will speak with you during these challenging times. Invest time with him and let his Word and Holy Spirit lead you. The great Shepherd will guide you personally by his counsel. He is the Risen Savior who can do abundantly above all you could imagine is possible. He will truly deliver you, set you free in many ways, establish you in his kingdom, and bring hope, joy, and love into your heart in areas where they were not in the past.

Romans 5:3-5, 15:3 • 1 Peter 4:12-13 • Job 23:10

Psalms 40:1-3, 73:24

Thank you, Lord God, for knowing the plan for my life and how to accomplish it. I feel weak and have fears and doubts. I stand upon the Rock—Christ Jesus; he is my hope and the answer to all of life's concerns. You alone are my refuge and strength. May your grace enable me to do your will, in all my words and works, so that you are glorified. Please help me to be like a tree planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season. May the glorious light of Jesus shine from my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

July 19

The plant and animal kingdoms, men, women, and children all benefit richly from the vital forces of the sun; there is no life without the sun. This

must also be said of the Sun of Righteousness. Life abundant here on earth and eternal life in the world to come are only found in the Sun of Righteousness, the bright Morning Star—Christ Jesus, the mighty Son of God. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Your God's divine power has given you everything you need for life and godliness—through Christ Jesus, who lives in you.

The Light of the world—Jesus, the Sun of righteousness—has arisen in your heart. Let his light shine from you so that the blind may see. The God of glory's light brings sight and reality to those dwelling in darkness, to all who will receive it. Let the warmth of his love flow from you to the cold, dying world around you. Let the sweet influences of the Sun of Righteousness flow from your life. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, and he will. The God who commanded, "Let there be light," is the One who has shone in your heart to show forth the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, the mighty Savior and Lord.

Are you sometimes discouraged that your life is not shining brightly? Though you are weak, he delights in you just as you are. Step by step, you will grow, and the light will shine brighter in your life. The path of the child of God is like the shining sun that shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect Day of Glory. Trust Christ Jesus fully and be patient so that you may know that every step of growth and blessing was from his hand. Jesus began the good work in you and will continue it until the Day of Glory.

Malachi 4:2 • Proverbs 4:18 • 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Philippians 1:6

By your grace and Holy Spirit, Father, help me to let your light shine through me to those around me so that they might see my good works and glorify you in Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me, an earthen vessel, to have the most priceless possession in me—you, the Light of the world. Help me to grow in faith, grace, and the knowledge of your Scriptures so that I might be a faithful ambassador of your everlasting kingdom. I rejoice in you and love you, King of glory! Amen.

July 20

You must endure many troubles as you follow Jesus Christ, but he will deliver you from them all. In times of suffering, he will be your healer, high

tower, shield, and hiding place. In this life, your suffering can be significant. Your body is frail and subject to the elements. Your heart can be broken, even in the most close-knit relationships. Sometimes, there seems to be no hope.

Our Wonderful God will raise those who are bowed down. He deeply loves those who trust in him. The Lord will heal the broken in heart and bind up their grief. Ask of your Father, and he will give you a full dose of the patience of Job, boldness in prayer like Elijah, and wisdom from above.

Dear friends, you need not worry about what the future holds, for you know the God who holds the future. Christ Jesus will liberally provide for all of your needs according to his riches in glory.

He will comfort you in times of trouble and sorrow. When you are lonely, he will be the Friend that is closer than a brother. Your every tear is seen and felt by your Wonderful Counselor. Always draw close to him, for he desires to bear your griefs and sorrows. The God of consolation will impart hope to your heart; entrust your heart to him daily. He desires to bring you into a life that has deep joy and peace.

Psalms 34:17-19, 147:1-5 • John 16:33 • Revelation 21:4

Philippians 4:19 • Romans 15:13 • Hebrews 13:20-21

Dear Father, thank you for your mercy and abundant grace that brought me to you and my new life in Christ. I am weak, and you have infinite strength. In my weakness, your strength is made perfect. I trust you, for your everlasting love is always toward me; your thoughts toward caring for me each day are more than can be numbered. I look to you today, Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Help me to be complete through you in every good work, doing what is well-pleasing in your sight. I thank you today, and I will rejoice forever for the magnificent love you have for me!

July 21

A man who was covered with leprosy came to Jesus, the Son of God. Falling with his face to the ground, he begged Jesus, "Lord, if you're willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately, the leprosy left him.

Come to the loving Savior today and receive his wondrous compassion for you. He is the great Physician. He is the Holy One of Heaven, but he is always willing to touch any area of your life. The worst of diseases or sins

cannot defile Christ. As the merciful Redeemer, he welcomes all today. He has the keys to every prison that holds you captive. He will set free all who call upon him. For every area of your life that is stained, scarred, or mangled by sin or the enemy, our mighty God will touch your life and impart power and virtue to restore you to perfect wholeness—in his timing, in his way, and always in his love.

Luke 5:12-13 • Matthew 4:23-24, 9:35-36 • Malachi 4:2

Philippians 4:6-7

Lord Jesus, I have been brokenhearted for a long time regarding some areas of life and my relationships, as you know, but if you're willing, you can bless them with your love and power. I thank you for whatever your will is for my life in this area and others I have been praying for. I will accept your will and rejoice in you, my dear Savior! Your goodness, mercy, and faithfulness are like the waves of the sea—infinite.

July 22

As Jesus of Nazareth emerged from the waters of the Jordan (when baptized by John), he heard, "This is my beloved Son, whom I love, in whom I am well pleased." The Savior was now to endure a most extreme time of testing for forty days and later at the cross. As the pioneer of your faith and the author of salvation, he was blazing a trail for you. He would prevail and conquer in the wilderness and at the cross.

In the Paradise of Eden, Adam failed and succumbed to the temptation of Satan, who allured him through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. In the harsh and burning wilderness, Jesus, the Son of Man, was likewise tempted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—but Jesus, the Prince of life, prevailed! He sinned not but stood rock solid on the Scriptures!

Follow Christ Jesus; he that overcomes shall inherit all things. As a joint heir, you will reign with Jesus, the King of kings, in the glories of Heaven forever. You can overcome by the blood of his sacrifice, by the word of your testimony, and by not loving your life, even when faced with death. You will overcome through Christ, who strengthens you.

Matthew 3:17 • Hebrews 2:9-18, 4:14-16

Revelation 12:11 • Philippians 4:13

Help me, Jesus, to deny ungodliness and any sinful pleasures in this evil world and to live wisely, righteously, and godly in this present world while I await the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of my great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

July 23

In the beginning of creation, Almighty God spoke the billions of stars into existence. He fashioned planet Earth with his infinite wisdom. The mighty oceans and rivers flowed at the touch of his hand. Our Creator brought thousands of species of plants and animals into being. The man (Adam) was created in the image of God. Adam (and mankind with him) fell, and great was that fall. He desperately needed the Savior.

When you received Jesus Christ, you became a new creation. By the same power that he created the universe, he will transform your life in his image—the likeness of Jesus, the Son of God. By the power that raised Christ from the dead, the Holy Spirit will bring forth life in you where no life existed. Where there once was hate, his love will shine. Where loneliness, anguish, and degradation ruled, the Prince of life will now reign.

By faith, you know your sins are forgiven, forgotten, and gone forever. By faith, you know that out of the glorious riches of Christ, he will bless you continually in great and wonderful ways. By faith, let Jesus Christ reign in your heart.

Ephesians 3:16-21 • Romans 8:11 • Hebrews 8:12

Romans 5:8-21

Dear Lord, I praise you for the mighty miracles you performed and the words of love you shared while on earth. I fully thank you for the miracle of new life you gave me. I rejoice greatly that I am in Christ and that he is in me—Jesus, the bright Morning Star, is the hope of glory. I trust you, Lord God; you planted me like a tree beside the rivers of water. Jesus, the Sun of righteousness, is ever shining upon me to help me grow. By your miracle of grace, I will bear fruit in due season. I will flourish like a palm tree planted in the garden of your love and grace. Thank you, Father, that I am still bearing fruit in my senior years. You are my Rock; you are my righteousness, and you are the God of my salvation. I rejoice with all of my

brothers and sisters in Christ; we thank you, Father, for sending Jesus to save us from sin and death! What a Savior! Praise God!

July 24

Moses asked Almighty God, "Let your work appear to us, your servants, and your glorious majesty to our children. May the Lord God's beauty be upon us; establish for us the work of our hands." Moses prayed this prayer sincerely, and God answered in extraordinary ways. Witness the mighty power and majesty of a parted Red Sea. Consider the miraculous provision of manna, which God graciously supplied for forty years. The fiery glory of Mt. Sinai and God's presentation of the Ten Commandments delivered to the people by a radiant-faced Moses marvelously display God's majesty and power. Behold the magnificence of the tabernacle of worship, crafted by God through his ordained artisans.

Moses was one unique instrument in the symphony of salvation that God has conducted through the millennia. You are his instrument of righteousness today. Pray the prayer of Moses and know that the Lord will bestow favor on you.

May the blessing of the Lord our God enrich you in all your words and deeds so that he will be glorified.

Psalms 90:16-17 • 2 Timothy 1:9-10 • 1 Peter 2:9

Revelation 1:5-6, 19:1

Lord God, as your instrument of righteousness in your glorious symphony of salvation, may I be crafted as your unique workmanship, fulfilling your good pleasure; may I bring the light and the new life of Christ Jesus to a needy world, that you might be glorified. I rejoice and give thanks to you for having saved me and called me with this wondrous, holy calling. May your purpose and grace be revealed through my life; as a royal priest and a king in your kingdom, may I offer the highest praises and honor to the King of kings and Lord of lords. You are worthy! Hallelujah!

July 25

A woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus of Nazareth and touched the edge of his garment—experiencing his healing power. She believed she would be healed if she could only touch

his clothes. The Lord turned to her and told her that her faith had healed her; the woman was completely cured from that moment.

This woman had spent all her money on doctors over the years. She was at the end of her rope. You may have a suffering relationship, spiritual difficulties, sins that have you tied up in knots, sickness that has plagued you, or employment and financial problems. The God of all grace understands your hardships and pain. If you believe Jesus can heal and bless your life, come to him with a humble heart today. If you only *touch the hem of his garment*, you will know his healing touch and the power of deliverance in your life. Our great God and Savior will bring healing and blessing in his timing, according to his will, and always in his love.

Be led by the Holy Spirit and do what he shows you to do by faith to receive all of his blessings—Christ told Peter to step over the side of the boat to walk on the water, and the disciple walked on the Sea of Galilee; Jesus, the great Physician, told the man with the withered hand to stretch out that hand, and when the man began to stretch out that hand, he was healed.

Bring your brokenness and suffering to Christ Jesus today. Remember, while on earth, he was the Man of sorrows. He understands and loves you. He desires to talk with you, comfort you, and make you whole; he is the Wonderful Counselor.

Matthew 9:20-22, 14:22-36 • Mark 3:1-6, 5:25-34

Psalms 40:1-3

Lord God, you are fabulous. You have healed me from the deadly disease of sin sickness. You have healed me of sicknesses through the years. Father, your grace and the balm of Gilead have brought new life and wholeness to emotional areas of my heart. Thank you for helping me with godly counsel, your Scriptures, and your wondrous grace to bring healing and growth to my relationships. Thank you for everlasting life. I also bring to you these other areas where I need your healing touch. I trust you, dear God of all grace and power, to do your will in these areas. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

July 26

Every day, the God of all creation gives you wonderful gifts: sunshine and rain, health and prosperity, and blessings from family and friends. The whole

creation proclaims the goodness and love of your wondrously bountiful Father. Blessed is the one who knows the gift of eternal life through Jesus the Messiah. He promises to anyone who believes that rivers of living water will flow from your innermost being. Jesus assures us that his Father will freely give you whatever you ask in his name, believing. Until now, you have not asked for much in his name. Ask according to Christ Jesus' will, and you will receive; your joy will overflow. Seek him with all of your heart. He is a rewarder of all who do so.

John 4:10, 7:38 • Hebrews 11:6

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that I would have what Jesus promised—living waters flowing from my innermost being. May the Word of Christ and his love flow from me to all those I know and meet. I am a branch in you, Jesus, the vine. Father, may your Sun of Righteousness shine brightly on the branches in the vine; may your living waters from above help bring me life-giving nutrients and strength. Please help me to abide in the vine every day. Please guide me by your counsel so that I might bear much fruit unto eternal life. Help me, dear God, to be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, bearing fruit in due season and growing strong to glorify you. Amen.

July 27

Jesus, the Son of God, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and life to the dead. He will transform your heart so that his love will reign. In the same way that you are patiently awaiting his return, do continue to endure with hopeful expectation that he is accomplishing a wondrous work in you. Jesus loves you and cares for you deeply. He desires that you experience his life-changing love in such a manner that you and those you come in contact with are amazed at the power of God—that the same miracle-working love that Christ Jesus shared when on earth still changes lives today. Christ Jesus the Lord has chosen to live in you and shine his glorious light from you. You have this treasure—the Son of God—in a jar of clay to show that this extraordinary greatness of the power is of God and not from you.

Please be patient with your spiritual progress. Be forbearing of others; the God of love is not finished with them either. You may be longing for answers to prayers or fulfillment of hopes and dreams that you have presented to your

God and Father in the past; he has not forgotten. Be patient, for he will bring great blessings to your life.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 • James 1:3-5 • Isaiah 55:8-13

Psalms 42:5, 8

Thank you, Jesus, that when I am faint-hearted, you renew me—I am refreshed at the oasis of your Word. When I am cast down, you often come beside me and encourage me; your blessing from on high showers me with your loving-kindness. Your song of love will often turn my sorrows of the night into hope and trust in you. Thank you.

July 28

By faith, Noah, Abraham, and Moses established Almighty God's reality in a world entrenched in disbelief. Though these men exhibited the same human weaknesses as others, their hearts were humble enough to receive God's Word and promises. Mixing their faith with obedience, these three changed the course of history in a way that greatly glorified the God of heaven and earth.

When the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ asks you to fulfill his will and the task appears overwhelming, remember what these three men went through. They believed the *impossible* because God said it was so. The One who spoke the Universe into existence has called you to walk with him on the path he has appointed for you. Believe that he will accomplish great things through you as you humble your heart, listen, and obey his wondrous Word.

Do you feel ordinary? Noah, Abraham, and Moses often did as well. The extraordinary God chooses the ordinary to reveal the glory of his grace and love. Your heavenly Father has chosen to grant you every good thing in Christ Jesus. The blessing of the Lord will be very rich toward you as you trust in God, your Savior.

Hebrews 11:6-29 • John 6:1-13

Dear Lord God, I often feel ordinary in your kingdom, but I ask that you help me take hold of that for which you have taken hold of me. You can do wonders like you did for many in the Scriptures. Like the boy that brought the loaves and fish and you fed the five thousand (and had twelve baskets of food yet remaining), I give you my talents and my heart, humbly asking you to use me as you will, to your glory. You are able to do exceedingly

abundantly above all that I could think or ask. You have not chosen those who are wise, mighty, or rich in the world's eyes; you have chosen the foolish things to confound the wise (exposing their ignorance) and those who are powerless to confound those who are mighty (revealing how frail they are). Father, you have chosen those poor in spirit and those weak and despised to bring to nothing what the world views as something; no man should boast in your presence. Whoever glories, let him glory in you, dear God and Savior. All glory to you forever.

July 29

The whole creation is groaning and travailing, as in the pains of childbirth. You, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, eagerly await the glorious day of the redemption of your body. God, the Father, redeemed you spiritually through the priceless blood of Jesus Christ. You have been given the Holy Spirit, which is the down payment of your inheritance. This deposit guarantees that you will soon inherit the exceedingly great riches and the incomparably wondrous glory of the kingdom of Heaven. It truly is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. All of your trials will soon be over. You will be with Jesus, the Risen Savior, forever—you will see him as he is and be like him. Rejoice, for you will soon receive the crown of life he promises to all who love him. God, your Father, will welcome you to enjoy his love and his wonderful and majestic kingdom throughout all eternity.

1 John 3:1-3 • Romans 8:17-39

How wonderful, dear Lord; I was lost in sin, and you brought me up out of that horrible pit, the quicksand of this evil world. You set my feet upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, who has established my goings; I now sing praises to my great God and Savior. Amen.

July 30

As a believer, the Spirit that raised the Lord Jesus from the dead is living in you. The Holy Spirit desires to transform your life in ways exceedingly abundant above all that you can think or imagine possible. Give your life to Christ in a new way today—as a living sacrifice. He will perform the miracle of life and build you anew. He will fashion you into his image with power and love. He desires for you to reign in life with him. As the Son of

Man rose from the dead by the glory of the Father, you also are to walk in the newness of life. You are his precious child. All things are possible to the one who believes. Build yourself up in the faith of Christ (the same faith that was delivered to the early disciples) by deeply entering God's Holy Word. The testimonies, wisdom, truth, and miracles shared will radically change your life.

Please do not be discouraged; bring your brokenness and troubled heart to Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor. He desires to shower abundant mercy and grace upon you—he will bring strength and joy to your innermost being. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Welcome the mighty God to reign in your life; be led by his Spirit, and you will triumph over sin. He that began a great work in you will continue until the Day of Christ; your rejoicing shall be great.

Romans 8:11, 12:1 • 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, 15-18

Thank you, Lord God, that I am in Christ. Thank you for an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. Father, you have redeemed me by the precious blood of your Son, Jesus, who was foreordained as my ransom before the foundation of the world. Thank you, Father, for the gift of everlasting life. Not by my deeds of righteousness that I have done (my own righteousness is as filthy rags), but because of your mercy, you saved me. Through the washing of the new birth, a glorious miracle of the Holy Spirit has given me eternal life—a work of God—and I rejoice in the hope of the glory of Almighty God! Thank you, Father, for this indescribable gift! Amen.

July 31

Jesus of Nazareth spanned the gulf between Heaven and earth as the great Apostle and High Priest of your faith. Because he loves you so much, he took a body of flesh upon himself and lived among us.

His immeasurable love is equal to his infinite power. Through mighty signs and wonders, he confirmed that he is the Son of God. He promises abundant life with power to all who will receive him. The early disciples experienced this. They fully received the faith that the Lord Jesus Christ delivered to them. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly so that you might know his many great and precious promises and enjoy their fulfillment in

your life. Contend earnestly and with unwavering determination for the faith of the Son of God. You will be so blessed and thankful if you do. Christ Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 3:1 • 2 Peter 1:1-4 • Jude 1:3, 20-21, 24-25

Thank you, Lord God, for calling and transforming me with your everlasting love. Thank you for giving me the gift of faith. By the Holy Spirit, please help me to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.

August 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Twelve men (*the spies*) went in to explore the land that Almighty God had promised to give to the children of Israel. The men returned; ten reported about the powerful people and the large, fortified cities. Looking at the enemy and their strength (they felt like they were mere grasshoppers compared to the mighty people they saw), ten spies warned that the children of Israel could not go against the land's inhabitants because they were too strong. These ten men brought a bad report to the Israelites.

Two men, Joshua and Caleb, came back rejoicing in their God, his promises, and his power. Caleb said they should go up and take possession of the land; he had great confidence in his God.

If you look at the difficult tasks, enemies, trials, and tribulations that lie ahead and compare them to your strength, you will look very weak and small in your own eyes—you will seem like a mere grasshopper (as the ten men reported of themselves). But greater is the Son of God, who lives in you, than the enemy who is in the world. Choose today to be like Caleb and Joshua. Walk in the Spirit, with faith in your mighty God and his power—be more than a conqueror! All things are possible to him who believes!

Numbers 13:23-33, 14:24 • 1 John 4:4 • Galatians 2:20

Zechariah 4:6

Lord, please change my heart to be more like Jesus; may I have a different spirit that follows you fully, like Caleb and Joshua. I know that it is not by my might but by your Spirit; please increase my strength and guide me today to be an overcomer. Amen.

August 2

The Jewish exiles had returned to their land. They wept as they listened to the Word from the Book of the Law of Moses (the Israelites were recognizing their sins against Almighty God). Nehemiah said that this day is holy unto the Lord and not to weep, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah told the Israelites to enjoy choice foods, drink sweet drinks, and send some to those with nothing prepared.

You were once exiled from the promises and inheritance of God's kingdom. Forgiveness through the blood sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus, has allowed you to enter the Promised Land of the living God. Sometimes, upon hearing the Word of God, you may have sorrow for the years that passed without you having walked with Christ Jesus. But today and every day is a sacred day. You have his abundant life, his Word, and his eternal love; you have great reason to rejoice! Go and share the bread and wine of Christ with a hungering and thirsting world. Bring them the true joy of the Lord. His joy is your strength!

Nehemiah 8:8-12 • Romans 5:17, 15:13

Hebrews 10:10-17

Thank you, Jesus, for the great salvation you brought to my life. Thank you that all my sins were washed away by your perfect sacrifice, once and for all; all sins are forgiven and forgotten. I rejoice that you have set me free from guilt and shame. I rejoice in your gift of abundant grace and the gift of righteousness. Thank you, God, my Savior!

August 3

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came into the world to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to those who are captive, and to comfort all those who mourn—to present to those who grieve a crown of beauty instead of ashes and the oil of joy in place of mourning.

Our mighty God knows the number of stars and calls them each by name. They will disappear when he creates a new heaven and a new earth, but you, whom Christ Jesus loves, will live forever with him—you, who are a joint heir with Jesus. In your times of sorrow and suffering, you will be comforted by the Father in the same way that Jesus was. In his great pain, shame, suffering, and death, he committed himself to the Father, who raised Jesus in power and gave him great honor. Commit your heart to the Father; he will

raise you with honor on the Day of Glory. The God of love desires to put his arms of love around you. He knows your every problem, every sorrow, and every burden. Jesus cares so very much for you. He is not far off but is here with you now. Let him love you, heal you, and encourage you. Amen.

Isaiah 61:1-3 • Psalm 103:1-5, 147:3-5

O my soul, why are you downcast and in turmoil within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise him, my Savior and King, for the help of his presence. Thank you, Lord, for being strong on my behalf so many times. Great is your faithfulness, and your love has filled me with hope and joy. You have all power in heaven and on earth; I trust you to do your will with the problems and concerns I present to you now. There is no other god but you, the One who created all things. No counsel can prevent you from fulfilling your will on earth; please transform my life with your gracious Holy Spirit and your abundant grace so I might glorify you each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

August 4

You have a partnership and communion with the Lord Jesus Christ. He calls you his friend. You are a member of his body. Being a partaker of his divine nature, allow the Holy Spirit to enrich you in the Word of God. You will be strengthened, refreshed, and given the power to do our heavenly Father's will. Whoever does the will of the Father is in Jesus' intimate family. Let his love run deep in your life—the world hungers to know of this great fellowship you share with the King of kings.

Christ Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith; he began a good work in you and will be faithful to complete it. You will be presented spotless and pure—possessing Christ's righteousness—before the presence of his glory with triumphant joy when you enter the kingdom of Heaven.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 • Philippians 1:6 • Jude 1:24-25

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 • 1 John 4:17

I greatly rejoice in you, Jesus, even amid some tribulation. You endured much suffering and sorrow for the elect's sake; I want to walk in your steps. Your Word says that as you are, so are we in this world. Teach me to endure all things for the elect's sake so that they may also obtain the glorious salvation in you, Jesus. Amen.

August 5

When the Son of God came to live on the earth, the wondrous miracle of his incarnation heralded the astounding and marvelous truth to the entire human race that the God of all creation would dwell with mankind.

He suspended the laws of nature to come to planet Earth. Miraculously, by the Holy Spirit, he was born of a virgin—fully man, yet fully God—the express image of the invisible God and the brightness of his glory.

The riches of his eternal kingdom were forever in his possession before he was born in Bethlehem. You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: he came to earth and became poor for your sake, that you, through his poverty, might be rich.

He came here to let you know that it is your heavenly Father's good pleasure to give you his kingdom.

Hebrews 1:1-3 • Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 • 2 Corinthians 8:9

Ephesians 2:4-10 • Luke 12:32

I thank you and glorify you, dear God and Savior. You have created all things by your infinite power. You have given mankind a most glorious world to live in. All of us have sinned and fallen short of your perfect righteousness (our righteousness is as a filthy rag); we needed a Savior. The glorious Son of Man, Jesus, the promised Redeemer, came to our rescue. I thank you for the great salvation that you brought to me. You have given me abundant grace, and soon, I will be rejoicing in your kingdom of majestic glory, enjoying the immeasurable riches of your love and kindness! Amen.

August 6

When you wait upon the Lord and trust in him, he will renew your strength; you will mount up with wings as eagles; you will run and not be weary; you will walk and not faint.

The Lord God hears your cry. He cares about the troubles you face and the sorrows of your heart. Let patience have its complete work in you; have hope in your heart during your trials; the testing of your faith produces endurance. God has his timing; to wait upon the Lord means to have a heart of patience, trusting fully in him. Our God provides our every need according to his

infinite riches in Christ Jesus. He gives water to the thirsty, bread to the hungry, rest to the heavy-laden, power to the weak, and wondrous spiritual blessings to his children as they trust him.

Ask Abraham, Moses, Gideon, or David. Though each had weaknesses in faith, they were called by Almighty God to trust him. They were to wait upon and hope only in the Lord; his power and glory would be revealed.

Our God renewed and strengthened them just when it was needed. See them soar with wings as eagles. We can still hear their sandals as they walk toward their promised land or run toward their Goliaths. Isn't that a shout of rejoicing that we still hear echoing from their mouths, "God has done great things for us!"

Wait on the Lord, dear child of the King; be strong and of good courage, and he will strengthen your heart. Be confident in what our God and Savior has promised; he will assuredly bring it to pass. Many of our brothers and sisters in the Scriptures wrought righteousness by God's mighty hand; many out of weakness were made strong, some stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, and many grew brave in battles, putting enemy forces to flight; these did not waver at the promises of the Lord God but were strong in faith, giving glory to God. They were fully persuaded that Almighty God had the power to perform what he had promised!

Isaiah 40:31 • James 1:2-4 • Hebrews 10:36 • Psalm 27:14

Romans 4:20

Lord God, I am weak, but you are strong; your wondrous power is made perfect in my weakness. I rejoice in you, for you have been strong on my behalf countless times since you called me to be your child. I have grown in Christ through your abundant grace; thank you for the amazing work you have accomplished in and through this jar of clay. Please fill me with living water so that I may be a refreshing inspiration to all in my world. Glory to God for his wondrous promises; not one has ever failed! Praise God!

August 7

In Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and asked if his teacher (Jesus) pays the temple tax. Peter said that he does. That day,

Jesus told Peter to go down to the Sea of Galilee, throw in a hook, take the first fish that comes up, open its mouth, and he would find a coin to pay the temple tax for both of them. He did what Christ told him to do, and their tax was paid—another amazing miracle by Jesus!

Through Jesus Christ, Almighty God created all the galaxies, gave sight to the blind, raised the dead, cleansed lepers, walked on water, and miraculously provided for Peter's and Jesus' taxes. You may have worries about finances now and provisions for your future. Jesus, who bought you for a price—his own life's blood—will provide for your every need. At times, he is working in your life through the trials and tribulations of life (some of which God has allowed or even planned) so that you may learn that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Our faithful God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will provide your daily bread and all your needs by his riches in glory.

Matthew 7:7-11, 17:24-27 • Luke 12:22-32

Philippians 4:19

Every miracle that you worked, Jesus, was impossible in the eyes of man! There is nothing too hard for you, Almighty God and Savior. You have healed every disease, given hearing to the deaf, sight to the blind, and even raised the dead. Thank you, dear Lord Jesus; you have all power in heaven and on earth. What a Savior! Amen.

August 8

No condemnation for those who are in Christ.

Romans 8:1

Our sins: washed away by the blood of Jesus.

1 John 1:7

God has abundantly and freely pardoned.

Isaiah 55:7

Unspeakable joy is yours when you are forgiven.

Isaiah 12:3

I have been crucified with Christ.

Galatians 2:20

Love sent Jesus to die for my sins.

John 3:16

Through Jesus, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed.

Acts 13:38

As a believer, if your heart still condemns you at times, know this: God is greater than your heart. Let us reason together. Almighty God became a man and paid the penalty for any and all of your sins, past, present, and future. The debt has been paid. You owe nothing. Jesus paid for it all with his blood. You are free. You are justified (*just-as-if-I'd* never sinned)! While paying for all of your sins, he said, "Father, forgive them..." The Holy Scriptures, the foundation of God's truth, from Genesis to Revelation, testifies fully that he did. The Father forgave you. Christ Jesus rose from the dead to complete our justification and give our hearts full assurance of everlasting life. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Glory to God! What a Savior!

Now, bring joy to the heart of God. Accept fully the provision of Christ, the substitute for your sin. All of your sins are crucified with Christ. You now live by the faith of the Son of God, who loves you with an everlasting love. As he rose from the dead, so have you been raised from your dead existence to now walk in the newness of life.

Approach the throne of grace boldly with confidence so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need. While you are in the midst of deep suffering and trial, Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, welcomes you with open arms and heart to come into his presence. Pour your heart out to him; you will not be denied his compassion and consolation. You are his child, and our God is moved by the trials and heartaches you are experiencing—he truly feels your sorrows and suffering. Jesus also will rejoice with you in the joys that you come and share with him. He is not a distant God; he is always there with you—Christ in you, the hope of glory!

When you cast your cares and burdens upon him, open your heart and listen. Be still, for your God will speak to you through the Scriptures and by

the Holy Spirit; he will comfort you with words of love. He will guide you with heavenly wisdom.

Romans 4:20-5:2 • Hebrews 4:13-16 • Jeremiah 17:12

1 Peter 5:7 • James 1:5

Father, I thank you that your glorious high throne is the place of my sanctuary from the beginning. Thank you for your everlasting love, power, and grace. Today, I share with you some worries and tribulations weighing on my heart. I am feeling down and cast my cares upon you; draw me closer to you in fellowship; help me trust you more, and please give me wisdom in these areas of concern. Thank you, dear God. Amen.

August 9

Once afflicted by your sins, tossed and thrashed about by the deceitful winds of the world, and lost in your sorrow and shame, you have been gloriously redeemed and liberated by the mighty love and power of Jesus Christ. The Sun of Righteousness has arisen with healing in his wings. His command, "Peace, be still," has been heeded by all the forces contrary to you. God's wondrous forgiveness and righteousness have freely been granted to you.

Exceedingly great and precious promises have been assured through his holy blood covenant. The Holy Spirit of power is freely given to all who obey. Rejoice! You who once were alienated from God's love and kingdom are now one with Christ Jesus. You are a member of his eternal royal family. You are a living stone built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets—Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone. All of his precious and glorious gems—his people, who are living stones—are harmoniously growing together into a holy temple, a dwelling place of your God by his Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 54:10-13 • 1 Peter 2:4-10 • Ephesians 2:19-22

Thank you, Father, for all things are working together for my good as you place me in your kingdom within your unique plan for me. I rejoice that you rescued me from the kingdom of darkness and transferred me to the kingdom of your beloved Son. By your grace, help me resist sinful desires and live in Christ Jesus's love in all I say and do. All things are possible to the one who believes. I trust in your infinite power, wisdom, and love. Thank you for giving me everything pertaining to life and

godliness. Please help me offer the sacrifices of praise even during tribulations. I look forward to reigning in your perfect world of righteousness. Amen.

August 10

What wondrous glories await you in the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ! There will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness. There will be no more crying, pain, or death there. The river of the water of life, transparent like crystal, will be flowing from the throne of God. You soon shall see the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. Millions of angels will be there rejoicing, as will a great multitude too large to count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

You shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye, reigning in an incorruptible body, with sin long forgotten, enjoying the riches of the King of kings for the eternal ages to come. Lay up for yourself treasures in Heaven, for they will forever be yours if placed in the kingdom's vault on high. Praise your God and Father. In his great mercy, he has given you a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and has brought you into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade—kept in Heaven for you.

Colossians 3:1-4 • Revelation 7:9-12, 21:1-6, 22:1-5

1 John 3:1-3 • Matthew 6:20-21 • 1 Peter 1:3-4

Ephesians 1:3

Thank you, glorious Lord, for your great goodness, love, and power! Thank you, Jesus, for preparing a place for me in your everlasting kingdom. You have chosen my inheritance for me. You are my sun and shield; you light my way and continuously protect me. You will not withhold any good thing from those who trust you. What a great Savior and King! Amen.

August 11

Do not lose heart; the Word of God says that outwardly, you are wasting away, yet inwardly, you are being renewed day by day. But your light and momentary troubles are working for you a weight of eternal glory that far outweighs them all. Gold ore is purified in the fiery furnace, and its impurities are purged out; a most valued piece of gold is soon obtained

through the process of continued firings. Like gold that is being refined, so is your loving God and Father utilizing the fiery furnace of trials to remove the dross of sin from your life (though you will never be perfect until you are in Heaven with Christ). He will be very merciful and refresh you when needed. Be encouraged; you are being changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and are learning many of his ways. He knows the way that you take; after being tested, you will come forth as gold—the eternal kind at that. Your present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in you.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 • 1 Peter 1:3-9 • Job 23:10

Malachi 3:17 • Romans 8:18

Jesus, my Savior, thank you for being with me and providing comfort and wisdom during the tribulations that I have been going through. Help me be encouraged and walk in your love and grace during these times. Thank you for making me your precious jewel, and you are working wondrous things into my life. Help me to keep my eyes on you during the fiery trials. I believe your promises to me; thank you for them. Amen.

August 12

Every nail hammered, every brick laid, every window placed, every wall raised, and every room painted has an integral part in the building of a house. When the job is completed, each worker is rewarded, knowing the part he has played. You have been greatly honored, for Jesus Christ our Lord has called you to be a co-laborer with him in the majestic house of the living God. Jesus is the chief cornerstone. The living stones placed within this glorious habitation of the living God are the lives of those whose hearts have been touched by the love and deeds wrought by the Spirit through God's co-laborers, like you.

Therefore, dear child of the King, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in his work, for your labor in his kingdom is not in vain. Do not be weary in well-doing, for in due season you shall reap if you faint not.

Galatians 6:9-10 • Ephesians 2:19-22

1 Corinthians 15:58 • 2 Peter 1:10-11

Thank you, God, for the many times you have guided me to share your love and Word of life with others. I pray for each of those people; please

add the increase to the seeds I have sown, through word and deed, so that salvation and your eternal blessings will be received by many. Continue to lead me to do your will, boldly living the new life in your Son. In his name I pray, amen.

August 13

The apostles understood little of their high calling when Jesus of Nazareth first bid them to follow him. He was to build such great works in and through each of these men that only the centuries to come would begin to reveal how glorious it was. As you use a pen to write a letter to a friend, Christ Jesus used the lives of these men to write upon millions of hearts the love he has for all.

You have Christ Jesus—the hope of glory—living in you. You have the complete Word of God. He has a precious plan for you to bring his Word, love, and life to this world. He has works ordained for you to walk in—ordained since before the foundation of the world. Press on in your walk with Christ that you may apprehend that for which he has apprehended you. You are his workmanship—his poem to the world. Will you also be his pen so that he might write his poem of love upon the hearts of those who do not yet know him?

Colossians 1:27 • Philippians 3:12-14 • Ephesians 2:10

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

Thank you, Father, for the abundant grace that has worked wonders in my life. Help me, by faith, to press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling you have given me in Christ Jesus. Thank you for the honor of being your child forever. Amen.

August 14

At times, you may feel that you do not have much to offer God in his work on earth. The good news is that he has chosen to do great works through the ordinary, the weak, and the humble. It is all to the Father's glory when a meek and lowly person allows Christ's light to shine through them to the world.

Gideon felt very insignificant, but God told him to go in the strength he had and to save Israel out of Midian's hand. You may not be called to save a nation like Gideon, but our God has a unique calling on your life that will bring much glory to our Father in Heaven if you will but go in the strength you have. Jesus said that if you have faith as a mustard seed, you can speak to a mountain to move, and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you. I have seen mountains (not dirt and rock mountains, but gargantuan entities in their own right) move as I believed and trusted in the Lord. Use the mustard seed of faith and strength you have and trust God for the increase; he is a mighty God indeed!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will be abundantly provided to you as needed. His power will be made perfect in your weakness. God sees you as more than a conqueror. The Lord looked at Saul, the blasphemer and murderer, as Paul the apostle. He viewed Moses, the murderer, as Moses, the servant leader. He considered Gideon, the fearful wheat thresher, a mighty warrior. Our Wonderful God is with you, victorious one! He knows the work he will perform through your life; your heavenly Father will enrich you as you seek him through his Holy Word, empower you through the Holy Spirit, and prosper your work in his everlasting kingdom.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 • Philippians 4:13 • Judges 6:12

Matthew 17:20 • Romans 8:37

(Robert Barry, Author's note) Thank you, God of Israel, for the miracle of my being born again (I was born into a Jewish family). You have transformed my life in extraordinary ways: I once was a blasphemer, ungodly, and injurious to others. I did not even know that you, Jesus, the Messiah, once walked the earth. I was ignorant of the work you did while here in this world. Then you revealed yourself to me that summer day in August 1970. Your grace was exceedingly abundant, and your Spirit filled my heart with faith and love at that moment. Ever since that day, I have walked with you, rejoicing in your everlasting love for me. You are the God of miracles and abundant grace! Praise God! Amen.

August 15

Our Sovereign God, the Father of compassion, knows the world's sorrows. He hears the cry of the fatherless and the widow. His heart is touched by the sorrows of the homeless and the abused. His compassion is toward every man, woman, or child who today sighs because of any affliction.

Almighty God sent Moses to lead his people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt (their land of suffering) into a land flowing with milk and honey. The journey was not easy, but God's presence went with them.

The Father sent Christ Jesus to bring healing, liberty, and love. A spiritual land flowing with milk and honey is promised to those who follow him. As the Father has sent Jesus, so Jesus now sends you. You are being sent to bring the oil of joy to those who mourn. Help make the Promised Land (abundant life now and the glory of Heaven forever) a reality to others; share his everlasting love.

Exodus 3:7-12 • Isaiah 61:1-3 • Luke 4:18 • John 20:21

Dear Father, you see the suffering, sorrows, despair, and pain throughout all the world's nations. I know you are grieved by the continuous wickedness that so many people commit. You sent Jesus; with boldness and his face set like a flint, he was not discouraged by the evils surrounding him but pressed on to the fulfillment of the most excellent, most perfect, and most valuable work a man has ever accomplished. He conquered sin and death so that whosoever believed in him would be granted eternal life. Father, as an ambassador to the world, help me fulfill the unique role you have ordained for me—even as Jesus fulfilled his role. Whatever your calling is in my life, please help me by your abundant grace to walk in that special calling. Little things are significant to you, Father; help me be content even if my role has many little things to fulfill. You are able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I ask or think. Amen.

August 16

By his mighty hand and incredible miracles, Almighty God (I Am That I Am) delivered the children of Israel out of the bitter bondage of Egypt. He then told Moses where to encamp with the Israelites. They would soon be facing annihilation when Pharaoh and his army would find them camped at

the Red Sea (where God was directing them to encamp!). God told Moses he would gain great honor through what would soon occur.

Because of God's plan, the people experienced the most heartrending and distressing trial possible. But it was designed for the King of glory's grand purpose—that Egypt, Israel, and the entire world would learn of his great power and ability to deliver. The God of heaven and earth parted the Red Sea for the children of Israel; they passed over on dry ground, and great rejoicing soon was heard—millions of God's people since then have offered praise for what they consider a most spectacular miracle.

Are you in the heart of trials that perhaps your Father in Heaven allowed or even designed and orchestrated—that he might manifest his love and deliverance to you and others? Please trust your faithful God and ask for wisdom to guide you. His ways are not your ways, nor is his timing your timing.

Remember, our God allowed Lazarus to die; Jesus, the Son of God, could have come to help Mary and Martha sooner and healed Lazarus. But the great glory of God was manifested by Jesus Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. By this wondrous miracle, God was glorified then and through all generations since and will be forever. Our God will deliver you, and you will learn more of his ways and his everlasting love.

Exodus 14 • Isaiah 30:18, 55:8-9 • Psalm 107:1-8

Dear Almighty God, your ways are much higher than my ways. I know that you sometimes set up circumstances so that your love and glory might be revealed. You sometimes wait (like in Lazarus' situation) so that you might be so very gracious. Help me trust you with thanksgiving, even in perplexing situations or troubling seasons in my relationships. You have your way in the whirlwinds and storms of life. I trust you, Father. Help me to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

August 17

The Word of God became flesh and tabernacled among us. We beheld his glory, the glory of the uniquely begotten Son of God, full of grace and truth.

Through the miracle of the Holy Spirit, God the Father has given us a most wondrous gift: the written Word of God!

The Bible is the compass to the pilgrim on his journey to his heavenly home. It is the fountain of hope. The Word of God gives us a sure and steadfast anchor to the soul, anchoring us to within the Holy of Holies. It is a treasure chest of promises of more value than the most precious diamonds and rubies. The Bible has the answers to every problem, provides comfort to the hurting, faith to the doubting, strength to the weak, and light to those in darkness. The Scriptures provide living waters to the thirsting soul and the bread of life to the hungry. To those who receive and follow its truth, everlasting life is guaranteed!

Throughout Genesis to Malachi, the coming of the Messiah was prophesied. The following are some of the names attributed to him:

<u>C</u> ounselor	Isaiah 9:6
<u>H</u> oly One of Israel	Isaiah 41:14
<u>R</u> ose of Sharon	Song of Songs 2:1
<u>I</u> mmmanuel	Isaiah 7:14
<u>S</u> un of Righteousness	Malachi 4:2
<u>T</u> he Redeemer	Job 19:25

Has Christ been these to you? What other glorious names can you attribute to him?

John 1:1-14 • Colossians 3:16 • 2 Timothy 3:16

Do you believe God will help you to grow in faith, power, and wisdom as you share time with him in his Word? He will! Give him your heart and spend time in the Scriptures, and our God will open the floodgates of Heaven and richly bless your life with new strength in Christ. You will grow in love, faith, and power as you allow the Word to bring light and life to your heart and soul. Thank you, Father, for your Word!

August 18

Solomon had built a magnificent temple to honor the God of heaven and earth. On the dedication day, when Solomon finished praying, God sent fire down from heaven that consumed the burnt offering and sacrifices. The Most High God's glory filled the temple. The priests were not able to enter the

house of the Lord because the brilliance and glory of God had filled the temple. When the children of Israel saw the fire coming down and his glory above the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground; they worshiped and thanked God for his everlasting mercy and goodness.

He is the living God. In his relationship with his people, he sometimes acts in wondrous ways. He responded to the Israelites' love in their offering of the temple and themselves; the fire came down, and God's glory filled the temple.

Two thousand years ago, Almighty God (El Shaddai) took on flesh and tabernacled among us. The Messiah of Israel, the great Shepherd, offered himself as a living sacrifice, taking the penalty of our sins. He suffered excruciating pain, great sorrow, reproach, and death so that his sheep might be able to enter green pastures forever. He conquered death so that his sheep would never have to die.

He rose from the grave, dusted himself off, and though our sins killed him, said with arms once again stretched wide, "I love you so much." Today, he is saying, "Come unto me, and I will give you rest!" He is still the great Shepherd. His love is much stronger than death.

Today, offer yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. May the fire of his love and the Holy Spirit fill you, his temple; serve the Lord with gladness and let his light shine through you so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

He will strengthen you with loving-kindness just when you need him. He desires to care for all of your needs. When you are too weary to go on, the great Shepherd will carry you in his arms so very close to his heart. Oh, how wonderful is the mighty love of God our Savior!

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 • Romans 12:1 • Matthew 5:14-16

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Today, dear God, I offer myself as a living sacrifice to you. May I be filled with your Holy Spirit; lead me by the Spirit that I might bear the fruit of the Spirit. I rejoice in you; thank you for calling me to be your child. Help me to be a light of Jesus. Amen.

August 19

Our God and Savior moves in wondrous ways when his people have fully dedicated their hearts to him. On the day of Pentecost, his disciples were of

one heart in his presence. From heaven, our mighty God sent a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and what appeared to them were tongues resembling fire that separated and rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. The fire came down, and his glory filled their temples (bodies where God dwells).

These brothers and sisters of Christ gave their hearts and lives to him. As a result of their love and sacrifice during the years of their service to Jesus, millions of lives have been transformed eternally through the centuries since they trod the earth.

If you dedicate your heart and life to Christ Jesus, you will experience wondrous blessings. Ask to be led by the Holy Spirit daily. Jesus promised that whoever believed in him, living waters would flow from his heart (innermost being). His divine power will give you every good thing that pertains to life and godliness.

Acts 2:1-4, 4:29-33, 13:52 • John 7:38 • 2 Peter 1:1-11

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the honor of being in your family and calling me to be a minister (servant) of the King of kings. Help me to share your everlasting love with kindness and patience so that others might see the wonders of your kingdom and receive salvation through your amazing work on the cross. I rejoice in you! Amen.

August 20

God's spiritual house, which consists of all of Christ's beloved sons and daughters, is a holy temple that he lives in by the Holy Spirit; it is worthy to have your most profound love and dedication as you help build it. Jesus came to the weak, hurting, lowly, and despised. His early disciples were mere stones dug from the earth but have become his treasured gems—living stones built into his spiritual temple. Christ Jesus' love transformed their lives. When you allow Jesus to reign in your heart and life, his miracle of love will flow from you, with power, to inspire and transform lives around you to the glory of God your Father.

Build up your brothers and sisters in the faith; your encouragement will bless them. The spiritual house of God will be that much more glorious through your labor of love. Love one another as Christ has loved you. By this

love shall all men know that you are his disciples. Be strong in our God and the power of his might. It is not by your strength that Almighty God will work through you, but by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:1-2, 6:10-20 • 1 Peter 2:4-10

Romans 15:1-7

Help me to seek you, dear Lord God, in the Scriptures, so that I might grow more into the fullness of Jesus; may I walk in his steps and be a light to the world. Please help me minister grace to those I share with; may my words be as apples of gold in settings of silver. I rejoice in your gift of salvation; thank you for your everlasting love. Amen.

August 21

You will flourish like a palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon; you will thrive in the courts of your God. You are the planting of the Lord with roots deep in his Word; miracle nutrients strengthen you. Your roots find a measureless supply of his living waters, a secret channel flowing from the Lord God through your innermost being to bring fruit and life to the world.

Growth takes time. You must be patient for the fruit. Abide in Jesus Christ—soaking up the Sun of Righteousness as your only light source and life-giving energy. At times, he will prune your wild branches; you will then produce better and more abundant fruit. Please welcome his pruning shears; your fruit will be sweet, plentiful, and eternal. He will renew your strength, and you will bear fruit in due season, even into your old age.

John 15:1-8 • Psalm 1:1-3, 92:12-14 • Isaiah 40:29-31

I trust you, Lord God, in what you are doing in my life—even if I don't understand some of it. You are working all things to my good as you do your will through my life. Thank you for all the spiritual and physical blessings you give me. Amen.

August 22

The unbelievers around you think it very strange that you are not plunging headlong into self-indulgent sin as they do. You may suffer reproach and other persecution for your faith. Seek to glorify your Father in Heaven in these unique opportunities. Let Jesus Christ shine from your heart so others can see his love. Endure everything for the elect's sake, as he did, that they

too might obtain the salvation that he freely gives, with eternal glory. Do not be envious of the possessions or pleasures of the world. The riches that await you in the kingdom above and the pleasures at God's right hand are worth enduring through all trials during this short life; you shall enter his heavenly kingdom soon. All the pain and suffering will have been worth it; you shall receive the crown of life and a great inheritance among the people of the living God.

1 Peter 4:12-14, 19 • 2 Timothy 2:3, 10 • Romans 8:18

James 1:12

Christ in me, the hope of glory—I am rich, beyond what the world could ever know. Father, please help me acknowledge every good thing in me in Christ so that I might glorify you before a world in darkness. My sufficiency is of you, dear God. Amen.

August 23

Jesus, the mighty God and Savior, is the pioneer and perfecter of your faith. Be confident in this: the work that he began in you when you received him will continue until you enter his glory. He will guide you every step of the way. The Lord Jesus Christ knows what you need to grow spiritually and will give you grace to receive it. The Holy Spirit will give life to your mortal body and transform you more and more into his image daily. A great work is happening in you; this is reason enough to rejoice in the hope of the glory of your God.

You have this treasure, the Christ of God, in an earthen vessel to show that the excellency of the power is from God, not from yourself. Do not lose heart through all the tribulations you endure for his sake; this light momentary affliction is achieving an eternal weight of glory beyond all your hopes and dreams. Therefore, do not look at the things that can be seen with your human eyes, but at the things that cannot be seen with human eyes; the things seen are temporary, but the unseen things are eternal.

Hebrews 12:2 • Philippians 1:6 • Romans 5:1-5, 8:11

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Father, I thank you for being with me as I go through tribulation. I bring these believers before you, Father: David the king, Paul the apostle, Joseph who went from prison to being a ruler, Daniel of lion's den fame,

and John who was exiled to the island of Patmos; please be strong on my behalf, and be with me each step of the way as you were with them. I am weak, Lord, but in my weakness, your strength is made perfect. You can do immeasurably more than I can ask or think. Please be merciful to me, as you have many times before. You have been a stronghold in the day of trouble; you are my hiding place: preserve me in times of tribulation. You are the Rock, my fortress and my deliverer. Great is your faithfulness, and your mercy is new every morning. Jesus, thank you for reminding me that even though I will have tribulation in this world, I should take courage, for you have overcome the world. Glory to God!

August 24

He is Almighty God, who performed astonishing miracles in delivering Israel out of the cruel bondage of slavery under the Egyptian pharaoh. He also worked wonders daily, caring for them on their wilderness trek. He led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night, he provided a pillar of fire for light. To satisfy their hunger, he sent manna from above for forty years. Twice when the children of Israel had no water, the Most High God (El Elyon) brought water from the rock.

Jesus Christ—the express image of the invisible God—also performed mighty miracles when on earth; he also delivered you from cruel bondage, setting you free from your slavery to sin through Christ’s death and resurrection. Through the Savior’s blood sacrifice, forgiveness for all sin is freely given; you are now miraculously born again by the Spirit of God through your faith in Christ. On your journey home, Jesus is providing for you richly. The Spirit gives you light for your path each day. Like the pillar of a cloud, Jesus, the great Shepherd, leads you daily by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Rock that gives you living water. His Word is the bread of life. You will soon eat of the hidden manna, and you will be led to living fountains of water.

O give thanks to the Lord God for his loving-kindness and his mercy. Praise the Lord and forget not all of his marvelous benefits. He forgives all your iniquities and heals your diseases and sicknesses. Your God and Father provides all of your needs according to his infinite riches in glory by Jesus

Christ. He satisfies you with the bountiful blessings from Heaven; your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:1-12, 105:1-4, 39-45 • Colossians 1:13-15

Galatians 2:20 • Revelation 2:17; 7:17; 22:1-2, 14, 17

Thank you, Jesus, for being the Rock upon whom I stand, the bread of life—the food that gives me life—and the great Shepherd that leads me beside still waters and into green pastures; you protect me from any enemies. Praise God!

August 25

Paul, the apostle of Christ the King, was once a blasphemer and persecutor of the church. God poured out his grace abundantly upon him. If Saul (Paul), the worst of sinners, can be forgiven and saved, then anyone can. In Paul, our gracious God and Savior displays a pattern for all who will believe. When Jesus Christ is received in the heart, a new life begins, and sins are forgiven. They are buried, as it were, at the bottom of the deepest ocean. In a sense, they have been wiped off the face of the planet. He will remember them no more!

Let the pattern that the God of all grace established with Paul be your guide. Be thankful for forgiveness, the gift of righteousness, and possessing this treasure—the life of the Son of God—in your earthen vessel. Your words and deeds will show God's grace and truth to all. Others like Saul (Paul) are waiting to see and hear Christ's love—through you.

Your Wonderful God has saved you; you do not have to wait until the day of Glory to rejoice in your salvation. These things have been written in God's Word so that you might know that you have eternal life if you believe in the name of Jesus Christ. The Savior said whoever hears his word and believes (Gr. *pisteuo*: believe in, to entrust, to rely on, cling to) in God who sent him has (possesses now) everlasting life and will not come into judgment but has passed from death into life.

He has called you to a high and heavenly calling. Your profession as ambassador of the King of kings and the kingdom of Heaven is most honorable among professions. You have covenanted with the King; you are to live a holy life. You are called to purity; be led by the Holy Spirit, and you

will not fulfill the works of the flesh. You are called to walk in God's love, faithfulness, honesty, loyalty, and self-sacrifice.

Not by any works of righteousness that you have done, but only by the grace of God have you been saved. Only by the grace of God will you live the holy life; you do not have the power to do it on your own. Do you know that even with faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can move a mountain? Are you ready to use that faith in asking the Father to move any sin or obstacle out of your way so that you can prosper in his will? Through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working in your life, you will be able to do all things to God's glory.

1 Timothy 1:12-17 • 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Hebrews 8:12, 13:20-21 • Jeremiah 31:34

Romans 5:17-21 • Ephesians 2:4-10

Colossians 1:9-14 • 1 John 5:12-13

Dear Jesus, thank you for forgiving all my sins through the greatest sacrifice of love that has ever been made. You also promise that all sins are forgotten. Thank you that I have a righteous standing in you. I am justified (just-as-if-I'd never sinned). I am freed from guilt. I do not ever need to pay for my sins—you paid the debt that I owed; you said, "It is finished!" I believe you, and I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God! Help me, by your grace, to be led by the Holy Spirit so I may bear much fruit of the Spirit.

August 26

When the curse is lifted off the earth, and Jesus the King of glory reigns, the knowledge of the glory of his kingdom will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. There will be streams in the desert; it will rejoice and blossom as the rose. Until that day, there will be a highway to walk on—the Highway of Holiness. Only the redeemed will walk there. The ransomed of God will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will be upon their heads. The God of righteousness will fill their hearts with gladness and joy; sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Though not paved with gold, the Highway of Holiness is specially marked; the footprints of Jesus, the Son of God, are unmistakable—to help you walk as Jesus walked. The lights of Zion can be seen in the distance as you progress on this road. As you travel on this highway, you can sometimes

hear songs of joy from within Zion's gates. When it dips into the valley of shadows and fears, and there is sorrow and anxiety, he will draw near and bring comfort and hope as he did for the two on the road to Emmaus.

Isaiah 11:9 • Isaiah 35:8-10

Thanks be unto you, O God, for the fantastic gift of abundant life here on earth and everlasting life to be enjoyed in the kingdom of Heaven. When I encounter tribulations, sorrows, and fears, let me remember the songs of Zion to help restore my hope and faith so that I may walk close to you, Jesus. I love you, Lord! Amen.

August 27

You are 100% righteous through faith in Christ Jesus. As Abram believed the promises of God, and it was credited to Abram for righteousness, so also will it be credited for righteousness to you if you believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead—who sacrificed his life and shed his blood to pay for our offenses—and was raised again for our justification.

You are justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that came through his sacrificial death and atonement by the shedding of his blood. He died in your place, fulfilling any claims of laws you broke against God; God the Father is fully satisfied in Christ Jesus' death, canceling any debt you owed. Being in Christ, you have already suffered for any claim against you—having been crucified with Christ, you died. But as Christ rose from the grave, you also have been raised in the newness of life by the glory of the Father. You are free, and you are freely forgiven, freely justified, and freely given the gift of righteousness. There is, therefore, no condemnation for you. Every sin you have ever committed is freely forgiven and forgotten; the blood of Christ cleanses you from all sin.

The grace of God that brought salvation to you will now instruct you to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. You are now to be led by the Holy Spirit to live a self-controlled, righteous, and godly life in this world while you wait for our blessed hope, the glorious appearance of our Wonderful God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your beloved Savior gave his life for you so that he might redeem you from all iniquity and purify for himself his treasured child, zealous of good works.

Romans 3:22-26, 4:1-8, 20-25; 5:1-2, 8:1-4

Galatians 2:20 • 1 John 1:7-9 • Titus 2:11-14

Thank you, Father, for saving me and calling me with a holy calling, not because I deserved it, but according to your own purpose and grace, which was granted me in your Son, Christ Jesus, before the world began. Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me and appointing me to live in you so that I would bear fruit that would abide forever. Thank you for the Scriptures; help me grow in your Word, and guide me to handle your Word accurately. Please empower me by your Spirit to do your will, accomplishing what is pleasing in your sight, through Christ Jesus, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

August 28

Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, was despised and rejected by men—a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He knows your pain when you are scorned or abandoned. Our Lord Jesus sailed the stormy seas of this life; he knows well the fears that may course through your soul and the troubles you face. But Jesus is now the Wonderful Counselor, and the Holy Spirit is the Comforter.

When you are suffering, he is close by. When a man was excommunicated from the synagogue, Jesus comforted him greatly, as he revealed himself as the Son of God. Jesus, the Messiah, had earlier given this beggar, who was blind from birth, the glorious gift of sight. The man stood up for Jesus of Nazareth and was thrown out of the synagogue (and essentially the fellowship of his whole community). When Jesus begins a good work in you, trust in him, even when you are thrown out (like this man who had been healed). Jesus will come to you and bring you into an even better place. This man was not only healed of blindness, but he also met Jesus and God's great love—no longer physically or spiritually blind—and now he sees the eternal God and Savior.

John 9 • Psalm 23

Jesus, I thank you for knowing and caring about my sorrows and tribulations. Please speak to my heart today and in the days ahead to give me wisdom and comfort; show me your path so that I might be pleasing to you in my words and deeds. Even though I am in a dark valley, I will not fear; you are with me.

August 29

About 500 years before the spikes were to be driven into the hands and feet of our Savior Jesus, he, through the prophet Zechariah, said that people will look upon him, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son. He knew even before he created the world that he would die on the cross for the sins of the world.

Zechariah's prophecy foretold Christ Jesus' crucifixion and his second coming to planet Earth. In God's Revelation to him on the island of Patmos, John said that the King of kings, Jesus, is coming with the clouds, and every eye would see him, even those who pierced him, and all the peoples of the earth would mourn because of him. So shall it be. Jesus Christ is coming again! Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess he is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Millions will mourn because they did not receive him as their Savior. As a believer, dear child of the mighty God, you have reason to rejoice greatly. You will soon reign with him in glory. Praise God!

Zechariah 12:10 • Revelation 1:7

Thank you, dear God, for the gift of salvation. I look upon you, my Savior, who was pierced, with awe and a heart full of love and thankfulness. What a Savior! What a sacrifice! You have called me to be your child forever. Thank you. Yes, I am looking forward to your return. Sin and death are vanquished; you are coming to take me home.

August 30

The God of heaven and earth has loved you with everlasting love. With loving-kindness, he has drawn you unto himself. His love toward you is exceedingly beyond any love that the world has ever known.

Your wondrous Savior dwells in eternity—yet he fully loves you now and always desires to share as much time in fellowship with him as you would like. He is excited about his love for you. There is so much about his love for you that you don't fully know or have not experienced. It will take the endless ages of eternity to unfold all the glories of his love and the mysteries of life itself.

You are special and unique. Our God loves you just as you are. He created the entire Universe, but each of his children is a priceless gem to

him. As you get to know the Father and Jesus, the wondrous Son of God, you will understand how rich his love is for you.

Jeremiah 31:3 • Zephaniah 3:17 • Ephesians 1:1-23

You are the great God of love and miracles. Lord, please bring me into a deeper relationship with you through your Scriptures and prayer. Please continue your miracle in me, dear Lord, by revealing more of your love, kindness, gentleness, and faithfulness. Amen.

August 31

The everlasting Father is always intimately caring for you. He saw you in your mother's womb; he was there when you were born. He has been there every moment since: your first smile, first time crawling, those precious first words, and your first time standing and walking.

He has watched, loved, and cared for you since birth. His heart has always been warm toward you. He has also seen and felt your every tear. He has delighted in your every joy. Believe him when he says that he loves you with the richest love you could ever imagine and exceedingly beyond that. The God of all grace loves you with infinite love. As the waves of the ocean are immeasurable and the stars of the heavens are infinite, that is how great his love is for you. The depths of his feelings of love and compassion toward you are more profound than the deepest sea.

Every daughter and son of the Father needs to endure trials and tribulations. But even these are working for your good and creating the new life of Christ within you. He is the great Shepherd and will lead you beside still waters and into green pastures when it is needed. He will restore your soul!

God has the power to absolutely transform your life. He is the God of all grace. Grace is God's divine influence upon your heart and its reflection in your life. According to the measure of the gift of Christ, God will bless you with abundant grace that you might fulfill his good pleasure in your life. You truly will bring glory to the Father and his kingdom as you do his will.

The God of consolation, who has called you to his everlasting glory, after you have suffered a little while, will strengthen, restore, and establish you and make you strong and steadfast. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Psalm 139:1-18 • Isaiah 49:15-16 • 1 Peter 5:10

Thank you, Jesus, for having all power in heaven and on earth. Hundreds of miracles (all beyond what man would think is possible) you have shown while on earth. You can do exceedingly more than I could think possible, both in my heart and in my relationships. Please transform me to be more like you; let me be a light that touches lives so they will be inspired to trust and follow you. Amen.

September 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Follow the great Shepherd in all of your ways. Let his attitude and mindset be in you. He took upon himself the form of a servant, though he was the God of the Universe. The Son of God laid aside his mighty power, glory, and majesty; he emptied himself and took on the likeness of men. The Christ of God fulfilled the greatest need of mankind and became obedient unto death; he became a servant to all. He bore your every sin and the sins of all mankind upon himself, suffering death on the cross. Through his shed blood on the cross, every sin is forgiven when one comes to him in godly sorrow. Every sin you ever committed is blotted out—as if it never existed. Though your sins were as scarlet, they became as white as snow.

Therefore, our Father has highly exalted Jesus, the Lamb of God, to the grandest honor to be known for all eternity. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let our Savior work in your life to help you become a servant of others. He has the power through the Holy Spirit to change your heart. Whatever good you do to one of his children, you do to Jesus. If you serve him, you will be honored forever by our Father.

Philippians 2:1-13 • John 12:26 • Mark 10:42-45

Isaiah 1:18

Dear Savior, I join the millions of angels and all my brothers and sisters who believe in you; we praise and honor you with the highest praises. We rejoice in your grace, Jesus; you, who were rich beyond all the wealth of earth, became poor for our sakes so that we, through your poverty, might become rich. Thank you forever for the great exchange; you who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of Christ in God! We all look forward to the majesty and

splendor of your everlasting kingdom. Please help me abound in your grace so that I have the power to do your will. Praise God for his amazing grace! Amen.

September 2

David wrote some of the Psalms while in the wilderness of Judah. He expressed the dryness and thirst that his soul had for his God. When he entered God's spiritual sanctuary, he rejoiced in the great blessing of fellowship with the Holy One of Israel.

When you enter the pavilion of God, the holy place of prayer, you can behold his power and glory as you open your heart to him. You do this by meditating on his Word, its testimonies and miracles, rejoicing in his promises, and sharing a time of love with your God and Savior. His love is better than life. Whoever offers praise glorifies him. Your soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods. A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of your sanctuary. Come into God's sanctuary today; he is always glad to meet you there.

Psalms 63:2-5 • Jeremiah 17:12

How thankful I am, dear God, for all you have bestowed upon me: your love, truth, precious promises, eternal life, daily provision of food, clothing, and shelter, my five senses, the Bible, the kingdom of Heaven, your miracles and testimonies in Scripture, and abundant life on a beautiful planet. Though the world denies you exist, let me be a light of your love, Jesus. Thank you, Father, for this inexpressible gift! Amen.

September 3

Habakkuk, while facing the prospect of having the course of nature turn its forces against him, boldly proclaims that he would still rejoice in the Lord, the God of his salvation. Whether it is the enemy rising against you, a lack of provision, or circumstances threatening you, he is the God of all creation and is able to do exceedingly above all that you could think or ask. Almighty God (El Shaddai) will direct you to the heights that you might be saved and prosper. God hid Elijah by a brook and ordered the ravens to feed him daily during an extended drought. Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish; he can supernaturally provide for you when everything points against you. The Father of lights will provide you with his heavenly

provision as needed. He is the Sovereign Lord; he will be your strength and provider.

How great is our God? He spoke the worlds into existence, and they are held together by the word of his power. The Most High God knows every star by name. He holds the mighty oceans in his hand. The Ancient of Days knows the rise and fall of all the kingdoms of man before they happen. His extraordinary greatness in love parallels his majestic greatness in power. God, our Creator, became a man. He displayed wisdom that man had never known. In an awesome show of love, Jesus died for our sins and conquered death. Let us bow our knees and hearts and honor him who is exalted at the Father's right hand.

May the One who ruled nature and calmed the storm by his Word speak his blessings of love and mercy upon you this day!

Habakkuk 3:17-19 • Psalm 27:1-6 • Psalm 46:1-7

Philippians 2:10 • Revelation 15:2-4

Great and marvelous are your works, everlasting Father. Just and true are your ways, King of righteousness. You are holy, sovereign, loving, and faithful. All the nations of the world will come and worship before you, for your glorious and mighty acts have been manifested. You are God! Nothing is hard for you. Please help me be bold in my faith, not leaning on my own understanding but trusting that you will lead me to victory every day. Please guide me with your wisdom from above when I share your Scriptures so I can inspire and encourage others. Thank you for this miracle life in Christ!

September 4

May the richest of praise flow from the hearts of all the faithful unto the God of life—like millions of streams joining as a delightful river proclaiming, "Glory to God." May it make glad the city of your God, where the Most High God dwells. Should it not be so? He has given you this spectacular creation. Every breath and heartbeat you have is a gift from above. Through your Wonderful God and Savior, you have been forgiven and redeemed. Through his everlasting love, you have been given exceedingly great and precious promises and made a partaker of God's divine nature. He has lavished upon you rich blessings daily, and his love and care will

preserve and guide you throughout all your days. Jesus, the resurrection and the life, is able to keep you from stumbling and present you faultless before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy on that Day of Glory. Behold, what manner of love the Father has richly bestowed upon you that you are called a child of God. Beloved, it has not yet appeared what you shall be, but know that when Christ Jesus appears, you shall be like him, for you shall see him as he is. And by having this hope fixed on him, you purify yourself, even as he is pure.

Psalm 23; 46:4, 73:24 • 1 Jude 24-25 • 1 John 3:1-3

Wondrous Savior, I look forward to the Day of Glory, without sin, death, sorrow, pain, hunger, or thirst. Thank you for preparing your perfect world of love and righteousness for me. Help me endure patiently, with joy in you, as you guide me to do your will so that I bear fruit unto eternal life. Thank you that you will transform me to be like you, to reign with you in glory, and to wear an imperishable crown. Glory to God!

September 5

You cannot exhaust the infinite love of God, your Father. For instance, a thirsty little sparrow comes to the edge of a huge lake. If it were fearful that its little drink might exhaust the supply of thirst-quenching waters, it need not be. Nor do you, beloved of God, need ever be doubtful of God's wondrous love for you. It is boundless and immeasurable. A beautiful flower soaks up the warm rays of a summer sun. Might this delicate creation of the God of love exhaust the glorious power of the sun? No. The life-giving radiance of our blazing star he created to bring life to Earth cannot be weakened or drained by one flower—nor all the world's flowers, or the billions of trees carpeting the planet.

Enjoy the radiance of the Sun of Righteousness' love, which is infinitely more glorious and powerful than the created sun. His love gives life and wholeness. Like a flower absorbing the sun's rays, you may always bask in the warmth, vitality, and heart of his love. His love is limitless and never-ending.

And by the way, you are of much more value than a sparrow or a beautiful flower. As complex, intricate, or delicate a flower or sparrow may be, they exist but for a moment. You, on the other hand, have the gift of eternal life—

soon to be with Jesus and all the wonderful family of God. Glory to the name of Jesus!

Colossians 1:12-19 • Hebrews 1:1-3, 12:22-24

Thank you, dear God, for your infinite love—a love that is out of this world (heavenly love). Thank you for the peace that passes all understanding and joy, unspeakable and full of glory. Today, I drink of your infinite living waters and bask in the warmth of the Sun of Righteousness. Today, help me trust you as I cast my cares upon you. I thank you for choosing my inheritance for me in your everlasting kingdom—I am a joint heir with Christ and a member of the wondrous family of Heaven. May your love, peace, and joy be rich in all my Christian brothers and sisters today. Amen.

September 6

The King of glory has called you to be an ambassador of his kingdom. You are a member of his royal family. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your heavenly Father. As a servant of the living God, you have been entrusted with his Holy Word. It has the power to give life to the hearers. Be bold in your faith; he can do mighty works through you.

Esther made herself available to serve God's kingdom, and he used her to change the course of history. Men and women of like passions have stepped out in the faith that God gave them; he blessed their deeds, and righteousness was wrought. He has ordained works for you to walk in—his Spirit and his love will guide you.

Esther 4:14 • Hebrews 11:6, 12:1-2 • Ephesians 2:10

Father, I rejoice in my heavenly calling. You have chosen me to be a light of the world. Please strengthen me with your Spirit so that I may show love and kindness today and always. Your love, Jesus, changed millions of lives. Thank you for transforming me! You have transferred me from the kingdom of darkness into your glorious kingdom of light. Thank you for your Holy Scriptures, your miracles, testimonies, and prophecies fulfilled. Thank you for giving me every good thing that pertains to life and godliness.

September 7

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the Law of Moses (the Ten Commandments and its statutes) was powerless to do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man as an offering for sin. By this glorious love and sacrifice, he condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to God's Spirit. The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, from Mt. Sinai, gave mankind the Ten Commandments by the hand of Moses. As man (the race of Adam) has tried to follow them, he has only seen how exceedingly sinful he is—and has miserably failed. Only Jesus, the Son of God (God manifest in the flesh; the second Adam), has fulfilled the Law of Moses perfectly. When you repented of your sin and received Christ Jesus, you were born again by the Spirit and became a member of the race of Jesus Christ. Christ now lives in you! God has given you magnificent and priceless promises so that through them you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world caused by sinful desires.

As a born-again child of God, you have the Spirit of God living in you; that same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead shall give you power to walk as Jesus walked—denying ungodliness and lust—living righteously and full of grace and truth. The works of the flesh are adultery, fornication, impurity, idolatry, drug use, hatred, murder, wrath, envy, drunkenness, heresies, and things like these; those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Christ lives in you, and you have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires, so walk in the Spirit, and you will certainly not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Romans 8:1-4, 11 • John 1:17 • 2 Peter 1:3-4 • Titus 2:12

Galatians 5:16-25

Thank you, Father, for sending Jesus to die for my sins and for setting me free from the law of sin and death. Thank you for placing your Holy

Spirit within me; please help me to be led by the Spirit so I might abound in Christ as I share his love by word and deed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

September 8

Jesus came to Bethany, where he had raised Lazarus from the dead. Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, came with an alabaster box of very expensive perfume. She did a beautiful thing: she broke the jar and poured the perfume on the head of Jesus of Nazareth to prepare for his burial. Wherever the gospel has been shared throughout the centuries, what she has done has been told in memory of her.

Mary came to honor Christ; she did what she could. Her greatest possession, costly perfume, was lavished on Jesus, her Lord and Savior. As the sweet fragrance of perfume poured upon Jesus filled the air, so did the aroma of Christ's life-giving love.

On another occasion that displayed remarkable devotion to the Messiah, a woman known as a sinner anointed Jesus from an alabaster jar of perfume. Weeping, she wet Jesus' feet with her tears. With a heart broken because of her many sins, she came to honor Christ Jesus, the One who would forgive them all and become her Savior. The woman had been forgiven much—she loved much!

Beloved child of God, has he forgiven you of much? Do you love him much? You have a precious possession in a jar; you are the jar of clay, and your life and love are the most expensive perfumes. The woman did what she could. Will you do what you can? Let your jar be broken, and may your life offered to Christ Jesus be a sweet fragrance today and forever. He will never forget your love and will rejoice with you forever.

Mark 14:3-9 • John 12:1-8 • Luke 7:36-50

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 • Ephesians 5:2

September 9

Those who are wise will shine gloriously like the bright expanse of the heavens, and those who turn many people to righteousness, like the stars, forever. When on earth, Jesus spoke of seed, fish, pearls, wine, money, and fig trees in parables to teach important truths. Perhaps the most glorious element of creation is the stars in the heavens above. God uses the stars to teach an important truth: If you allow God's Word to dwell in you richly,

wisdom shall be yours. You will shine like the brightness of the heavens! As you share the wondrous gospel of Christ and lead many to the Savior, you will shine like a brilliant star forever!

God, the Redeemer, is infinite in wisdom and strength. The great Shepherd is seeking his lost sheep. The Savior will find every one of his dear elect lambs that he has loved with an everlasting love. His hand is not shortened so that it cannot redeem. Through ravines and dark valleys, along craggy rock cliffs, beside dangerous, swift waters, and in parched wilderness, the great Apostle will fervently search for each and every lamb until they are found. He shall carry his loved ones in his arms back to the fold.

Almighty God, who rescued Israel from their bitter bondage and carried them to their Promised Land, will care for and reach out to those you love and are praying for. The Lord your God is mighty, mighty to save. He saved Saul on the road to Damascus. He can save anyone! Do you worry about your unsaved loved ones? It is very common for us to worry about them. Trust in the perfect and omnipotent God who is able to do exceedingly and immeasurably more than we could ask for or imagine by the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Amen.

Let Christ's love emanate from your life in word and deed. As you do, hearts and lives will be won for the King of kings. Souls will be saved from death, and a multitude of sins will be covered. Jesus is reigning as the Sun of Righteousness forever. As you turn many to God's way, you shall reign with him forever and shine like one of the stars above.

Daniel 12:3 • James 5:20 • Proverbs 11:30 • Malachi 4:2

Father, I cast my burdens upon you today; I know you will sustain me. I don't feel like a shining light today (I feel weak, worried, and tired). In my weakness, your strength is made perfect. Every blessing, physically and spiritually, comes from your hand. Thank you, Jesus; without you, I can do nothing, but with you, all things are possible. It's not by my might or power but by your Spirit. Help me walk with you today, and please bless my words with a good measure of your grace. Praise the Lord! Amen.

September 10

Jesus Christ has redeemed you, not with corruptible things like silver or gold, but with his own precious blood. He has loved you with everlasting

love. The Savior desires you to be free from sin and this world's empty way of life.

As the author of life itself, your God is preparing a new heaven and earth for you. He also desires that you might have an abundant and glorious entrance into his kingdom. Now is the time to grow in grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His divine power will give you everything you need for life and godliness.

As you look forward to the great Day of the Lord, let his love reign in your heart and life. Be strong and courageous, for you will lead others to gain an inheritance in his glorious kingdom as you show them love by his grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:18-21 • 2 Peter 1:1-11, 3:13, 18

Revelation 21:1-7

Thank you, Jesus! I was dead in trespasses and sins; you have raised me from the dead, spiritually. Like Lazarus, after four days in the grave, I had no life in me. You are the resurrection and the life. What a great God and Savior!

(Robert Barry, author's note) I never even knew there was a person named Jesus Christ. I was raised in a Jewish home in New York. One summer day in 1970, Jesus, the great Savior, revealed himself to me (I was not even seeking after God); he filled me with his love, a love that I had never experienced before; God instantly and radically changed my life; I was rejoicing like the man who was crippled at the gate of the temple and was healed (he was walking and leaping and praising God). That very hour, I began sharing with others about Jesus Christ. I have never doubted his existence or love since that hour—that is how amazingly he transformed my life then. Glory to God!

September 11

David, the shepherd, psalmist, prophet, and king, knew God as his strength, rock, fortress, and deliverer. Early in life, he learned of the Almighty's power—God delivered David from a lion and a bear. Then, through David's faith in God, David won a glorious victory over the giant Goliath. The Lord also delivered David from the hand of King Saul and David's other enemies.

As the great Shepherd of Israel led David from victory to victory, he will also deliver you. Yes, there will be battles, trials, and tribulations. But be of good courage; Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has overcome the world. He rules heaven and earth. At the Lord's command, Peter walked on the water. When he began to sink, Peter cried out for the Lord to save him, and Jesus reached out his hand and rescued Peter; he shall also deliver you when you need him.

Psalms 18:1-3, 16, 19, 48-50 • John 16:33

Matthew 14:26-33 • Isaiah 40:29-31, 43:1-2

Dear God, you have been so faithful in delivering me from sin, financial and employment problems, heartbreak, health concerns, and so much more. Thank you for being mighty on my behalf. Thank you for your mercies, which are new every morning. Please answer my prayers for my family and a few other concerns, in Jesus' name.

September 12

Since you have a great high priest who has entered Heaven, hold firmly to your professed faith. You do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with your weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all points just as you are—yet was without sin. Come before the throne of grace boldly and with confidence so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help in your time of need. Our God will strengthen you by the Holy Spirit. He is with you and will uphold you with his righteous right hand.

When you fall short and sin, humbly repent, and our loving Father will provide mercy and forgiveness. As the great High Priest, he came to earth and died in your place for your sins. Jesus paid your debt so that you can have fellowship with him—freed from sin and guilt. There is no condemnation to you who are in Christ, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Hebrews 4:14-16 • Isaiah 41:10 • Romans 8:1-2

Thank you, great Savior, Jesus. You conquered sin and death. Satan tempted you during 40 days in the wilderness without food, yet when tempted, you did not sin but quoted Scripture. You can help me in times of temptation—for you live in me. I am more than a conqueror through you

and your mighty power of love. As your abundant grace had the power to change Paul the apostle's life to become a faithful servant to you, please work mightily in me; may your grace teach me also to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live righteously and abiding in Christ. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. I look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of my great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please help me trust you more and more as the Day of Glory approaches. Praise the Lord! Amen.

September 13

When there was no water in the wilderness for the people to drink, they quarreled with Moses. Almighty God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb, and God would cause water to come out of it for the people to drink. He did strike the rock, and God provided water in abundance for all the people.

When faced with insurmountable problems, look to the great Shepherd, knowing he has all authority in heaven and earth. Nothing is too hard for the God of all creation. Trust in his caring hand; he will provide what you need when you need it, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The children of Israel drank from that spiritual Rock that accompanied them in the wilderness, and Christ Jesus was that Rock. They were not thankful and did not honor God. Brothers and sisters, be very grateful to your heavenly Father, for Jesus, the Rock, was struck for you so that you could be saved and would be able to continually drink of his living waters—with great satisfaction and delight all the days of your life, even forever.

Exodus 17:1-6 • Matthew 28:18 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Philippians 4:19 • Psalm 16:11

Father, I was lost in sin, spiritually dead! Thank you for giving me new life; I've been raised from the dead. Thank you for the gift of faith, for eyes that see (I was spiritually blind), ears to hear (I was spiritually deaf), and for a new heart where you have implanted your law of love within. I am a miracle, just like Lazarus or one of the healed ten lepers. Yes, I will rejoice, for it is a great miracle; Christ is in me, and I have the hope of glory! Oh yes, that's the reason to rejoice today. Thank you, Lord! Amen.

September 14

You or someone you know may be experiencing heartbreak, loneliness, or deep emotional stress today. Bonds of family, friendship, or marriage are very strong yet so very fragile. Our God fashioned our hearts to be tender, sensitive, and vulnerable.

Jesus knows the heartache of his people. A fallen world needing redemption compelled him to leave his throne of glory. He knows the hurt of rejection. He came unto his own, and his own did not receive him. The ones whose souls desperately needed salvation, freedom, and life rejected him.

It is natural to become brokenhearted at times. Many of your acquaintances and those you love do not believe in Jesus, the King of kings, whom you love. You also may find yourself mourning because of your sins and failures. Perhaps you are burdened as you behold a wanton disregard for your King displayed in every area of society. Our Savior, the Wonderful Counselor, knows well how you feel. His heart was often weighed down with sorrow when he lived on earth.

He who wept over Jerusalem is near to the one who is broken and hurting today. Though the relationships we have may bring pain, there is One who understands. He alone can dry the tears and restore the heart. Jesus, the Risen Savior, is the Friend who sticks much closer than a brother. Do you understand how very much he wants to share your sorrows and pains? Will you allow him to love you, listen to you, and carry some of your hurts and cares?

Jesus can do much more than you can think or ask—he has the power to reach and save, with his love, those you are concerned about. Jesus also will comfort you as you share your tears with him. The Day of Glory is coming soon, when you will enter the new world wherein dwells righteousness. Our Savior is the God of hope and wants to renew your heart today. May our Father, the God of hope, fill your heart with bountiful joy and peace as you believe in Jesus Christ, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will have abundant hope.

Matthew 5:4 • Isaiah 59:1, 61:1-3 • Ephesians 3:20

2 Peter 3:13 • Titus 2:13 • Proverbs 18:24

Romans 15:13

I come to you, Jesus, with a heart of sorrow. I know weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. My tears have been with me for a while now. Please let me hear your loving-kindness afresh today, dear God, for in you I trust. You are my only hope. Great is your faithfulness. I shall yet praise you again for your help from above, my Savior and God. Amen.

September 15

Greatly rejoice in your God and King, for he has clothed you with the garments of salvation; he has covered you with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom is dressed for his wedding and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

You are saved by grace through faith, and that not of yourself; it is the gift of God. It is not by works so that no one can boast. Jesus said that whoever hears his word and believes and trusts in God, who sent him, has everlasting life and will not come into judgment and condemnation but has passed from death into life. You have been justified (*just-as-if-I'd* never sinned) freely by God's grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus.

You have the gift of Christ Jesus' righteousness—perfect, pure, and without any stain. You did not earn this precious gift, nor can you add to its perfection. Rest in the Father's total acceptance of you—a gift through grace alone.

Isaiah 61:10 • Ephesians 2:4-10 • John 5:24

Romans 3:20-28, 5:17

Thank you, Lord God, for

GRACE: God's Righteousness At Christ's Expense

Thank you, Jesus, my glorious Savior, for the great exchange. You became sin for me—you, who knew no sin—so that I might be the righteousness of God in you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus, for the fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in you, and I am complete in you. Thank you, God, that there is now no condemnation now that I am in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has set me free from the law of sin and

death. I will rejoice and go in your strength, O God; I will proclaim only your righteousness. I am more than a conqueror through your love and power. Praise God!

September 16

The patriarchs (Jacob's sons), motivated by jealousy, sold Joseph, their brother, into Egypt as a slave. He endured much anguish of heart because of family rejection and later false accusation and imprisonment, but God was with him and rescued him from all his afflictions. Though evil was intended against Joseph by his brothers, God meant it for good. He gave Joseph favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and his entire house—after a miraculous dream interpretation.

The comfort that our God and Father provides us may seem elusive at traumatic times like the ones Joseph endured. Mixed emotions and doubts may run rampant. Trusting your faithful God when you are rejected or persecuted is essential. For out of this crucible of pain and trial shall come the gold that the world rarely beholds!

Joseph remained faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was available for God's purposes and maintained a heart of compassion. He became a source of comfort and life to many nations. Therefore, be steadfast, trust in the Lord, and patiently endure hardships. He will indeed send relief and delivery—his rich blessings will come upon you.

Acts 7:9-10 • James 5:10-11 • Matthew 5:10-12

1 Peter 1:6-9

Dear Father, amid my trials and tribulations, help me to trust in you; I believe that all things are working together for my good, according to your grand purpose. Thank you for these opportunities to grow in faith and be a testimony of your love to others. May my light shine brightly so that my words and deeds will glorify you. Amen.

September 17

Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Jesus Christ the Lord, for you will be overjoyed with triumph when his glory is revealed. He is the God of hope and consolation. As you wholeheartedly trust Christ, the founder and perfecter of your faith, your heart receives wondrous assurance and comfort.

In a sense, Jesus was last in this world according to worldly standards: He had no place to lay his head during his ministry years, no bank account, no automobile (chariot), or fancy wardrobe. He was a man of sorrows who gave up everything on his journey to the cross—so that you might have his kingdom above. You know the wondrous grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus: He left the glory of Heaven to become poor for your sake so that you, through his poverty, might become rich.

But though he was despised and rejected by men, his Father has highly exalted him above every name in Heaven and earth. The Father, whose hand Jesus held, fulfilled the hope that led Jesus through much suffering and the excruciating cross. Immeasurable eternal glory and children as plenteous as the stars are a great consolation for Jesus, our Wonderful Savior. As the everlasting Father loved Jesus, so has Jesus loved you! Trust him to bring you great consolation and joy on that day.

1 Peter 4:12-14 • 2 Corinthians 8:9 • Isaiah 53:3-6

Philippians 2:5-11

I love you, dear Lord. Thank you for calling me into this wondrous fellowship with you. Thank you for the many physical blessings that you have given me. Thank you for blessing me with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms. Amen.

September 18

To you who are an overcomer by faith (you are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus, who loves you), our God and Savior will make you a pillar in his holy temple in the kingdom of Heaven. He will write upon you the name of the living God and the name of the city of God, new Jerusalem; he will also write upon you his new name. As you have yielded to God's molding of your life, in that you have loved Christ Jesus and his people, so shall your faithful Creator exquisitely and uniquely sculpt you to fit most gloriously as a pillar in his temple. He will celebrate your walk of faith, honoring you forever in a place of strength. Your years of labor and sorrow will be over. Never will you leave this glorious place of rest and comfort. Forever, you shall reign in glory with Jesus Christ, the One who cut you out of the rock of this world and called you to be sculpted into a work of magnificence—a pillar—for his kingdom in Heaven.

Revelation 3:12

Thank you, Father, for the great and precious promises you have lavished upon me. I shall soon see you as you are, Jesus, and be transformed to be like you. As I abide in you and overcome by faith, I shall enjoy an abundant entrance into your everlasting kingdom: I shall eat of the tree of life that is in your Paradise; I shall receive the crown of life; I shall eat of the hidden manna; you will write upon me the name of God and the name of your holy city, new Jerusalem; you will write your new name upon me as well; I shall dine with you and be granted the right to sit with you, Jesus, on your throne. I greatly thank you for these and the many wondrous promises you have given me. Amen.

September 19

The one who sows in tears will reap with songs of joy. Our Father is the God of compassion and mercy. He will never forget your labor of love that you have shown toward his name. You have gone out at times for God, weeping while you sowed in the field. You will doubtless come again rejoicing, carrying bountiful sheaves.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly in you. Go out and sow the seed in this field of our hungry and dying world. God's Word will not return empty; it will accomplish what God desires. The summer rains come down from above to water the earth and bring forth fruit. Likewise, our God will water the seed sown and will cause it to prosper gloriously. The heart of God, our great Father, will rejoice and be warmed as broken lives are made whole and many of his loved ones are saved. So do not cast away your confidence; you will have a great reward. It is essential to persevere so that after you have fulfilled the will of God, you will receive all that he has promised.

Abraham did not waver through unbelief at Almighty God's promise that he would be the father of many nations. He was strong in faith, gave the Lord God glory, and was fully persuaded that God had the power to do what he had promised.

Joshua, God's servant, reminded the children of Israel that not one word had failed of all the good things that Almighty God had promised them—all had come to pass.

Dear friend, please live each day believing that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ can fulfill all of the promises he has made to you. You are a partaker of his divine nature and possessor of his very great and precious promises, including that you will be a joint heir with Christ of the kingdom of Heaven. Be strong in faith, and rejoice in the hope of his glory, which you will share. You have entrusted your heart and soul to the Lord God; he will be as faithful to you as he was to all the saints of old. You know whom you have believed and are persuaded that he is able to guard what you have committed to him until that Day of Glory.

Psalms 126:5 • Isaiah 55:10-12 • Hebrews 10:35-36

Romans 4:13-25 • Joshua 23:14 • 2 Peter 1:1-4

I come to you today, dear Lord, feeling weak and worried about a few things. I know that in my weakness, your strength is made perfect. I ask you to give me your grace so I can walk in Christ's ways today and show his love to those around me. Help me to keep my eyes focused on you, Jesus. I trust that the work you have begun in me will continue until the Day of Glory. May the beauty of the Lord be upon me, and please establish the work of my hands to glorify you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

September 20

The words of your King are pure like silver or gold refined in a furnace seven times. His Word provides so very much: a light in your darkness, a map that will lead you to your heavenly home, keys to exceedingly valuable treasures, great comfort to your hurting heart, a portrait of your Savior, cool refreshing waters to your thirsting soul, bread of life when you are hungry, and eternal salvation promised with pleasures forevermore in a world without end.

Jesus is the Word of God, and he came to earth as a man that you might know the God of creation personally. We beheld his glory, full of grace and truth. His miracles, love, wisdom, and mercy are gloriously displayed in the Scriptures. Let the Word dwell richly in your heart, and be filled with thanksgiving always—he has done so much for you. Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow up into the whole experience of Christ and be spiritually mature in him. As you behold the glory of God's Word, you are

being transformed into Jesus' image from one degree of glory to another.
Praise the Lord!

Psalms 12:6, 119:103-105 • John 1:1-4, 12-14; 6:68

Colossians 3:16-17 • 1 Peter 2:2-5 • 2 Corinthians 3:18

Thank you, Father, that I am accepted in the Beloved; I am a member of your eternal family. By your amazing grace, I have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable seed, through your eternal Word.

Thank you for the abundant life here on earth. As I live in this corruptible body, I rejoice because you will soon transform me to possess an incorruptible body in the image of Christ Jesus, the King of glory. Amen.

September 21

About 700 years before Jesus the Messiah was born on earth, he spoke through Isaiah, the prophet, about his persecution and his reaction: Jesus gave his back to those who beat him and his cheeks to those who pulled out his beard; he hid not his face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helped him, he will not be ashamed; therefore, he has set his face like a flint.

While on earth, Jesus of Nazareth was accused of blasphemy, insanity, drunkenness, gluttony, breaking the Sabbath, being possessed with devils, and committing treason; this did not stop the Savior. Isaiah's prophecy came to pass; the Messiah was mocked, spit upon, and beaten; this did not stop Jesus. Knowing that he would be nailed to the cross by cruel Roman spikes and suffer excruciating pain on that black day of suffering did not stop him. He set his face like a flint and went on to love you!

For the joy of obtaining the prize in glory—that you and all of his children would reign forever with him—our Redeemer endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame. By the resurrection power and the great mercy of God, his Father, Jesus, the author of eternal salvation, now sits at the right hand of the throne of God with everlasting glory! Receive the grace of Jesus Christ each day so that you might set your face like a flint and go on to love others. You, too, will obtain the prize in glory and reign forever with him, your King.

Isaiah 50:6-7 • Hebrews 12:2-4 • 1 Peter 1:18-21

Romans 8:17-18

September 22

When Jesus spoke, people wondered how gracious and full of life his words were. They beheld his glory, for Jesus is the Son of God. The Prince of life came down from Heaven to share the truth. For thousands of years, man had only shadows. Now, the Messiah was revealing truths and treasures of the kingdom of Heaven. His Word was like a tree of life, bearing heavenly fruit never tasted before!

As life-changing as the mighty miracles Jesus worked among his people, so transforming is his Word. If you receive his Word into your heart, the living waters will begin to bring forth miraculous transformations in your life. Beautiful flowers will bloom where once there was wilderness. Peace, joy, and love will flourish. Faith and hope will declare, "All things are new," like a rainbow after the rain.

The Creator has much to say to all of us. That is why he sent Jesus. God knew everything about you from the beginning of your life to the end, before you were born. He desires to share his counsel with you so you might be richly blessed now and forever.

Arise, child of God, and shine, for your light has come. The glory of the Lord has risen upon you. You, who once lived in darkness, have been transferred into Christ's kingdom of light. You have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to teach you of this new life, and the Spirit of God gives you the power to live it. He will open your understanding of the Word. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring healing when you are broken in heart. He will also shine the light into hidden areas of your heart, revealing sins, so that you might be set free from them (God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit will set you free).

Isaiah 60:1 • 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 • Colossians 1:12-13

Galatians 5:16-24

September 23

Jesus is continuously, with deep devotion and delight, thinking about you. He desires that his plan for you, thought out before time began, might be embraced by you. He desires that you would fully and intimately experience his abundant love, and he joyously awaits the day when you will reign with him in his everlasting kingdom.

The new heaven and earth will give you ultimate experiences far beyond the finite range of your five senses. In God's presence are pleasures forever. All the pleasures of earth combined do not equal the bliss, euphoria, and ecstasy that you will be lavished with the very first moment that you enter his Paradise. You will experience God's wondrous and majestic kingdom forever and ever.

The giving of the Ten Commandments and the old covenant (Old Testament) at Mt. Sinai was a fearful and intimidating experience. The children of Israel trembled at the awesome and terrifying sight: thunder, lightning, smoke, fire, an exceedingly loud trumpet-like blast, and the whole mountain trembled violently; these are the signs that accompanied God's delivery of the Law. The Law was given to show God's standard of holiness and thereby reveal man's exceeding sinfulness. All fall short of the perfection and glory of God.

The law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. The eternal God came to live among us. Miracles of healing and love accompanied the glorious message of forgiveness, and everlasting life is freely given to all who believe!

You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the holy city of the God of glory, myriad of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn whose names are written in the book of life, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant—that was sealed with his blood sacrifice. Come to Mount Zion. Come to the holy city of God, new Jerusalem. The glory and majesty therein are so magnificent; the description is inexpressible! You will reign with Jesus. You will live with God. Eternal joy and comfort will be yours.

Jeremiah 29:11 • Psalm 16:11, 40:5, 139:17-18

1 Corinthians 15:49-58 • Hebrews 12:18-24

Revelation 21 & 22

Father, my trials, tribulations, and sorrows have been many during my life and my walk with you. You are the God of consolation and the King of glory; how greatly I look forward to entering your majestic kingdom of righteousness and perfect love! I will be transformed from a corruptible

body to an incorruptible one and rejoice forever with the wondrous family of God; it will be glorious beyond measure! Amen.

September 24

Before you received Jesus Christ, by whom all things were created, you looked to man's wealth, wisdom, or power for help in times of need. The Son of God is infinite in power and wisdom, and he promises to liberally supply your every need according to his infinite riches in glory.

David knew that his help came from the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth. In Psalm 23, David speaks of the Lord as his Shepherd. By trusting his King fully, he knew that he would overflow with the blessings of the living God and that goodness and mercy would follow him all the days of his life.

Call upon the mighty God, the Prince of life, during emotional suffering, troubled relationships, and trials. He is omniscient and omnipotent. Cast your cares upon Christ, for he cares for you. Abide under the shadow of his wings until he answers by his love, in his chosen way and time. Our heavenly Father, who did not spare Jesus, his only begotten Son, but delivered him up for you, shall also provide you with every good thing that has to do with life and godliness.

Isaiah 40:28-29 • Philippians 4:19 • Psalm 23

1 Peter 5:7 • Romans 8:32 • 2 Peter 1:3-4

Thank you, Father, for blessing me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You have been strong on my behalf, whether leading me beside still waters or guiding me when I journey through the valley of the shadow of death; you have been my place of refuge during troubled times when the waves and winds are blowing against me. I trust in you; you are my hiding place and my high tower; you have helped me to be more than a conqueror through your mighty Son, Jesus. You have brought me through fiery trials, and I have rejoiced in your power. Please help those I am praying for today so that they will have songs of deliverance to sing and rejoice in the goodness of God! In Jesus' name. Amen.

September 25

In the Revelation to John, he saw seven golden lampstands, with Jesus Christ standing among them. He had eyes like a blazing fire. His feet were like fine bronze, as if refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound

of rushing waters. His face was like the sun's brilliance shining, and in his right hand, he held seven stars. The seven lampstands represent the seven churches. Jesus, the mighty God, stands amid his church. Out of his mouth comes a sharp two-edged sword; this is the Word of God, by which the very thoughts and purposes of the heart are revealed, analyzed, and judged. The seven stars are the angels that minister to his church. The glorious Sun of Righteousness shines continually in full splendor. He has called you to be his light in this world. The Israelites were commanded to provide clear oil of pressed olives for the lamps (representing the presence of God's holiness) that were to continually be burning in the tabernacle. You also, as God's lamp, must use pure olive oil that has been beaten—God's pure Holy Spirit.

You have the Light of the world living in you (a mere jar of clay). As the jars of Gideon's army were broken to allow the fiery torches within them to shine and confound the enemy to help win a major battle, so should you let your clay jar be broken (humbled and opened for the Lord to shine forth from you); the glorious light of Christ will be a beacon from your life, with the radiance of his marvelous love, magnifying Christ Jesus to the world who dwells in darkness! Great victories will be won for God. You are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus, the King of kings.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, continued the work in each of the seven churches depicted in the Revelation, so shall he continue the work that he has begun in your life until you see him face to face in the glorious kingdom of Heaven.

Revelation 1:11-20 • Philippians 1:6

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 • Romans 8:37

Thank you, Jesus, my Savior and Lord; you washed me from my sins by the sacrifice of your own blood; you have made me a king and a priest unto you and the Father. I offer the sacrifices of praise to glorify the name of the Lord. You are returning with the clouds; every eye will see you, even those who pierced you. All the world's nations will mourn because of you (they will realize their sin, guilt, and coming judgment). Thank you for calling me and saving me by your grace and mercy. I will rejoice through the endless ages in the glorious majesty of your love! Praise God!

September 26

From his high throne in Heaven, Jesus Christ told Ananias to go to a man from Tarsus named Saul, who was praying (Ananias was told to lay hands on Saul, pray, and minister to him). Jesus told him that Saul was his chosen instrument to carry Christ Jesus' name to the Gentiles, their kings, and the people of Israel. At first, Ananias had serious concerns about murderous Saul, but Christ knew Saul's penitent heart; tears of a soul sorrowing over his sin are as diamonds to the Savior.

Our God and Father looks on the heart. Man looks on the outward appearance. Do not lean on your own understanding in your service to the Lord. Fully receive God's Word, which teaches you to love, even as Christ loved. Ananias did go and fulfill the Messiah's welcoming ministration to Saul (the beginning of a wondrous life of service for Saul—soon renamed Paul).

Let not a Saul slip through your hands out of fear or prejudice. Your Father welcomes home his lost sheep. Be willing to reach out and love the unlovely; Saul was absolutely in that class at one point. Ask the Lord God to guide you by the Spirit continually; he will give you the love and boldness you need.

Acts 9:11-22 • Romans 15:7

Dear Father, life with you has been anything but boring. Even through tribulation, sickness, and sorrows, you guide me into the abundant life more significantly over time. I am so thankful that you are Sovereign, as shown in Paul's case: you orchestrated murderous Saul's conversion via a glorious revelation of your truth: first the great light, and then you spoke with Saul from Heaven, followed by a three-day blinding. You also sent Ananias to minister to Saul after you revealed what great works you were to accomplish through Saul. Help me to hear your still, small voice and be led by the Spirit so that I might accomplish your good pleasure during this short life here on earth. In the name of Jesus, the Risen Savior. Amen.

September 27

With each loud and terrible clang of the Romans' spikes being driven into the Savior's hands and feet, a spike of anguish ripped into the heart of his mother, Mary, as she watched in horror. Just thirty-three years earlier, she had borne the child who would be called the Son of the Most High. She had

carried the hope of the world (conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit) and lovingly raised him. The son she had cherished so dearly, along with any hope or joy she had, was now cruelly being destroyed.

After knowing that all things were now accomplished and that he was about to die, Jesus said, "It is finished," signifying his glorious work as Savior of the world was complete.

John 19:26-30

Lord God, I can easily lean on my own understanding. What I see with my eyes can be very persuasive. Mary and the disciples of Jesus were devastated by what they were witnessing: the cruel crucifixion of her son and the Messiah of the world. All hope was demolished. But Jesus, the mighty Son of God, proclaimed, "It is finished!"

Christ Jesus' death and resurrection were the beginning of everlasting life for the disciples and many millions through the centuries. What appeared to be the obliteration of all hope and the end of life as they knew it was just the glorious beginning of a whole new world and abundant life for his mother, Mary, and his devoted followers. Praise the living God for his mercy, power, wisdom, and glory!

September 28

Jesus' agonies at Gethsemane were past. The torturous horrors of Golgotha were over. Three days later, the wondrous glory of God, the Father, broke through the darkness that covered the whole land—the hope in every heart that had been extinguished was raised from the dead! The Sun of Righteousness broke the chains of death and broke through the dark clouds to shine most brilliantly and bring healing to every anguished heart!

Be encouraged, dear child of the King, even though heartbreak and tears may have been your companions lately. God's heart is certainly moved with compassion toward you during your times of trial and tribulation; he has heard you when you cry and seen your tears. As it was for Mary, Jesus' mother, and all the others who loved him, the night of sorrow will soon pass for you as well. The stone will be rolled away just after sunrise—***SonRise***. Welcome the magnificent Light of the world to ignite your heart and soul anew. Amen.

Mark 16:2-6 • Romans 8:11 • 1 Peter 1:3

We rejoice in you, Jesus, for the glorious SonRise that occurred that resurrection morning. The darkest of all nights ever on earth became the most wondrous new dawn for all mankind. Prophets had foretold of this monumental event for centuries. We still greatly rejoice in its reality and its impact on us. We who have received you, Christ Jesus, exult in the fabulous new and abundant life you have given us. May your love burn intensely within our hearts, and may your light and truth shine from us more and more unto that perfect Day of Glory—so others may also experience the miracle of life in Christ. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of Christ Jesus, the Risen Savior!

September 29

The disciples of Jesus found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. Two angels asked the fearful followers of Jesus of Nazareth why they were seeking the living among the dead—"He is not here; he is risen," the disciples were told. The angel then instructed these followers of Christ to go tell his disciples and Peter that Jesus goes before you into Galilee; there you will see Jesus. The bold fisherman, Peter, had declared allegiance to Jesus, the Son of God, saying he would be willing to die for the Messiah. However, shortly after, Peter denied Christ Jesus three times. Hours after he had wept bitterly for his failing, the echoes of the rooster's crows still haunted him.

The angel sent these comforting words: "Go tell his disciples and Peter." The disciples had fled into the garden and needed to hear the glorious news that he who was crucified was now risen. God's message was clear—all your sins are forgiven, and death itself has been conquered! Everything is OK. But Jesus was moved by the broken heart of Peter and had the angel make a special mention of this fisherman. Soon, Peter's heart would be mended, for Jesus, the One with the nail-pierced hands, would wrap his arms around Peter, confirming his forgiveness and love.

Have you failed Christ Jesus in times past (all have)? Do you sometimes still hear the rooster crowing? The Wonderful Counselor, your Savior, desires to reassure you today, as he did Peter, that all is OK. Receive his forgiveness and love; this is why he died and shed his blood for you. He is risen! You are forgiven; our God and Savior promises that all of your sins will not be remembered! Jesus has gone on before you to his kingdom; he is preparing a place for you and will soon welcome you with open arms of

love. Praise the Lord! What a Savior! What a Wonderful God and Father we have!

Luke 24:1-9 • Mark 16:6-7 • 1 John 1:9 • Isaiah 43:25

Psalms 103:10-14 • Hebrews 8:12 • Jeremiah 31:34

Thank you, Jesus, for your perfect sacrifice for sin. Thank you that there is no condemnation for each of us who believe in you. All who are in Christ have been crucified with Christ, and yet they live; and the life they now live, they live by faith in the Son of God who loved them and gave his life for them. Let us not frustrate your grace, O God, for if the gift of righteousness and the gift of eternal life come by our works, then Christ died for nothing. Because of the great love with which you loved us, Jesus, we love you and desire to walk with you; we also know that your abundant grace and the power of the Holy Spirit will do great works in each of us (even as your grace worked mightily in Paul). Thank you, Wonderful God, for your divine power that has been bestowed on us all things needed for life and godliness! We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God! Amen.

September 30

Our great God and Savior has given you very precious promises. From Genesis through Revelation, his promises shine like the night sky stars. He has been faithful. The eternal God (El Olam) made a great nation of Abram—as promised. God brought this nation (the children of Israel) to the Promised Land that is flowing with milk and honey—as promised. The Lord of Hosts performed what he told David—that the Messiah would be born from David's seed.

Jesus Christ, the King of kings, has blessed you with abundant life—as promised. The Lord promises you everlasting life in the Paradise of God and that you shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye—transformed to be like Christ. He promises to wipe away all tears and guarantees that there shall be no more pain or death. By the many great and priceless promises that our God and Father has given us, we have been made partakers of the divine nature, and we have received every good thing needed for life and godliness! Praise the Lord God for his faithfulness, his everlasting love, and his power!

2 Peter 1:1-4 • Titus 1:2 • Revelation 21:1-7

Dear Jesus, you are beyond amazing. You spoke all of creation into existence and hold all things together by the power of your Word. Thank you for all of your wondrous promises. I rejoice that many of them have come true in my life already. I look forward to reigning with you in your glorious kingdom. Thank you for the forgiveness of all of my sins. Thank you that you live in me and that I have everlasting life! Amen.

October 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

You may wonder about our heavenly Father's care for you. With billions of people on planet Earth, you may feel insignificant. How can God care for and listen to everyone on the planet at once? His answer is simple: "Yes, I can." He is omnipresent and omniscient. He has infinite power, wisdom, and love. The Creator of heaven and earth can fully be with you and give you his complete attention as if there were no one else in the world. That is how much he loves you. He can listen to you, care for you, and comfort you more devotedly than anyone on earth. The God of compassion passionately cares for you and would love to enjoy more time together.

Our God inhabits eternity—but he always has time for you. He will be the Friend whose love will bring healing to your heart. Jesus is the Friend who is closer than a brother. You have experienced being hurt by others numerous times. There are sorrows so deep down in your soul. Many have failed you. Your God and Savior saw every time that happened to you. He felt any abusive words or actions anyone has ever expressed to you; it hurts, he knows. As you come closer to the God of all grace and spend time with Jesus, the Holy Spirit will bring true healing to your soul and help you forgive others fully from the heart. He is here to hold you close as you journey to wholeness.

Isaiah 57:15, 61:1-3

Dear Jesus, help me have the same love toward others as you have lavished on me; help me be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to others, even as the Father has forgiven me through you and your wondrous blood sacrifice. Thank you for being so caring toward me. Amen.

October 2

Enter his gates with thanksgiving. Rejoice exceedingly today; your name is written in the book of life, and Christ, the true Light, is living in you. You are more than a conqueror through the Son of God. Nothing can separate you from his glorious love. The fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in our Lord Jesus, and you are complete in him.

You once were lost, but now you are found; our everlasting Father greatly rejoices that you are his child. He lifted you up from a horrible pit and set your feet upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. A new song is now in your heart; even praise to the God who dearly loves you. He hears your song and very warmly receives your praises.

Psalms 40:2-3, 100:4 • Colossians 2:9-10, 3:15-17

Romans 8:37-39

Great are you, my God and King, and greatly to be praised, and your greatness is unsearchable. You have redeemed my life from destruction and have crowned me with loving-kindness and tender mercies. By your divine power, you continually give me all things that pertain to life and godliness. Thank you for your abundant grace and the gift of righteousness. Help me to reign in life through Christ every day. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

October 3

Since you have been raised from being spiritually dead into the newness of life with Jesus Christ, set your affections on heavenly things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He has established a new covenant with you; do not hesitate to fully claim your inheritance in your Promised Land with abundant life in Christ Jesus. Come into his presence and enjoy a friendship whose joy outshines this decaying world's false glimmers. Taste and see that he is good. Your God and Savior will withhold nothing good from those who trust in him and walk in his ways.

When you were born again, new passions and desires were set in motion—you are in Christ, and he lives in you! May you be led this day by the Holy Spirit into a deeper fellowship with Christ Jesus. He will meet you in a very fulfilling way. You will be abundantly satisfied with the fullness of his house; he will give you to drink from the river of his delights.

Colossians 3:1-17 • Psalms 16:11, 36:7-10, 84:11-12

Thank you, Jesus, for being the way, the truth, and the life. As many have received you, you have given them the right to be your child. What an honor that is. Thank you for showing me the path I should take each day. In your presence is fullness of joy and pleasures at your right hand forever. As infinite as the stars and as numerous as the waves of the sea, that is how immeasurable your love, power, and wisdom are. Thank you. I trust you today to bless and guide me. Praise the living God! Amen.

October 4

Jesus the Messiah will be your shepherd now and forever. You will soon be with him in Heaven. He will lead you to springs of living water. Your God and Savior will wipe all tears from your eyes. Never again will you hunger; never again will you thirst. The scorching heat of the sun will no longer beat down upon you. The remembrance of sin shall flee away. All of your trials will soon be over. The everlasting God will make all things new.

You have died to your old life; your new life is hidden in Christ. When he appears, then shall you also appear with him in glory. You would probably rejoice if you knew you would inherit millions of dollars soon. There is reason for true celebration today, for you are a joint heir with Christ Jesus, the Son of the living God, soon to inherit the Father's glorious kingdom above—worth vastly more than the entire world's riches! Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep; he will meet you and lead you from glory to glory through the countless ages of eternity.

Revelation 7:15-17 • Colossians 3:1-4 • Romans 8:17

I greatly rejoice in you today, dear Father. You have abundantly blessed me physically and spiritually in every area of life. Godliness with contentment is truly great gain in one's life. Thank you, Jesus, for living in me and preparing a place for me in your everlasting kingdom of glory. Praise God for your great love!

October 5

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and God your Father, who loves you exceedingly, will shower you with grace and give you eternal encouragement and hope. Let the Holy Spirit comfort your heart and strengthen you in all of your works and words. Your fellowship is indeed with the Father and Jesus, the Son of God. Very few people can boast of knowing a king or a president.

You know the King of kings—every ruler on earth throughout the history of mankind will bow before him on the great Day of the Lord. Yet he is your Friend, one who sticks closer than a brother; Jesus desires a profound fellowship with you daily.

The same great love the Father has toward you also led Jesus to the cross and gloriously showed itself in the resurrection. When he died on the cross, the Savior took all of your sins upon himself. But he also conquered death three days later to give you complete assurance of eternal life. Therefore, since you have been justified by faith (declared blameless, innocent, and righteous before God), you have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ, through whom you have bold access into this grace of God, wherein you stand—and you exceedingly rejoice in the hope of the glory of God! Praise the Lord!

2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17 • Proverbs 18:24

Romans 5:1-2

Thank you, my God and Savior, for lifting me from a horrible pit, setting my feet upon the Rock, and establishing my goings. You transferred me from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of light, wherein the majestic King of kings reigns. You have given me a new song to sing forever—praise to you, my awesome God! Amen.

October 6

The prophet Isaiah said that the Messiah would not falter or be discouraged until he established justice on the earth. Christ Jesus' great desire was to reach the lost—he was determined to love. The Father sent him to bring truth and abundant life. The Holy Spirit was given to Jesus without limit. In confidence, he fulfilled the mighty works that his Father had ordained for him before the foundation of the world. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the door to forgiveness and eternal life.

Receive the abundant grace of Jesus Christ today. Be encouraged. Go forth confidently as the Spirit guides you. He will do great works through you, for Christ is living in you. Communicating your faith by your words and works will transform lives as you acknowledge every good thing that is already in you in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 42:4 • Romans 15:13 • Psalm 90:16-17

I will trust you, dear God, amid my trials and sorrows. You will fulfill all of your counsel throughout the earth. Nothing is too hard for you. I know that your ways and thoughts are much higher than mine (even as the stars are higher than the earth). Please reveal the truth and the gift of salvation through Christ to those I am praying for. If you could save murderous and blasphemous Saul and transform his life into Paul, the apostle, then you can reach anyone; help these folks that I am praying for today to receive your love and the gift of everlasting life. Amen.

October 7

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came into the world to comfort those who mourn, to give unto them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of sorrow, and the garment of praise to replace a spirit of despair—that they might be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of God's love, that he might be glorified. The Son of God turned the water into wine, made blind eyes see and deaf ears hear, healed lepers, and even raised the dead to life again—he can transform your heart.

As the Man of sorrows, he has been well acquainted with grief. He is also the Wonderful Counselor. Continue to pour out your heart to him. For as the night changes to the dawn, so shall your ashes, mourning, and despair change to beauty, joy, and praise. Why are you cast down, dear child of the King? Hope in Christ the Savior, for you shall be filled with praise, for he who created the heavens and the earth will significantly help you.

Luke 4:14-21 • Isaiah 61:1-3 • Psalm 43:4-5

Help me, Father, to look more fully at the unseen things (eternal things) that my physical eyes do not see and not to look as much at things that I can see with my eyes (temporal things). That which I see by faith is everlasting and imperishable. Please help me to endure the trials of faith that I have been presented with by you or by circumstances; I know that my faith is more precious than gold to you. Help me to overcome by faith so that I have an abundant entrance into your eternal kingdom. Thank you for choosing my inheritance for me. I will rejoice in the magnificent glory and majesty of your everlasting kingdom in Heaven. The riches of the treasures your Spirit has led me to store in Paradise have much greater value than

all the gold, silver, and jewels of this world. I will celebrate in new Jerusalem with the entire wonderful family of God. I have you, Christ Jesus, living in me, and you will gloriously transform me into your image on that Day of Glory! Oh yes, dear God, my trials are not worthy of comparison with the glory that will be revealed to me and in me on that Day! Amen.

October 8

David desired that he might dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life and gaze upon God's beauty and inquire in his temple. The Lord God fulfilled all of these desires for David. It all began among the hills of Bethlehem, where a young shepherd boy was learning profound lessons from the great Shepherd. Almighty God became the Rock that David would stand upon during his forty-year reign as king. David would be like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding much fruit through the seasons of his life. He prospered greatly as a psalmist, prophet, warrior, and king.

Trials and tribulations were a constant companion to David. But he knew the great secret of living: walk daily with the great Shepherd, who guides in the paths of righteousness, restores the soul, and anoints with the overflowing blessings from above. If you seek the Lord God, as David did, surely goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life, and whatsoever you do in Christ will prosper in God's kingdom.

Psalm 1:1-3 • Psalm 23; 27:4

Today, I will call upon the Lord God, who is worthy to be praised. I will trust in the Lord who made heaven and earth. I will rejoice in Almighty God, who redeemed Israel from the bondage of Egypt by signs and wonders and the splitting of the Red Sea. I will thank you, Lord Jesus, for being my Savior; you conquered sin and death and gave me your Spirit. By your mighty grace, please help me be led by the Spirit and not fulfill the flesh's lusts. Help me to reign in life through Christ in me, the hope of glory. Please increase the fruit of the Spirit in my life to glorify you. Praise the Lord! Amen.

October 9

The people of Israel had just offered generously and abundantly to provide for building a temple to glorify the holy name of the Lord God. The

people provided gold, silver, bronze, iron, and precious stones in abundance. Therefore, David offered the richest praise to Almighty God, rejoicing in his greatness, power, glory, and majesty—acknowledging that everything in heaven and earth is God's.

You have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into God's kingdom of light, made co-heirs with Christ Jesus, and promised the glories of life eternal, all to be enjoyed in a new incorruptible body. Offer God your talents, resources, and your whole being, as your heavenly Father is building a magnificent temple that he will dwell in through the Holy Spirit. God is building you upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets; Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. Your health, wealth, gifts, and life come from the Lord God. Store your treasures in Heaven; you will rejoice eternally for the love you freely give God's people and his kingdom. Great is your reward on the Day of Glory.

1 Chronicles 29:6-16 • Ephesians 2:19-22

Matthew 6:19-21 • Titus 1:2, 11-14, 3:4-7

Thank you, Lord, that since you are for me, nothing can be against me; you will defend me and be victorious. I rest in the finished work of the cross; you said, "It is finished." I had been foolish and disobedient to you, serving lusts and pleasures and wasting my life in envy and hate. But Jesus, by your kindness, mercy, and love, you saved me, not by any righteousness that I have (my righteousness is as a filthy rag); you have transformed me with the new birth, by the Holy Spirit, which you have graciously poured out upon me. Your grace has justified me, and I am a co-heir with you, according to the hope and wondrous guarantee of eternal life you promised before time began. Amen.

October 10

You who have sown in tears will reap with songs of joy. Our Father is the God of compassion and mercy. He will never forget your labor of love that you have shown toward his name. You have gone out at times weeping while you sowed in the field. You will doubtless come again rejoicing, carrying bountiful sheaves. Let the Word of God dwell richly in you and continue to sow the seed (his Word) in the field. His Word will not return empty but accomplish what our God desires. Your Father's heart will rejoice as broken

lives are made whole and many of his loved ones are saved. So do not cast off your confidence; it will be greatly rewarded. You must patiently endure so that after you have done his will, you will receive what he promised.

For you will go out with joy, and the Lord will guide you with peace: the mountains and the hills will rejoice before you with singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Psalm 126:5-6 • Hebrews 6:10-12, 10:35-36

Isaiah 55:8-13 • Galatians 6:8-10

Father, though I carry with me daily the sorrowful knowledge that some of my relatives and friends do not yet believe in Jesus, I will continue to live my life in Christ, sharing his love and mercy with all those in my world. I know that I have this treasure—Christ Jesus and his Word—living in me, a mere jar of clay, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be seen to be of you, God, and not of myself. Help me to have faith and courage to walk in Christ, even when events and people may be against me. Please renew me daily by your grace and your Holy Spirit. Amen.

October 11

Look to our Wonderful God and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders and miracles that he has done. Daniel pleaded for mercy from the God of Heaven, and he revealed the mystery of a king's dream. Through God's miraculous revelation, lives were changed, and the history of the world's future was revealed through Daniel's prayer time with God. Peter went up to the roof to pray. While he was seeking the Lord, God gave him a vision that helped open the gospel to the whole world and not just the Jews—another prayer time changes the world. With much weeping and prayer, Hannah entered a solemn vow to God. Samuel, a great prophet to Israel and its kings, was born to Hannah.

God honored the prayers of Daniel, Peter, and Hannah; he also will honor yours as you seek him with your whole heart. Come boldly into the joy and blessings of prayer time in the Holy Spirit. Enter into God's holy presence and have an inspiring and refreshing time with the Lord every day.

1 Chronicles 16:8-12 • Daniel 2:18-23 • John 15:7

Thank you, Lord God, for your wondrous grace, the abundant life that you have given me, having me seated with you in heavenly places, being a

partaker of your divine nature, and the many precious promises you have given me in the Scriptures. You have miraculously answered the prayers of so many of those in the Word—and for me as well. Today, I ask you to please answer these prayers for my family members and these requests regarding other circumstances. I trust you fully to do your perfect will in answering these prayers—in your time, in your way, and with eternal love. I ask these prayers in Jesus' name and for his glory. Amen.

October 12

Elijah, a man of prayer, possessed boldness that equaled his great challenges. The people of Israel and hundreds of false prophets gathered in a grand showdown; the God who would answer by fire and burn the sacrifice would be declared and recognized as the true God. The 450 prophets of Baal had already failed. Then Elijah called upon the God of Israel, and Almighty God sent fire—it burned up the sacrifice, wood, stones, and soil, and licked up the water in the trench. All the people saw this, fell, and cried, "The Lord—he is the true God! The Lord—he is the only God!"

Elijah was human like you; he had many of the same trials, frailties, and temptations as you. Along with the glorious victory against the prophets, when God sent the fire from on high, he took on the wicked king, Ahab; through Elijah's earnest prayers, God held back the rain for three and a half years as a testimony of the Lord's power. He prayed again; God sent the rains, and the earth produced crops. Our God looks throughout the planet to be strong for those whose hearts are fully committed to him. He chooses to work through those who are humble in heart and trust in him. It is not by your might or power, but by God's Spirit, that his wondrous will is fulfilled on earth.

1 Kings 18:36-39 • James 5:13-20 • Zechariah 4:6

Thank you, Almighty God, for my new life in Christ. Please help me to be bold and share the gospel, for it is your power to give salvation to all who believe. Guide me by your Holy Spirit. Give me a hunger for the Scriptures, so that the Word would dwell richly in my heart and mind, giving me wisdom and the knowledge of Christ Jesus; by your grace, may I help the lost to know your way, and may I be an inspiration to my brethren in Christ. Guide me to have the boldness to come before your throne for

help in time of need and to have the same earnest heart of prayer that Elijah had so that I may glorify you.

October 13

The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ desires for all of his sons and daughters to have the same attitude of mind toward one another that Jesus had—that harmony would prevail among them. We all share the same calling of dedicating our lives to following Christ, the Son of Almighty God. We share the same glorious hope that God will soon transform us into incorruptible bodies and reign with Jesus, the King, in the splendor of Paradise forever. We all partake and enjoy the same heritage and testimonies of the treasured men and women of faith who have honored God through the centuries. We share the same family that soon will gather on the other shore for the everlasting celebration. We share the same Holy Spirit given to empower us to do God's will in boldness and joy. Since we are all one in Christ Jesus, let us glorify our heavenly Father for these many blessings with one heart and mouth. Like a magnificent orchestra, may we all, in most wondrous harmony, offer praise to the God of all creation, who is worthy of all praise!

Romans 15:1-7 • Ephesians 4:1-13

I thank you, dear Lord God, for all of my wonderful brothers and sisters throughout the nations of the world. Please comfort and heal those who are sick. Strengthen those who are going through persecution and great hardships. Help us all to trust you because of your great goodness and faithfulness. Please give us thankful hearts. Please reveal your Son Jesus and bring salvation to those in our family and friends who do not believe.

October 14

Receive one another, just as Christ Jesus has also received you to the glory of God the Father. Pray for your brothers and sisters; they are members of God's orchestra. Encourage them in their quest to be their best in Christ. Your Father will honor your love and care toward one another and work mightily among you.

Since you are an instrument of righteousness in God's orchestra, allow the Holy Spirit to tune you. For those whom God foreknew, he also predestined to be transformed and conformed daily into the image of Jesus, the Son of God—that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Continue in his Word; the Spirit will guide you into all truth so that you may be complete in Christ and be thoroughly equipped for every good work—fulfilling your unique part in his orchestra with his blessings upon you. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be greatly glorified as his music of love and salvation is being played through you to a needy world.

Romans 8:28-32, 15:1-7 • 2 Corinthians 3:18

Hebrews 13:20-21 • Zephaniah 3:17

Thank you, Lord God, that you rejoice with singing and gladness over each of your sons and daughters. As your instruments of righteousness in your orchestra, each of us plays our part in your symphony of salvation. We offer you the highest praise and songs of thankfulness; you are worthy, for you are majestic and grand, and your greatness is immeasurable. Dear Jesus, thank you for our salvation; as the Lamb of God, by your perfect blood sacrifice, you have paid the debt for our every sin. (We owed a debt that we couldn't pay; you paid a debt that you didn't owe!) We sing to you today; we rejoice that you have set us free from the power of darkness and transferred us into your everlasting kingdom of glory and righteousness. We rejoice and thank you, now and forever, for your great love. Amen.

October 15

Even if the mountains are shaken and removed, God's steadfast love for you will not depart; neither shall his covenant of peace be removed from you—for he is the Lord who has abundant mercy upon you. He is the God of all comfort. His heart is moved with compassion when you are in the valley of despair. The Lord God desires to hold your hand as he leads you from the valley to the heights. When the waves of trial are coming over the side of your boat, call upon Jesus the Savior and trust him entirely; he will calm the storms with his word, in his perfect timing. Cast your cares upon Christ Jesus, for he cares deeply for you; he is your refuge and strength.

The Father sent the Son into the world to bind up the brokenhearted, to set the captives free, and to comfort all who mourn. The Prince of Peace will replace mourning with the oil of gladness. Call upon the Lord; he will clothe you with the garment of praise when you turn to him in times of trouble.

Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, loves you with everlasting love. No power in creation can stand in the way of or change the perfect and infinite love he has for you.

Isaiah 54:10-17 • Psalm 46:1-5 • 1 Peter 5:7

Jeremiah 31:3

Dear God, Creator of heaven and earth, who inhabits eternity, thank you that you love me and live with me and in me; thank you that I am a member of Christ's body, a branch in the vine, and one of your cherished children. Help me to have courage today as I face temptations, the elements of this world, and the enemy, Satan. Greater is he that is in me (Jesus) than he that is in the world. Please guide me today to share the words and deeds you have prepared for me to walk in. In Jesus' name. Amen.

October 16

Our God is the King of righteousness. By faith, you have received his gift of righteousness. Righteousness was not earned by your good works or by trying to follow the Lord the best you can. It is not earned by following the Ten Commandments to the best of your ability or staying true to the Golden Rule. Righteousness is a gift from Heaven, not from the earth.

Our righteous deeds are like filthy rags; we all have sinned and fallen far short of the glory of God. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Only those who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior have the right to be a child of God. Only those who have been forgiven and redeemed through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ will eat from the tree of life in God's Paradise. Only those justified by faith and who have received the gift of righteousness through faith in Christ shall walk in the holy city, new Jerusalem.

You were once separated from God because of your sin, and the soul that sins shall die. The prophets foretold of the Messiah, who would pay the price for all of mankind's sins. Jesus took your sin upon himself. The Father made Jesus (who was perfect and knew no sin) to be sin for you so that you might be the righteousness of God in Christ. In receiving Jesus Christ, your life of sin was crucified with him—you were crucified with Christ Jesus. It

is no longer you who lives, but Christ is living in you. The life that you now live is by faith in the Son of God, who profoundly loves you.

The holy faith in you is a great gift that enables you to be a partaker of God's divine nature. As a branch is part of the vine, so are you now a part of Christ. As waters bring nutrients to the vine and branches, let the living waters of his Word strengthen your faith and miraculously bring forth much fruit from you—everlasting fruit.

Being born again, now a partaker of his divine nature and fully righteous by faith, you are, by God's miracle, a citizen of the kingdom of Heaven. You may now come to Mount Zion and the heavenly Jerusalem. You are unique and greatly loved by the God of all grace. Our beloved God, the King of salvation, joyously anticipates your joining Heaven's family celebration for all eternity.

Romans 5:17, 10:4 • Isaiah 61:10 • 2 Corinthians 5:21

Isaiah 53:3-12 • Galatians 2:20 • 2 Peter 1:4

Hebrews 12:22-23

Thank you, Father, for the abundant grace and salvation you have given me through your wondrous Son. I come before your throne of grace for help in time of need. I am weak, but may your strength be in my life each day; help me to do that which is well-pleasing in your sight. Let my light shine with Christ's love so that many will see his truth, be inspired by my words and deeds, and turn to him for salvation.

October 17

God Almighty gave the children of Israel the land that he had sworn to give unto their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the Israelites possessed it and settled there. God also gave them rest on every side; he delivered them from all their enemies. Every one of God's wonderful promises to them was fulfilled.

God will fulfill many of his promises as you fight the good fight of faith. The Lord, who conquered your greatest enemies, sin and death, shall vanquish every foe you face as you walk on with the Lord to inherit your Promised Land. If God is for you, nothing can be against you.

He will fulfill every promise he has made, and Christ the King will soon return to bring you into the glorious kingdom of Heaven above. Your faithful Creator will transform your lowly body to be fashioned like Christ Jesus' glorious body by the same majestic power that raised Jesus from the dead. As you walk with Christ, be patient in waiting for his promises to be fulfilled. He is the infinite God and will do immeasurably more than you can think or ask—he has great plans for you.

Joshua 21:43-45 • Romans 8:31-32 • Philippians 3:20-21

Father, help me to be like a tree planted by the streams of water; your provision is sure and steadfast, but by your grace, give me patience as I wait for the fruit that I know I shall bear to your glory. Only by your blessing and your increase will I prosper and be a blessing to you and others. Please lead me by your Holy Spirit to do your will today.

October 18

Be of good courage, for the Lord God will strengthen you with the Holy Spirit as he fulfills his purposes in your life—in his perfect timing. As high as the stars are above the earth, so much higher are his ways above your ways. He is Alpha and Omega and knows the beginning and the end. You need patience while you wait for him to teach and guide you. Be not hasty to go your own way. When circumstances seem contrary to you, remember that your God works all things together for your good, according to his eternal purposes. This truth will sometimes be challenging to believe, but trust him fully, for he will honor your faith and work wondrously on your behalf. Your God will strengthen you when in distress. He will shine his light to help you walk his path. God will be a shelter from the storm. As you wait upon him, he will renew your strength; you shall mount up with wings like eagles; you shall run and not be weary; you shall walk and not faint.

Psalms 27:13-14, 138:8 • Isaiah 40:31, 55:8-9

Romans 11:33-36 • Philippians 1:6

Dear Father, great is your faithfulness, and your mercies are new every day. You have promised me every good thing that pertains to life and godliness. Help me to rejoice, even through tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; perseverance develops strength of character, and character produces hope; this hope never disappoints us

because the love of God has richly been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who empowers us. Guide me by the Spirit daily, and help me to share your love, Father. Thank you for calling me, justifying me, and glorifying me forever. Amen.

October 19

The Lord sent Samuel, the prophet, to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as the king of Israel. When Samuel looked at the appearance and the height of one son (Eliab), he thought it was the Lord's anointed. God shared that the Lord looks upon the heart of the person, whereas man looks upon the outward appearance. God did not choose the one Samuel believed to be the next king but chose the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse, David, who was tending the sheep. From that day on, God placed the Spirit of the Lord upon David powerfully.

You may consider yourself ordinary and as someone not possessing great gifts to offer to the Lord. But even as he blessed David with a unique ministry, he will guide you to fulfill a God-crafted calling. It is not by your ability or power but by the Holy Spirit; he will give you gifts and his anointing to fulfill his purpose in your life. While on earth, Christ transformed ordinary men into sons of God with love and power; Christ Jesus is more than willing to bestow the Holy Spirit and his power upon you. Do not limit the Lord by looking at your outward appearance or natural abilities. If you have a humble and willing heart, Christ Jesus will live through you and bring much glory to his kingdom.

1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Zechariah 4:6 • Ephesians 2:10

Hebrews 13:20-21

Dear Father, you called me from Heaven; you conquered sin and death for me by sending your Son from Heaven. The Scriptures are all inspired by you from Heaven; the Word is a glorious gift to me to help me grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus, my Savior. Every good and perfect gift you have given me in Christ has been sent from Heaven. All your great and precious promises are from you, my heavenly Father. My hopes, dreams, and life are hidden with Christ seated on his throne at your right hand in Heaven. Please help me not to look at the things that can be seen on earth, which are temporary. Please help me to focus on heavenly and eternal

things. Only one life, and it will soon be past; only what is done in Christ will last. When Christ, who is my life, appears, I shall also appear with him in glory. Amen.

October 20

The mighty God of Israel parted the Red Sea for his people so that they might escape their enemy. As the children of Israel reached safety, the Lord closed the Red Sea upon the Egyptian army. Years later, God split the waters of the Jordan River for his people as they entered the Promised Land.

Be strong in faith, child of the living God. He shall cause you to go over on dry ground when an ocean of impossibility lies before you and the enemy is hot on your heels. And he can cause the enemy to be seen no more. He can suspend the very laws of nature as you press on to inherit his promises to you. As he stopped the Jordan, so shall he work mightily on your behalf, as he accompanies you into the land of milk and honey—abundant life in Christ and everlasting life in his kingdom above.

Our God is the God of the impossible. Every one of the many hundreds of miracles in the Scriptures is an impossible deed for a man to accomplish. Please do not lean on your own understanding when facing *impossibilities*. Jesus, the mighty God, said he has all power in heaven and on earth. Trust in Jesus, who raised the dead, healed leprosy, walked on the Sea of Galilee, fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish, cast out a legion of demons from a man, fulfilled hundreds of prophecies during his life, and ascended back to Heaven in full view of his disciples. Yes, trust your God and Savior, who gave his life for you. Since the Father spared not his own Son but sent him here as a sacrifice for you, he shall also provide you with everything that pertains to life and godliness. For you to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Everything is working out for your good, you who love God and are called according to his grand purpose. Yes, our Father will be faithful to you; great is his mercy and love!

Isaiah 43:1-2

October 21

When on earth, Jesus of Nazareth went up on a mountainside and shared the wisdom of Heaven through the Beatitudes; they were as refreshing to listen to as the view of green hillsides and the sparkling blue waters of the

Sea of Galilee below. The comfort they brought enriched the souls of those who gathered unto him—and has for two thousand years to all who hear them. That day on the mountain was a shadow of the glorious fulfillment of a prophecy God gave through the prophet Micah, which is yet to come to pass—when the Messiah returns to the Earth during Jesus' millennial reign. The prophet said that in the last days, the mountain of the house of the Lord would be established as the highest and chief of the mountains; many nations will desire to go up to this mountain to learn of God's wondrous ways so that they may walk in his paths. The days are coming when swords shall be beaten into plowshares (there will be world peace for 1000 years). Spiritually hungry hearts from nations worldwide will stream to the mountain of the Lord to be fed with the finest of wheat and drink the milk of his Word.

As wonderful as the millennial reign of Christ will be, how much more glorious it will be when all the saved from every nation, people, and tribe stream to the celestial Mount Zion above and into God's heavenly city, new Jerusalem! The glory, honor, and majesty of the Father's kingdom will abundantly fill Heaven; the eternal family of God will rejoice in their King and God forever! Praise the Lord!

Micah 4:1-3 • Ephesians 3:14-21 • Revelation 21:1-7

Dear God and Father, today we, your children, all join our hearts as one in offering praise to you; we thank you for the everlasting love that has drawn us to you and the infinite wisdom and power by which you spoke the Universe into existence. What glory and majesty await us in your eternal kingdom of righteousness and love! We rejoice in you and thank you for providing our daily bread, clothing, and a place to lay our heads at night. Your loving-kindness greets us with warmth and hope every morning with the glorious sunrise. After a day's labor, your song of love is with us at night. Our hopes and dreams for ourselves and our loved ones are remembered all day by you; you will do your perfect will with every one of our prayer requests. Great is your faithfulness, and your mercy is from everlasting unto everlasting. Thank you. Amen.

October 22

Having begun in the Spirit, can you be made perfect in the flesh? No. Do not now try to become perfect in the flesh—by your own works. Christ's perfect righteousness has been imparted to you who believe. Good works can justify no one (although Christ Jesus instructs you to let your light so shine before others that they might behold your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven). You are saved by grace. You are justified (no more guilt or penalty for sin) through his work at Calvary—his blood was shed for you. To say that obeying specific laws or performing good works makes one more righteous would pollute his holy work. He has made you holy and given you his perfect righteousness.

Abraham believed in God's promises, and this faith in Almighty God was credited to him for righteousness. All who are of faith in Jesus, the Messiah, are the children of Abraham. The righteousness of God (without the works of the law) is by faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. You are freely justified (*just-as-if-I'd* never sinned) by his grace through the redemption in Jesus Christ. He saved you not by works of righteousness that you have done, but according to his mercy. You are now a joint heir according to the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began!

Likewise, no human effort could transport you to Heaven itself. Only the resurrection power of Jesus Christ can raise the dead and bring you home. Similarly, so is your goal of being righteous. It is wholly God's miracle in you—to have been washed from your sins, been born again, and made a partaker of his divine nature. You have received an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness—you are in Christ and will reign in life with the King of glory, now and forever. Rest in God's finished work on the cross—Jesus, the Savior, said, "It is finished."

Galatians 3 • Romans 3:20-28, 4:20-25, 5:1-2, 17

John 3:16 • Titus 1:2, 3:4-7 • Ephesians 2:1-10

Thank you, my dear God and Savior, for salvation through the work of Christ. I was dead in trespasses and sins; you paid my debt (my penalty for all of my sins), and you gave me life. You have made me a new creation; old things have passed away, and all things have been made new by your miraculous power and grace. Help me to be led by the Holy Spirit so I do

not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Help me to bear abundant fruit of the Spirit—to your glory. What a Savior! I will rejoice in you forever! Amen.

October 23

God's unfailing love is priceless. Feast on the abundance of his house and drink from the river of his delights. He freely gives you the fountain of life. Since the beginning of creation, only the perfect love of the everlasting God has brought true fulfillment to man. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life have competed for man's allegiance since the Garden of Eden. All the world's rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full; likewise, man fills himself with his varied lusts and is never truly complete. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Many squander their wealth and their very lives in their futile search for satisfaction. How ironic: that which can bring perfect love, comfort, joy, and contentment in this world—as well as eternal pleasures in the world to come—cannot be purchased for all the treasures on earth; it is free! Allow the Lord Jesus Christ to lead you to the green pastures and still waters—he will thoroughly satisfy you, now and forever.

Psalm 16:11, 36:7-9 • 1 John 3:1-3

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to this world and revealing the way, the truth, and the life—you! I received you and have the power and the right to be a child of God. You have fulfilled so many of my hopes and dreams. You are with me amid the trials and sorrows that I am going through. The Spirit comforts and leads me; I trust in you, my great Shepherd. You showed me how to live; help me walk in your steps by the mighty working of your grace in my life. Thank you for being my Savior and friend. Amen.

October 24

Jesus Christ is the bridge that spans the gulf between earth and Heaven. The bridge has been paved with the gold of his forgiveness; whosoever repents and believes the good news of the gospel of Christ may travel upon it and cross over into his kingdom. The sign across the gate of the bridge says in blood red, "I will remember their sins no more." As far as the east is from the west, that's how far he has removed your sins from you. The Risen Savior

has blotted out your transgressions. They are gone as though cast to the bottom of the sea. If you have lingering guilt in your heart, know that he is much greater than your heart. Jesus desires you to enjoy a full measure of the same peace that he enjoyed on earth. Receive his complete forgiveness; accept the freedom from guilt that comes with it. He wants you to be free. That is why the Prince of Peace came to earth. Believe what the sign on the bridge's gate says, "I will remember their sins no more." Faith in God's promises will bring healing to your heart and freedom from guilt.

Psalms 103:10-14 • John 3:16 • 1 John 4:9-10

Hebrews 10:16-20

Thank you, dear God, for my salvation; though my sins were as scarlet, they are as white as snow. You have turned my mourning into singing, my heavy burden has been lifted, and now I am filled with praise; you have clothed me with the garment of salvation and have covered me with the robe of righteousness. Your whole family (my brothers and sisters in Christ) shall soon come with singing unto Zion; we shall fill the pure gold streets of new Jerusalem with everlasting joy and gladness. Yes, dear heavenly Father, we love you and long to be rejoicing with you and your entire family of Heaven and earth in our forever home. Jesus, what a Savior you are! Amen.

October 25

Dear child of the King of glory, he is doing a wondrous work in your life. Do not look at your inabilities, but look at his abilities. He is able to do exceedingly beyond what you could ask or even imagine, for he has all power in heaven and earth. Our God and Savior split the Red Sea, brought water from the rock, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, and conquered death itself. Nothing is too hard for him. All things are possible to the believer with a mustard seed of faith. Therefore, be strong in Christ Jesus and the power of his might. Do not worry, but cast your cares on Jesus—for he richly cares for you. Let thanksgiving and trust in Christ Jesus fill your heart and mind; he will guide you today and forever with his perfect counsel and his everlasting love.

Ephesians 3:20-21, 6:10 • 1 Peter 5:7 • Philippians 4:6-7

Psalms 32:8, 73:24

Dear Jesus, I look to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. You, who began this fantastic work in my life, will continue it until the day of your return. Please help me not to faint in the day of adversity. Help me to proclaim the truth of the good news when you call me to. May the Spirit lead me to love as you have loved, to be patient, kind, humble, seeking others' best, forgiving, and rejoicing in the truth. I shall soon behold your face in righteousness; I shall greatly rejoice and be satisfied when I am changed in the twinkling of an eye to be in your likeness. I look for the blessed hope. Amen.

October 26

It is done! Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Whoever is thirsty will be given to drink, without cost, from the river of life, which is amid the Paradise of God, where he dwells. A glorious and eternal new heaven and new earth await you and God's treasured family. He will live with us all and be our God. No longer will there be death, pain, or sorrow—for the former order of things has passed away; he is making everything new. Beloved child of God, soon you will rejoice in the glorious new kingdom. In the twinkling of an eye, clothed in your incorruptible body, you will reign with the King of kings forever.

When you are discouraged and earthly circumstances seem to cloud your vision of the eternal, embrace these truths I have just shared. They will give you hope amid your trials and temptations. Call out to the Lord your God, and he will give you power and grace by the Holy Spirit. Give your heart to him, and he will give you the help you need. His strength is made perfect in your weakness.

The mighty God will transform you day by day into the image of Christ. For this reason, do not lose heart; though your outward person is perishing, your inward person is being renewed day by day. For these light and momentary troubles that you are enduring are producing a far more exceeding eternal weight of glory for you! It's hard to see the changes that he is making, but it is happening. Your life is truly hidden in Christ Jesus. When he appears, then shall you also appear with him in glory.

Revelation 21:1-7 • 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 12:9

Colossians 3:1-4

October 27

It is not by your own power or wisdom that God's purposes are accomplished in your life and his kingdom. He often allows humbling in his children before exalting them and multiplying blessings upon them. The Lord God, who makes streams in the desert, will gloriously bring his rich blessings upon you—in his chosen way and perfect timing.

Peter denied Jesus Christ three times just before Christ Jesus' crucifixion. This was the most humbling time of Peter's life—he had just adamantly assured Jesus that he would never deny his Lord. With bitter weeping, Peter was very repentant after denying Christ. Our merciful Savior, Jesus, forgave Peter and renewed his heart after Christ rose from the dead.

Filled with and enabled by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter then preached in boldness and power and saw thousands come into God's kingdom. This supernatural power, anointing, and wisdom came from above and not at all from Peter.

Ask of the God of glory, and he will give you the full blessing of the Holy Spirit's power and anointing; he will work through you, and he will speak through you.

Zechariah 4:6 • 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 • James 1:2-4, 12, 17

I am weak, dear Lord, and you have infinite strength. You have chosen the foolish and weak things of this world to reveal the ignorance and frailty of this world's wisdom and strength. It is not by my power or might but by your Spirit that I will be inspired and used in your kingdom to touch lives and bring you glory. Not my will, but yours be done. I look only to you, Lord God; you are the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

October 28

Joseph, robbed of his family and sold into slavery through the evils of his brothers, was further reduced and humbled through false accusation and imprisonment while in Egypt. Almighty God multiplied his blessings for his beloved child Joseph and exalted him under the pharaoh's rule; he made him second in command in Egypt, and many lives were saved by God's good hand upon Joseph.

Job was riding high in life, but God allowed Satan to strike him, reducing him by taking away his family and possessions. A loathsome disease further humbled him. Job, by Almighty God's great blessing, learned much of God's truth, mercy, and love during this torturous ordeal. The Lord God healed Job, restored his goods and flocks twofold, and Job enjoyed his children to the fourth generation. He did not understand much during his great trial of faith, but he knew that when this furnace of affliction would run its course, his God would bring him forth like gold. The Lord did just that—he exalted him and multiplied his blessings toward Job.

James 2:5, 5:10-11 • Peter 1:3-9 • Job 23:8-10, 42:10-17

Thank you, gracious Father, for your faithfulness to Joseph, Job, and so many others in the Scriptures who were suffering. You are the God of all power and consolation; please have mercy upon me during my tribulations and sorrows. Tears may endure through the night, but your grace brings joy in the morning. How wondrous is your faithfulness, how abundant is your mercy! I will trust you, Lord, to get me through these trying times, for I am sure that you can do much more than I could ask or think. Your will be done, not mine. Praise God! Amen.

October 29

God had been working in Gideon's life. At a time when Gideon was humbled by circumstances (regarding the enemy that was against Israel), the Lord appointed him to be a deliverer of God's people, the children of Israel. Almighty God chose to reduce Gideon's army to such a small group that it was humanly impossible to defeat the enormous enemy army, but the Lord gave him wisdom and counsel from Heaven. He exalted Gideon and multiplied his blessing upon him through a miraculous victory that brought glory to the God who loved his people.

Behold this testimony of Almighty God's power. Know that in your most dire straits, when you call on our wondrous Creator, he can reach down and lift you out of deep waters (like he did for Peter when he was walking on the water and began to sink), bring you deliverance, his richest of blessings, and glory to God's name.

Judges 7:2, 7 • Psalm 109:26-27 • Matthew 14:22-33

Thank you, Father, for everything is possible to the one who believes. I believe, but please help my unbelief. I have many worries and burdens; I cast my cares upon you today, knowing that you care for me and will sustain and prosper me in your kingdom according to your wondrous plan. Give me a hunger for your Word so that I might grow in Christ, bearing the fruit of the Spirit more abundantly: love, peace, joy, gentleness, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, self-control, and every good thing in Christ. Help me be led by the Spirit so that I share your Word through my words and deeds to inspire many to receive Christ as Savior. Amen.

October 30

Moses, who was brought up knowing ancient Egypt's riches, wisdom, and glory, was humbled and reduced to the simple life of caring for sheep for forty years. Almighty God chose him at this point to be the deliverer of his people, Israel—who had been suffering in bondage for generations. By this meek shepherd, the Sovereign Lord worked mighty miracles never before seen on earth to bring freedom to his people and set them on their way to the land that he had promised to their ancestors.

Saul (Paul), proud, blasphemous, and murderous, was humbled when Jesus, the Risen Savior, spoke to him from Heaven (oops! Saul now realized that he had been murdering God's true people). The Lord also blinded him for three days. Over time, Saul (Paul) was transformed into a faithful ambassador for God's kingdom. Paul was to suffer persecution, beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, and perils as he shared the Word of God with many. His life (having been humbled by God through the years) truly was hidden in Christ; when Jesus would appear in glory, Paul would also appear in glory on that great Day—experiencing a most abundant exalting by God, with multiplied blessings forever. The Lord led Paul by the Holy Spirit to establish many churches and used him to write, like a pen, much of God's Word in the New Testament; Paul would soon meet millions he had blessed.

1 Peter 5:10-11 • Colossians 3:1-4 • 2 Peter 1:11

Revelation 3:21

October 31

Jesus is your God forever and ever; he will be your guide even to the end. He is the great Shepherd and laid down his very life for his sheep. He saved

you and washed away your sins by his blood sacrifice. His sheep hear his voice. Come close to Christ Jesus today; he will always talk with you, bringing comfort and guidance. He knows where the green pastures and the refreshing streams are. He will protect and care for you in so many ways.

While in the wilderness, the children of Israel had the cloud to guide them. When it moved, they were to journey as well. But you have a personal relationship with God. You are always welcome to share time with him daily in prayer and his Word. By being led by the Holy Spirit, you are walking in your Promised Land—the abundant life. You will be victorious and eat the good of the land.

Our wonderful God has loved you with an everlasting love. He was watching you when you were born. Your God, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, came to dwell in you when you were born again. He will be your God and guide to the end of this creation and beyond. Throughout the endless ages of eternity, your God and Savior will accompany you with his wondrous love. The glory, joy, and peace you will share with the King of kings and your heavenly family will be awesome and immeasurable!

Psalm 23, 48:14, 73:24 • Ephesians 2:6-7

Dear God, my Father, thank you for giving me every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. Thank you for providing all my needs liberally, according to your infinite heavenly storehouse of riches in Christ Jesus. Please help me to hear your still, small voice more and more. Please open my eyes to your truth in Christ, granting me abundant wisdom and love to serve you acceptably and bring glory to your name. Please help me to acknowledge you today in all of my ways. I trust you and rejoice in your everlasting love. Thank you for your many great and precious promises. Amen.

November 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Our great God and Savior has chosen you and will fulfill his purpose for you. He is the Prince of Peace who gave his life for you, that you might be one with him and his glorious Father. His plan for all who have received

Jesus is to transform them more and more into his image. He chose you, a rough stone dug out of the miry pit of this world; by his wondrous miracle power, he is transforming you into a precious and priceless gem. Many of his beloved eternal gems were once such common and earthly rocks. Behold the former estate of some of the living stones in his glorious temple that he inhabits by his Spirit: Paul was a blasphemer and helped kill Christians; Moses was a murderer; Mary Magdalene was a woman out of whom Jesus cast seven demons; Matthew was a hated tax collector; Peter, Andrew, James, and John were everyday fishermen; and David, the shepherd and king, was an adulterer and a murderer. The miracles in these lives were exceptional and glorious. The everlasting God of Heaven will work miracles in your life. Be strong in your faith. Jesus lives in you, and his resurrection power can transform your heart. He will raise you in his ways, wisdom, and truth. Embrace all of the promises in his Word. By them, you are partakers of his divine nature.

Keep yourself from idols. Anything that you consider more important in your life than God is an idol. His commandments are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor even as you love yourself.

He has saved you and called you with a holy calling, not because of the works you have done or plan to do, but because of his own purpose and grace given to you in Christ Jesus before the world began. He will fulfill his plan for you. Throughout the eternal ages, he will show you the exceeding riches of his love and glory. He loves you—his priceless gem!

John 15:16 • Psalm 138:8 • Malachi 3:17 • 2 Peter 1:4

Isaiah 62:3-4 • 1 Peter 2:9 • 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 • Romans 8:32 • Ephesians 2:1-7

2 Timothy 1:9

November 2

For over three years, the disciples of Jesus Christ beheld the majesty of the God of creation. They watched the great Physician loving unconditionally; he brought wondrous healing, physically and spiritually, for the diseased and sinners. The disciples' eyes feasted on the glory of the Lord as he fed the five thousand with five loaves of bread and two fish. The

apostles in training feasted on the bread of heaven as he shared the Word of God—spirit and life. They learned how to be servants when they beheld Jesus washing their feet. They were instructed on how to die, for they experienced Christ's sacrificial death by which they received new life imparted to them.

Through his Word and the mighty working of the Holy Spirit, you also obtained the same precious faith as the early disciples. Through the great gift of the Spirit, you have a measure of the faith of the Son of God. You have Christ in you, the hope of glory. As Jesus ordained and sent his disciples, each with special ministries, the Lord Jesus now sends you—with a very unique calling. Our God and Savior has works for you to fulfill, ordained since before the world began. Let Christ reign in your life. All things are possible to you; ask, and you shall receive.

2 Peter 1:1-11

Dear Father, help me number my days; my time here on earth is limited. May your Holy Spirit lead me on your chosen path in my life. Please help me to apprehend that for which Jesus, your mighty Son, has apprehended me. I did not choose Jesus (John 15:16), but he has chosen me; he has appointed and planted me so that I would continually bear fruit and that my fruit would remain—even forever. He also said that whatever I ask you, Father, in his name, believing, you would give unto me. In Jesus' name, I ask that you give me your abundant grace, the fruit of the Spirit, a full measure of Christ Jesus' love, and your blessing upon my words and deeds—that they are wrought in you and bring glory to your kingdom. Thank you for the gift of eternal life. I rejoice greatly in you, Lord God, for every physical and spiritual blessing. Amen.

November 3

Whenever two or three gather together in the name of Jesus, he is there among them. He rejoices in the fellowship of his people. The correct word spoken at the right time is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Christ Jesus greatly honors those who place their hearts and lives in his care and seek to minister grace to the hearers. You have received the gifts of God's love and his Word; he will honor the love and kindness you show others. He is writing a book of remembrance all about it. Your life is hidden with

Christ. When he appears, then shall you also appear with him in glory. Your loving words and works shall be rewarded; you are God's treasured child.

In the glorious revelation to John the apostle, on the island of Patmos, he viewed the smoke of the incense the angel was offering, together with the prayers of the saints; it ascended before God. Jesus Christ loved us and gave himself up on our behalf as a sacrificial offering unto God, presenting to the Father fragrant and sweet-smelling incense. When God's people's prayers are mingled with the holy incense of Christ's righteousness and sacrifice, they present to the Father a pure, acceptable, and effectual offering. Our Father's heart is moved through the prayers of his children, who pray in Jesus' name, seeking to do God's will and thereby bring him glory.

The early disciples, after being threatened on account of their faith, gathered with their brothers and sisters. They raised their voices together in prayer to God; they asked their Sovereign Lord to stretch out his hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of his glorious Son, Jesus. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Sincere prayers by God's people seeking to glorify the Lord, mixed with the incense of Christ's love, touched the Father's heart. Then he mightily blessed them, and even their meeting place was rocked. They inspired the world with God's transforming love and saw thousands meet Christ, as signs and wonders accompanied their preaching of the glorious gospel of Jesus!

It is a great experience to enter a time of prayer with your brethren. Our God will richly bless you and your work in his kingdom. He desires to touch the world in wondrous ways through you and the fellowship of believers you meet with. So let us draw near to our gracious God and Father in prayer and fellowship; let us serve our God with gladness and thanksgiving! Glory to God!

Matthew 18:20 • Malachi 3:16-17 • Proverbs 25:11

Colossians 3:1-4 • Revelation 8:4 • Acts 4:24, 30-31

Dear Jesus, King of kings, thank you for being the true and faithful witness of the kingdom of Heaven. You have taught me to be bold, to stand up for truth, to love the unlovely, to trust and obey the Father in all things,

and to rejoice in hope even when people and events are against me. Thank you for your abundant grace that continues to build me up and has given me an inheritance among the glorious family of God.

November 4

Miraculous signs and healings accompanied Philip as he proclaimed the Word of God and Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in Samaria; there was great joy throughout that city. God sent an angel to Philip and told him to go south into the desert on the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza. A man was returning to Ethiopia from Jerusalem. The Spirit told Philip to go over to his chariot. He ran there and heard him reading from the prophet Isaiah—at the exact moment the Scriptures were about Jesus, the Messiah. The door opened to share the great news of salvation, and the man was gloriously saved; he went his way rejoicing.

Through Philip's obedience, salvation was imparted to the Ethiopian man (and those whose lives he touched in Africa). Jesus is the Alpha and Omega and sees all from the beginning of creation throughout eternity. He knows what is best for you and his eternal kingdom. Whether the Lord God guides you by his Word, the Holy Spirit, or an angel (as in Philip's case), purpose it in your heart to fulfill God's will without hesitation. Entrust all of your large and small decisions to his guidance; throughout eternity, you'll be glad you did.

Acts 8:5-8, 26-40

Help me, Jesus, to be available whenever you ask me to share the great news of salvation and the kingdom of God. Let me be a faithful ambassador of your love so that others might have the light of life. You said that if I confess you before men, you will confess my name before the Father and the angels. Sounds great to me. Praise God!

November 5

Build yourself up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Live in God's love as you wait for his mercy to unfold to you eternal life—the great gift you have received. As a member of Christ Jesus' royal family, you are called to walk by faith and to love as he has loved.

The Lord Jesus has the transforming power to impart faith and love to your heart. Moses' face shone after being on Mt. Sinai in Almighty God's

glorious presence. Day after day, the early disciples beheld Jesus' mighty works, absorbed his wondrous Word, and experienced his everlasting love; their lives shone with the glory and power of the Messiah, inspired by his ministry's majesty and blessings. Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, exemplified a most needed element. She sat at the feet of Jesus to hear his Word—Jesus said this was good. Your life will radiate with the blessings and strength of your King as you continue to walk with him. Come boldly each day before the throne of God's grace (the Scriptures encourage you to do so), enjoy his wondrous presence, and seek him diligently in his Word. Your heavenly Father and Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, will be made manifest to you. You will be greatly blessed in all of your ways.

Jude 1:20-21 • John 14:21-23

Father, you who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shone in my heart. May your Spirit guide me to share the light and truth of your glorious love and kingdom, as revealed through Christ Jesus. What a great honor to be an ambassador for you, Jesus. Thank you for saving me and calling me with a holy calling from Heaven, not according to my works, but according to your own purpose and grace given to me in Christ Jesus before the world began. May your wondrous plan be accomplished in my life, even though there have been and will be dark valleys to go through on my journey home. Please help me be bold in my faith and trust you daily.

November 6

More fragrant than ten thousand roses, more beautiful than the most glorious of sunsets, more awesome than a thousand shooting stars, more spectacular than the highest mountain ranges, more heavenly than the sound of a magnificent choir of angels, and more delightful than the first day of creation is the love that our God and Savior has for you.

Abide in Jesus Christ, highly treasured child of God, and live a life of love, just as he has loved you and gave himself up for you—a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God the Father. With a heart as humble and believing as a child, ask and allow Christ to come into your life in a rich new way. He will do wondrous things in and through you. His everlasting love will warm your heart and shine from you to those in your life. The Prince of

Peace will impart peace that surpasses all understanding and guard your heart when encountering troubles and trials. His joy will be your strength. Our Wonderful God, by the Holy Spirit, will guide you with his counsel and receive you into glory. How great that glory will be! The blessed hope and the wondrous appearing of our great God and Savior draw close. Praise the Lord!

Ephesians 5:1-2 • Romans 12:1 • Philippians 4:6-7

Psalms 73:24-26

I rejoice in the greatness of your kingdom on earth and the glorious majesty of the kingdom of Heaven, where you, Almighty God, inhabit eternity. I feel weak often, but in my weakness, your strength is made perfect. You will guide me by your infinite power, wisdom, and love. You will be my sun and shield, providing light for my path and protection from all forces against me. Your divine power will bestow upon me, and all those who trust in you, every blessing that pertains to life and godliness. Thank you for the gift of forgiveness of sin and everlasting life, all through the sacrifice and love of Jesus, the mighty Savior. Please help me to walk in the light, as Christ is in the light; may I glorify you today and always. Glory to God! Amen.

November 7

After the ascension of Jesus back into Heaven, his disciples were praying one day. God shook the place where they were meeting, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke his Word boldly; the apostles did wonders and miraculous signs. These believers were devoted to the teaching of God's Word and rejoiced together as they met daily for fellowship, prayer, and worship. All the believers were of one heart and shared whatever was needed. God's grace and love were richly in evidence among them; this fellowship was glorious. Many of these brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus were witnesses of his 3+ years of ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; they were excited about his return. The eyes of the Lord God look throughout the earth for those whose heart is devoted to him, that he might be strong on their behalf. Seek the Lord wholeheartedly that you might receive everything he has for you, and you will touch the world around you in wondrous ways.

Acts 4:29-33

Dear Sovereign Lord, your power and greatness are immeasurable. The mighty miracles you displayed through Christ Jesus while he walked the earth showed your love and mercy to the people you created. Thank you for taking me out of the miry clay and setting my feet upon the Rock, Jesus—the foundation of eternal life. All other ground is sinking sand. Thank you for answering thousands of prayers for me over the years. Your loving-kindness, faithfulness, and love for me are beyond what words can express. Please work mightily for me and for all of my brothers and sisters who today seek you for your guidance and your blessings. In Jesus' name. Amen.

November 8

Ten men, greatly suffering from the dreaded disease of leprosy, stood at a distance calling to the Lord in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Ten men, in varying stages of their flesh decaying, knew they were doomed to die a horrible death! They pleaded with the Son of God—the only one in the Universe with the power to heal them. Just as he had compassionately healed the multitudes of all manner of diseases, he cured these men. As they went their way, their flesh was soft and new; they received a wondrous new lease on life.

Without Jesus, the Messiah, you were destined to perish. Like the ten, you have cried out to Christ Jesus, the great Physician. You begged forgiveness for your sins, which were corrupting and decaying your life, like the lepers. You are now perfectly whole, born again by the Holy Spirit; all things have been made new. Like the one healed leper—who returned and threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him profusely from the heart—come close to the Lord in thanksgiving for the everlasting love that he has for you and the incredible miracle of new life—everlasting life (more miraculous than being healed of leprosy), which he has blessed you with.

Luke 17:12-19 • Psalm 40:2-5, 107:19-22

Thank you, Jesus, my amazing Savior, for taking me from the pit of destruction and out of the miry clay; you put a new song in my mouth, even praises to you, the Rock of life, upon whom I now stand. I rejoice that your

light now shines from my life. Please guide me in everything I say and do; I want to bring you joy and bless many in my world. Amen.

November 9

It was a glorious time of fellowship that the Lord God had with Peter, James, and John on the day that Jesus took them with him on the Mount of Transfiguration. They heard the Father speak of his love for Jesus, the Son of God, and they encountered Jesus enrobed with a garment of glory.

The Lord Jesus Christ desires you to come with him at times to the mountain of fellowship and transformation for you. It's a holy place where you will see and hear of his wondrous love and power. Come up from the valley of trial and turmoil. Cast your cares upon the Savior. Open your heart and mouth and offer praise, which he inhabits and is enthroned on. Jesus will talk with you and transform you by the Holy Spirit—encouragement, strength, hope, and love will fill your soul.

Matthew 17:1-8 • 2 Corinthians 3:18

Romans 8:29-32, 15:13 • Galatians 5:22-23

Dear Father, as I seek you in the Word and prayer, please transform my life; help me to bear abundant fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). I trust you, God, that the Holy Spirit will continue the work in my life to conform me more to Christ's image. In Jesus' name. Amen.

November 10

Jesus, the King of kings, gave a glorious revelation to John. He saw the new heaven, the new earth, and the holy city (new Jerusalem) coming down out of Heaven. He heard a loud voice from the throne saying that the dwelling of God is with men and that God will live with them.

It is so easy to become focused on the world around you. Events described daily in the media and circumstances of your personal life tend to draw your mind and anxieties to your temporal dwelling. Our mighty God will soon shake the heavens, the earth, and all nations. He will remove what can be shaken (created things) so that what cannot be shaken may remain. He is the Creator of all things—the eternal God. Look to Christ Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. Since you are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, be filled with thanksgiving and rejoice—God's eternal kingdom is

real. He is the hope of the world; Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, shall return soon.

Revelation 21:1-3 • Colossians 3:1-17

Hebrews 12:28-29

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the way, the truth, and the life. I have received the right and the power to be your child forever; thank you for that wondrous gift. There is no more incredible blessing than to have the gift of everlasting life as a member of your family. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God to be revealed in my life and the kingdom of Heaven with all of its glory and majesty. What a great Savior you are! Amen.

November 11

David often traveled through the deep valleys. You also may be in the valley of the shadow of death at times; it is lonely and dark. But God's love and presence reach deeper than the deepest valley. Place your hope in the Lord and allow him to guide you at these times. He will answer your cries and send forth his light and truth to guide you to his holy mountain, where the Most High God dwells; you will be filled with thanksgiving, for he is your Savior and God.

When the sorrows of death compass you, when troubles and pains come upon you, do as David often did; he called upon the name of the Lord. Do what Peter did when he began to sink while walking on the waves; he cried out, "Lord, save me." After the God of glory delivers you, your song will echo the sweet chords of David's harp and psalm—"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord God has been so very good to you."

Psalms 23:1-6, 42:11, 116:1-9 • Matthew 14:24-33

O God, great is your faithfulness, and your mercies are new every morning. You have delivered me so many times from spiritual, emotional, financial, health, and relationship problems. You are the Wonderful Counselor; your wisdom and counsel are perfect, and you continue to bear wondrous fruit in my life. Thank you for bringing me out of the dark valley of the shadow of death so I may lie down in green pastures and beside still waters. Amen.

November 12

Most people would consider it a great honor to be friends with a king, a famous artist, a prominent physician, a well-loved religious leader, an extremely wealthy tycoon, a world-renowned musician, or a Nobel Prize-winning diplomat. Jesus Christ is all of these and incomparably more.

As King of kings, he has had power over the nations since time began and will reign as God of heaven and earth forever. As an artist, he paints thousands of glorious sunsets for man to enjoy. As the great Physician when on earth, he healed thousands of people of every disease, including death (he heals people even today)—he is also a broken-heart specialist. Hundreds of millions have worshiped Christ Jesus as the only true head of the church. He is the eternal great High Priest. As far as riches, he owns the cattle on a thousand hills and all the gold, silver, and precious gems under them. Our mighty God of glory created music. You will be amazed when you hear the music that awaits you in his kingdom above. As Ambassador of Heaven, he has won over millions—who, through his blood covenant, have received citizenship to his Father's kingdom. As Prince of Peace, he has brought the peace that surpasses understanding to millions of hearts.

You who love Jesus the Lord shall be loved by the Father, and Christ Jesus will also love you and manifest himself to you—he will be the Friend who is closer than a brother.

John 14:21 • Philippians 2:9-11 • Isaiah 57:15

Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me to be yours forever. You have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. Thank you for salvation and eternal life. Thank you for making me a member of your body, the church. Thank you for having all power in heaven and on earth—I trust that you will work in my heart and life so that I may do your will each day to bring you glory. Amen.

November 13

Paul considered everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, the Lord. He also considered the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the glory that would be revealed in his life and forever in glory. As you give your heart more and more to the Savior Jesus, a transformation occurs. While you are going

through fiery trials and sufferings for his sake, the Spirit of God is changing your inner self to be more and more in the likeness of Christ. You are gaining Christ, though you may be losing your old life. You are in Christ, and Christ Jesus is in you—he is the hope of glory! He is the resurrection and the life; even if you die, you will live forever. You will know the power of his resurrection. He will raise you in glory, and you will reign with him and enjoy the riches of his love and grace forever!

Philippians 3:7-14 • Romans 8:14-18

Thank you, dear God, for having sustained me through the many sorrows and trials that I have been through. All things have worked out for my good, as you are fulfilling your purpose in my life. You have not withheld any good thing from me, for I have trusted you. Your ways and your thoughts are higher than my ways and my thoughts, even as the galaxies are high above the earth. Your ways are past finding out, but I will trust in the One who gave his life for me—who bridged the gulf between Heaven and earth by using an old, rugged cross. I can now freely travel over that chasm; no man could ever pass over that vast gulf before until Jesus, the Risen Savior, made a way. He is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by the bridge you made—the old rugged cross that brought me new life. I forever thank you! Amen.

November 14

Jesus, the mighty Son of God, loves you most wondrously. He knew everything about you before you were born—all you would ever think, say, or do. Christ Jesus loved you then, and the Savior will love you forever. The God of glory treasures you so much that he came into this world as a man that you might know him; he died for you—shedding his blood—that you might have forgiveness for all of your sins. He has also assured you of eternal life through his resurrection from the dead. God has also sealed you with the Holy Spirit of promise. You are a priceless jewel of God's heart. The God of hope desires for you to get to know him deeply. He will talk to you daily as you take time to listen. Your God and Savior cherishes you and desires to comfort your heart, give you hope, and guide you on his pathway of life.

Psalms 139:1-18, 23-24 • Ephesians 1:11-14

Dear God and Savior, please speak to my heart during my quiet times in your Word and prayer. Thank you for living in me and promising to guide me by the Holy Spirit. Thank you for the words of comfort in the Scriptures. Please help me to meditate on your many grand promises. The miracles throughout your Word and the wondrous testimonies speak volumes of your everlasting love and infinite power. Though fiery trials and tribulations face me sometimes, I will trust in you, dear Lord. Amen.

November 15

Fear and discouragement will often come into your life; it did even for God's bold prophet Elijah. At one point during Elijah's despair, Almighty God captured the prophet's attention when he sent a mighty wind that tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks; God was not in the wind. The Lord then sent an earthquake; he also was not in the earthquake. Then came a fire; he was not in the fire. After the fire, God spoke in a still, small voice.

Beloved child of God, the King of righteousness is reigning gloriously from Mt. Zion throughout eternity, but with the most incredible compassion, he will walk close to you when you are in the valley of the shadow of death. When you cry out, he will hear you and deliver you from all of your troubles. The God of all grace and compassion is close to you when you are brokenhearted and crushed in spirit. Quiet your heart before him; allow God's Word to comfort you. Listen to his still, small voice; let him remind you of his many special promises to you. Remember, Christ is the hope of glory and lives in you—that is how close he is to you. He loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. The good Shepherd will take your hand and walk with you every day on earth until the very moment that you enter glory.

1 Kings 19:1-13 • Psalm 32:7-8, 34:15-19

I trust you, my beloved Savior. All of your promises have come true for me. You are my great Shepherd; you have given me grace and counsel daily and will receive me to glory on that Day. Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross; you washed away my sin, conquered death, and gave me the gift of everlasting life. You will also grant me every good thing pertaining to life and godliness. Praise God! Amen.

November 16

The Lord God is a sun and shield. He bestows favor and honor; no good thing will he withhold from those who trust him and walk with integrity. As vital as the sun is for all life on earth physically, so is Jesus, the Son of God, needed for all life spiritually. He is the Sun of Righteousness—bringing healing and wholeness. He will continually guide you with his light and truth. Jesus commanded the light to shine out of darkness and has shone in your heart to give you the light of the knowledge of the glory of God as found in Christ Jesus. This light and the righteousness of God now reside in your heart by faith.

The rays of his blessing will favor you who trust in Jesus; abundant life with everlasting fruit will be yours. The Holy Spirit will guide you continually, guard you against evil—he is your shield—and preserve you blameless until the day you are presented before his glorious presence with unspeakable joy.

Psalm 84:11-12 • 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 • Philippians 3:9

Jude 1:24-25

Thank you, God; you began a great work in my life long ago, and you continue to wondrously transform my heart and mind to be more like your Son, Jesus. Thank you for your loving-kindness and mercy. You sent Jesus two thousand years ago so that today I would be fully assured that my sins are forgiven and forgotten. What a Savior!

November 17

No temptation has seized you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear; when you face temptation, he will provide a way out to endure it. Jesus Christ is the pioneer of your faith. At one point, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days; he overcame. He is the author of your salvation and the finisher of your faith as you face these daily struggles against temptation and sin. Jesus, the Son of Man, was in every point tempted as you are, yet he never sinned. He will give you the wisdom, grace, and power (by the Spirit) to overcome.

If you are filled and led by the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. In the days of his flesh, Jesus sometimes offered up prayers with tears. Wholeheartedly seek the Lord in your times of temptation. Remember, you

are dead to your old life, crucified with Christ, yet raised in the newness of life by the glory of the Father. Jesus lives in you and will make all grace abound and provide you with his strength.

1 Corinthians 10:13 • Galatians 2:20, 5:16-25

Thank you, Father, for Jesus, who was tempted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, yet overcame and never sinned. Satan used these same temptations in the Garden of Eden and uses them daily against me and my brothers and sisters. Help me, Lord God, to overcome; may the grace of Jesus and the Holy Spirit give me strength, along with the knowledge of the Scriptures hidden in my heart, to endure temptation and overcome as Jesus did. Greater is he (Jesus Christ, the Lord) that is in me than he (Satan) that is in the world. Thanks be to you, dear God, for the victory in Christ. I can do all things through you, Jesus, who strengthens me. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Thank you, God! Amen.

November 18

When the windstorm arose, the waves beat into the disciples' ship—so that it almost swamped—the disciples of Jesus woke him and asked if he cared that they were perishing.

It is very easy to be moved by the winds of circumstance. God created man so that he is weak compared to the elements of this world. The waves of persecution, sickness, and contrary events can overwhelm one's fragile heart and mind. And how ready are some of God's children to believe that he does not care or even that he is against them?

The disciples on the Sea of Galilee were incredibly amazed when the Son of God calmed the storm by the power of his word. When the waves are breaking over your life and you are nearly swamped, look to your Savior. He not only has power over the winds and the sea but also over every circumstance and element in all of creation. Deliverance and comfort are always close at hand when you walk with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Naomi, in her time of sorrow and trial, felt that the Almighty was against her (she told folks to call her Mara (Hebrew: bitter), not Naomi (Hebrew: pleasant), because she believed Almighty God had caused her much bitterness and grief; she said that the Lord had testified against her and had

afflicted her. Not so, by any means; the God of glory had a wondrous plan for Naomi, Ruth, Boaz, and the world—a plan that was in place before time began. The God of Israel had a plan to prosper her and not to bring harm—a plan to give her a future and a hope! Naomi could not see that God would soon renew and sustain her life. The Lord would give Naomi and Ruth, her daughter-in-law, a much-honored place in God's kingdom. David, the king, and Jesus, the Messiah—the glorious Son of God—would be born in Ruth and Boaz's (Ruth's husband) ancestral line. Yes, the Wonderful Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, would be born in the line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Boaz (Ruth's husband and Naomi's son-in-law), and he would bring salvation to mankind through the greatest sacrifice and most glorious love in the history of mankind! Thank you, God, our Savior! Amen.

Mark 4:36-41 • Psalm 107:21-31 • Jeremiah 29:11

(Robert Barry, author's note) Sudden severe storms can arise on the Sea of Galilee, as was the case with Jesus and his disciples. In 1985, when I embarked on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, carrying perhaps 25 people, a much smaller squall than the one with the disciples kicked up. It showed how quickly weather conditions can change. All was calm as we left Capernaum (where Jesus, Peter, and Andrew once lived). As we traveled, a sudden tempest arose. Chairs on the deck were moving with people in them; a wave came over the side of the boat to hit my friend's camera. It was great to experience how easy it was for a storm to arise, as it did upon the disciples one day—but the power of Jesus, the Son of God, saved the disciples. Thank you, Lord, for being my Savior. You have delivered me many times in different situations, and I rejoice that my future is in your hands. Amen.

November 19

By faith, you are invited by the God of glory to come anytime into his presence (he actually is living in you now—Christ in you, the hope of glory!), where there is fullness of joy, comfort, and assurance of love. You are seated together with Christ in heavenly places. Live today under the shadow of the Almighty; incline your heart to his words of comfort, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into green pastures and beside still waters. The eternal God always welcomes you to come into his sanctuary. He will protect you from the enemy and restore your soul. He is truly your

refuge and your fortress; trust in him. Our heavenly Father and Jesus, the mighty Son of God, always rejoice to spend time with you in sweet fellowship.

Psalms 91:1-16 • Ephesians 2:6-7 • Hebrews 4:16

Jeremiah 17:12 • Isaiah 65:24

Thank you, Almighty God and King of my salvation, that a glorious high throne, from the beginning, is the place of my sanctuary. Thank you that you know my every need, physically and spiritually; sometimes before I call, you answer, and while I am yet speaking, you hear. I trust you with all of my prayer requests because you can do immeasurably more than I could ask or think; you have all power in heaven and on earth. Nothing is hard for you. Thank you, Jesus, that you remind me (when I haven't asked for much) to ask so that my joy would be full. You delight to bless me and all of your wondrous children with every good thing that pertains to life and godliness. Praise to you, Lord God, forever! Amen.

November 20

Life may be distressing and perplexing. You will experience brokenheartedness and tears at times. You will likely also suffer persecution as you live a godly life in Christ Jesus. When you are overwhelmed with sorrow or confusion regarding a relationship or a perplexing situation, come to Jesus (who was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief). Jesus has submitted his heart to feel the pain of his children; he fully understands your sorrows. Welcome the Wonderful Counselor to comfort you.

Amid your suffering, it may not be clear how God can work this for your good, but our mighty God promises to do just that. Trust him with your heart and soul. Please do not give up or despair; he has all power in heaven and earth. The Sovereign Lord has allowed these circumstances (he trusts that you can handle your trial) so that you might grow in faith as he does his wondrous work in your heart and your life's circumstances. Please be patient; he will work on your behalf so that you receive his rich blessings. Let God's love rule your heart, actions, and words; you honor your Father in Heaven and others when you do.

Philippians 1:29 • 2 Timothy 2:7-12

Romans 5:3-5, 8:28

Thank you, dear Father, for being merciful and gracious to me. Your steadfast love never ceases, and your compassions never fail; each morning, they are new; your faithfulness is immeasurable. Your mercy to us, Lord, is from everlasting to everlasting. Since you are for me, nothing and no one can be against me. I trust you, God of my salvation, to help me to be more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus, the Risen Savior. I am in Christ, and he is in me; I am risen in the newness of life through his death and resurrection. Glory to God for this great victory!

November 21

There will be times when you will suffer emotional grief in your cherished relationships. Your most incredible pain is sometimes felt as you pursue deeper bonds with family or friends. This apparent paradox does afford great hope; you have the golden opportunity to allow Christ Jesus and his love to be more fully formed within you. His grace can transform you; you can love!

Banish all bitterness, wrath, resentment, quarreling, and slander from your life. Be kind and compassionate to others, forgiving others, just as Jesus Christ the Lord has forgiven you. Bitterness, rage, anger, and similar emotions and actions never help nurture better relationships. Why be a slave to these emotions? Humble yourself and ask God to forgive you for any sin hurting your relationships; he will forgive you and transform your heart. Yielding to the Spirit, you will find that loving is more rewarding. Loving will bring healing to your relationships. Honor your family, friends, and Christ; allow his love to warm the world around you through your words and deeds.

Ephesians 4:31-32 • Galatians 5:22-25

Dear Jesus, please help me to love others even as you have loved me. Please help me to be slow to be angry and quick to listen. Please give me the grace to be tender-hearted and forgiving, even as you have freely forgiven me. Help me acknowledge every good thing in me, in Christ Jesus. Thank you for your abundant grace and for comforting me daily with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

November 22

Give praise to your Father and rejoice greatly in Jesus, your King. Forget not all of these benefits from above: he forgives all your sins and heals your diseases; he has redeemed your life from the pit and has crowned you with everlasting love and mercy; he satisfies you with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's; your great God has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. His thoughts toward you each day are innumerable, and like a cascading waterfall, he continually pours his blessings out upon you.

As far as the east is from the west, that is how far he has removed your sins from you. He took you out of the pit from which there was no escape and has gloriously brought you into his everlasting kingdom. He has clothed you with the garments of salvation and has covered you with the robe of righteousness—gifts you could never earn. Your loving God has miraculously given you a new heart of love and compassion; the Holy Spirit has imparted the power to walk in the newness of life—the same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead.

Psalm 103:1-17 • Isaiah 61:10 • Ephesians 1:3-14

Dear Father God, thank you for the forgiveness of all of my sins and for making me qualified—through Christ's work on the cross and his resurrection—to be a partaker of the inheritance of the kingdom of Heaven with the whole family of God. Praise the Lord! Amen.

November 23

Our heavenly Father, who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for you, will he not also graciously give you everything pertaining to life and godliness? He will. You are so precious to the Father that he sacrificed Jesus to forever win your heart and soul. As freely as he gave you forgiveness and eternal life through Christ, he shall surely provide your physical and spiritual needs with his infinite riches in glory. The faithful God, who has given you exceedingly great and precious promises by his Word, will fulfill them all. He who called you and justified you will soon glorify you. Then you will inherit all things and reign with the wondrous God of glory forever.

His joy and love toward you are infinite, and his heart is warmed with your thanksgiving—God inhabits and is enthroned in your praises.

Romans 8:32 • Philippians 4:19 • Ephesians 5:20

1 Thessalonians 5:18

I rejoice in you, dear God, and offer a heart filled with thanksgiving for the great love you have shown me through the years. Your promises have come true, and you continue to show me your glorious mercy and faithfulness. Thank you for the gift of forgiveness of sin and the promise of everlasting life in your perfect kingdom of righteousness and love. Your greatness is unsearchable; I will praise you forever!

November 24

The Lord your God is infinite in wisdom and power, yet he enjoys living with and in you. He rejoices over you with gladness. Your God and Savior will quiet you with his love. He exults over you with singing. Let your heart be quieted and hear the joyful song of his love to you. Blessed are you who know the joyful sound.

Let your heart sing of your love to the God who created you. He takes pleasure in you and will crown you with his grace and glory. Rejoice in Christ Jesus the Lord, for he has saved you gloriously from sin and death—from a miry pit you could never climb out of. He has set you upon a rock, established your goings, and has put a new song in your mouth. Sing your song, for others will hear it and see what he has done for you; great shall be the blessings you bring to them as they trust in Christ Jesus for their salvation.

Many are the wonderful works that God has done for you and in you; if you were to proclaim and share them, they are more than can be numbered.

Zephaniah 3:17 • Psalm 40:1-5, 89:15, 150:1-6

I lift my voice in praise to you, dear Lord God, for you have abundantly blessed me in so many ways: forgiveness of sins, gift of everlasting life, health, food each day, a place to dwell, financial blessings, family and friends who love me, my five senses to enjoy your glorious creation, exceeding great and precious promises by which I have been made a partaker of the divine nature, the perfect kingdom of Heaven soon to be my home forever, and I will be transformed to be in your likeness, Jesus! Glory to God!

November 25

Our Father is very gracious. Though the nation of Israel had forsaken the Lord, he would bring them back from captivity in Babylon (over five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the Messiah) and plant them again in their land. The God of Israel then shared how he would bless them. God spoke through Jeremiah, the prophet, saying he knows his plans for his people; he has thoughts of peace and prosperity, not of disaster, to give them a future and hope.

Though we were as sheep gone astray, each to our own way, the great Shepherd has brought us back to the fold. His plan, since before the foundation of the world, was to bring many sons and daughters to glory. He desires to transform us daily to better express from our hearts, minds, words, and actions the everlasting love and beauty of Jesus the Messiah.

The secret of the Lord is with those who honor him. He shares his plans with those who seek him. Come boldly before the throne of the King of kings. He will help you in your time of need. He will guide you with his counsel. The wisdom from Heaven is perfect and will bear great fruit in your life.

God plans to prosper you in his will. As he is preparing a place for you in glory, he is also preparing you so that you will bring glory to that place—the Paradise of God.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 • Ephesians 1:3-7 • Psalm 25:14

Jesus, my great Shepherd, you have been so faithful through the years; you have led me to rest in green pastures and beside still waters. You have helped me grow in grace and knowledge of your Word. You have restored my soul multitudinous times. You have been a refuge during the storms of life. You were a man of sorrows when you walked the earth; you are the Wonderful Counselor who can help guide and heal my troubled heart. You are my Rock; I stand on your wondrous promises. You washed my sins away through the most remarkable example of love and sacrifice ever in the history of mankind; you also conquered death by rising from the grave. Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of eternal life and for living in me! Praise God.

November 26

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to the Father in the

name of Jesus. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your heart and mind as you abide in Christ Jesus.

The elements of this world, the forces of the enemy, and one's frail and doubting human nature all work against God's desire for true peace for one's heart and mind. It doesn't take much to cause one of his children to worry and fret.

He treasures you, listens to your every prayer, and knows your every need. He promises to provide for you out of his infinite riches in glory. Remember how Jesus fed the five thousand and healed the multitudes of every disease. He even paid the debt for all of your sins when he died on the cross; he conquered death once and for all and has given you the greatest gift—eternal life. Jesus Christ, the Lord, will provide and do abundantly above all you can think or ask. Do you desire the peace that passes understanding? Cast your cares upon him, for he greatly cares for you. He will bless you with his peace—a peace that is not from this world, and it surpasses all understanding.

Philippians 4:6-7, 19 • 1 Peter 5:7 • Ephesians 3:14-21

I thank our God and Savior for you, dear reader. I pray that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in your inner person; that Christ may dwell in your heart by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend all the riches of Christ's grace, peace, love, and power. God richly bless you, dear friend. In Jesus' name. Amen.

November 27

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These were richly manifested in Jesus, the Son of God, when he walked on earth. Jesus, when on earth, was fully God, yet fully man. Though he was tempted just like any man, he never sinned. Satan never won a battle against him. The Apostle of our profession is the faithful witness and the captain of our salvation.

Your flesh will often desire what is contrary to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit desires to lead you from victory to victory in this area. You have been crucified on the cross with Christ Jesus; the Risen Savior now lives in you, and you can do all things through Christ and the Spirit who dwells in you.

When you are tempted, call on God to strengthen you. Seek his Word and his promises. Give your whole heart to Jesus, the wondrous Savior; he will lead you by the Holy Spirit—the fruit of the Spirit will abound more and more in your life.

Galatians 2:20, 5:13-25 • Philippians 4:13

O God, please lead me by your Holy Spirit so that I might please you in every good work and word. Guide me to do the works that you have appointed for me this day so that I might glorify you; may others be blessed and inspired because they see your Son, Jesus, shining in my life. I know that your Word never comes back empty; when I share your Word with others, your Spirit adds the increase. Please water the seed sown, and by the Holy Spirit's blessing, may others receive Christ as Savior through the words I have shared.

November 28

Almighty God (El Shaddai) is the one who created you and formed you in his image. Fear not, for he has redeemed and called you by name; you are his wondrous treasure. When you pass through the waters, the Lord of heaven and earth will be with you; when you pass through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, for he is the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel—your Savior.

He knew you before time began. From the day you were conceived in the womb until the day you received Jesus as Savior, he loved you. He loved you when you were Jacob (supplanter). But he redeemed you through his blood sacrifice, and a new life is now formed in you—you have been born again. You are now Israel (one who has prevailed and has power as a prince with God). He knows you and loves you with everlasting love; he has called you by name. God, your Father, has a wondrous plan for your life. Through the trials by water and fire, he will be with you. With the Spirit's help, you will overcome and endure to the end; everlasting glory in his kingdom of Heaven will be yours.

Isaiah 43:1-3 • Jeremiah 31:3

Dear Lord, you have blessed me in so many ways. You have delivered me when I passed through deep waters and walked through the fire. I have trusted your many promises, and they have all come true. I thank you and

glorify you for your faithfulness, mercy, power, and love. Please help me to be like a tree planted by the streams of water, with roots deep in the soil of your Word, bringing forth fruit in due season; please refresh me during times of drought, and prosper me in Christ in all that you guide me to do and say. Thank you for the truth that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Thank you, God, that there is an incredible reward for the one who trusts you and walks in Christ. I look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of my great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! Amen.

November 29

Since you have flesh and blood, Jesus, the Son of God, shared in your humanity. By Christ's death, he would destroy the devil that holds power over death and free you from being held in slavery by your fear of dying. The greatest fear of man since the creation of the world is the fear of death; with its terrible sting, it has hovered over every man, woman, and child. As the Lamb of God, he allowed himself to take the full onslaught of this massive sting. He died! But three days later, he arose in the newness of life! Jesus is the resurrection and the life. The sting of death has been vanquished; the power of the grave has been nullified. You are more than a conqueror with Christ living in you! Remember, to be absent from the body means to be present with Jesus in his everlasting kingdom. Death? As soon as your eyes close in death in your perishable body, you will open them in his kingdom of glory—rejoicing in a new incorruptible body forever with your mighty God and the heavenly family.

Hebrews 2:14-15 • 2 Timothy 1:10 • Isaiah 25:8-9

Thank you, Father, for creating me. As I have borne the image of the earthly, I shall soon bear the image of the heavenly; I shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye and be like your Son, Jesus, the glorious Prince of Peace. This corruptible body shall be transformed into an incorruptible one. I have greatly enjoyed my five earthly senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. I shall soon enjoy the wondrous heavenly senses in my new body. What a glorious day awaits me, dear God. I will be reigning in your kingdom of perfect love and glory soon! Amen.

November 30

From his first day in a wooden manger to his last day on a wooden cross, Jesus was to fulfill the Father's foreordained plan. He was born to die! He would bear the cross unto death so that all of man's sins would be washed away (the penalty of sin paid for and forgiven) through his blood sacrifice. Immanuel (God with us) came to earth as a servant; he fulfilled your greatest needs. But it led him through a cross of extreme suffering and cost him his very life. But as the suffering abounded, so did the Father's glory and honor that was bestowed upon Jesus abound more greatly; throughout eternity, the glory, majesty, and honor exceedingly surpass the suffering that he had to endure. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross—for you and all of his children are his eternal crowns of joy on that Day of Glory!

Isaiah 7:14 • Romans 3:24, 8:17-18 • Hebrews 12:2

Thank you, heavenly Father, and Jesus, our Wonderful Savior. You have given me life eternal, abundant life here on earth, hope, joy, and love beyond any love I knew before I was born again. What a great and mighty Savior and God you are! Thank you for your many great and precious promises! I will thank you always because your love, mercy, goodness, and grace are immeasurable. I will rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!

December 1

LIFE in CHRIST 365

Consider the everlasting love and power of our Wonderful God: he created the myriad galaxies; he spoke the Earth and its wonders into their glorious existence; he created man from the dust of the earth and breathed the breath of life into him; the eternal and infinite in power Creator became a man to share his love with humanity; he took all of our sins upon himself as the ultimate sacrifice via excruciating death upon the cross—paying the penalty for our sins (the soul that sins shall die; there is no remission of sins but by the shedding of blood). Our glorious Savior then fulfilled our complete justification by rising from the dead and conquering the greatest enemy of the human race—death!

Do not be ashamed of the testimony of your salvation and life in the Lord Jesus Christ. The God who created heaven and earth has saved you and called you from Heaven itself—not because of anything you have done but by his mercy and grace alone. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father and his majestic kingdom of Heaven but by the Savior,

Jesus. He has a wondrous purpose for your life, which he has planned for you since before the beginning of time. When you suffer for Jesus' sake and the gospel, he will give you the grace and strength to continue; he is the Savior who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to you who believe.

Paul suffered much in his service to the Lord. He denied himself daily and picked up the cross that God gave him. Yet the Lord God's grace was exceedingly abundant in Paul's life. He was a vessel of Christ Jesus' love and was used as God's pen to write much of the New Testament Scriptures. You can be assured of this: for all eternity, Paul is rejoicing in the joy, honor, and glory of God's everlasting kingdom—knowing it was worth having picked up the cross, even as Christ taught him.

2 Timothy 1:8-10, 2:10 • Romans 1:16, 5:1-5

1 Peter 5:10-11

Thank you, Jesus, for teaching me how to live. By your abundant grace and your Spirit, please lead me to walk in your steps. You said that whoever confesses you before men, you will confess as one of your own before the holy angels of God. Help me to be bold in my faith and share your love and the hope of eternal life with others.

December 2

You are of great value to God, our Father, and the King of glory, Jesus, the Son of God. God has called you to be a treasured member of his holy kingdom—a priest of the living God, offering spiritual sacrifices that will glorify your Father in Heaven. He will refine and purify you like gold and silver. He came to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire; he will consume the dross of self through his fiery refining process. You will be changed from one degree of glory to another into the image of Jesus. You will never be perfect while here on earth, but as time goes by, you will be amazed at the changes he has wrought in your heart and life.

Our God is honoring you when he allows you to go through a fiery trial; he trusts that you will be faithful as he brings you through the refining process. Rejoice by faith, though the flames rise about you; though your outward self is perishing, the inward self is being renewed to be more in Christ's likeness. He is the hope of glory—and he lives in you.

Malachi 3:3 • James 1:2-12 • 1 Peter 1:7-9 • Isaiah 43:1-2

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

When the three men were in the Babylonian fiery furnace for their faith, you, dear God, were there in the fire with them; you miraculously protected them and brought great blessings upon them—their testimony has been proclaimed century after century worldwide. Please be with me during my fiery trials; help me be faithful to you and patient as I await your guidance and deliverance. Help me to look to you, the maker of heaven and earth; you will be strong on my behalf. Praise the Lord! Amen.

December 3

You are the light of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ has chosen you and all his brothers and sisters on earth to be like a city on top of a hill. Let your light so shine that the world may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven. The early disciples richly experienced Christ working with them. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they preached the Word with boldness, the Lord performing many miraculous signs by their hand—many thousands became members of his eternal family through these lowly but faithful disciples.

Jesus, the King of kings, is the same today as he was two thousand years ago. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he will anoint you to fulfill his calling in your life. He will pour forth rivers of living waters to a thirsty world through you. Through your work and by your words, let those around you know that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Let his light shine bright from your life so that those in darkness might live.

Matthew 5:14-16 • John 7:38-39 • 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Jesus, you chose ordinary men (fishermen, a tax collector, and others) to be bearers of your light; not many wise, mighty, or noble according to this world's standards have you called. Thank you for the honor of my being called to be one of your ambassadors on earth to share your love and the great news of salvation. Please help me grow in my knowledge of the Scriptures to represent your kingdom faithfully. Thank you, Lord! Amen.

December 4

Christ Jesus takes pleasure in those who honor him, in those who put their hope in his steadfast love. The King of the nations will crown the humble with victory and fill their hearts with joy from above. His delight in you is deeper than the deepest ocean and higher than the highest mountains. As the stars are so high above the earth, so high is Jesus' care for and joy in you. His thoughts toward you are more in number than the sand by the sea. He is now preparing a place for you in his heavenly kingdom and rejoices as you allow him to prepare you for his place.

In all of God's creation, what he values most is his relationship with his children and their love for one another. You shall be God's unique jewel in the day when he makes up his treasured possession. He will have compassion on you, just as our heavenly Father had mercy and compassion on Jesus when he walked the earth and served him.

Psalms 139:17-18, 147:11 • Malachi 3:16-17

Your faithfulness and mercy, O God, are seen clearly throughout the Scriptures. You fulfill every promise of love and care for every child in your family. I trust in you, great Shepherd of the sheep. I rest in your work on the cross and your unique plan for my life. Wonderful Counselor, please guide me with your counsel, and afterward, you will receive me to glory. All praise to you, my Savior and God! Amen.

December 5

You are a member of the body of Christ, and we are members of one another. Picture a most precious, priceless, and glorious gem. As the light shines upon it, the many facets each sparkle with their distinctive gleam and particular rainbow color. Jesus Christ is this wondrous gem of glory, treasured eternally by the Father—you and each of God's children (believers in Jesus) are as facets in the gem (Jesus Christ). You are that much a part of Jesus! He is in you, and you are in him. As a facet of this glorious gem, the only thing between you and your brother or sister (another facet) is Jesus, the gem of glory. Rejoice that you are established richly and intimately in Christ and partakers with one another.

Seek to be polished and washed with the Word. Judge not your brother, but seek to bring glory to the gem (Jesus) in your relationships with one another; strengthen and polish your brethren so that they may best represent

the gem. May the world see the love and wonders of Jesus, this gem of glory, as they view you, your words, and your deeds. Let Christ Jesus' love shine through you. What glorious miracle is this: Christ in you, the hope of glory!

Ephesians 4:1-16, 5:30 • 1 Corinthians 12:12

Colossians 1:27

(Robert Barry, author's note) It was 1972, and the missionary team I was a member of was having internal conflicts (communication problems). I was a young believer, but while we were in prayer for the situation, the Lord gave me this revelation (shared above) that spoke to our hearts. Many years later, I still rejoice, realizing that you, dear friend, and I are both facets of the beyond glorious and majestic jewel, Jesus Christ! The only thing between you and me is Jesus. He is entirely a part of me and wholly a part of you. You are his facet, who represents him. Lord Jesus, please help me, as your facet, to be polished (to know the Scriptures and to grow in your love and grace) so that all those who behold my words and works see you and your glory. Glory to our great God and Savior, Jesus! Amen.

December 6

You are God's beloved child now, but what you will be has not yet been made known to you; now you see indistinctly, but soon you will see with perfect clarity. Now you know imperfectly; soon you shall know perfectly, even as Christ Jesus fully knows you. When he appears, you shall be like him, for you shall see him as he is; while you possess this hope in Christ, you purify yourself, even as he is pure.

In the twinkling of an eye, the Creator will transform you from corruptible into incorruptible; when Jesus Christ appears, you shall appear with him in glory. Creation itself proclaims God's love and wondrous plan for you. A seed is planted and awakens to the rain and sunshine; it changes into a bush filled with beautiful roses. A caterpillar is asleep, wrapped in its cocoon; metamorphosis occurs, and behold, a majestic butterfly.

You shall not die but live and arise in a new image; all things will be made new. You shall know no sin, death, crying, or pain. Look up; your redemption is drawing near. Jesus, the Lord of heaven and earth, is coming soon.

1 John 3:1-3 • 1 Corinthians 13:12, 15:42-58

Thank you, Lord God, for everything you have done in my life. Soon, I shall reign with you in glory; I shall no longer hunger or thirst; there will be no more pain, sorrow, or death. I shall eat of the tree of life that is in the midst of your Paradise; you will also lead me unto living fountains of waters. I shall soon come to Mount Zion and your city, heavenly Jerusalem, and I shall be rejoicing in the glorious songs of Heaven with myriads of angels. I shall soon see the whole family of God. I shall soon see you, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who is the Son of the Highest! Glory to God forever! Amen.

December 7

Jesus, the carpenter of Heaven and earth, spoke the Universe into existence, being held together by the power of his word. He knows every star by name. The Alpha and Omega knew the rise and fall of all the kingdoms of man even before creation and has all power over everything on earth and in heaven. His immeasurable love for you and mankind parallels his infinite power—he died for your sins on the cross and gloriously arose from the grave—conquering sin and death for you.

Multitudes in Heaven will proclaim that his deeds are great and marvelous, and his ways are just and true. They wonder who will not fear the Lord God Almighty and bring glory to his name. All nations will come and worship before him. God's glory is infinite, and his love for you is unfathomable, beloved child of the King of glory. He will command his blessings of love upon you richly—today and forever!

Colossians 1:11-17 • Revelation 15:2-4

Philippians 2:6-11 • Ephesians 1:3

Thank you, Lord Jesus; through your everlasting love and the greatest love sacrifice—your death on the cross—you have set me free from the law of sin and death. I am justified and free of guilt from all things from which the law of Moses could not justify me. Being justified by faith in you, Christ Jesus, I now enjoy the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding. Thank you for building me upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with you, Jesus, being the chief cornerstone. We are living stones (all of us believers) in this glorious spiritual dwelling place

where you, Lord God, live through your Spirit. As living stones, we are a holy priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices that forever glorify you, dear God. We praise you for the wonders of your grace in our lives! Glory to our King, forever! Amen.

December 8

"If you believe, you will see the glory of God." Shortly after Jesus said this to Martha, he raised Lazarus, her brother, from the dead. Even four days in one's grave cannot stop our faithful Creator's power from bringing life to the dead. He is the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Christ as Savior will live, even if he dies.

You believe in Christ Jesus—you too will see the glory of God; you are soon to behold his heavenly kingdom and the new Jerusalem. You will also see the glory of God and experience the glorious transforming power of the Holy Spirit in your heart and daily life as you abide in Christ. Where there once was hate, love will reign; indifference and discouragement will flee as caring and hope flourish in their place.

You will see the glory of God as you go forth in the power of the Lord. Jesus has promised that you will do the same works that he did. Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. You will see the blessings of Christ Jesus as you share God's precious and powerful Word with those spiritually dead around you. Be bold! His Word never comes back void. You can turn many to righteousness, glorifying your heavenly Father!

John 11:21-27, 39-45, 14:12-21 • Ephesians 6:10

Isaiah 55:10-12

Dear Savior, while on earth, you performed hundreds of mighty miracles—all considered impossible by man's standards. Astonishment and wonder filled hearts across the land as you brought your healing touch and love to their lives. You have raised me from the dead spiritually—a great miracle. I once was blind to the truth—I now can see. I was deaf to the joyful sounds of Zion—I now hear. I once was crippled spiritually—I now am walking and leaping and praising God. Almighty God, the immeasurable greatness, splendor, and majesty of your kingdom are indescribable! I rejoice in you and thank you for the wonders of your love!

December 9

Job knew that his Redeemer lived and would stand upon the earth in the end. Job knew he would see his Redeemer (Jesus Christ, the Lord) face-to-face. This incredible confidence of Job in the resurrection was echoed through the centuries by the faithful, such as Moses, David, Isaiah, and Paul. Jesus, the Savior, redeemed you from the clutches of death and has assured you of this victory by his rising from the dead. He continues to live not only in Heaven but also within your heart. You will see your Redeemer face-to-face when Almighty God's everlasting kingdom comes with God's majesty and splendor on that Day of Glory.

Our Creator and Redeemer has made us glad by his wondrous deeds! We sing for joy, considering the works of his hands. How glorious are your works, O Lord, how profound are your thoughts toward each of your children daily—more in number than the sand by the sea!

The birds sing at the dawn of a new day. We are glad because the Sun of Righteousness has arisen. By his light we can see the truth. With his warmth in our hearts, we can love. As we behold the mighty works of our Redeemer, Jesus, we find ourselves rejoicing greatly. Our God, our dear loving Father, sent the Light of the world that blind eyes might see, deaf ears could hear, captives could be free, and hearts might be healed. Jesus brought love and life to everyone he encountered.

We are wondrously instilled with hope. Sometimes, we are resting in green pastures, by the still waters, and we rejoice in the quiet times of fellowship with our King. Other times, we are in a trial of rough waters or passing through the wilderness of troubles; we know God is able to deliver, as we also learn profound lessons of his loving-kindness and power. Jesus, the Redeemer, is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the lover of your soul, and as the great Shepherd, he will care for you today and forever in his everlasting kingdom of righteousness, love, and glory.

Job 19:25-27 • 1 John 3:1-3 • Psalm 92:4-5

I rejoice, for I shall see your face, dear Lord, in righteousness. I shall be delighted when I awake in your likeness—no more death, sorrow, sickness, guilt, hunger, thirst, or pain. What a glorious and majestic kingdom awaits me—thanks be to you, my God, for your indescribable gift! I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God! Amen.

December 10

Wise Solomon said that whatever you set your hand to, do it with all your might, for there is no work, planning, or wisdom in the grave. Your life is only a vapor; appearing for a short time, it vanishes. Your life will soon be past; only what you've done in Christ will last. You are God's workmanship, born again by the Spirit, and created in Christ for good works, which he has appointed for you to fulfill—according to his purpose and grace, planned by God before the beginning of time.

Yield to the Holy Spirit's leading in your life. God, the master builder, will establish you as a special part of his spiritual building. Kingdoms come and go, but you who do the will of God will abide forever. Moses asked God to teach him to number his days so that he might gain a heart of wisdom. He desired that the Lord God's works be shown to him, that God's favor and blessing might rest upon him, and that God would establish the work of his hands; dear child of our mighty God, this he will also do for you!

Ecclesiastes 9:10, 11:3 • Ephesians 2:10 • 2 Timothy 1:9

Psalms 90:12, 16-17 • Philippians 1:6

(Robert Barry, author's note) I have visited sixteen national parks over the years. What glorious sights there are at each one; they show the handiwork and creativity of our mighty God. I have seen some of the largest living things on earth in the Redwood and Sequoia National Parks. I have seen a number of fallen giant monarchs of the forest. Some have lived over 2,000 years, weighed 1.5 to 2 million pounds, and grown to 250-300 feet tall.

A giant sequoia or redwood is like our life. We are the planting of the Lord. We live, we grow, we prosper, and we die. When a giant tree falls, that is where it lies; there is a sense of finality! If it falls toward the north, that is where it lies. When our life is completed on earth, that's the ball game: game over, the end. There is no moving us into a different position, no redo of our three score and ten; game over. There is no going back to change it; our works are complete. If we have received Jesus and lived in Christ, we fall toward the Lord and his kingdom when our earthly life ends. We shall reap what we have sown. We will have an abundant and fruit-

filled entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lord God, teach me to number my days so that I might apply my heart unto wisdom; help me to live in Christ, and lead me to seek first your kingdom and its righteousness, so that when my time of fruit-bearing on earth is fulfilled, I may fall gloriously toward the heart of your kingdom of Heaven. May your grace be abundant toward me and lead me by the Spirit each day so that I might, in my latter days of life, proclaim with joy that I have kept the faith, fought the good fight, and finished the race; there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which Jesus, the King of kings, will give to me on that Day of Glory (and to all who love his appearing). Praise the Lord! Amen.

December 11

As naturally as the sweet songs of the birds rise to the Father each day, as fragrant as the scent of millions of splendorous flowers ascending heavenward, as glorious a proclamation as a rainbow makes of the Father's faithfulness and beauty, so should you offer praise and thanksgiving for his great love toward you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is awesome, and his mercies are everlasting.

With a humble heart filled with thanksgiving, make your requests known to the Father, expecting him to provide all your needs with his glorious riches in Christ.

Allow God's peace to rule in your heart. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing others in all wisdom through psalms and songs inspired by the Holy Spirit, with gratitude in your heart to your Father in Heaven.

Ephesians 5:19-20 • Philippians 4:6-7, 19

Colossians 3:15-17, 23-24

I rejoice in you, Lord! You have filled me with the joy of salvation and have given me your peace that surpasses understanding. You have conquered sin and death; the mountains and the hills are singing, and all the trees on earth are clapping their hands because Jesus, the Son of God, has brought righteousness and everlasting life to all who believe in him. All honor and glory unto the majestic King of kings! You left the throne of

glory to take my place in death, to pay for my sins; you became poor for my sake so that through your poverty, I might become rich. I am now a joint heir with Jesus, the Risen Savior. I will reign with him forever! All the redeemed of the Lord will come with singing unto Zion, filled with eternal joy; death and sorrow shall be no more. We praise the name of the living God and our Savior! Amen.

December 12

The Most High God (El Elyon) raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the trash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit the throne of glory. He created the earth by his spoken word. The Maker of heaven and earth formed man from the dust of the ground, breathing the breath of life into him; thus, the natural man was created.

Through God's Word, the blood sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit, a new and glorious creation has been wondrously conceived—you. Once, you were a natural creation; now, you are a spiritual one—born again from above. Now you are daily being conformed to the image of Jesus, the Son of the living God. He is preparing you to reign with him forever. You, who were raised from the dust, lifted from the miry clay of sin, and given eternal life by the miraculous work of Christ, will soon inherit a throne of honor in the King of glory's everlasting kingdom! Amen.

1 Samuel 2:8 • Psalm 40:2-3 • 1 Peter 1:2-5

Revelation 21:6-7

Blessed be the Lord God! You have done far more abundantly beyond what I could have asked or thought: You have given me the Spirit of life in Christ, which has set me free from the law of sin and death; you have seated me in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; you have given me all things that pertain to life and godliness; you have granted to me precious and magnificent promises, through which I may share in your divine nature, having escaped the corruption and lust of this world; I now reign in life with you, Jesus, because I have received your abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. I will praise you, Lord God, forever; your greatness is unsearchable!

December 13

Beloved child of the Sovereign God, his love for you is infinite; it will take the endless ages of eternity to reveal the depth of his love for you. Today, please receive the full assurance of his everlasting love. You are greatly treasured—though the world has often taught you otherwise. He cares for you deeply; he desires to be involved in your everyday decisions. Seek God first and yield to the Spirit's leading—his written Word will help you do just that—and he will be mighty on your behalf.

Though you will need to endure trials of various kinds, trust the Lord through them; Christ Jesus is with you, living in you, and will surely rain down his blessings upon you in due season. He will open doors for you that no man can close. Your joy, peace, and love of life will abundantly increase as you allow the Lord God to reign in your heart and life. The same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead is now working in you; he is conforming you each day to be more in his likeness (sorry, but you will never be perfect while on earth in your mortal body). He will soon transform and fashion anew your lowly, corruptible body to be conformed to the likeness of his glorious and incorruptible body—as you enter his glorious everlasting kingdom. These are some of his many great and precious promises that he will fulfill in and for you. Your God and Savior loves you exceedingly beyond what words can say!

Jeremiah 31:3 • Ephesians 3:16-21 • 1 Peter 1:6-9

Philippians 3:21 • 2 Peter 1:2-4

Thank you, Jesus, that I can always trust you, the One who made heaven and earth. All things are possible for me as your child. Your Father did not spare you but delivered you for my sins; he will also freely give me all I need, physically and spiritually. Thank you, Jesus, for living in me and sealing me with the Holy Spirit, the earnest of my inheritance you freely promised me. Please continue transforming my heart daily so I might shine forth your love and light in all I say and do. Thank you for your many promises. Praise the Lord forever! Amen.

December 14

The eternal and Sovereign God knows you perfectly and completely; he knows your joys and sorrows, victories and sins, and strengths and weaknesses. He also loves you perfectly and completely with an infinitely

glorious love. Our heavenly Father sees you from his eternal perspective and knows how you will be when you reign with him forever; he knows your love and devotion to him forever.

When you fall short of his glory and sin, he still loves you with the same infinite love; please do not condemn yourself. Repent of the sin and confess it to him; know that he fully forgives you—he paid the penalty for all of your sins past, present, and future on the cross (he does not need to come back to offer any more sacrifice for sin). The blood of Christ purifies you from all unrighteousness. You have been sanctified by the sacrificial offering of the body of Christ Jesus once for all time. Our wondrous God, by the one offering, has perfected (Greek: *teteleiken*; to complete, to accomplish, to bring to an end) and completely cleansed you, who are sanctified, forever! You have been united with Christ Jesus, who has become to you wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption!

When Jesus Christ appears, you will be changed in the twinkling of an eye to be like Christ. Always remember that he is working all things for your good as he fulfills his purpose for your life.

1 John 1:7-9 • 1 Corinthians 1:30, 15:49-57

Romans 8:28-34 • Hebrews 10:10, 14 • Psalm 139:17-18

Thank you, God, for your loving-kindness and your faithfulness. Thank you for your thoughts toward me; they are more in number than the sand by the seashore. You have cared for me in so many ways; I praise you for your wondrous love and power in my life. Glory to the Lord God, my Savior and King!

December 15

Our Savior Jesus Christ continually makes intercession to the Father for you. His Spirit will strengthen you with all power according to his glorious might. He desires that you possess great endurance and patience with joy while always giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to be a partaker in the inheritance of God's holy people in his glorious kingdom of light.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life; he will give life by the Spirit to your mortal body so that you might excel in doing the will of his Father. He has strengthened the faithful through centuries past and will likewise send grace

and power by the Holy Spirit during your time of need. Through the gift of faith, saints of old subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, performed miracles from God's hand, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, and women received back their loved ones from the dead. Through endurance and patience, these saints who believed in the mighty God of Israel changed the course of history in wondrous ways.

Hebrews 7:25, 11:1-40 • Romans 8:34

Colossians 1:11-12

Thank you, heavenly Father, for the work you have been accomplishing in me and through me over the years, although sometimes I feel like I am not doing much in your kingdom. Having fellowship with you is a great blessing in itself. Please help me acknowledge every good thing already in me because Christ lives in me. May your love, patience, kindness, peace, joy, gentleness, goodness, self-control, meekness, and faith spring forth bountifully in my life. Please guide me by your Holy Spirit so that I might bear much fruit to glorify you. Thank you for your everlasting love! Amen.

December 16

Dear sons and daughters of the living God, he has called you to a life of joy; he has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places as you abide in Christ. He has given you a living hope by Christ's resurrection from the dead; he has conquered death for you. Jesus, the Son of God, lives in you now and will give you strength to do his will. You are a co-heir with Christ of all the riches of the kingdom of Heaven. Rejoice greatly! Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior, is the truth. The elements of this world will pass away, but you are his child forever and will reign with him in the new heavens and the new earth—a perfect world without end.

The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ loves you continually, and his thoughts toward you each day are more than can be numbered. By being thankful—there is much to be grateful for—you enter a deeper communion with your God. He inhabits and is enthroned in your praises, which your King forever cherishes.

Ephesians 1:3-7 • Galatians 2:20 • 1 Peter 1:3-4

2 Peter 3:10-13 • Psalm 100:1-5

I greatly thank you, dear God of my salvation; you have conquered sin and death. You have given me the greatest gift—everlasting life. Through the years, you have led me by your Holy Spirit and have not withheld any good thing from me. You have been a sun and a shield, shining a light on my daily path and protecting me from this world's elements and the enemy. Thank you forever! Amen.

December 17

The great Shepherd bids you to come to him, for he will give you rest. Jesus desires you to be filled and guided by the Holy Spirit so that you might cease from your works and walk in his works ordained for you and thereby receive a peace that surpasses understanding in your heart and mind. Be zealous and strive diligently to enter that rest. His abundant life is your Promised Land.

Oh, the glorious rest that awaits your entrance into his eternal habitation! Almighty God will soon clothe you with immortality, and you shall view the magnificence of the heavenly city—new Jerusalem. You will behold the King of kings on his throne with ten thousand times ten thousand angels in attendance. You will hear the splendor and majesty of the heavenly music. You will rejoice beyond rejoicing for yourself and all the glorious family of God who have been transformed to be in Christ's likeness. As you meet those in the kingdom of Heaven because you shared his love with them and they received salvation, and take in the beyond-awesome glories of the kingdom, then you know that you have entered God's eternal Sabbath rest!

Matthew 11:28-30 • Hebrews 4:9-11 • Revelation 22:1-5 Dear God, my Father, thank you for the gift of Christ in me, the hope of glory. You gloriously transferred me from the kingdom of darkness into your majestic kingdom of light. I have been raised in the newness of life, even as Christ rose from the dead by your glorious power, Father. Since you are for me, nothing can be against me; please lead me by the Spirit so that I may do valiantly in word and deed. Please help me boldly live and share the truth of the mighty gospel. For the glory of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

December 18

Through the centuries, man wondered as he looked up at the stars at night, "Who is this God of creation?" Before Christ's birth, those who read the scriptures of the prophets possessed a vague understanding of the God of all creation, and they viewed mere shadows of the Messiah who was to come. When Philip asked Jesus to show him the Father, Jesus asked him how it could be that he did not know the Father after being with Jesus for such a long time, for he who has seen Jesus has seen the Father. Wonder of wonders, God became a man that you might know him. We beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.

Jesus is the express image of the invisible God. The King of glory calls you to be his friend. He desires to be your refuge from the storm, your comfort in times of sorrow, and one to rejoice with in victories and in celebrating life. Share some quiet time with the Wonderful Counselor today and every day. Throughout the centuries, the scriptures have spoken of men and women who knew the Lord God and listened to his voice. He is the good Shepherd, and he still speaks today; he said, "My sheep hear my voice." Take the time to listen with an open heart; come and experience the most profound and fulfilling relationship that may be known to man—as you let Christ Jesus be your Friend.

John 1:14, 14:1-14, 15:9-17 • Colossians 1:15

Hebrews 1:1-3

How wonderful it is to know you, my God and Savior. Thank you for the abundant life here on earth and the gift of everlasting life. Thank you for coming here to save me through your great sacrifice. Please draw me into a more profound friendship with you in the days ahead. Help me to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ. Praise the Lord!

December 19

The greatest love ever shown in the universe is that of Almighty God; our heavenly Father loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten Son. Jesus Christ shared this same everlasting love when he cleansed the lepers, gave sight to the blind, gave hearing to the deaf, comforted the brokenhearted, blessed the children, and laid down his very life—and bore all of mankind's sins. Though Christ Jesus was spit upon, whipped, mocked, beaten, nailed to a tree, and died an agonizing death, his love for his children did not change.

He still loves you with everlasting love and always will! Jesus, the eternal King, is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the God who loved you perfectly before creation and will lead you by this same infinite, wondrous love, from glory to glory, both now and forever! Amen.

John 3:16, 15:13 • Hebrews 13:8

I love you, dear God, because you first loved me. I was not seeking you; my righteousness was like a filthy rag. But while I was an enemy, you loved me; two thousand years ago, you sent Jesus, your beloved Son, to suffer and die for me. You loved me with everlasting love; by your great loving-kindness, you drew me to yourself and the glorious gift of salvation. I will be so glad and thankful throughout eternity! Amen.

December 20

Consider it all joy when you face trials and temptations, knowing that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. But let this perseverance and patience produce God's desired fruit in your heart and life so that you may be mature and complete in Christ, lacking nothing. Blessed are you who remain steadfast under trial, because when you have stood the test, you will receive the crown of life that Jesus, the King of kings, has promised to those who love him.

Within your human nature dwell the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; Satan will use the allurements of the world to entice any of these three where you might be weak—desiring to destroy your walk in the Spirit. Consider yourself dead to your former life of sin; your old life has been crucified with Christ. Walk in the newness of life; as Christ was raised from the dead, you also have been raised from the dead by the glory of the Father; Christ Jesus, the bright Morning Star, now lives in you. Temptation and sin are both subtle and deceptive. Put God's Word first; you will become mature and fruitful in Christ Jesus. Avoid situations where you know you will be exposed to temptations, especially in areas where you are weak. Seek God diligently, and pray wholeheartedly that the Spirit of God might continually guide you.

James 1:1-12 • Galatians 5:16-25 • Galatians 2:20

December 21

You are a treasured member of God's holy nation, his royal priesthood, declaring the praises of your King—he called you out of darkness into his glorious light. Once a slave to sin, you have been washed and sanctified by the atoning blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, for which cause Jesus is not ashamed to call you his friend. You are called to be one of Christ's ambassadors; as the Father sent Christ Jesus, even so, Christ now sends you.

Beloved child of God, rest in the finished work of the cross. You have his perfect righteousness in you by faith—it is a gift—you cannot add to it by your own works. You are to be led by the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The wondrous grace of God that brought you salvation will instruct you to deny ungodliness and sinful passions, and live a self-controlled, righteous, and godly life at this present time, while you look for the blessed hope and the wondrous appearing of your magnificent God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your old life was crucified with Christ; you now are risen in the newness of life by the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead—Christ lives in you!

You are called to fulfill the works that God has appointed for you before the world began—a full-time endeavor of the heart; his abundant grace will mightily help you. Continue to seek him in the Scriptures (essential for your growth in Christ Jesus). Let your light shine before all so that others see your good works and glorify the God of heaven and earth who sent you to them. Rejoice in the miracle of love Christ Jesus has wrought in your life.

Revelation 1:5-6 • 1 Peter 2:9 • Hebrews 10:14

Titus 2:11-14 • Romans 5:17 • 1 Corinthians 1:30

Thank you, God, for the gift of life in Christ. Please give me a hunger and thirst for your Word; help me be diligent in studying Scripture and accurately handling the Word of truth. May your Spirit touch the hearts of those I share the Word with, inspiring believers and helping lost sheep (unbelievers) to receive Jesus and return to the great Shepherd of the sheep. Thank you for the honor of being an ambassador to those that you sent Christ to die for. Thank you, God, my Father, and Jesus, my Savior.

December 22

It is our heavenly Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. You need not fear or be anxious over your daily provision. Shall not he who gave

his only begotten Son for you also richly provide all things for you? The God of glory, who spoke the very worlds into existence and has full possession of all the treasures of Heaven and earth, knows your every need. His everlasting love, which led Jesus to the cross, is ever caring for you, child of the King. The Lord will Provide, as Abraham named God (Hebrew: *Jehovah-jireh*), can do exceedingly abundantly more than you could think or ask (infinitely above your hopes or prayers)! Consider a few examples: Jesus miraculously fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, and similarly four thousand dined when God multiplied seven loaves and a few little fish; Almighty God supplied the Israelites (probably over two million people) with manna and water for forty years during their wilderness journey; Jesus put a coin in a fish's mouth (from afar) for Peter to catch and pay his and Jesus' tax payment; Jesus healed ten lepers afflicted with leprosy; he raised the widow's son from the dead; the Savior wondrously calmed the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee; greatest provision in history: the Father sent Jesus, born of a virgin, to wash away our sins, conquer death, and grant eternal life to each believer! What a Wonderful Savior! Your Father will always provide for you!

In the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good comfort; the Risen Savior has overcome the world. Though the clouds may shadow the sun's rays, its glorious warm beams shall shortly fall upon your shoulders again. Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness; his steadfast love never ceases, his mercies are new every morning, and great is his faithfulness. So when trials test your faith, you should not trust in yourself but in Christ Jesus, who can even raise the dead. Be thankful for all he has done in the past, and trust him for today and tomorrow.

Luke 12:22-32 • Philippians 4:19 • Romans 8:32

Lamentations 3:22-26

Almighty God, you are my hiding place; you will protect and preserve me through trial and tribulation. You are my rock and my fortress. You make all things work together for my good, according to your grand purpose for my life. You are the mighty God of miracles and the God of everlasting love. Today, my song of thanks honors you, dear God, because of your faithfulness, love, power, mercy, and grace. The whole creation sings of your greatness; I rejoice and glorify you forever for your grace

and goodness. You have transformed my life and have given me all the blessings of Christ Jesus. Glory to God!

December 23

Dear friend, your God loves you so profoundly and infinitely. Christ Jesus lives inside you and is always so close to you—just a whispered prayer away. He will fulfill your heart's desires as you delight yourself in him. God's blessings will flow so richly upon you that there will not be room enough to hold them. Your praises shall be great, even reaching your Father's throne in Heaven.

Rest in his eternal love, and let his peace reign in your heart today. He will surely lead you beside still waters and into green valleys. When storms arise, you may come under the shadow of his wings. He shall bring calm for you as he did for the disciples when waves flooded their ship. Look to Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory; he is the author and finisher of your faith; he will guide you through the trials of this world and bring you to your desired haven—his kingdom of glory.

Psalm 23; 37:3-5

I praise you, Lord God, for all the glorious blessings you have lavished on me throughout the years. You also have delivered me from stormy seas and fiery trials. I am weak, but you are strong; in my weakness, your strength is made perfect. As my days, so shall my strength be; you have infinite strength and will guide me daily. You will be my strong tower, protecting me from the storms.

December 24

Though he is the eternal God, the Creator of heaven and earth became a baby; he clothed himself in the likeness of sinful flesh. He put on mortality with all its pain, sorrow, hunger, and thirst. Jesus, Immanuel (God with us), was welcomed to earth in a Bethlehem stable and given the unique privilege of sleeping in a feeding box for animals. Though he is the King of kings, he only received a reception that day from lowly shepherds. That's OK; he wanted it that way. He didn't come to reign as king on earth, but that you, his dear child, might soon reign with him in his kingdom above. The wondrous Son of God only came here to love you; he came to be a sacrifice for your sins. For those who trust in him and await his coming, the Son from Heaven

will appear a second time, not as the sacrificial Lamb of God, but as the triumphant Lion of the tribe of Judah. He comes as the reigning King of kings and Lord of lords. He comes to bring you salvation. Our God and Savior is coming the second time to bring you to his kingdom of glory. He wants to bring you home!

Luke 1:26-35 • Micah 5:2 • Hebrews 9:28 • Titus 2:11-14

Revelation 21:1-7

December 25

Almighty God of heaven and earth spanned the great gulf between man and himself by being born into this world as a human—a tiny baby. While Jesus was lying in a feeding trough, wrapped in swaddling clothes and comforted by the loving gaze of his parents, Mary and Joseph, the glory of the Lord was shining around shepherds in the field, with an angel proclaiming the good news of great joy—the Savior (Messiah) is born this day in the city of David. Then suddenly, a multitude of the heavenly host also appeared to the shepherds, praising God and proclaiming to all mankind, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men with whom he is well-pleased." As soon as the angels had returned to Heaven, the shepherds hurried through the fields and found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, just as it had been told to them. The shepherds glorified and praised God as they spread the news.

The ancient prophecies of Isaiah had come to pass—a child was born; a son was given. Jesus was that child who would soon be called Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!

Luke 2:1-20 • Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7

Glory to you, my Wonderful God and Savior! Praise God in the highest, for you have saved me from sin and death and have given me everlasting life through the promised Son! The great news of Jesus is as glorious today as it was that day when the angels proclaimed it to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. Unto us has been born a Savior, Christ the Lord (the promised Messiah). I worship you today, dear God and Savior, and will glorify and praise you, with the entire heavenly family, for your wondrous grace forever!

December 26

Jesus of Nazareth and his disciples had been invited to celebrate a marriage at Cana in Galilee, during which they ran out of wine. Jesus gave instructions to fill six large stone waterpots with water. The Savior revealed his glory that day by turning the water into wine; the wedding was also successful.

When Christ Jesus bids you to fill the jars with water because the wedding celebration ran out of wine—just do it. When the Master directs you to cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you have already fished all night and caught nothing—just do it. When the King of glory asks you to take away the stone (like at Lazarus' tomb)—just do it. His power transcends the laws of nature. If you have faith and obey, you will see the glory of God.

May the turning of the water into wine, his first working miracle, encourage you to trust him as his first disciples did. Someday soon, you shall sit down with them at the marriage supper of the Lamb; Jesus personally will serve you. And when you drink the wine of the grapes of Heaven, you shall rejoice greatly, saying, "Truly, you have saved the best wine until now!"

John 2:1-11

Thank you, Jesus! You are the express image of the invisible God; you are the Word of God. You became flesh and dwelt among us; we beheld your glory, the glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. Your wondrous miracles spoke of the majesty and power of the Father. Your Word is the bread of Heaven; whoever eats thereof will never hunger. Help me, Jesus, to trust and obey. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, my Savior. Please work through me to touch lives and inspire many so that your name might be glorified!

December 27

Once, you were a little stone covered with dirt, stuck in the miry clay, in the mountain of sin. Jesus, the Prince of life, pulled you out of the depths; he washed and purified you. He is the God of power and miracles, transforming you into a precious gem fit for his royal kingdom.

God's Word is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit; it judges the thoughts and intents of the heart. You, who were once conformed to this present evil world, need to

be transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you enter the domain of God's Word and allow Christ to work profoundly in your heart and life, the Holy Spirit will transform you more and more into the likeness of Jesus, the eternal Son of God.

1 Peter 2:1-10 • Psalm 40:2-3 • Hebrews 4:12-16

Romans 12:1-2 • 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Help me, Father, by your grace and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, to offer myself as a living sacrifice so that I might fulfill your will. Your grace worked wonders in the early disciples; thousands of unbelievers, dead in sin, were given life through the miracle of the gospel, bringing glory to your name. I have the mustard seed of faith; I believe in your power to transform my life, miraculously change circumstances, bring salvation to my loved ones, and work that which is well-pleasing in your sight. Please use my words, skills, anointing from your hand, and my willingness to be a vessel to honor you. Father, please open doors for me to share your Word and love. I will praise you forever for your grace, love, and power!

December 28

The living God has called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light; you are now a royal priest unto God, offering praise continually as you bring glory to his name. He is holy; you are called to depart from sin, walk with Christ Jesus, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our heavenly Father chooses to glorify Jesus, his eternal Son, by acts of the Holy Spirit working through men and women who love and worship their God with their whole hearts; these are genuine priests of the Most High. As a priest, your earnest and continual prayer as an intercessor is powerful and effective. Our God highly values your love and service as you call upon his name. He will work mightily on your behalf in blessing the church and bringing the Word of life to a dying world.

Revelation 1:5-6 • 1 Peter 2:9-11 • Acts 14:3

Romans 8:14-18, 26-32

Thank you, dear God, for saving me and calling me unto a holy calling, not according to my own goodness, but according to your own purpose and grace established in Christ Jesus before time began. I offer praise to you

as the Creator of all things, the God of infinite power and wisdom, and my Savior who, through your everlasting love, conquered sin and death. You took my penalty for sins, I was born again, and you have raised me up in the newness of life. Thank you, Father, for the gift of eternal life; I will enjoy your Paradise of perfect peace, love, righteousness, and glory. Praise God!

December 29

The Lord Jesus Christ desires that you learn from him by taking upon yourself his yoke. He will personally guide you in loving others and doing the will of your Father in Heaven. He has chosen to work alongside you as you plow through everyday life. He will bring true rest to your soul.

The early disciples forsook all to follow Christ Jesus—considering everything a loss compared to the honor of being sons and daughters of the living God. Their faith honored the Lord God, and he honored their faith; he endued them with power from on high. By faith, Peter walked on the water. By faith, the disciples laid hands on the sick, and they were healed. By faith, they loved the unlovely. Through faith, they brought hope and salvation to millions through the centuries through their written words and Spirit-led deeds of love. By faith, they overcame the world; you can as well.

Jesus, the Risen Savior, lives in you and will give you strength daily. Let his faith and love blossom and flourish in your heart and life; allow the Holy Spirit to guide you daily so that you might know God's love and touch lives by his power.

Matthew 11:28-30 • Philippians 3:7-15 • Romans 15:13

O Lord God, the wonders of your grace, power, and love are immeasurable. Thank you for the many precious and magnificent promises that you have freely given me—I did not earn them, but you granted them to me in Christ; I believe that you can fulfill all that you have promised. I rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. May I be to the praise of your glory; lead me by your Holy Spirit, and grant me wisdom from on high so that I might prosper in your kingdom, inspiring many to believe and trust in you. Dear Father, through Jesus, you have said that it is your good pleasure to give me your kingdom; thank you for making me a joint heir with your mighty Son! I reign in life today through your abundance of

grace and the gift of righteousness; I will soon be reigning forever in the majesty of your perfect kingdom of Heaven; I will join with the entire general assembly of the firstborn, whose names are written in Heaven, along with myriads of angels, in the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem! Glory to God, my Savior!

December 30

Almighty God humbled himself by becoming a man and dwelt on earth so you might behold his glory, love, and righteousness. You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was the possessor of all the riches of the earth and the eternal kingdom of Heaven, he became poor for your sake, that you might become rich through his poverty.

Our Wonderful Savior went to the cross to give his life as a ransom for many. Our loving Father made Christ Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for you—that you might become the righteousness of God in Christ. Therefore, the Father has exalted Jesus, our Redeemer, to the highest place and given him a name above every name; every tongue will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God our Father.

Philippians 2:6-11 • 2 Corinthians 5:21, 8:9

John 1:1-14 • Matthew 20:28 • Hebrews 9:28

Thank you, Father, for the exceeding greatness of your power and grace, which you showed through Christ Jesus. He took my penalty for sins; I was crucified with Christ, yet I now live because Christ lives in me. I live by the faith in your Son, who loved me and gave himself for me. Strengthen me by your Spirit in my inner man (Christ in me, the hope of glory); help me to acknowledge every good thing that you have placed in me, in Christ. May I walk in your love, mercy, and grace. Help me to let the light of Christ shine from my life so that my good works and words will inspire many, glorifying your name, O God. You are able to accomplish superabundantly beyond my greatest hopes, prayers, or dreams; you are the God of infinite power, wisdom, and love. To you, Father, King of the Universe, I offer praise and glory, now and forever! Amen.

December 31

With a violent earthquake, an angel, whose appearance was like lightning and whose clothing was as white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon

it. The guards shook with fear, and well they should; they neither believed in Christ Jesus nor were they looking for him.

The disciples of the Messiah were looking for him as it began to dawn that day. Two radiant-clothed angels comforted the believing women (true seekers of their Messiah) who had come to the tomb, telling them not to be afraid and stating that the Son of Man had risen from the dead, just like he promised; Jesus, the Risen Savior, would be going ahead of them into Galilee; there they would see him.

Look for Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, in times of sorrow and trial; he will comfort you and remind you of his grand promises. He is exceedingly better than your fears. The women thought Jesus was dead and buried in the tomb. Yet he was risen! At their darkest hour, the *SonRise* gave them a new dawn—the brightest and most glorious day of their lives! In your darkest hour, keep looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. He is the Sun of Righteousness and will bring you a new dawn. He will also be going ahead of you with his love, grace, and power each day. There you will see him.

Matthew 28:1-9 • Luke 24:1-7 • Psalm 42:5, 8

Romans 15:13 • 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for the great blessing and honor of being welcomed into your heart. Thank you for receiving 'Life in Christ 365' and its message of God's love and hope in your lives.

Father, please richly bless each of us with every spiritual blessing of Jesus Christ. Please fill us with the Holy Spirit and guide us to prosper in your will. Give us a new heart to love others. Help us, Lord, to rejoice daily, even through tribulation, trusting in your wondrous love. We desire to bring joy to your heart, Father. We love you so much. Thank you for saving us and promising us a wondrously bountiful inheritance in your glorious kingdom. Thank you, Jesus, for dying for us and conquering death. Thank you for the gift of everlasting life and for giving us the hope of seeing you as you are and being transformed to be like you on the Day of Glory. Thank you for preparing a place for us in your heavenly city, new Jerusalem. You are the greatest! Glory to you, dear God and Savior! Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert Barry,

Author: LIFE in CHRIST 365

ROBERT BARRY TESTIMONY

It was the summer of 1970. I had traveled across Canada and the United States, searching for deeper meaning to life amid the emptiness and hopelessness that prevailed in so many lives. My spiritual training afforded me little in the knowledge of God; I was raised in a Jewish family, but my family did not acknowledge God in their lives at all. We merely had recognition of our heritage during the Jewish holidays. The truths of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob took a backseat to worldly pursuits for my entire childhood and teen years.

Up until one glorious day in 1970, I had never even understood that there was a man named Jesus, who millions personally knew as their Messiah. That he fulfilled a multitude of prophecies, healed hundreds miraculously, walked on the water, gave sight to the blind, cleansed lepers, died for mankind's sins, and rose from the dead were truths that were totally foreign to me.

After meeting some Christians at a small music event in Portland, Oregon, I stayed with them for a couple of days. I witnessed God's love in their midst. While they were praying one evening, I decided to try praying with them and began to speak to Jesus as well. As I prayed for the first time ever to Jesus, his mighty love and Holy Spirit changed my life—radically. I knew at that moment that he loved me beyond any love on earth; I was filled with his love and saw this same love shining from every one of the believers present—and started hugging them. I shouted out, "I love everyone." It was a miracle. It was as if I had been in a cave my whole life to that point, never seeing real life outside the cave. Jesus, the Messiah, had rolled the stone away from the cave door, and suddenly I was beholding the glory of creation for the first time. I was now filled with God's wondrous love; I was free!

I went out on the streets of the city that same hour, sharing about the love of Jesus—which had just absolutely changed my heart and life. I began to read the Bible the next day, and Jesus began talking to me through his Word. Thus a most wondrous life began—living for the Risen Savior.

Called to reach those who needed the Savior, I labored in missionary work for the next seven years, establishing and strengthening Christian outreaches in a number of urban centers. The Lord God blessed the work, with many

being saved—with quite a number of them continuing on with the Lord for a lifetime of service in Christ.

I have studied the Holy Scriptures daily since 1970 and affirm the life-changing power of God's Word. Our God has established the 66 books of the Bible as being the very foundation that we are to stand upon spiritually. The Word of God is pure, perfectly inspired by the Holy Spirit, and infallible. The Bible is the final authority of all we believe regarding our faith and how we should live this short life while in this world, as we await the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Since the wondrous day in 1970 when Jesus revealed his love to me, I have walked with him and served him every day since, filled with the faith, hope, and love he imparts. Even in times of great sorrow, tribulation, and trials, our God and Savior has been faithful to guide and comfort me. He truly is the great Shepherd of the sheep.

His sheep hear His voice; I am so very blessed to know Jesus, the Messiah, and his most loving voice. Happy are the people who know the joyful sound. He rejoices over you daily; his thoughts toward you are more in number than the sand by the sea. My deep and sincere prayer to our God and Father is that while reading LIFE in CHRIST 365, you will be richly blessed as you hear his song of rejoicing over you. May you be filled with your Father's love and his Spirit as his gracious plans for your life are made more clearly known to you. May God's grace be abundant as you do his will in word and deed, bringing everlasting glory to his name. Amen.

Your brother and fellow servant in the love of Christ Jesus,

Robert Barry

YOU WERE MADE TO KNOW GOD!

Deep down, there is a void in every one of us made for one thing—a relationship with God. Through Jesus Christ, the Savior, you can have a true relationship with your heavenly Father. God is love, and knowing him is the only way to have fulfillment and a peace that surpasses understanding.

Sin has separated you from God. But the God of glory loved you so much that he gave his only begotten Son so that if you would believe in him, you would not perish but have everlasting life. You don't need to put off receiving God's magnificent gift of salvation and eternal life; come as you are. He loves you with infinite love and is ready to receive you right now. Jesus said, "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life."

He welcomes you to entrust your life to his care by faith (trust him, adhere to him, and rely fully on Jesus). All have sinned and fallen short of the perfection of God. Christ Jesus paid the price for your sins when he died on the cross. His blood sacrifice will wash away all your sins when you turn humbly to him, repent, and ask for his forgiveness. Invite him into your heart to be your Savior; he will come in, and by his Spirit, will live within you. You will then have reason to greatly rejoice, for you will have been born again and now possess eternal life. He loves you with everlasting love!

I encourage you to pray, "Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God, that you died for me, and rose again from the dead. I have sinned against you in my words, deeds, and thoughts. Forgive me, please, for all of my wrongdoing. I desire to enter into a relationship with you. I place my trust in you as my Savior and Lord. I accept the atoning work you accomplished on the cross, shedding your blood and forgiving me of all my sins. Please come and live in my heart and life. Thank you, God, for my now being born again and possessing the gift of eternal life. Please help me to live for you each day."

God will begin to transform your life daily by the Holy Spirit, who is now in you. Thank him for all his blessings each day; trust him when times are rough. Your God and Savior is with you always; great is his faithfulness. You now

have reason to greatly rejoice, for you have been born again and now possess eternal life!

Read the Word of God (the Bible) every day, talk to God through prayer (he loves to hear from you), and attend a Bible-based church where you will be encouraged by true friends who care for you. Jesus promises to bring you into an abundant life as you follow him.

May our God richly bless you!

Your brother in Christ,

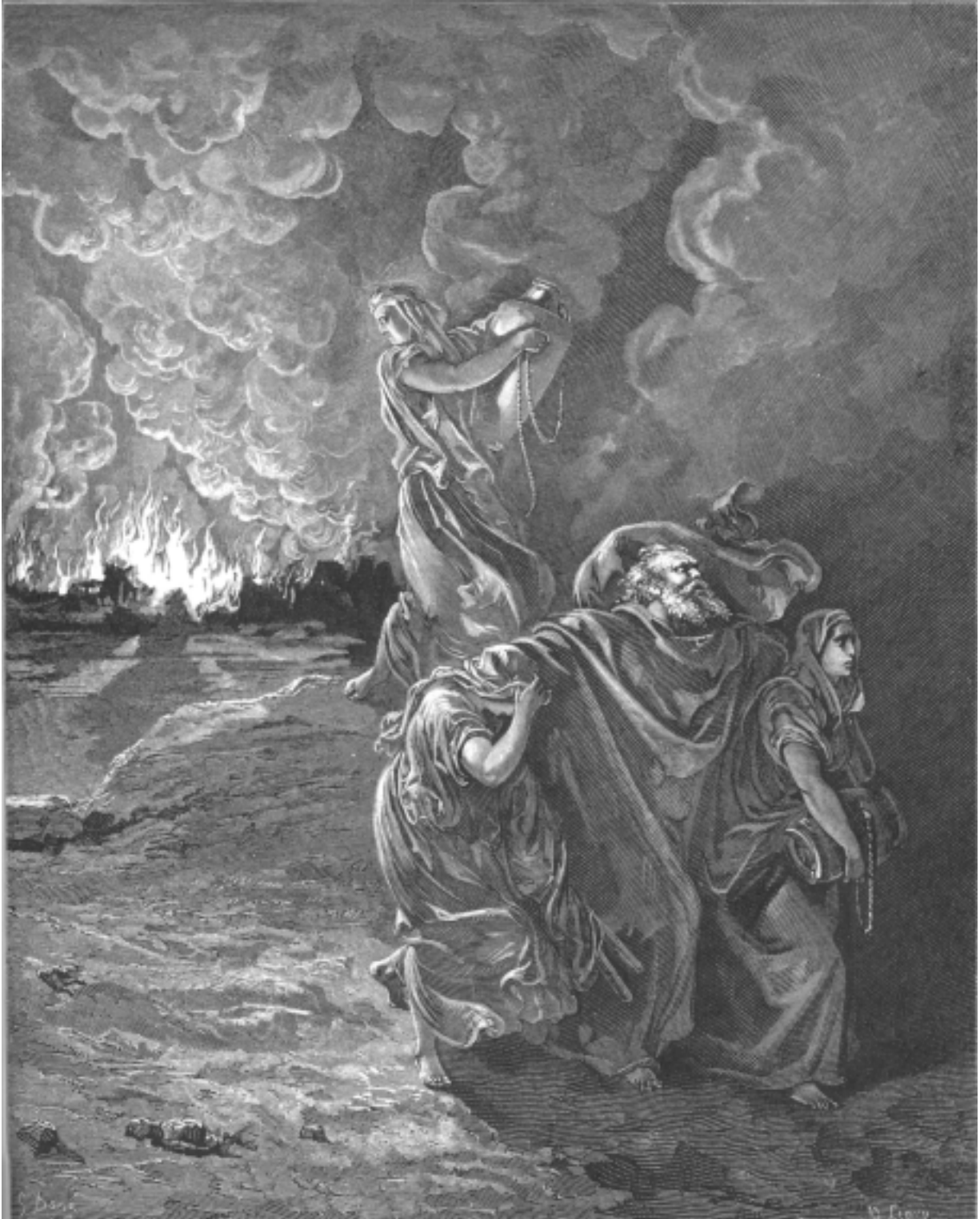
Robert Barry, Author
LIFE in CHRIST 365

DORÉ BIBLE ILLUSTRATIONS

In the pages ahead, we share 40 inspirational illustrations created by Gustave Doré (1832-1883), the most renowned illustrator of the 19th century. They depict special highlights and aspects of the life of Jesus Christ and his disciples, as well as other events in the lives of God's people in the many centuries before the birth of Christ. They are not as perfect in historic accuracy as a photograph would be if we had them. We believe you will be blessed and inspired as you experience Doré's realistic style that breathes new life into these biblical events.



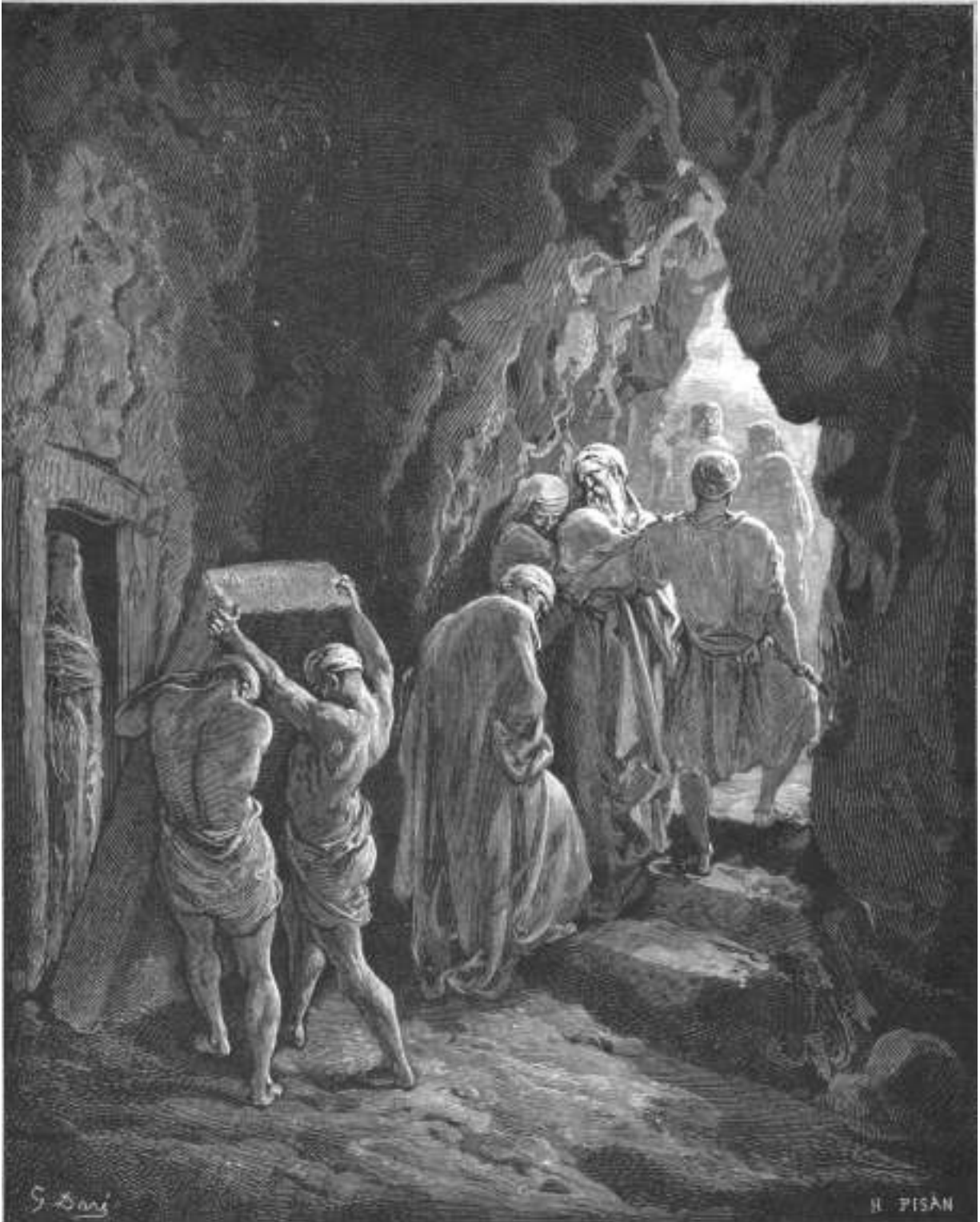
Adam and Eve Driven Out of Eden *Genesis 3:24*



The Flight of Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah *Genesis 19*



The Trial of Abraham's Faith *Genesis 22:11-12*



The Burial of Sarah *Genesis 23*



Isaac Blessing Jacob *Genesis 27*



Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream *Genesis 41*



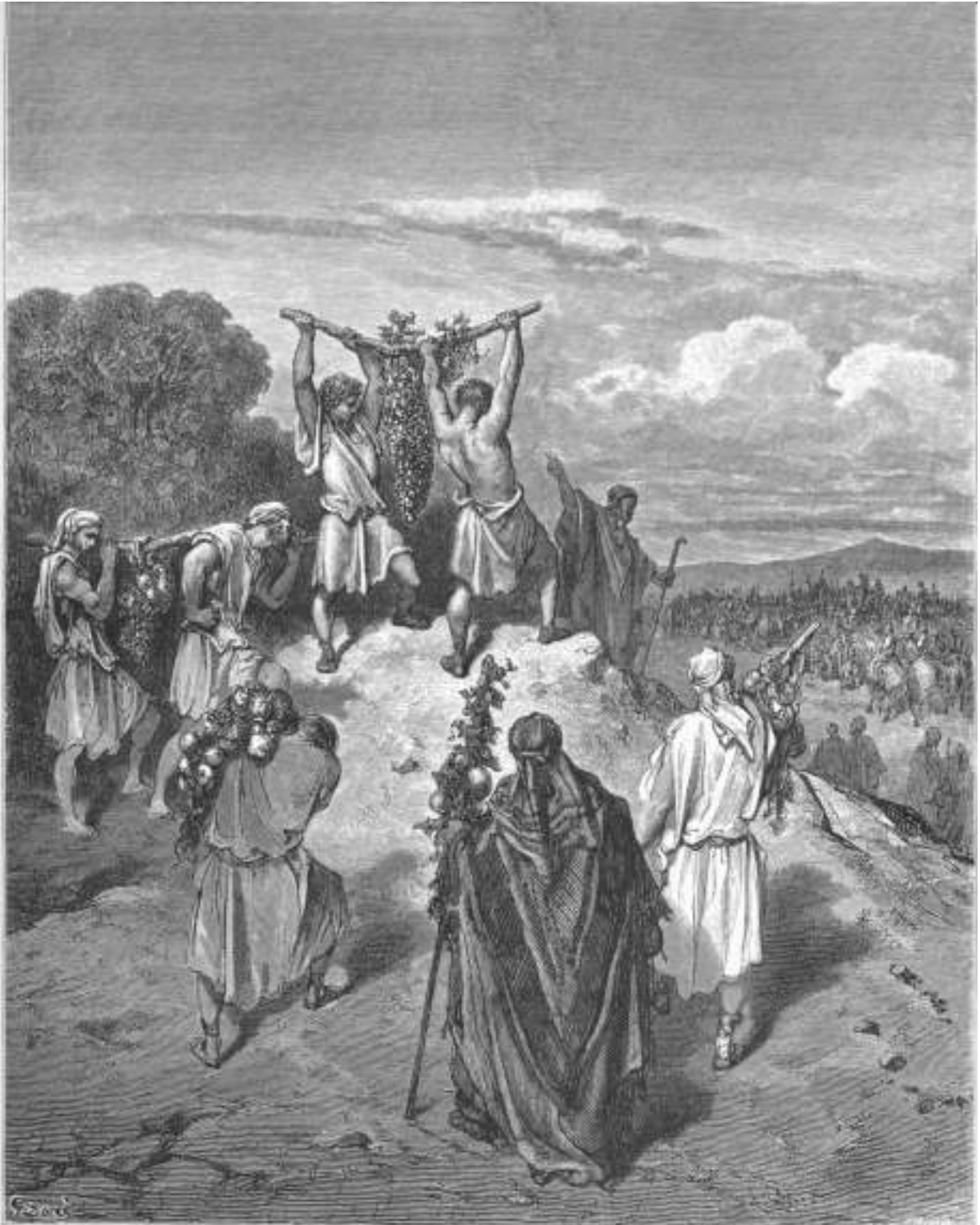
Joseph is Made Known to His Brethren *Genesis 45:1-4*



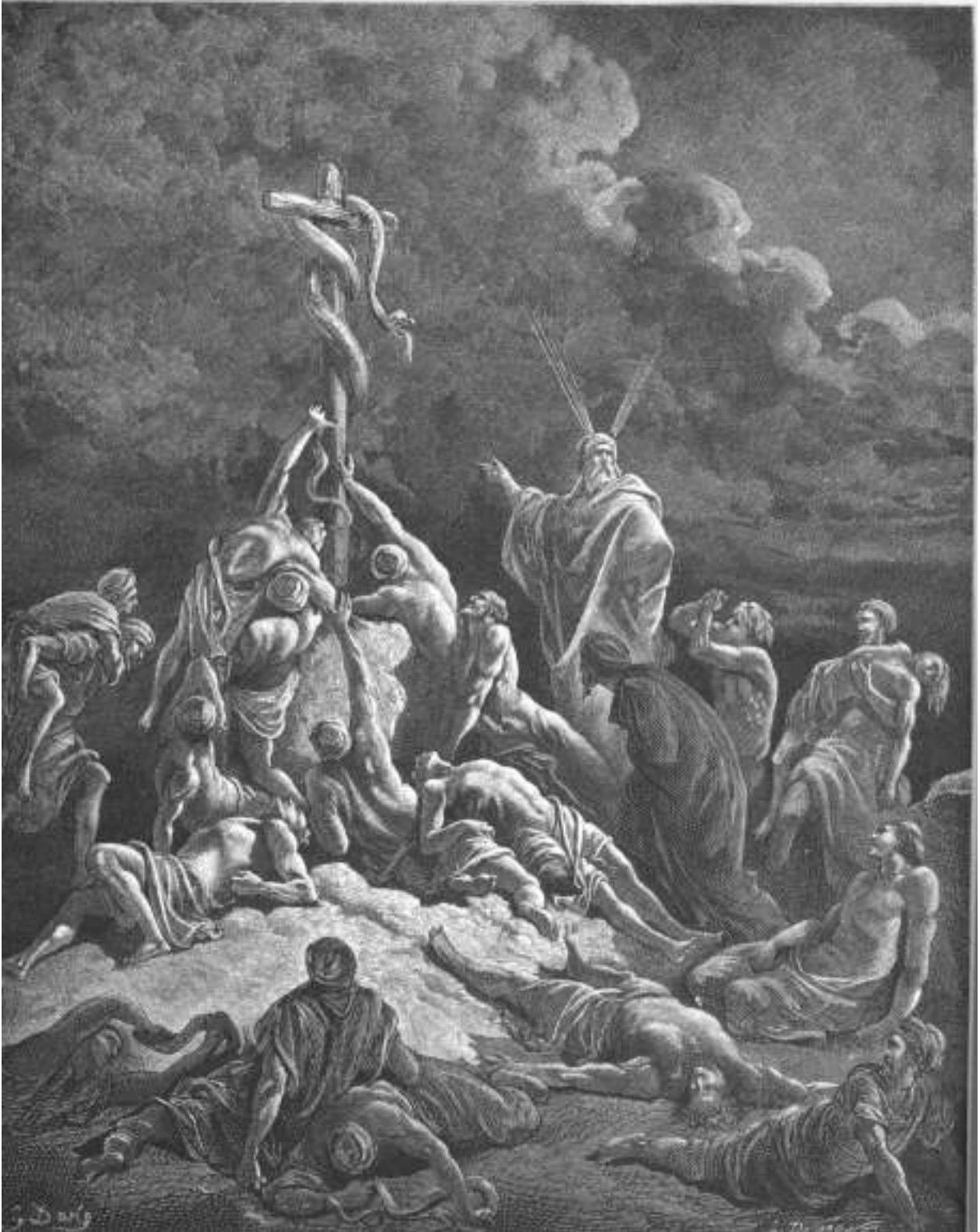
Moses and Aaron Before Pharaoh *Exodus 7:10*



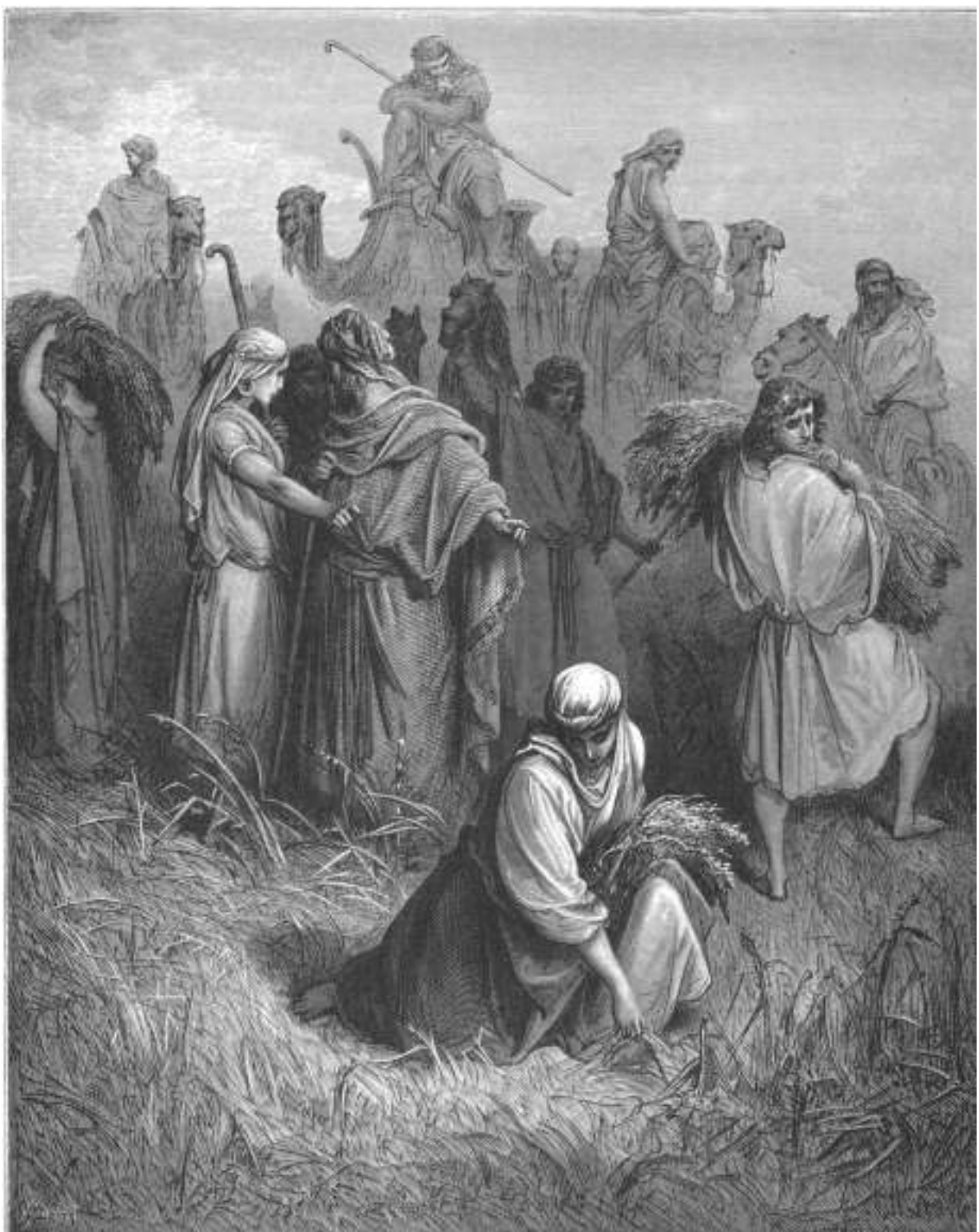
Moses Coming Down from Mount Sinai *Exodus 32:15-16*



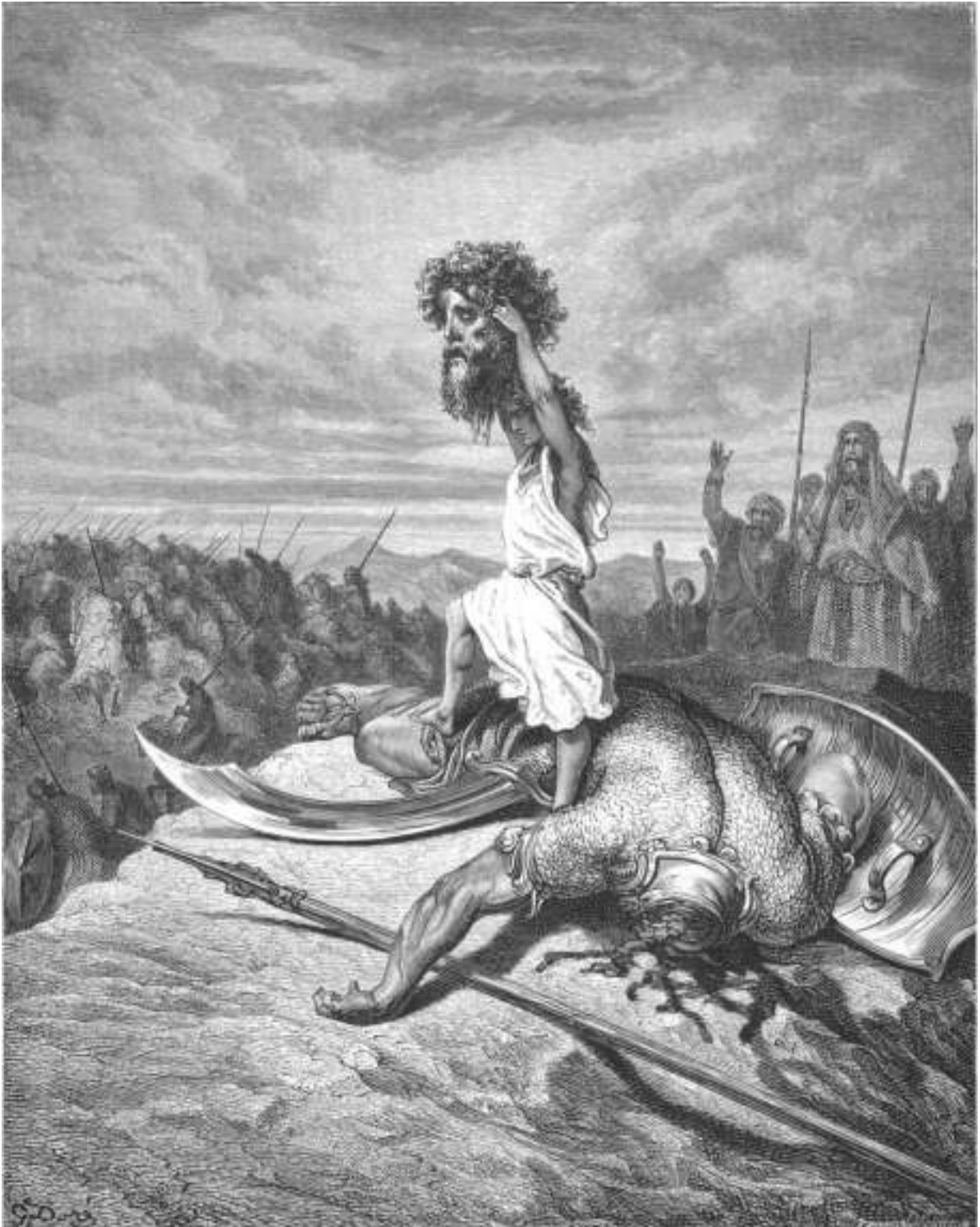
The Spies Return from the Promised Land *Numbers 13*



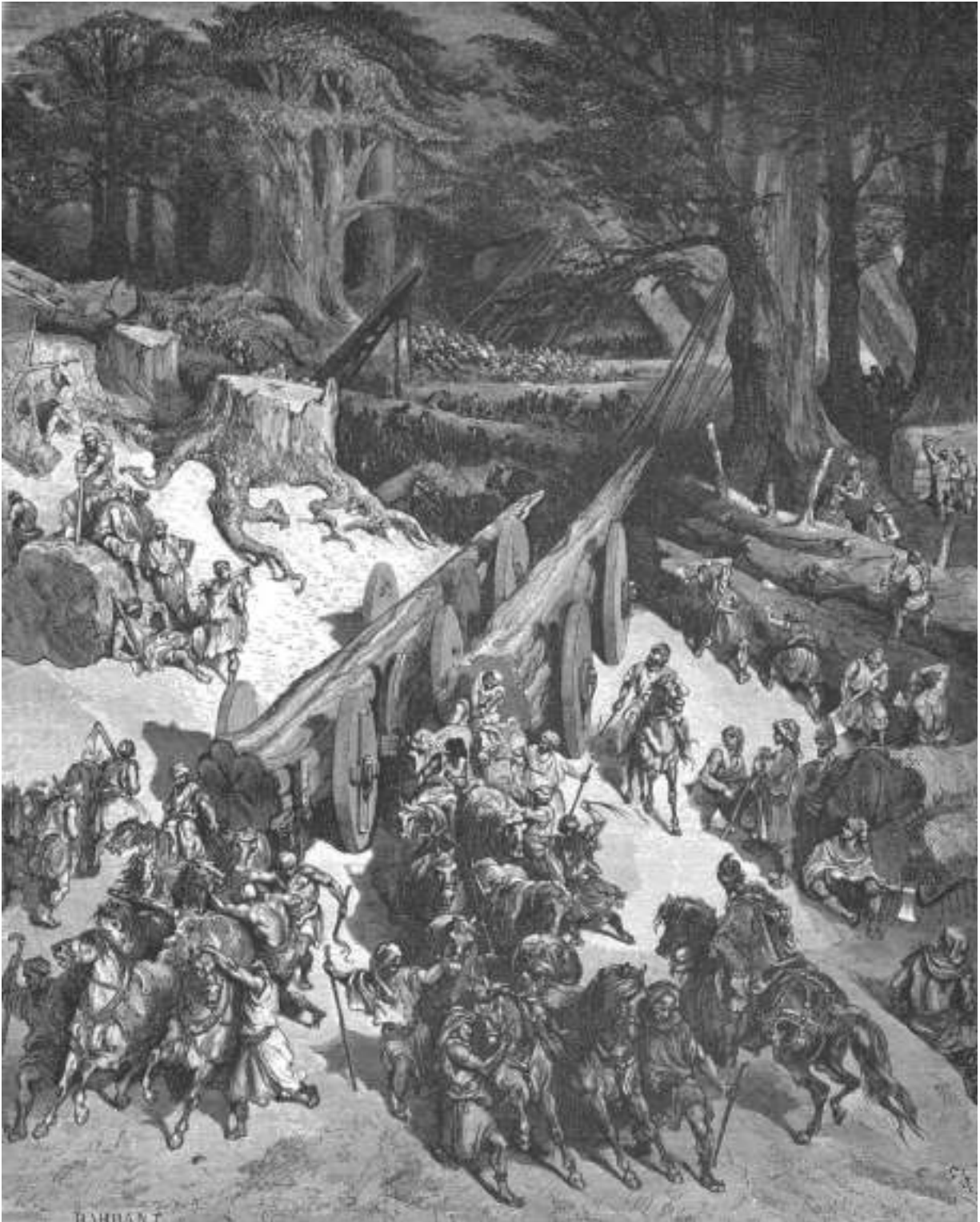
The Brazen Serpent *Numbers 21:8-9*



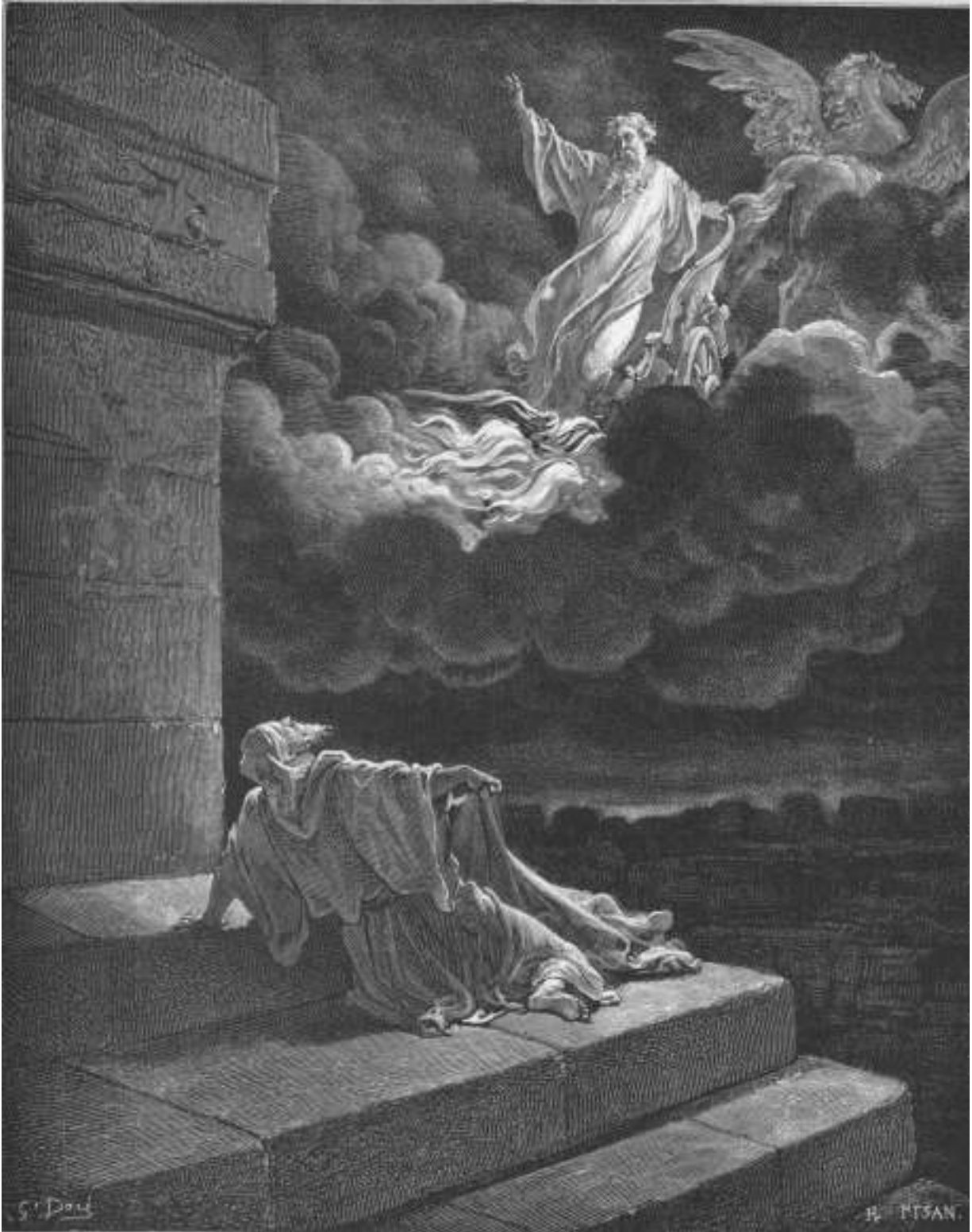
Boaz and Ruth *Ruth 2*



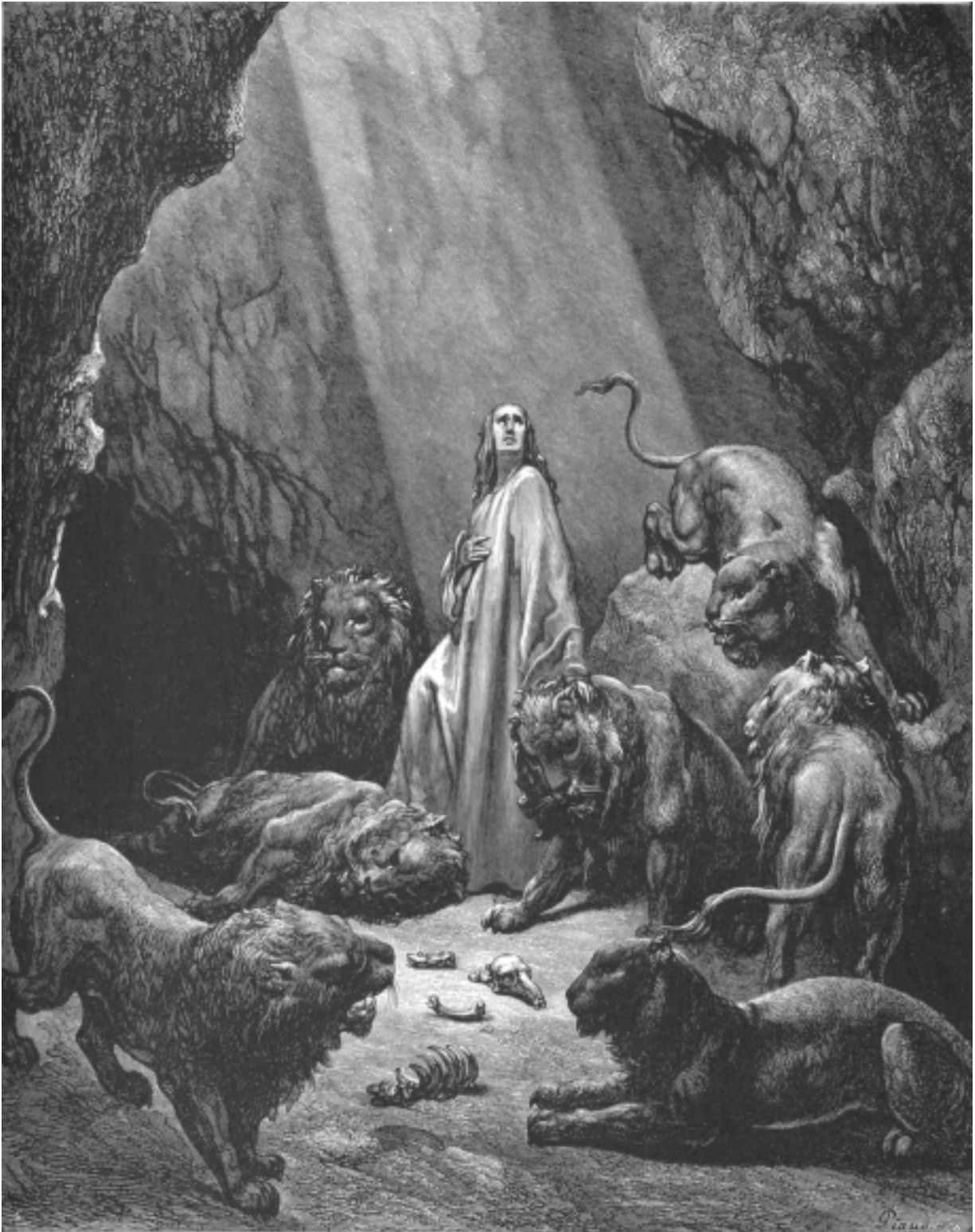
David and Goliath *1 Samuel 17:49-51*



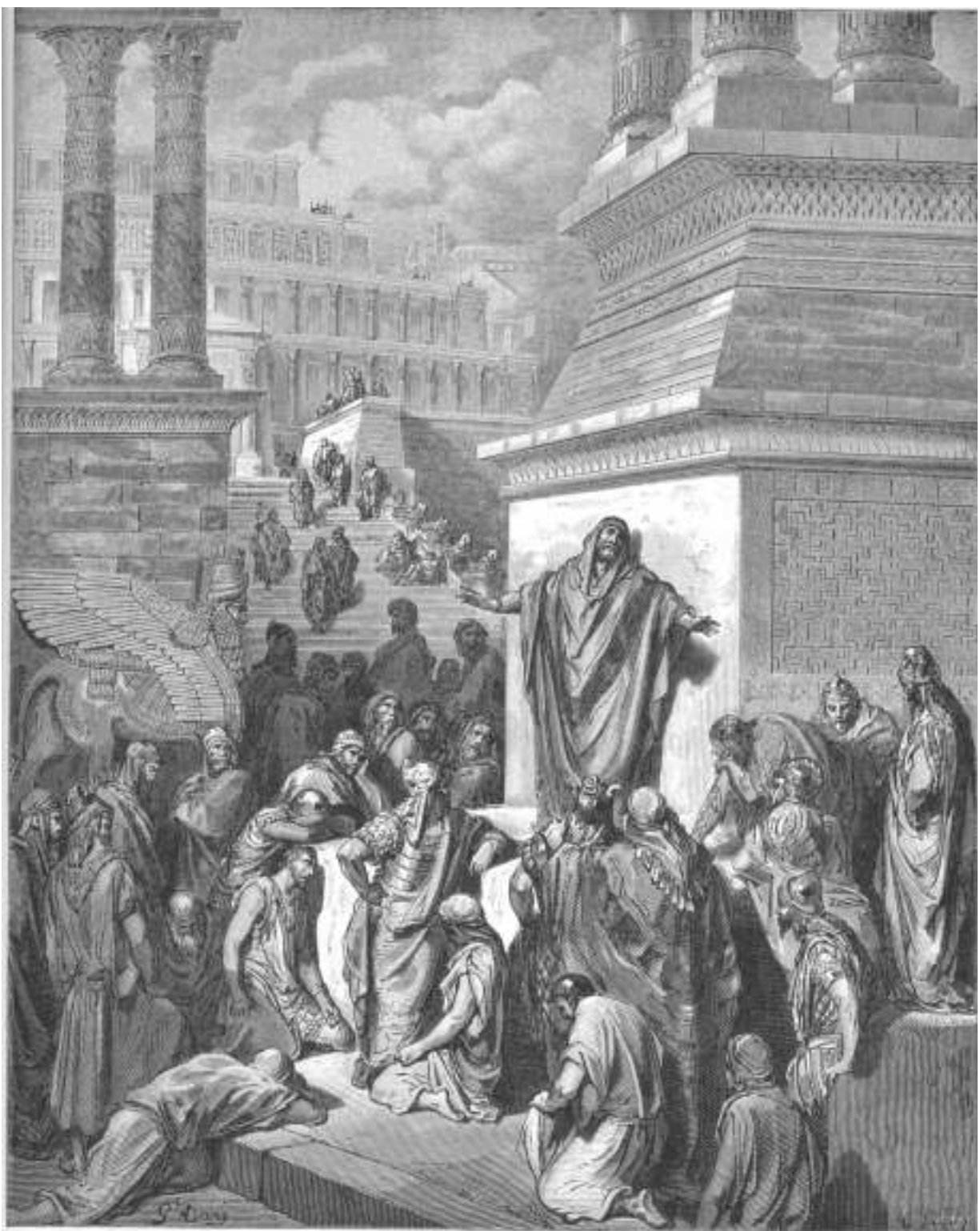
Cedars are Cut Down for the Jerusalem Temple *1 Kings 5*



Elijah Taken up to Heaven *2 Kings 2:11-12*



Daniel in the Den of Lions *Daniel 6:22*



Jonah Preaches to the Ninevites *Jonah 3*



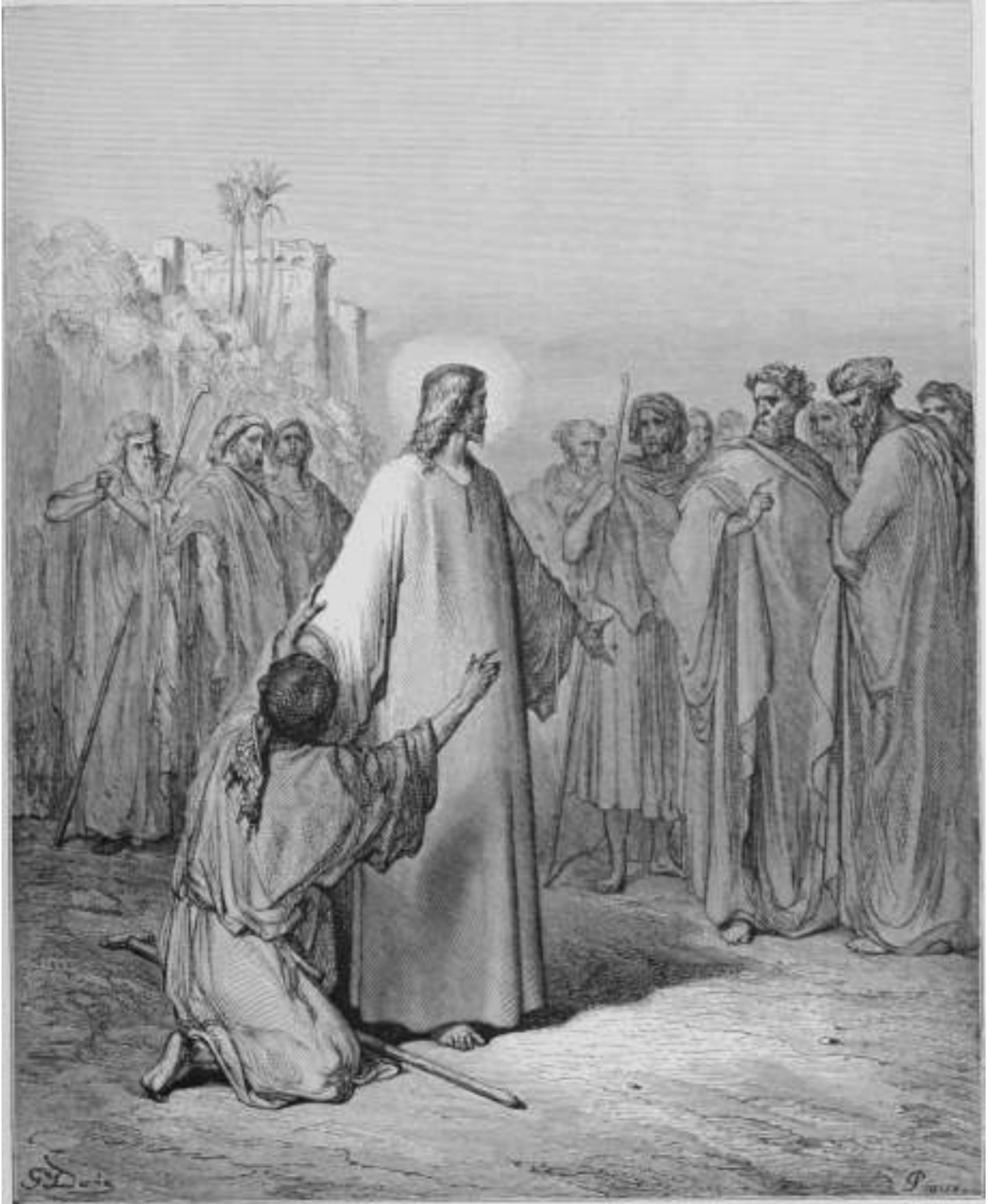
The Nativity *Luke 2*



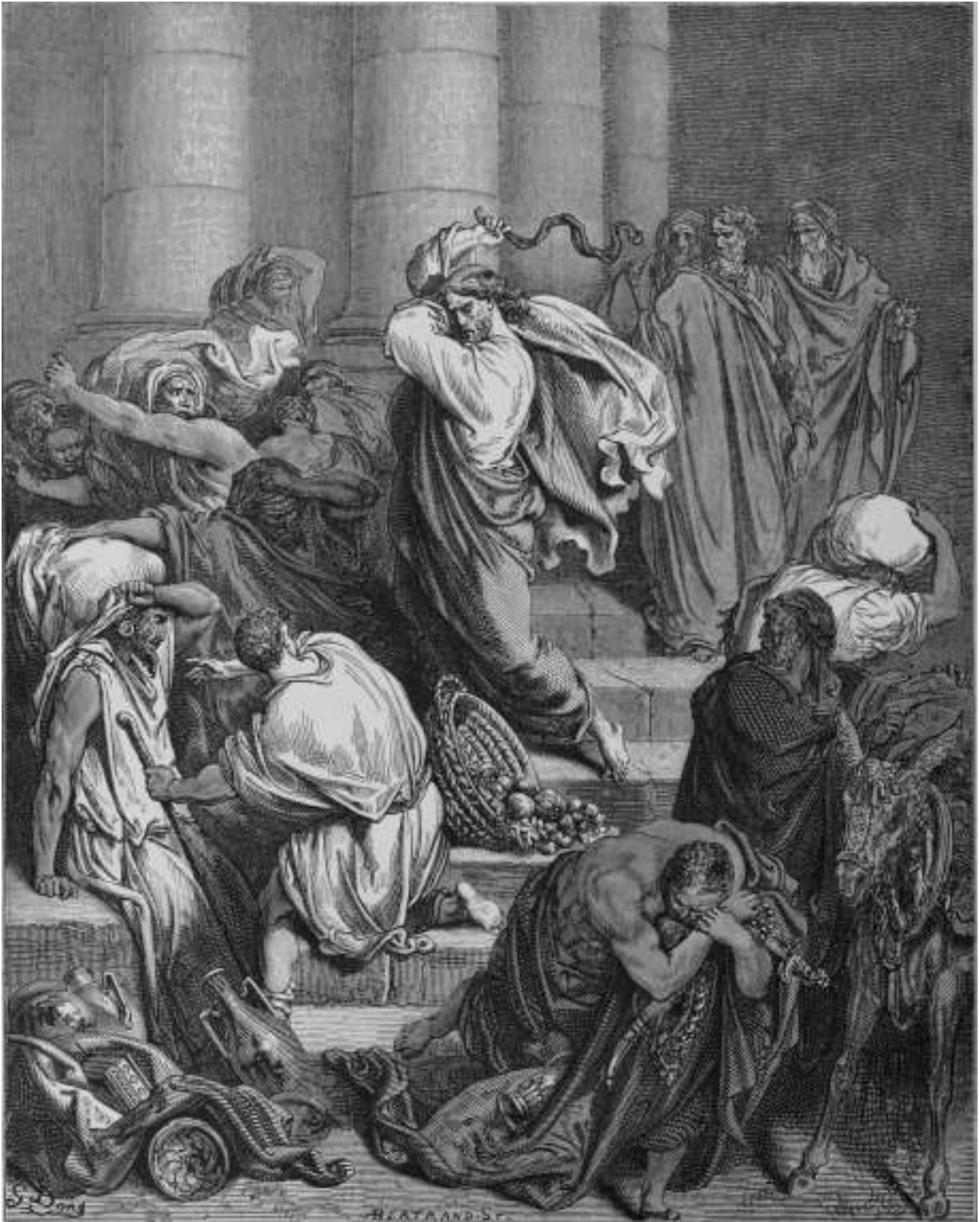
The Wise Men Guided by the Star *Matthew 2*



Jesus with the Teachers *Luke 2:46-49*



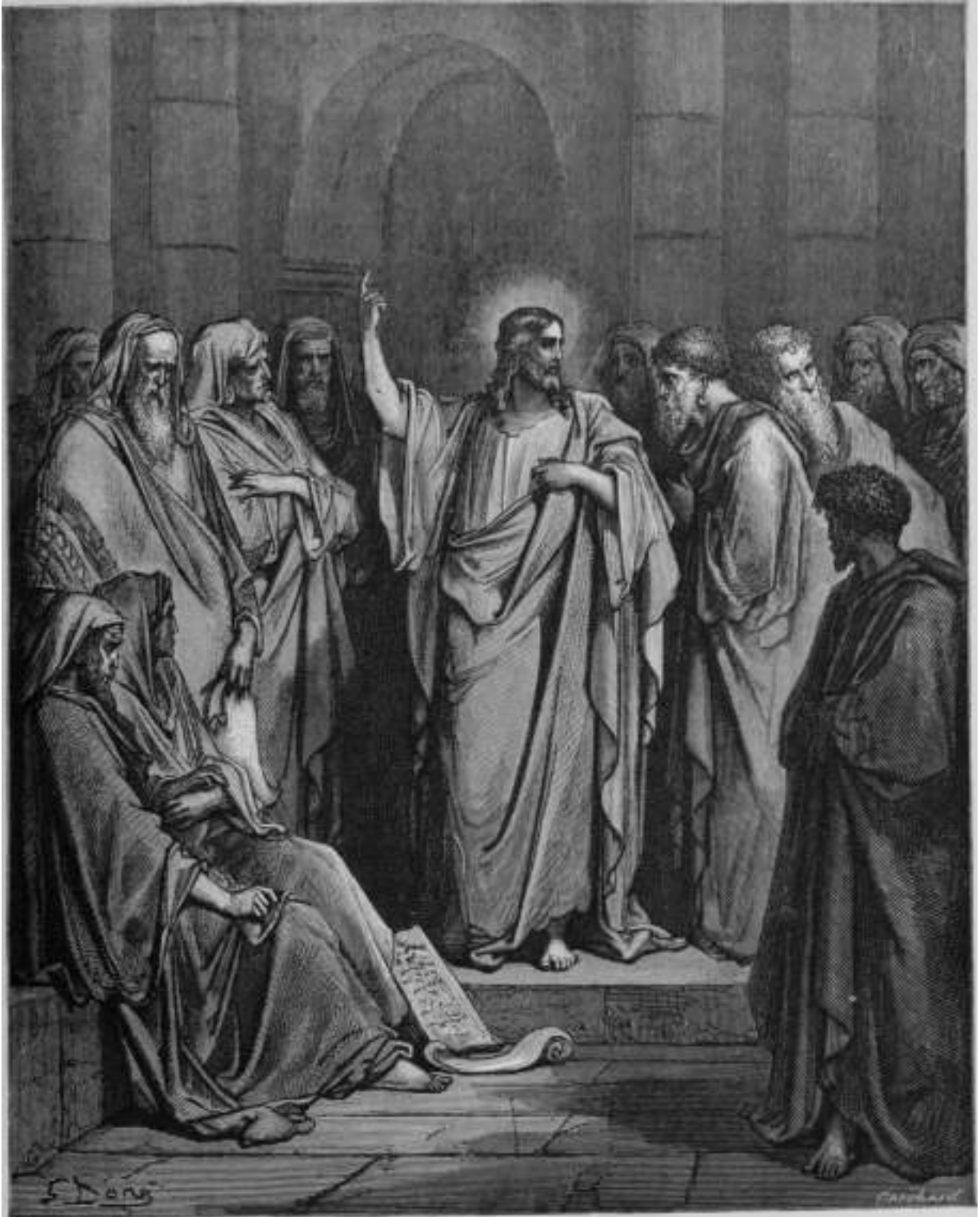
Jesus Healing the Man Possessed with a Devil *Luke 4*



Money-changers Driven Out by Jesus *John 2 and Luke 19*



Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter from the Dead *Luke 8:54*



Christ in the Synagogue *Matthew 13:54*



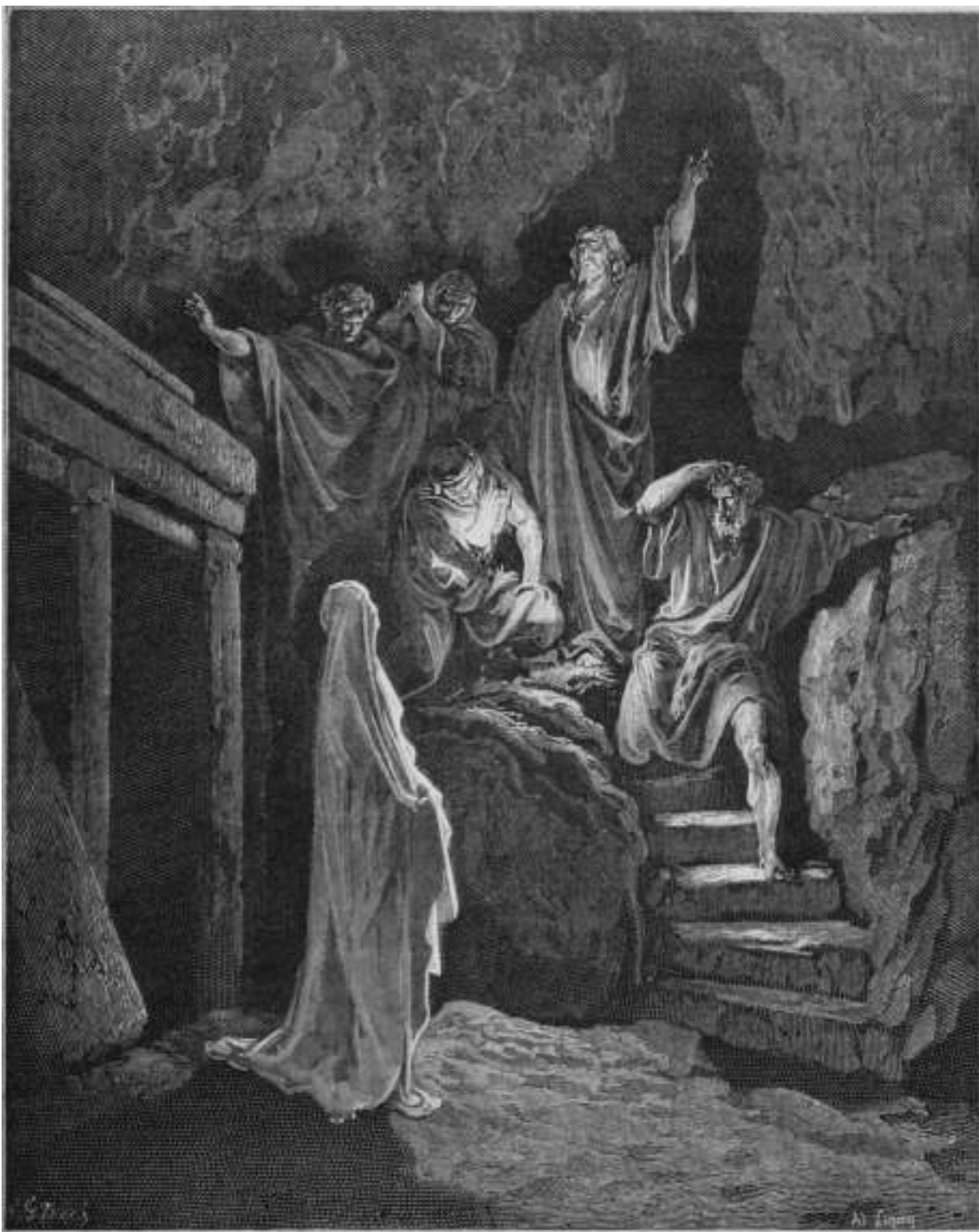
Jesus Preaching to the Multitude *The Gospels*



The Transfiguration *Mark 9:2-9*



The Pharisee and the Publican *Luke 18*



Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead *John 11*



Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem *Matthew 21*



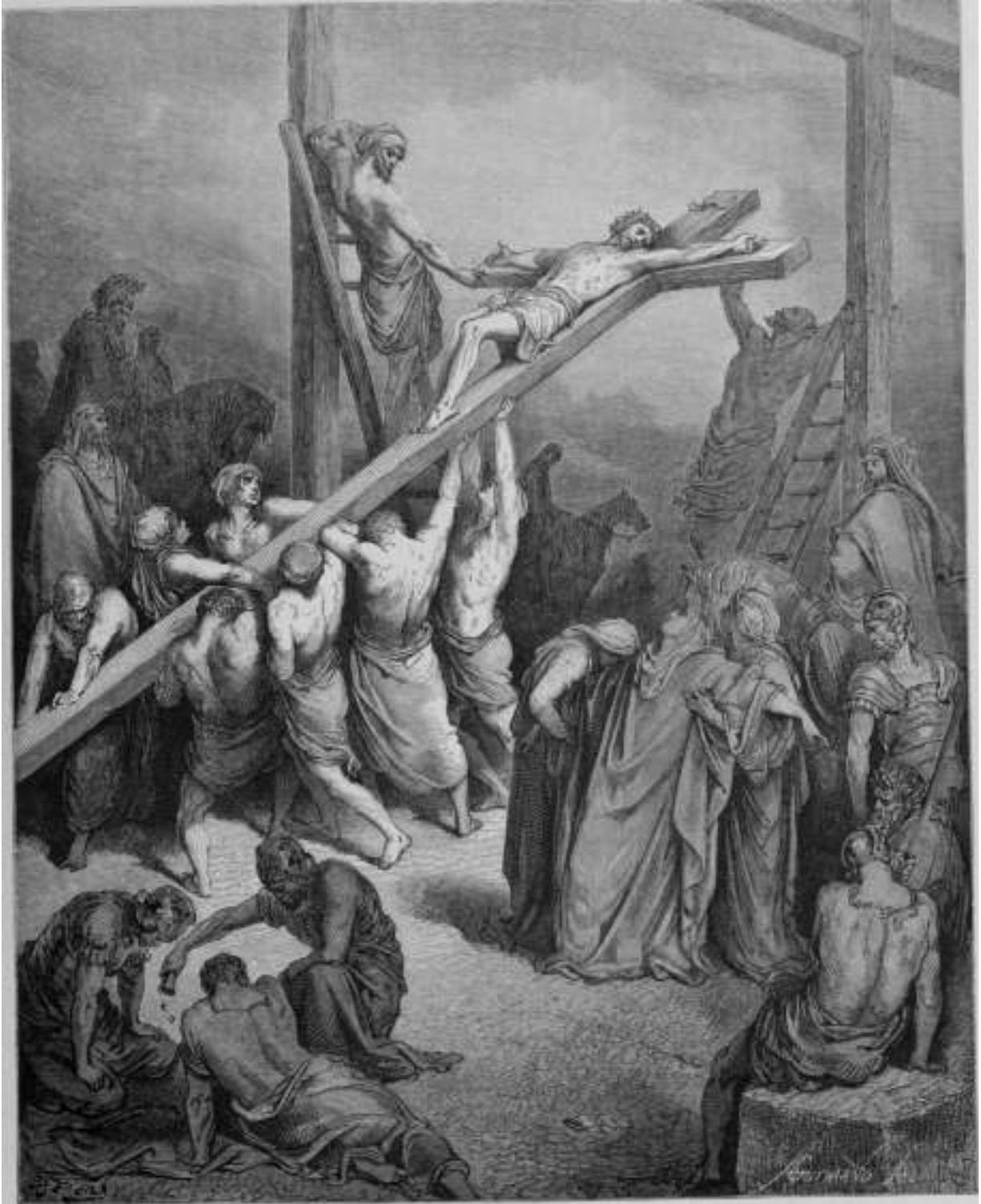
Christ and the Tribute Money *Matthew 22*



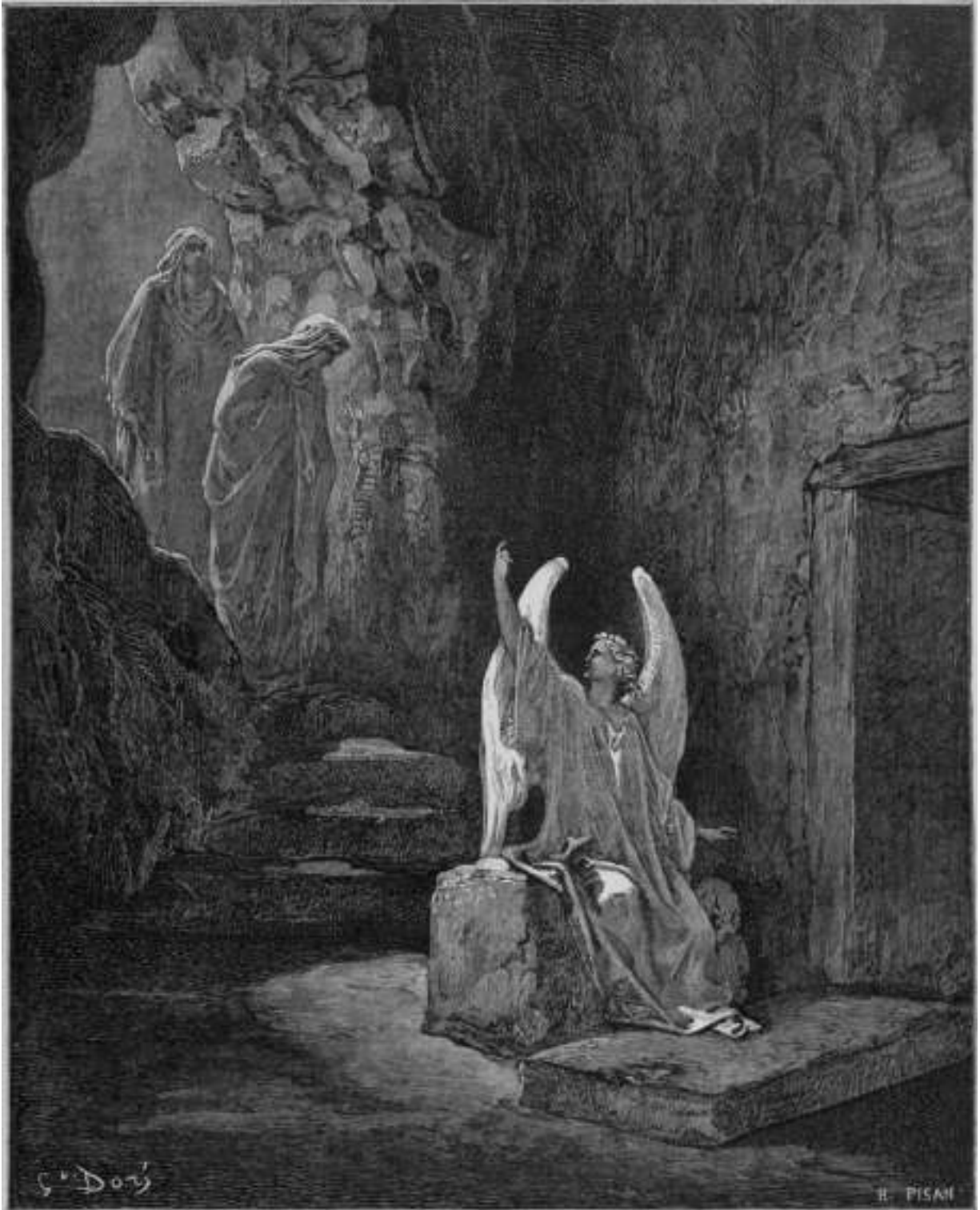
The Last Supper *John 13*



Christ Mocked *Matthew 27*



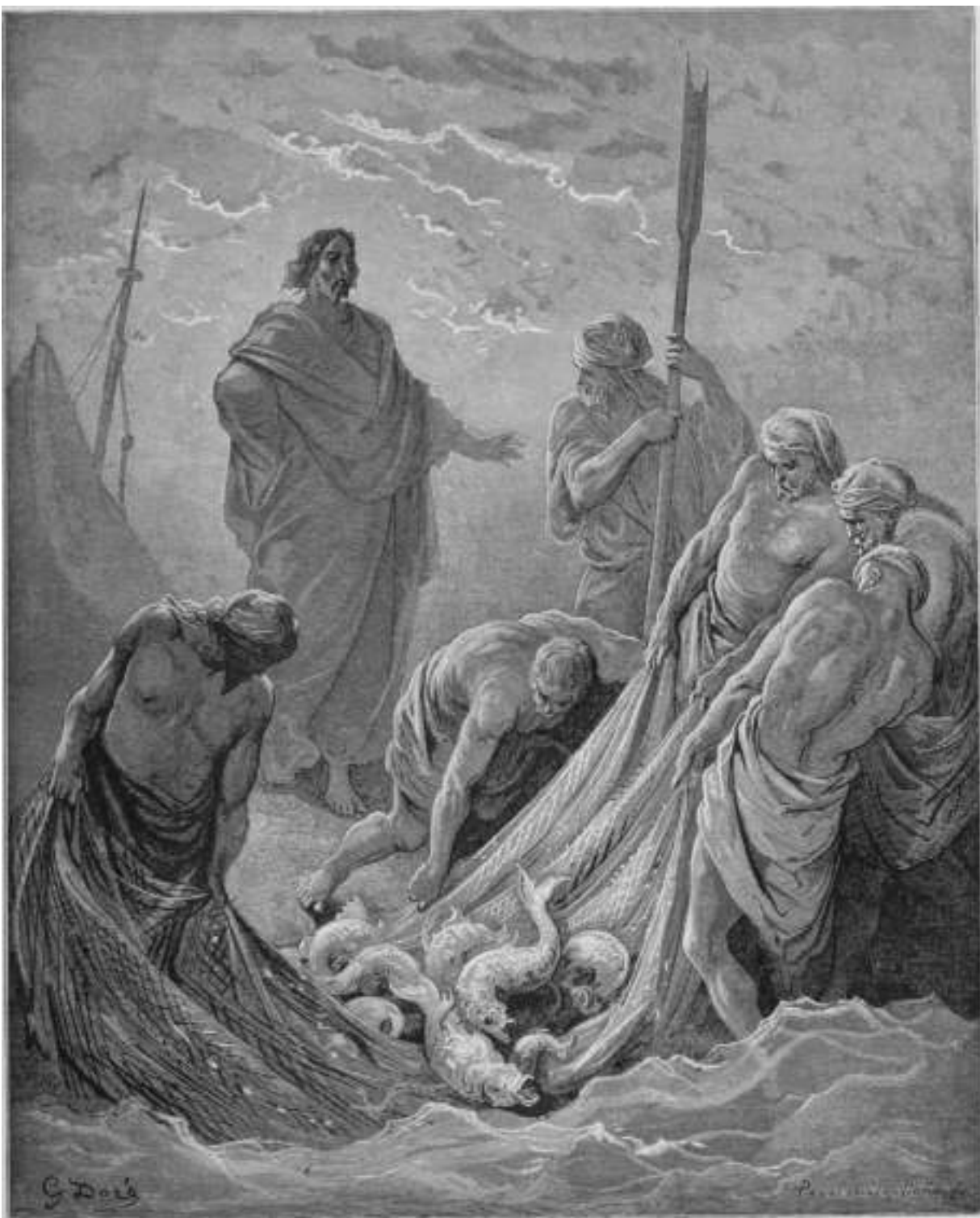
The Lifting of the Crucified Christ *Matthew 27:35*



The Resurrection *Matthew 28:5-6*



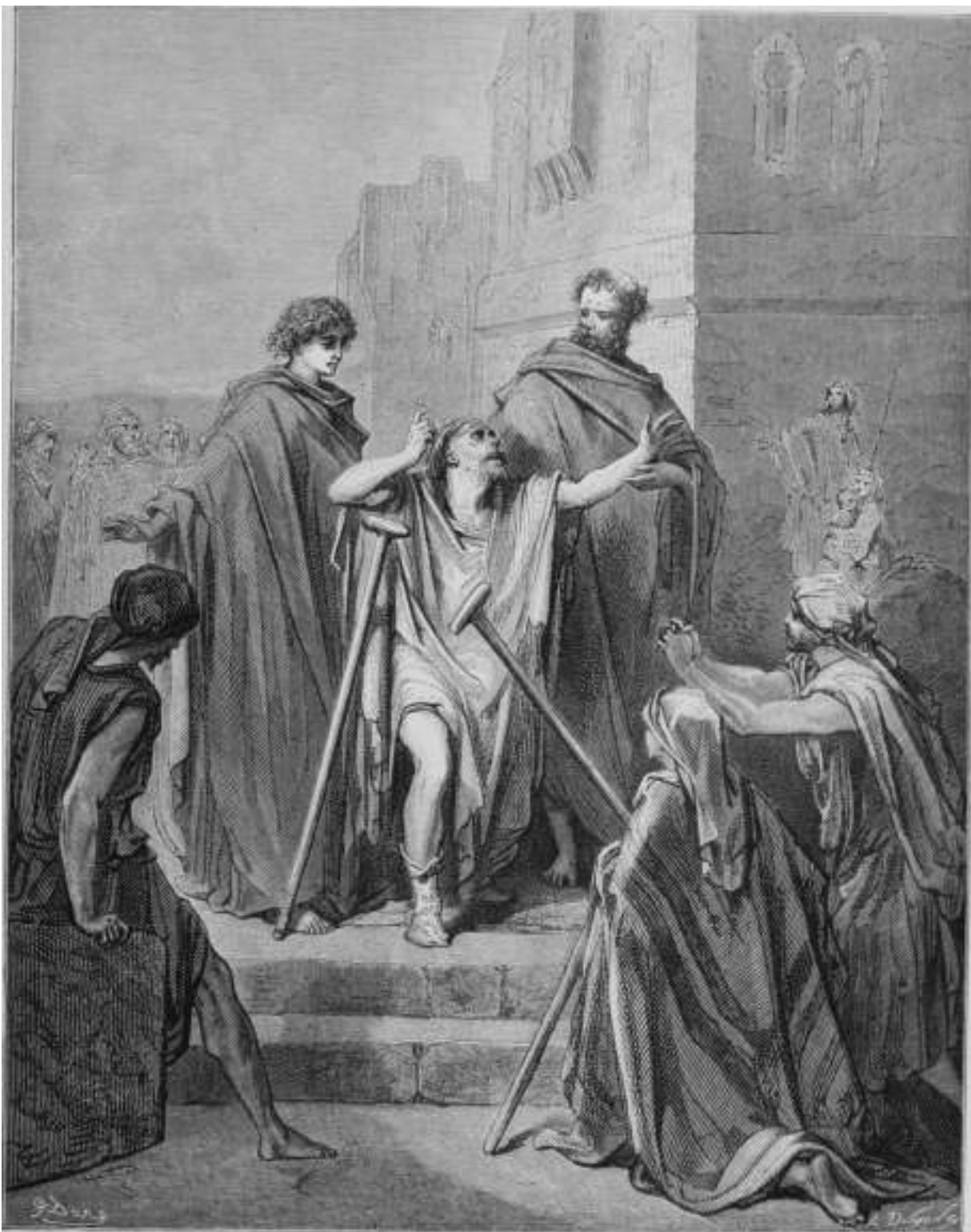
Jesus and the Disciples Going to Emmaus *Luke 24:13-33*



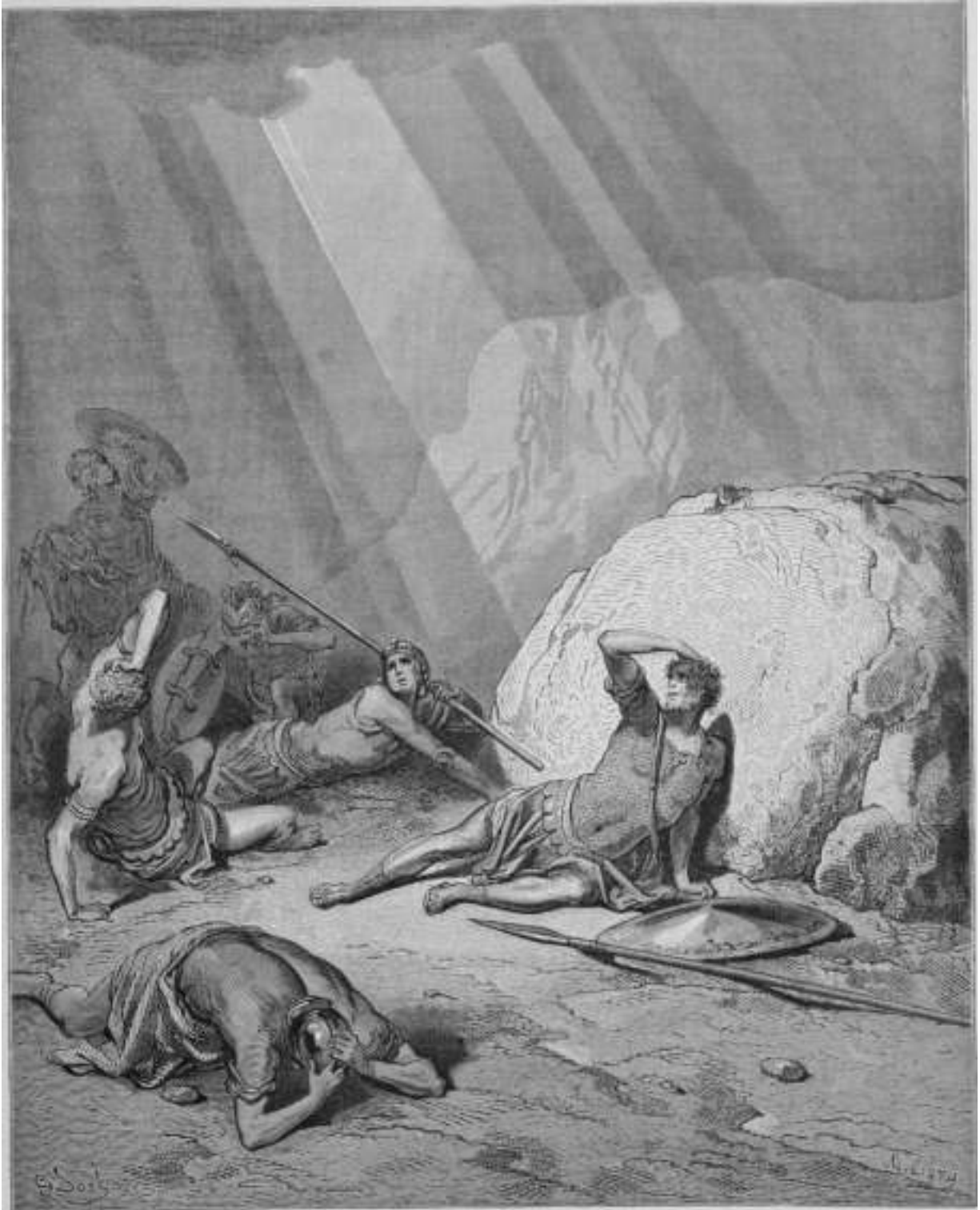
The Miraculous Catch of Fish *John 21:6*



The Descent of the Holy Spirit *Acts 2:1-4*



Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate *Acts 3:6*



Conversion of Saul *Acts 9*



Paul at Ephesus *Acts 19:18-20*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Barry

The author has 55 years of experience walking with and serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This includes 7 years as a missionary, 30 years as a business owner (publishing/advertising), and 14 years in the computer and insurance fields.

His daily study of the Word of God over the years and his wide spectrum of experiences in Christ (Missionary, Assistant Pastor, and Bible Teacher) and the business world provide Robert with a unique perspective on life in a world that desperately needs the Prince of life.

The daily devotions within **LIFE in CHRIST 365** reflect his love for our great God and Savior, his brothers and sisters in Christ, and his wife, children, and grandchildren.

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