



# *Daily Praise and Worship*

*~ 1 Month ~*

*SPAG Magazine offers you this booklet of one month's daily praise and worship free to you. It includes Bible verses, prayers and updated words from older hymns to help draw you closer to God, along with some stunning scenery on which you can focus on the beauty of God's incredible and creative mind.*

# Introduction



It's so easy to get slack about spending time with God each day isn't it? This idea inspired me to create this booklet. I hope you enjoy SPAG Magazine's very first free devotional booklet, and that it will help to draw you into a closer relationship with God each day for a whole month. You may like to focus on the lovely images that accompany each day's words to help you to appreciate the beauty of God's incredibly creative mind. There are prayers, things to ponder, Bible verses and updated old hymns.

Towards the back you'll find two pages of the names of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit used in the Bible. You may like to use these in your daily time with God, perhaps focussing on one or two names.

Please share the booklet with others who you think may find it helpful. While it is copyrighted, it simply means that it can't be sold, nor the wording/content as is, used to create other works.

At this time, we only have this one month of devotions, though when I have some time, I aim to create some more to share.

SPAG Magazine is a free quarterly, electronic magazine for Christians, with a focus on singles. Our purpose is to support, encourage and challenge you in your walk.

May I encourage you to please consider supporting this ministry - at present, all costs are currently borne by me, and I live on a limited disability pension, which as you can imagine, makes it a bit challenging at times. You can make donations, purchase jewellery, key-rings or earlier issues of SPAG Magazine online to help us keep this ministry going. Thank you for your kind consideration.



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"Praise the Eternal! Praise the True God inside His temple.  
Praise Him beneath massive skies, *under moonlit stars and rising sun.*  
Praise Him for His powerful acts, *redeeming His people.*  
Praise Him for His greatness that surpasses *our time and understanding...*  
*No one should be left out; Let every man and every beast - every creature that has the breath of the Lord - praise the Eternal! Praise the Eternal!"* Psalm 150:1-2 & 6 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Although my words are inadequate to praise You as You deserve, please accept my thanks and praise. I'm not a wonderful poet or song writer, but I have gratitude in my heart that You accept me; despite all of my faults and how often I stumble. I can't understand a love like that - a love so vast, so great, that what I know of love here on earth, is microscopically small in comparison. Open my limited understanding to the greatness of Your love. Amen

**Blessed be You Oh God of Israel** *by Henry Ustick Onderdonk*

Blessed be You oh God of Israel, You, our Father and our Lord;  
Blessed Your majesty forever, ever be Your name adored!  
Yours, oh Lord are power and greatness, glory, victory are Your own;  
All is Yours in earth and heaven, over all Your boundless throne.  
  
Riches come of You, and honour, power and might to You belong;  
Yours it is to make us prosper, only Yours to make us strong.  
Lord, to You, the God of mercy, hymns of gratitude we raise;  
To Your name, forever glorious, ever we address our praise.





*"Your works are marvellous, O Eternal One! Your thoughts are unfathomable."* Psalm 92:5 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* The intricacy of your creation astounds me. From the most elaborate of organisms to the simplest, you created all of nature to work together in harmony. Even now, though our world is no longer perfect, the animals, plants, the weather and the seasons are balanced together so that living things grow and breed at the right time. You give more food when living things produce their young. The seasons allow them to develop and rest at the right time.

What a remarkable mind you have Lord! I can't help but be astonished at the beauty in your creation which causes me to ponder the splendour of your mind. Your sense of beauty and your creative ability are so far beyond my comprehension, and yet You share it with us, and make it a part of our lives.

Forgive me for the many times that I have taken your creation and its beauty for granted. Your incredible mind and creative ability are worthy of praise and adoration. Please accept my limited praise as I revel in and treasure the loveliness of nature and all of Your creation. Amen.

### **I Sing the Almighty Power of God** *by Isaac Watts*

I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.  
I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;  
He formed the creatures with His word, and then pronounced them good.  
There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Your glories known;  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Your throne.  
Lord, how Your wonders are displayed wherever I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.  
Creatures numerous as they be, are subject to Your care;  
There's not a place where we can flee, but God is present there.





“For You shaped me, inside and out. You knitted me together in my mother’s womb long before I took my first breath. I will offer You my grateful heart, for I am Your unique creation, filled with wonder and awe. You have approached even the smallest details with excellence; Your works are wonderful; I carry this knowledge deep within my soul.

You see all things; nothing about me was hidden from You as I took shape in secret, carefully crafted in the heart of the earth before I was born from its womb. You see all things; You saw me growing, changing in my mother’s womb; every detail of my life was already written in Your book; You established the length of my life before I ever tasted the sweetness of it.

Your thoughts and plans are treasures to me, O God! I cherish each and every one of them! How grand in scope! How many in number! If I could count each one of them, they would be more than all the grains of sand on earth. Their number is inconceivable! Even when I wake up, I am still near to You.”

Psalm 139:13-18 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Your mind is beyond marvellous! How can I begin to understand the complexity of your plan, that before time began, you worked out the number of my days, and Your incredible design for me? My own feeble understanding can’t comprehend a mind such as Yours, which has interwoven such a rich tapestry of mankind’s history, while weaving in Your plan for redemption within its complex threads. You have given us the freedom of will which allows us to chose or reject You, and yet still you’ve taken account of that and made it a part of Your design.

Even if I should have the wisdom of Solomon, I could never come close to grasping the simplest workings of your Mind, nor have the words to express my awe.

Heavenly Father, you are not an uncaring, distant God, but one of compassion and love. You care about us, first by creating the spark of life from which we came, watching over us from the moment of our conception through to the day of our birth, and then you stay with us through all of our days. You don’t leave us to wander aimlessly through life but reach out to us with a compassionate hand, calling to us to come close to you. Even if we refuse to accept You, You still love us, desiring for an intimate and loving relationship. Although it breaks your heart if we reject you, still You yearn for that personal connection with each of us and for us to be made whole.

In my human weakness, I can never begin to grasp the qualities and the depth of Your magnanimous and unselfish love. I praise You, for Your love and compassion are without measure. Amen.





“No one is holy like the Eternal One - no, no one but You; and there is no rock as solid as our True God.”

(Hannah) 1 Samuel 2:2 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* How can I describe your holiness when it's so far outside of my sphere of experience and understanding? Is it because I'm a sinner, that the concept of holiness is simply too foreign for me to grasp? Forgive me for the times that I don't treat You with proper reverence, awe, respect and gratitude.

While I understand that Your holiness refers to the absolute absence of sin or darkness, if I liken it to John's description in Revelation that just as there will always be light in heaven which comes from You, without even a hint of darkness, perhaps that pure light is a manifestation of and reflection of Your holiness.

One of the biggest difficulties with understanding Your holiness, is that there is nothing with which I can compare it, because our physical existence is impure and marred by sin.

Holy Spirit, bring my mind, heart and spirit closer to understanding Your holiness. Let me not be discouraged by my failings and how far I am from Your purity. Instead fill me with an eager desire to want to know You more, and a willingness to grow in Christian maturity despite my naturally lazy and selfish nature. Never let me wander from Your path, because it is this very journey in which I come a little closer to You each day, and leave a little of my old self and my old ways behind.

Let me always be mindful that my destiny is intertwined in Your incredibly complex and awesome plan, and that You desire for me to fulfil my purpose in You. Remind me with a gentle and loving rebuke when I allow my own selfishness to lead me instead of Your Spirit.

May I understand Your holiness more so that I may worship You appropriately. Amen.





“We are inviting you to experience eternal life through the One who was with the Father and came down to us. What we saw and heard we pass on to you so that you, too, will be connected with us intimately and become family. Our family is united by our connection with the Father and His Son Jesus, the Anointed One; and we write all this because retelling this story fulfils our joy.

What we are telling you now is the very message we heard from Him: God is pure light, undimmed by darkness of any kind. If we say we have an intimate connection with the Father but we continue stumbling around in darkness, then we are lying because we do not live according to truth. If we walk step by step in the light, where the Father is, then we are ultimately connected to each other through the sacrifice of Jesus His Son. His blood purifies us from all our sins.”

1 John 1:2b-7 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* What an incredible invitation - to join Your family and to be connected with You! Your family is no ordinary family, but one whose foundation is in You, our holy, changeless, and loving Father.

Your love is pure. You have no hint of sin or darkness in You. Your love is not tainted by selfishness or pride. You don't judge us out of arrogance or a sense of superiority, because You are an honourable, compassionate and just God. You delight in loving us, and when we turn to You, letting go of our old ways and embracing a lifelong transformation towards humility, learning to lean on You even through the most difficult of trials, and yearning to know You and placing our trust and purpose in Your hands, Your heart is warmed with joy.

Thank you for welcoming me into your family, and adopting me as Your child. How wonderful that you've made me a part of Your royal family, where my brothers and sisters understand the journey which we each began when we became a Christian.

As You have a desire to love and be loved, You have planted that desire also in me. Develop in me a compassion towards my brothers and sisters, especially those who are persecuted in Your name, for those who struggle with heavy burdens, for those who are in pain mentally, emotionally and physically, and for those who are weary in their journey. Remove any arrogance within me towards those who don't know You, and instead replace it with an unquenchable flame of love, compassion and humility so that they too may know Your name and Your heart, and have the opportunity to be welcomed into our family, and Your loving embrace. Amen.



"Hear me, O God, when I cry; listen to my prayer. You are the One I will call when pushed to the edge, when my heart is faint. Shoulder me to the rock above me. For You are my protection, an impenetrable fortress from my enemies. Let me live in Your sanctuary forever; let me find safety in the shadow of Your wings."

Psalm 61:1-4 (VOICE)

**Jesus, My Saviour, Is All Things to Me** *by William J. Kirkpatrick*

Jesus, my Saviour, is all things to me, oh what a wonderful Saviour is He:  
Guiding, protecting over life's rolling sea, Mighty Deliverer - Jesus for me.  
Jesus for me, Jesus for me, all the time everywhere, Jesus for me.

Jesus in sickness, and Jesus in health, Jesus in poverty, comfort or wealth,  
Sunshine or tempest, whatever it be, He is my safety - Jesus for me.  
Jesus for me, Jesus for me, all the time everywhere, Jesus for me.

He is my refuge, my rock and my tower, He is my fortress, my strength and my power;  
My life everlasting, mediator is He, blessed Redeemer - Jesus for me.  
Jesus for me, Jesus for me, all the time everywhere, Jesus for me.

He is my Prophet, my Priest and my King, He is my Bread of Life, fountain and spring;  
Bright son of righteousness, Daystar is He, Horn of Salvation - Jesus for me.  
Jesus for me, Jesus for me, all the time everywhere, Jesus for me.

Jesus in sorrow, in joy or in pain, Jesus my treasure in loss or in gain;  
Constant companion wherever I be, living or dying - Jesus for me.  
Jesus for me, Jesus for me, all the time everywhere, Jesus for me.





“Come to Him - the living stone - who was rejected by people but accepted by God as chosen and precious. Like living stones, let yourselves be assembled into a spiritual house, a holy order of priests who offer up spiritual sacrifices that will be acceptable to God through Jesus the Anointed.”

“But you are a chosen people, set aside to be a royal order of priests, a holy nation, God’s own; so that you may proclaim the wondrous acts of the One who called you out of inky darkness into shimmering light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received it.

Beloved, remember you don’t belong in this world. You are resident aliens living in exile, so resist those desires of the flesh that battle against the soul. Live honourably among the outsiders so that, even when some may be inclined to call you criminals, when they see your good works, they might give glory to God when He returns in judgment.”

1 Peter 2:4-12 & 9-12 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* I’m so sorry for giving into the hype within some churches which suggest that we’ve a right to good health, wealth and power in Your name. That was never promised in Your word. In fact, the opposite is true. Believers have been promised trials and persecution even ‘unto death.’ Paul, and many thousands of our brothers and sister have lived in poverty, strife and sometimes even in deadly peril.

This concept which has crept silently into some churches and into the hearts of many Christians, suggests that we allow our hearts to be focussed on things that we perceive are ‘good’ for us, and to focus on our own supposed ‘needs.’ Instead the Bible says that we are to be holy which is different to focussing on ourselves and our own needs. This would appear to be the opposite of that which many of us are being taught. We are to be ‘set apart’ from the ways of the world. We are to become holy means to serve a special purpose for God; to dedicate our lives to God rather than aiming to achieve to our own desires.

If our aim is holiness, then let me be willing to be lead by the Holy Spirit; and to work towards becoming more like Jesus Christ. Help me to accept that trials will be an expected, if unpleasant and painful part of my walk, because I know that it’s through these very trials in which I may become more Christ-like, if I’m willing. Amen.





"The Eternal is compassionate and merciful. When we cross all the lines, He is patient with us.

When we struggle against Him, He lovingly stays with us - changing, convicting, prodding; He will not constantly criticise, nor will He hold a grudge forever. Thankfully, God does not punish us for our sins and depravity as we deserve. In His mercy, He tempers justice with peace.

Measure how high heaven is above the earth; God's wide, loving, kind heart is greater for those who revere Him. You see, God takes all our crimes - our seemingly inexhaustible sins - and removes them. As far as east is from the west, He removes them from us.

An earthly father expresses love for his children; it is no different with our heavenly Father; the Eternal shows His love for those who revere Him. For He knows what we are made of; He knows our frame is frail, and He remembers we came from dust."

Psalm 103:8-14 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Your compassion God, is limitless. Sometimes I know it and I can feel your closeness, as if You've wrapped me in Your arms. At other times when I don't sense Your presence and it seems that You are silent, I have to rely on those promises You've given about being close to the broken-hearted, and hold fast to Your commitment and Your promise to love me no matter what happens.

It's only in myself that the limitation lies: You have no limitations. Your faithful love and compassion are unchanging. It's Your ultimate love that never diminishes - a love that is supreme - the utmost that love can be. Such a love is beyond my imagination and human experience. You are worthy of praise - an unchanging, compassionate, loving Heavenly Father. Amen.

*Jesus, Your Name I Love* by J.G. Deck

Jesus, Your name I love, all other names above, Jesus, my Lord!

Oh You are all to me; nothing to please I see, nothing apart from You, Jesus, my Lord!

You, blessed Son of God, have bought me with Your blood, Jesus, my Lord!

How mighty is Your love, all other loves above, love that I daily prove, Jesus, my Lord!

Soon You will come again: I shall be happy then, Jesus, my Lord!

Then I, like You shall be, and Your own face I'll see, ever with You I'll be, Jesus, my Lord!





"We cannot wrap our minds around God's wisdom and knowledge! Its depths can never be measured! We cannot understand His judgments or explain the mysterious ways that He works! For, who can fathom the mind of the Lord? Or who can claim to be His advisor? Or, who can give to God in advance so that God must pay him back?

...For all that exists originates in Him, comes through Him, and is moving toward Him; so give Him the glory forever. Amen."

Romans 11:33-36 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Let us never forget that the origins of our faith are drawn from the promise You made to the Israelites to be their Holy God, and they Your holy people. While some of the original branches may have been cut off the vine, You have lovingly grafted onto the vine, those without a Jewish heritage so that we too could become part of Your family. It has always been Your desire to be reconciled with Your children, which is why it is important for us to understand the roots from where our Christian faith arises.

Your knowledge and wisdom are so far outside the limits of our own understanding. Your design for us and for mankind includes a plan so richly complex that we grasp only a small corner of it. While the most brilliant scholars may understand more of the depths of Your incredible mind, they remain aware of how little they truly understand You.

One thing on which we all agree is that everything has its existence in You - every single human being, every thought and every word, every invention and creative endeavour, every form of study and education, every song, melody and dance, every compassionate and loving heart springs from You, because it is in You and from You that we were made.

How dim and ugly our world would be if You had simply created us and then left us alone after the fall in Eden. Perhaps our sick and sinful nature would have corrupted us so completely that any good in us would have been quickly stamped out, and those who remained would be the most cruel and wicked of people. When we look at the world before the great flood, we see how quickly our corrupt nature infected all of mankind except for Noah and his family. Even now, our sinful nature is evident around the world.

Instead, because of Your remarkable love for us, we see the light of your love throughout time - small elements and continual traces of a light shining so brilliantly that the evil in us and our world, was never allowed to take hold. While Satan would have delighted at the wickedness of our nature and the world's darkness, just as a small flame can penetrate the night, Your love and compassion throughout time has guided us through some of the darkest days of man's history. We can look all the way back to Adam and Eve and see the trail of Your love shining in every moment.

You are a God of love, and You couldn't help but love us because it is such an inherent part of Your nature. Our limited love and compassion has its foundation in You. Please help me to overcome my naturally selfish disposition and instead fill me with Your love and compassion so that I may be like a mirror, and reflect Your love to others, particularly those who are lost. Amen.





“Come, let us worship in song, a joyful offering to the Eternal. Shout! Shout with joy to the rock of our liberation. Come face-to-face with God, and give thanks; with loud and joyful voices, praise Him in songs. For the Eternal is a great God, and a great King, supreme over all gods.

Within His control are the very depths of the earth; the mountaintops too - they all belong to Him. The sea belongs to Him, for He created it - scooped and filled it - with His hands He made the dry land - every valley and mountain.”

Psalm 95:1-5 (VOICE)

“Who has taken count and measured out all earth’s waters in a single, cupped palm and determined heaven’s expanse with an outstretched hand? Who has counted out exactly how many grains of dirt are here on earth, and weighed the mountains and hills on scales?

Who has directed the Spirit of the Eternal One? Can anyone claim to be His advisor? To whom did God turn for advice or instruction? Whom did He consult about right and wrong? Who directed Him down the path of justice or imparted to Him knowledge or taught Him the way of understanding? Face it; the nations are nothing but a drop in the bucket, only a smidgen on the scales by the reckoning of God. He can pick up entire islands as if they are grains of dirt. Even if we had all the resources of Lebanon - all of its trees to burn for fuel, all of its animals for burnt offerings - How could we think that we’ve got enough to give to God?”

Isaiah 40:12-16 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* I praise Your beautiful mind. Because of Your inherent love, compassion, wisdom, patience, creativity and steadfastness, Your thoughts cannot help but be filled with beauty. All we need to do is look at the marvels of your creations to be awe-inspired at your remarkable thoughts! If this creation was corrupted when sin entered the world, then how perfect, beautiful and wonderful was your initial creation, in the Garden of Eden!

All we need to do is look at the complexity and balances in nature to catch a small glimpse of your wonderful, creative and incredible mind. You are worthy of praise! You are worthy of adoration! Amen.





*Prayer:* Please help me to worship You as I should. You deserve so much more than my feeble attempts, and yet, You accept my inadequate efforts. Forgive this foolish and selfish heart of mine that day by day, moment by moment distracts me with claims that my needs and desires are more important than time spent in Your company.

Bring about a change in me so that I may treasure our time together, to appreciate Your unchanging and tremendous love. How can I even begin to grasp Your compassion and Your love, which accepts and cares for me, despite my own selfishness? Amen

**Jesus! What A Friend To Sinners** *by J. Wilber Chapman*

Jesus! what a friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul! Friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
He, my Saviour, makes me whole. Hallelujah! what a Saviour! Hallelujah! what a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him; tempted, tried, and sometimes  
failing, He, my strength, my victory wins. Hallelujah! what a Saviour! Hallelujah! what a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll; even when my heart is breaking, He,  
my comfort, helps my soul. Hallelujah! what a Saviour! Hallelujah! what a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high; storms about me, night overtakes  
me, He, my pilot, hears my cry. Hallelujah! what a Saviour! Hallelujah! what a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find; He has granted me forgiveness, I am His,  
and He is mine. Hallelujah! what a Saviour! Hallelujah! what a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.





### You Are El Ro'i, the God Who Sees Me

"The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied.

The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count ... You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress.

...Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "**You are the God who sees me.**" (Hebrew: El-Roi) She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?"

(Genesis 16:7-13) (NLT)

While she was in the wilderness, cast out of the home she'd known with her Master and Mistress, Abram and Sarai, Hagar must have been absolutely distraught with no access to food, water or shelter or anyone to protect her and her unborn baby. She likely felt that she had nowhere to go. She'd hit rock-bottom and may have been wondering if she was going to die.

But then God reached out to her through the angel, and Hagar realised, possibly for the first time in her life, that God was real and that He cared. "**You are the God who sees me,**" she said. Perhaps her face lit up as she recognised, "He sees me - an unimportant Egyptian servant. He sent a messenger to me!"

Perhaps Hagar didn't know that she had been made in His image, and that every single person is important to God. She discovered not only that He loved her, but He wasn't some impersonal, distant God, unlike the idols of her native Egypt, but was someone who involved Himself in the lives of the people He created.

*Prayer:* Thank you that You are the God who sees me: every struggle, every stumble, every sin, and every difficulty. You are the God who sees me and loves me. Your heart swells with compassion towards all of Your children. Thank You for Your blessings and Your loving kindness. Amen.





"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.


Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering."

Romans 8:1-17 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* I praise you Holy Spirit, for you guide and teach me, correcting me so that I may grow a little more like Jesus Christ every day. Thank you for the promise of that wonderful inheritance we have gained as God's children - a member of His royal family who will one day join Him in heaven. Amen





David sang this song to the Lord on the day the Lord rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul. He sang: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my saviour, the one who saves me from violence."

2 Samuel 22:1-3 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Thank you that I can hold onto You when my own world is full of unrest and even pain. You are my rock and my fortress, You are the anchor on which I can rely.

I have come to understand that no matter how messed up my life, my thoughts or my emotions may become, Your anchor is steadfast, strong and immovable. Help me to hold onto You when my faith, my body, my mind and even my spirit are weak - remind me of Your unchanging and unfathomable love; remind me that just as Your strength never wavers, nor does your love or compassion. Amen

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus** by Elizabeth C Clephane

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I'd gladly take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see,  
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
And from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of His glorious love, and my own worthlessness.

I take, oh cross, your shadow, for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.





*Prayer:* When I read of the amazing miracles in the Bible, it reminds me that You are also working in my life. While I may not see the same kind of astonishing miracles as those in Your word, the more I grow as a Christian, the more I can look back to my past and see where You have been working and brought things to pass in my favour - times where I recognise that there were some quite fascinating ways in which You have worked.

Through You I have hope in my daily struggles - not that my life will be without difficulties, but hope and promise that everything You do in my life is for my benefit and sometimes even for the benefit of others of Your children who have seen Your working in my life or who benefit from the work that I've undertaken for You.

How easy it is for me to become complacent; to take the blessings You've given me for granted. Please forgive me and help me to be ever mindful of Your hand upon my life. Thank You for Your unchanging love and compassion. Thank You for the ways in which You have enabled me to play a tiny part in Your overall plan for mankind.

How wonderful is Your plan for this broken world; how remarkable is Your unfailing love for us; how deep is Your compassion; how vast the reach of Your arms. Amen

**Ancient of Days** *by W.C. Doane*

Ancient of days, who sits throned in glory, to You all knees are bent, all voices pray,  
Your love has blessed the wide world's wondrous story  
With light and life since Eden's dawning day.

Oh blessed Father, who has led Your children in all the ages, as with fire and cloud,  
Through seas dry-shod, through weary wastes bewildering,  
To You in reverent love our hearts are bowed.

Oh holy God, with heart and voice adoring, we praise the goodness that owns our days;  
Pray we that You will hear us, still imploring Your love and favour, for us always.





*Prayer:* You are God: Eloah - the Mighty One; my Tower of Strength; my Hiding Place; my Shield; and the Rock of my Strength. You are El-Elyon, the Most High God - the God of Supreme Might; You are El-Shaddai, the Almighty God - the Might of the Powerful Ones; You are El-Olam, the Everlasting God; and the Light of Israel. You are my Heavenly Father; my Loving-kindness; the King of Heaven; our Blessed Redeemer; the Ancient of Days; and the King of Glory.

You are Jesus, the Christ: the Lamb of God; the Son of the Most High; the Lion of Judah; the Light of the World; the Prince of Peace; the Word of God; the Life; the Bridegroom; and the Bread of Heaven. You are Immanuel: God with us; Righteous One, Saviour of all men; the Messiah; the Cornerstone; the only Begotten son; and the Good Shepherd. You are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords; the Servant; the Great High Priest; the Alpha and the Omega; the Way, the Truth and the Life; and You are the Sunrise from on High.

You are the Holy Spirit: the Spirit of Wisdom; the Spirit of Grace; the Spirit of Might; the Spirit of Counsel; the Breath of the Almighty; the Spirit of Understanding; and the Spirit of Knowledge. You are the Spirit of Revelation; the Spirit of Life; the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter; the Spirit of Holiness; the Spirit of Prophecy; the Spirit of Glory; and the Power of the Highest. Amen

**Awake, and Sing the Song** *by William Hammond*

Awake, and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb;  
Wake, every heart and every tongue, to praise the Saviour's name.  
Sing of His dying love, sing of His rising power;  
Sing how He intercedes above for those whose sins he bore.  
Sing, on your heavenly way, you ransomed sinners, sing;  
Sing on, rejoicing every day in Christ, the glorious King.  
Soon shall you hear Him say, "You blessed children, come!"  
Soon will He call you come away, and take his pilgrims home.





“No-one is holy like the Eternal One - no, no one but You; and there is no rock *as solid* as our True God.”

1 Samuel 2:2 (VOICE)

“Holy, holy, holy is the Eternal, the Commander of *heavenly* armies! The earth is filled with His glorious presence!”

Isaiah 6:3 (VOICE)

“O my soul, come, praise the Eternal, with all that is in me - body, emotions, mind, and will - every part of who I am - praise His holy name. O my soul, come, praise the Eternal; sing a song from a grateful heart; sing and never forget all the good He has done. Despite all your many offences, He forgives and releases you.”

Psalms 103:1-3a (VOICE)

While we may understand in the simplest terms the concept of holiness when it applies to God, it's full truth is far out of the reach of our own understanding. That doesn't mean we have no hope of understanding more about the concept of God's holiness, but that we should strive to know it further. The more we begin to grasp His holiness, the more we will be able to take our focus off ourselves and to more easily worship God.

*Prayer:* You are worthy of worship for many reasons, including Your holiness. You would not be God if You were not one hundred percent holy: You are pure and sinless and abhor evil and sin. You are so good that there is not one word that can completely describe it, and all of the words in the world can't describe Your holiness fully. You are morally pure and Your holy love is beyond comparison. It's because of Your holy love that You desire for us to be reconciled with You and to be in close relationship with You. You desire for us also to be holy so that our relationship with You will be pure and without hindrance.

Grow in me a desire to know Your holiness and to become holy. Holy Spirit, I am Yours - work in me, change me, and open my eyes to Your leading. Amen.





*Prayer:* There are times, particularly when I'm going through major difficulties, when I can feel lost and overwhelmed. It can be hard for me to remain positive especially when the troubles seem to stretch on and on with no end in sight, and it feels like each day I grow a little weaker with the struggle.

Sometimes all I have to hold onto are Your promises that You are there with me. I can also look back into my past when Your presence and help was evident in my life, when Your hand stretched out to me. So I know that You are real, that You love me and care for me.

Stay by my side. Help me to trust You, because there are times when my faith is feeble and I lack courage. Keep me safe I pray, and send me comfort through good friends or family. Thank You for being mindful of my weaknesses. Draw me closer to You, open my heart, mind and spirit to Your presence.

Thank You for the promised heaven where I can finally rest and know complete peace; free forever of turmoil and troubles. Please give me the strength to endure. Please renew my joy in You. Amen

**Jesus My Saviour** by J. W. Van de Venter

Jesus my Saviour, keep me ever by Your side, Help me to trust You, in Your love abide;  
When the storms assail me, and the billows 'round me roll,  
In Your bosom fold me, hide my troubled soul.


Jesus, my Saviour, leave me not alone, ever, forever, make Your presence known.

Comfort in sorrow, in affliction be my friend, Draw me still nearer, lead me to the end;  
When the world forsakes me, and its friendships prove untrue,  
In Your tender mercy, gently lead me through.

Jesus, my Saviour, leave me not alone, ever, forever, make Your presence known.

Down in the valley, leave me not alone to die, When time is fleeting, Jesus draw me nigh.  
Just a little closer, nearer to Your loving breast, When we cross the river, to the land of rest.  
Jesus, my Saviour, leave me not alone, ever, forever, make Your presence known.





"My loved ones, let us devote ourselves to loving one another. Love comes straight from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and truly knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Because of this, the love of God is a reality among us: God sent His only Son into the world so that we could find true life through Him. This is the embodiment of true love: not that we have loved God first, but that He loved us and sent His unique Son on a special mission to become an atoning sacrifice for our sins. So, my loved ones, if God loved us so sacrificially, surely we should love one another. No one has ever seen God with human eyes; but if we love one another, God truly lives in us. Consequently God's love has accomplished its mission among us.

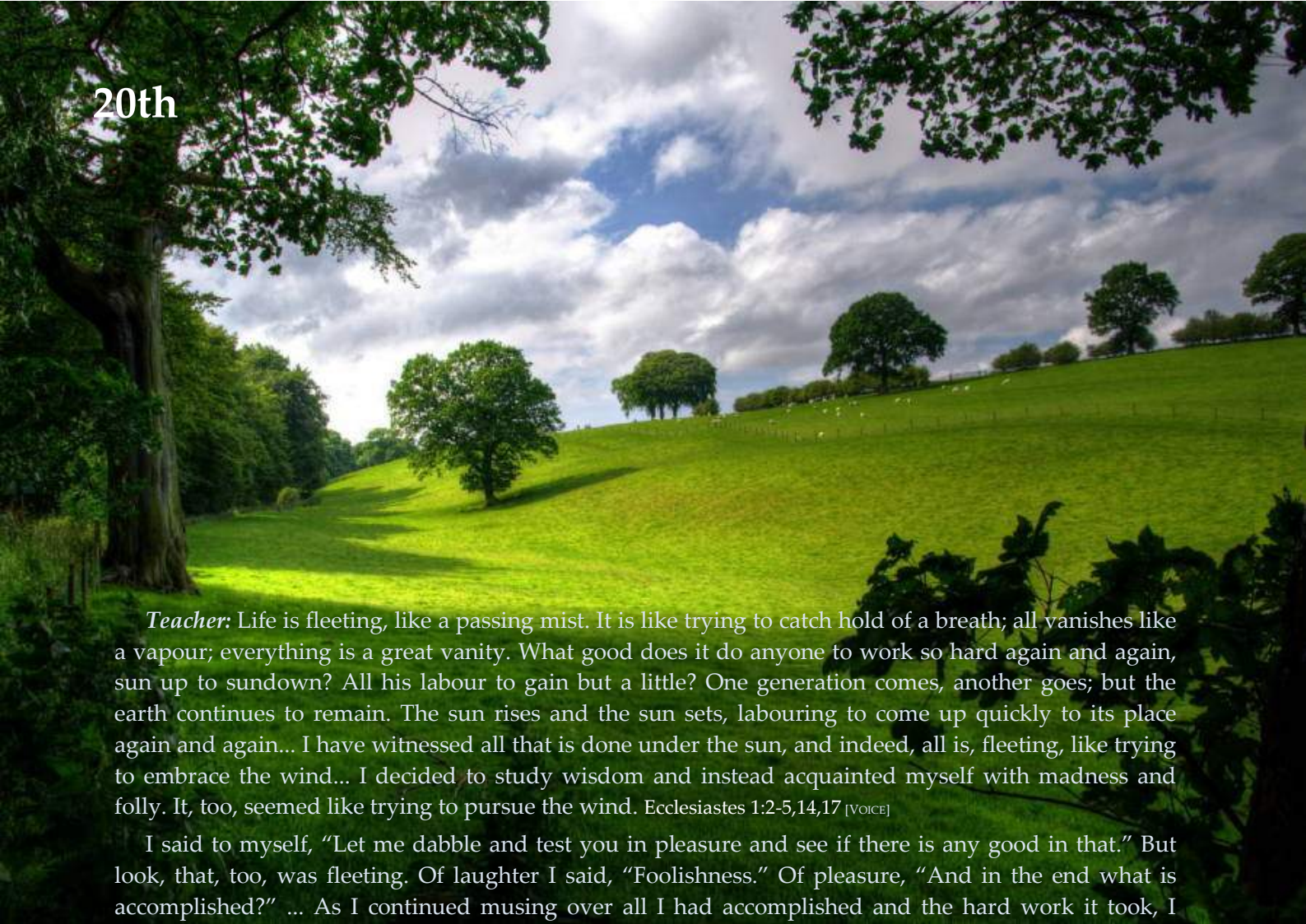
How can we be sure that He truly lives in us and that we truly live in Him? By one fact: He has given us His Spirit. We have watched what God has done, and we stand ready to provide eyewitness testimonies to the reality that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone unites with our confession that Jesus is God's own Son, then God truly lives in that person and that person lives in God. We have experienced and we have entrusted our lives to the love of God in us.

God is love. Anyone who lives faithfully in love also lives faithfully in God, and God lives in him. This love is fulfilled with us, so that on the day of judgment we have confidence based on our identification with Jesus in this world. Love will never invoke fear. Perfect love expels fear, particularly the fear of punishment. The one who fears punishment has not been completed through love."

1 John 4:7-18 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Fill me with the desire to love You and to love others, particularly those who are tough to love. If I struggle to love You fully, and you are the God of love, how much more difficult I find it to love those who are unloving and unkind. Instead, daily fill me with Your love and compassion and let me always be mindful that I am Your representative here on earth. Teach me and show me ways that I may be able to love as You would want. Amen.





**Teacher:** Life is fleeting, like a passing mist. It is like trying to catch hold of a breath; all vanishes like a vapour; everything is a great vanity. What good does it do anyone to work so hard again and again, sun up to sundown? All his labour to gain but a little? One generation comes, another goes; but the earth continues to remain. The sun rises and the sun sets, labouring to come up quickly to its place again and again... I have witnessed all that is done under the sun, and indeed, all is, fleeting, like trying to embrace the wind... I decided to study wisdom and instead acquainted myself with madness and folly. It, too, seemed like trying to pursue the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:2-5,14,17 [VOICE]

I said to myself, "Let me dabble and test you in pleasure and see if there is any good in that." But look, that, too, was fleeting. Of laughter I said, "Foolishness." Of pleasure, "And in the end what is accomplished?" ... As I continued musing over all I had accomplished and the hard work it took, I concluded that all this, too, was fleeting, like trying to embrace the wind... To those who seek to please God, He gives wisdom and knowledge and joyfulness." Ecclesiastes 2:1-2,11,26 [VOICE]

I have seen the kinds of tasks God has given each of us to do to keep one busy, and I know God has made everything beautiful for its time. God has also placed in our minds a sense of eternity; we look back on the past and ponder over the future, yet we cannot understand the doings of God. I know there is nothing better for us than to be joyful and to do good throughout our lives; to eat and drink and see the good in all of our hard work is a gift from God. I know everything God does endures for all time. Nothing can be added to it; nothing can be taken away from it. We humans can only stand in awe of all God has done. What has been and what is to be - already is. And God holds accountable all the pursuits of humanity. Ecclesiastes 3:10-15 [VOICE]

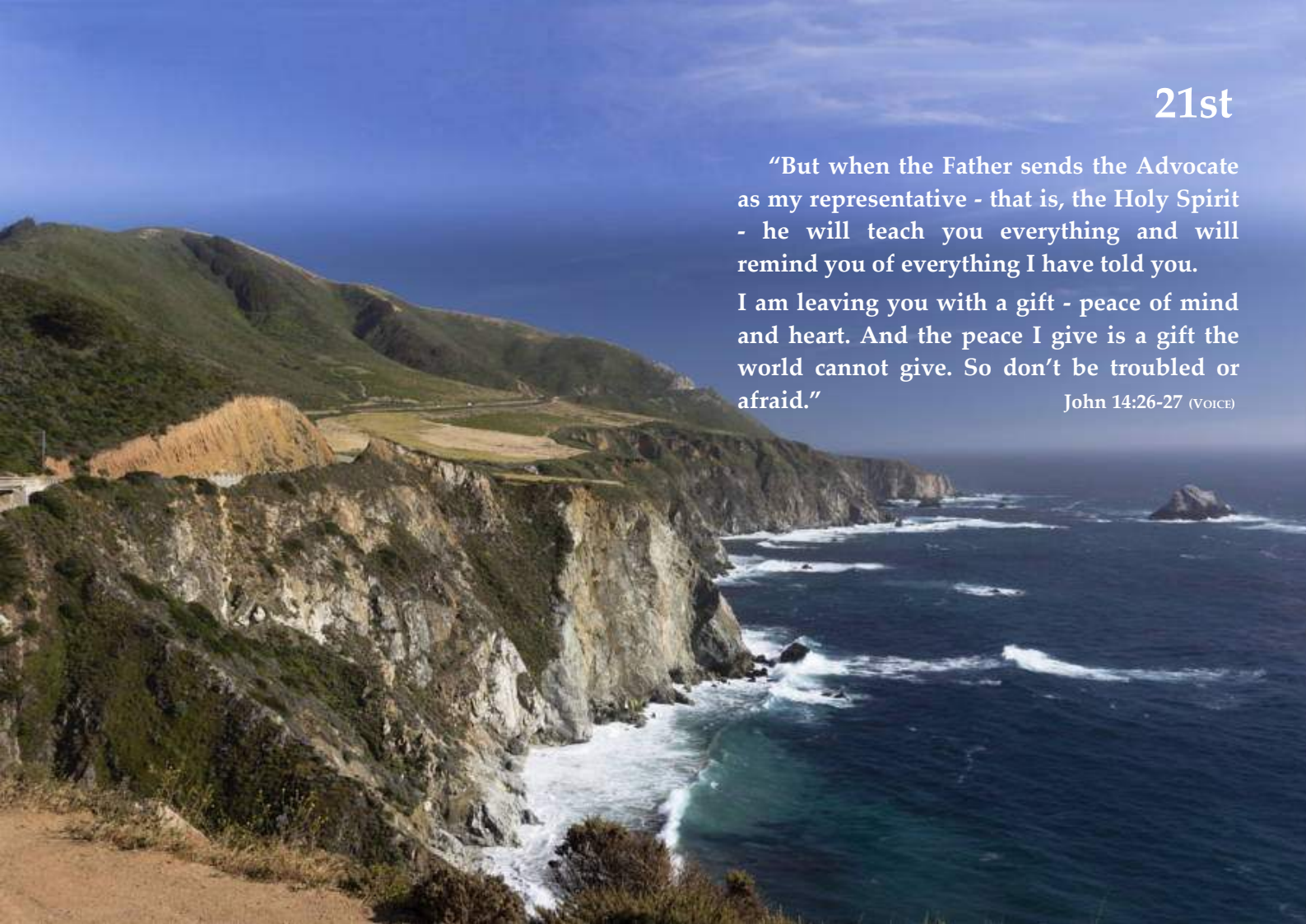
**Prayer:** Lord, as we move through life, working hard, maintaining relationships with friends and family, perhaps building an empire or a business, acquiring wealth or wisdom, or appreciating nature and beauty, all of our pursuits are empty and meaningless, because when we die, what have we achieved that lasts? It's only Your accomplishments, Your words and Your eternal plan that has substance, and Your work and all that You have made which will last forever.

You have built within us a small knowledge of You and the sense of eternity which is perhaps why we may come to understand that what we have here on earth is fleeting. But to know You and to recognise that we will eventually spend eternity in Your presence, makes the unimportance and shallow things of earth pale into insignificance. The only thing that has meaning is the pursuit of our understanding of You, an increasing love for our fellow man, and our relationship with You. Amen

### **Jesus Calls Us** by Cecil F. Alexander

Jesus calls us: over the tumult of our life's wild restless sea,  
 Day by day His sweet voice sounds, saying, "Christian, follow Me."  
 Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store;  
 From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love Me more."  
 In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil, and hours of ease;  
 Still He calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love Me more than these."





"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

John 14:26-27 (VOICE)

*Prayer:* Why is there so little information in the Bible about You Holy Spirit? Why do many churches focus on Jesus and God, and less on You?

Yet I know that without You, I would be like the Israelites in the Old Testament who struggled every day with their fallen human nature, unable to overcome their natural, sinful instincts, weak and powerless. While sometimes I feel that way too, I have an advantage because You live within me, changing me, growing me and teaching me. Through You I gain knowledge of God, increasing my wisdom and growing my compassion towards others. I couldn't do it without You - You are essential in my walk as a Christian.

There must be times when You despair of my selfishness, and yet You don't leave me, nor love me less. I praise You for making this commitment to live within each of God's children, to live in me. I praise You for Your steadfast compassion and love, and for Your ongoing work in me. It is through You that I have the power to grow stronger, to develop the inherent gifts God placed in me, and strengthen my mind, spirit and wisdom. It's only through You that I have peace and contentment, something that the world promises, but can never give.

Even through the most terrible of trials of pain and suffering, You remain with us. Sometimes all that You require of us is just to hold on, trusting in Your promise that You'll help us through. You've never promised that our walk would be without suffering, or that our ordeals wouldn't test our strength and our trust in You. Sometimes it's been difficult for me to understand why I had to go through such awful experiences. There were times when God's voice was silent in the midst of the raging storm, and so all I could do was hold on, and trust that You were guiding me and directing my life in the way that You wanted, not the way that I would have wished.

I haven't always been thankful for those trials, especially when they've caused me tremendous pain. All I know is that at the end of that particular struggle, I realised that You hadn't left me; that at the moments when it felt like I couldn't hold on any longer, You were still there. You have continued to fulfil Your promise to remain with me. Please let me learn and grow through my most painful trials. Holy Spirit, You are worthy of praise! Amen





God has made an upright way; the promise of the Eternal rings true; He stands and shields all who hide in Him. Who is the True God except the Eternal One? Who stands like a rock except our God? The True God who circled me with strength puts the upright on His way. 2 Samuel 22: 31-33 [VOICE]

*Prayer:* You are my rock. While the world around me may fall to pieces; if everything I have, crumbles into dust; if friends and family flee from me and I'm left alone; if my health begins to fail and I am left sick and weary; I know that there is someone who will always love me and care for me. It is You God, my rock and my fortress, my shield in times of trouble, and the place I go to hide. It is only You that lasts - it is Your strength, Your love and compassion, and Your power and wisdom that remains unchanging and steadfast as a rock. Amen

**Built on a Rock** by Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig and Carl Doving


Built on a rock the church does stand, even when steeples are falling;  
Crumbled have spires in every land, bells still are chiming and calling;  
Calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of men distressed, longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands, God, the Almighty, is dwelling;  
High in the heavens His temple stands, all earthly temples excelling;  
Yet He who dwells in heaven above, deigns to abide with us in love, making our bodies His temple.

We are God's house of living stones, built for His own habitation;  
He fills our hearts, His humble thrones, granting us life and salvation;  
Were two or three to seek His face, He in their midst would show His grace, blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing;  
Hither we come to praise His Name, faith in our Saviour confessing;  
Jesus to us His spirit sent, making with us His covenant, granting His children the kingdom.





When it's all over, You will receive me into Your glory. For all my wanting, I don't have anyone but You in heaven. There is nothing on earth that I desire other than You. I admit how broken I am in body and spirit, but God is my strength, and He will be mine forever.

Psalm 73:24-26 [VOICE]

*Prayer:* I am a broken creature, full of sin and selfishness - how well You know that! Sometimes my own failings fill me with misery and sorrow - I feel ashamed and want to hide from You. How long is the span of my life? At times, I feel wretched and unworthy of You and Your love, and I dread the thought of those years stretching before me in which I will fail You time and time again. I grow weary of my own sinfulness, and at times I feel angry and tormented by my limited faith and my unworthy attitudes and immaturity.

And yet I know that somehow You will overlook my countless flaws and weaknesses - because in Your magnanimous love for me, You desire most of all for me to grow a little more like Jesus every day. It is that knowledge which gives me hope. I look back to my younger years and see how You have been working in me since that time, and I know that there is hope for me, as long as You are standing by my side. Thank you that You are willing to look past my failings, to purify me anew, to forgive me and to work in me through Your Holy Spirit.

How empty my life would be without You - I see many others around me pursuing the promises of the world which lie and say that in them we can find purpose, meaning and happiness. Those promises are empty. I ask that You give me the right words through which I can share Your love and my knowledge of You to others that are lost. I want them to experience the contentment, hope and purpose I have found only in You. Renew my energy and passion each day, to reach out to others who need to find the only real contentment in this world, that comes only through our relationship with You. Amen

### **Jesus My All** *by Fanny Crosby*

Lord, at Your mercy seat, humbly I fall; pleading Your promise sweet, Lord, hear my call;  
Now let Your work begin, oh make me pure within, cleanse me from every sin, Jesus my all.

Tears of repentant grief silently fall; please help my unbelief; please hear my call;  
Oh how I yearn for You! Longs all my hope for You; Jesus has died for me, Jesus my all.

Still at Your mercy seat Saviour I fall; trusting Your promise sweet, You've heard my call;  
Faith wings my soul to You, this is my song to You; Jesus has died for me, Jesus my all.





*Jesus:* "Don't get lost in despair; believe in God, and keep on believing in Me. My Father's home is designed to accommodate all of you.... I am going to make arrangements for your arrival. I will be there to greet you personally and welcome you home, where we will be together. You know where I am going and how to get there." John 14:1-4 [VOICE]

*Prayer:* There are times when I grow weary of this world, when the pain, suffering, betrayal and heartbreak can be too much for me to bear. When I see the terrible consequences that this sinful world has on its people; particularly when hope in You is treated with contempt. I long for Your promised reprieve.

There are days when I wish that You could simply scoop me up into heaven and remove me forever more from these terrible trials and tragedies. I ache for Your children that are persecuted in Your name, and when people starve or who have to flee violence and wickedness, due to the selfishness and depraved actions of corrupt leaders. My heart hurts for those who are slaves or are treated unjustly and those who may never know the mercies that are available through You.

Thank you that I can know Your comfort and strength, particularly at times when I feel overwhelmed by what is happening in our world. Thank you that one day there will be an end to these horrors, when peace, love and joy will be our companions in heaven for eternity. Amen

**In The House Of Ancient Story** *by Miss H. M. Bolman*

In the house of ancient story, where no storms can ever come,  
Where the Saviour dwells in glory, there remains for us a home.

There within the heavenly mansions, where life's river flows so clear,  
We shall see our blessed Saviour, if we love and serve Him here.

There amid the shining numbers, all our toils and labours o'er,  
Where the Guardian never slumbers, we shall dwell for evermore.





You are worthy of praise. Your marvellous and creative gifts tell us that You are worthy of praise. With a simple word or thought, You can turn away the flood and winds, and banish the sun from the sky, and by Your Word they can change in an instant. How vast are Your powers! Let me daily look afresh upon the creation around me and be grateful for Your marvellous gifts. Amen

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah!** *by William J. Kirkpatrick*

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah! From the heavens praise His name;  
Praise Jehovah in the highest; all His angels praise proclaim,  
All His hosts together praise Him, Sun and moon and stars on high;  
Praise Him, oh you heaven of heavens, and you floods above the sky  
Let them praises give Jehovah, for His name alone is high, and His glory is exalted,  
Far above the earth and sky.

Let them praises give Jehovah! They were made at His command;  
Them forever He established; His decree shall ever stand,  
From the earth, oh praise Jehovah, all you floods, you dragons all,  
Fire and hail and snow and vapours, stormy winds that hear Him call,  
Let them praises give Jehovah, for His name alone is high, and His glory is exalted,  
Far above the earth and sky.

All you fruitful trees and cedars, all you hills and mountains high,  
Creeping things and beasts and cattle, birds that in the heavens fly,  
Kings of earth and all you people, Princes great, earth's judges all;  
Praise His name, young men and maidens, aged men and children small.  
Let them praises give Jehovah, for His name alone is high, and His glory is exalted,  
Far above the earth and sky.





For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life. Here's the point. God didn't send His Son into the world to judge it; instead, He is here to rescue a world *headed toward certain destruction*. No one who believes in Him has to fear condemnation, yet condemnation is already the reality for everyone who refuses to believe because they reject the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16-18 [VOICE]

*Prayer:* The simplest of prayers, but oh how deep it was; that moment when I chose to give my heart to You Lord, when I recognised my own unworthiness to call you Father, Brother, Spirit. That moment, and that small prayer was a profound and life-changing choice. And for some unfathomable reason, You had set Your heart upon accepting me into Your royal family; not because You would gain anything from it, but so that I would benefit! You set me on the right course, so that in the ripeness of time, I will join with my Christian family and with the angels in heaven one day and sing...

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!** *by William C. Dix*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, His the throne.  
 Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone;  
 Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
 "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
 Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how:  
 Though the clouds from sight received Him when the forty days were o'er,  
 Shall our hearts forget His promise, "I am with you ever more?"

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, You on earth our food, and stay!  
 Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day;  
 Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
 Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.





There are many things that we will never know or understand about heaven until we finally get there. Perhaps those who are not musically inclined on earth; those who showed no natural aptitude for creative writing or poetry; those who feel that they've failed God so repeatedly that they could never look up into God's face for shame; and those who feel that they have little to give to God in the way of talents or skills, may find that things are indeed very different in heaven.

Perhaps in heaven we will each have gifts and wisdom that we never had before. Those who were not musically inclined may lead a choir and have one of the clearest and most wonderful voices. Anyone who lacked creative writing or poetry skills may find that they will suddenly be able to write new and uplifting songs of praise to God, and the heavenly choirs will sing those words of praise and adoration to our God. Anyone who felt shame so deep or felt that they could never be good enough for God, may find themselves sitting in one of the seats of honour at the feast table. And others who saw little to give back to God with their limited skills, may find that God calls upon them to undertake His special tasks.

Heaven won't be a time of idleness, but perhaps we can imagine there will be many things for us to do, other than just playing a harp and singing.

**Behold the Glory of the Lamb** *by Isaac Watts*

Behold the glory of the lamb, amidst His Father's Throne!  
Prepare new honours for His name, and songs before unknown.

Let elders worship at His feet, the church adore around,  
With vials full of odours sweet, and harps of sweeter sound.

Now to the lamb that once was slain, be endless blessings paid!  
Salvation, glory, joy remain forever on Your head.

You have redeemed our souls with blood, have set the prisoners free;  
Have made us kings and priests to God; and we shall reign with thee.





"If you love Me, obey the commandments I have given you. I will ask the Father to send you another Helper, *the Spirit of truth*, who will remain constantly with you. The world does not recognise the Spirit of truth, because it does not know the Spirit and is unable to receive Him. But you do know the Spirit because He lives with you, and He will dwell in you.

I will never abandon you like orphans; I will return to be with you. In a little while, the world will not see Me; but I will not vanish completely from your sight. Because I live, you will also live. At that time, you will know that I am in the Father, you are in Me, and I am in you. The one who loves Me will do the things I have commanded. My Father loves everyone who loves Me; and I will love you and reveal My heart, will, and nature to you." *John 14:15-21* [VOICE]

What a promise Jesus made, in an endeavour to prepare them for the Holy Spirit after He left them. How wonderful that the Comforter would be made available to each of us who believe. Without the Holy Spirit, we wouldn't have any strength (other than our flimsy will-power) to overcome our natural inclination to sin. For many hundreds of examples of just such cases, we merely have to look at Hebrew kings and leaders in the Old Testament. Even some of the best leaders, favoured by God, gave into their own sinful passions and emotions.

### **Holy Ghost** *by George Rawson*

Holy Ghost, the infinite! Shine upon our nature's night  
With Your blessed inward light, comfort Divine!

We are sinful, cleanse us, Lord; we are faint, Your strength afford;  
Lost, until by You restored; comfort Divine!

Like the dew Your peace distil; guide, subdue our wayward will,  
Things of Christ unfolding still, comfort Divine!

In us, "Abba, Father" cry, earnest of our bliss on high,  
Seals of immortality, comfort Divine!





*Prayer:* If I didn't know anything about the vast oceans of our world, I might easily believe that the vista in front of me, that glass-like expanse of water, had no end. How could I possibly believe that if You and I were to sail away together and head towards the horizon, that we would at some day and hour reach a far distant shore. That's sometimes what it feels like on those difficult days, weeks, months or years; times when I hate my job, or I've come in contact with a particularly nasty person, or when I've made some foolish mistakes and choices; when a family member is being hard to get along with; or when I've been seriously disappointed by someone I've trusted. Perhaps the storm I'm facing looks so dark and menacing and our boat seems so frail, that all courage has deserted me.

Remind me again and again Lord, that You are the captain of my life; that You are trusting that I will hold on during the rough portions of the journey. When You are silent, perhaps while You're busy steering, and keeping the boat afloat, a word or two of encouragement would be good to hear; or perhaps I just need to trust more in Your skill as my captain.

Grow me and strengthen me and teach me how to overcome my own fears and doubts. Amen

**He Knows** by G.W. Lyon

He knows the bitter, weary way, the endless strivings day by day,  
The souls that weep, the souls that pray, He knows, He knows.  
He knows how hard the fight has been, the clouds that come our lives between,  
The wounds the world has never seen, He knows, He knows.

He knows when faint and worn we sink, how deep the pain, how near the brink  
Of dark despair, we pause and shrink, He knows, He knows.  
He knows, oh thought so full of bliss! For though on earth our joys we miss,  
We still can bear it feeling this, He knows, He knows.



## The Promise of Heaven

*Jesus:* Don't get lost in despair; believe in God, and keep on believing in Me. My Father's home is designed to accommodate all of you.... I am going to make arrangements for your arrival. I will be there to greet you personally and welcome you home, where we will be together. You know where I am going and how to get there. John 14:1-4 [VOICE]

The Eternal, Commander of heavenly armies, is preparing a feast, a feast for everyone on this mystical mountain, with aged wine and good food, the finest wine and choicest meat.

And God will swallow up the oppression that weighs us down. He will take away the heavy shroud that is draped over all peoples of the world.

God will swallow up death forever. The Lord, the Eternal, will wipe away the tears from each and every face and deflect the scorn and shame His people endure from the whole world, for the Eternal determined that it should be so.

And in that moment, at that glorious time, people will say... "This is our God! We put our hope in him. We knew that He would save us! This is our God, the Eternal for whom we waited. Let us rejoice and celebrate in His liberation." Isaiah 25:6-9 [VOICE]

And then you'll see people streaming in from east and west, from north and south, gathering around the table in the kingdom of God. ...Some are last now who will be first then, and some are first now who will be last then. Luke 13:29-30 [VOICE]

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride on her wedding day, adorned for her husband and for His eyes only. And I heard a great voice, coming from the throne. "See, the home of God is with His people. He will live among them; they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them. The prophecies are fulfilled: He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning no more, crying no more, pain no more, for the first things have gone away."

And the One who sat on the throne announced to His creation, ... "See, I am making all things new. It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will see to it that the thirsty drink freely from the fountain of the water of life. To the victors will go this inheritance: I will be their God, and they will be My children." Revelation 21:2-7 [VOICE]

My heavenly guide brought me to the river of pure living waters, shimmering as brilliantly as crystal. It flowed out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flowing down the middle and dividing the street of the holy city. On each bank of the river stood the tree of life, firmly planted, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and producing its sweet crop every month throughout the year. And the soothing leaves that grew on the tree of life provided precious healing for the nations.

No one or nothing will labour under any curse any longer. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will sit prominently in the city. God's servants will continually serve and worship Him. They will be able to look upon His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads. Darkness will never again fall on this city. They will not require the light of a lamp or of the sun because the Lord God will be their illumination. By His light, they will reign throughout the ages. Revelation 22:1-5 [VOICE]





Watch closely: I am preparing something new; it's happening now, even as I speak, and you're about to see it. I am preparing a way through the desert; waters will flow where there had been none. Wild animals in the fields will honour Me; the wild dogs and surly birds will join in. There will be water enough for My chosen people, trickling springs and clear streams running through the desert. My people, the ones whom I chose and created for My own, will sing My praise. Isaiah 43:19-21  
[VOICE]

*Prayer:* There have been times times in my life when it felt like I was travelling through a desert, where water and sustenance were scarce, and the shimmering desert sky seemed to go on forever. When I've travelled through these difficult periods, it has sometimes felt like I might not survive the experience, and my spirit and my stamina seemed to shrivel up in the struggle. Guide me at those times I pray - don't let me become discouraged - don't ignore me when I cry for help, but give me hope and support so that I can hold on until the end. Amen

**In The Desert Of Sorrow and Sin** by Henry R. Trickett

In the desert of sorrow and sin, lo! I faint as I journey along;  
With the warfare without and within, see my strength and my hope nearly gone.  
I thirst, let me drink, of the life-giving stream let me drink;  
It's the Rock, cleft for me, it's the water, the water of life.

In my weakness I turn to the fount, from the Rock that was smitten for me;  
And I drink, and I joyfully count, all my trials a blessing to be.  
I thirst, let me drink, of the life-giving stream let me drink;  
It's the Rock, cleft for me, it's the water, the water of life.

O my God of compassion, I pray, let me ever abide in Your sight;  
Let me drink of the fount day by day, till I join You in mansions of light.  
I thirst, let me drink, of the life-giving stream let me drink;  
It's the Rock, cleft for me, it's the water, the water of life.



## Names of God in the Bible (page 1)

Names of God the Father			
Old Testament		New Testament	
God: Elohim (Mighty Ones)	Holy One of Israel	Our Dwelling Place	God of Peace (Elohay Shalom)
God: El (Might, Power)	Light	Stronghold	The Living God (Elohay Chaiyim)
God: Eloah (Mighty One)	Light To The Nations	Refuge	Lord God (Yahweh Elohim)
God: Elah (Aramaic form)	Fortress	Strength	Lord Almighty (Yahweh Shaddai)
Yahweh (Jehovah), God, LORD: Yahweh	Tower of Strength	Rock	Power (Ha Gevurah)
Lord: YH (Yah) (abbreviated form of Yahweh)	Hiding Place	Rock of Israel	The Most High God (El Elyon)
Lord: Adon (Lord, Ruler)	Shield	Stone of Israel	Lord of Armies: (Yahweh Tz'vaot)
Lord: Adonai (Lords, Rulers)	Rock of My Strength	My Portion In The Land of The Living	The Majesty
I Am That I Am: Eheyeh asher Eheyeh	Stone	My Cup	The Lawgiver And Judge
I Am: Eheyeh	Cornerstone	Star	Sovereign
Most High God: El-Elyon (Supreme Might)	The Portion of My Inheritance	Potter	A Consuming Fire
The God of Sight: El-Roiy	Branch	Husband	Abba: Daddy (personal/intimate relationship)
Almighty God: El-Shaddai (Might of the Powerful Ones)	Crown and Daidem	Creator	Father of Our Lord Yeshua The Messiah
Everlasting God: El-Olam	Tent Peg, Bow of Battle	Shepherd	The Father of Glory
Rock: Cela (craig) Tzur (rock or strength)	Maker	Messenger of The Covenant	Father of Mercies
Yahweh of Hosts: Yahweh-sabaoth (Lord of Armies)	Creator of Israel	Redeemer of Israel	The God of Our Fathers (Elohay Avotaynu)
Yahweh will provide: Yahweh-jireh: will see or provide	Shepherd of Israel	My Loving-kindness	God of All Comfort (Elohay Kol HaNechamah)
I, Yahweh, am your healer: Yahweh-rapha: heals	Redeemer	The King	The God of Glory (Elohay Kavod)
Yahweh is my banner: Yahweh-nissi: our banner or victory	Deliverer	King of Glory	The God of Israel (Elohay Yisrael)
Yahweh who sanctifies you: Yahweh-m'kaddesh: sanctifies	Saviour	Ancient of Days	Lord God of Israel (Yahweh Elohay Yisrael)
Yahweh is peace: Yahweh-shalom: peace	King of Israel	Covenant to the People	The Almighty (Shaddai)
Yahweh is my shepherd: Yahweh-raah: my shepherd	Lord of All The Earth	The Angel	The Creator (HaBoray)
Yahweh our maker: Yahweh-hoseenu: creator	The Most High	Ruler in Israel	The Divine Nature
Yahweh our righteousness: Yahweh-tsidkenu: righteousness	Shiloh	The Father of Lights	The Majestic Glory
Yahweh who is there: Yahweh-shammah: present and available when needed	The Arm of the Lord	The Father of Spirits	The King of The Nations



## Names of God in the Bible (page 2)

Names of God the Father continued			
Old Testament		New Testament	
The Name: (HaShem): God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob	The Spirit of the LORD, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Strength, the Spirit of Knowledge and The Fear of the LORD	God (Elohim)	The Eternal Immortal Invisible King
The Great Mighty Awesome God	Upright One	The God of Abraham, Isaac And Jacob (Elohay Avraham, Yitzchak v'Yaakov)	Heaven
Father	Light of Israel		

Names of Jesus the Christ			
New Testament			
Yeshua Of Nazareth	Stone	Messiah	Chief Cornerstone
The Son	Chief Shepherd	Only Begotten Son	Good Shepherd
Beloved Son	Shepherd and Guardian Of Our Souls	Son of David	The Lamb
The Root and Offspring of David	Passover Lamb	Son of Abraham	Lamb of God
Abraham's Seed	Lion Of Judah	Son of Joseph	Advocate, Counsel for the Defence
Son of Man	Light Of The World	Son of God	King of Kings and Lord of Lords
Son of the Father	The Faithful Witness	Son of The Most High	The Faithful and True One
Only Begotten God	The Amen	Firstborn	Servant
Firstborn of all Creation	The Bright Morning Star	Beginning Of The Creation Of God	Sunrise From on High
Firstborn from the Dead	The Apostle	The Last Adam	The Great High Priest
Rabbi: Teacher, literally "my great one"	The Author and Perfector Of Faith	King Of Israel	The Chosen One
King of The Jews	The Mediator	The Word	The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The Word of God	The Door	The Word of Life	The Alpha and the Omega
The Life	The First and The Last	I AM	The Beginning and The End
LORD	The Head of the Body, the Church	God	Head Over all Things
The Man	Heir Of All Things	Immanuel: God with us	The Image of the Invisible God
Master: Chief, Commander	God's Mystery	The Expected One	Horn of Salvation
Saviour of the World	The Power Of God	Saviour Of All Men	The Wisdom of God
The Deliverer	The Beloved	The Prophet	The Bridegroom
Holy One	The Bread Of God	Righteous One	The Bread Out of Heaven
Prince	The Bread Of Life	Prince of Life	The True Vine
Living One	The Vinedresser	Judge of the Living and the Dead	The Resurrection

Names of The Holy Spirit			
Old Testament		New Testament	
Spirit of God			
Spirit of the Lord			
Spirit of Wisdom			
Holy Spirit			
Spirit of Grace			
Power of the Highest	Spirit of Judgement	God	Spirit of the Father
Spirit of Counsel	Spirit of Burning	Spirit of Revelation	Spirit of Prophecy
Spirit of Might	Spirit of the Lord God	Spirit of the Son	Spirit of Holiness
Spirit of Understanding	Breath of the Almighty	Eternal Spirit	Spirit of Adoption
Spirit of Knowledge	Good Spirit	Comforter	Spirit of Life
Spirit of the Fear of the Lord	Free Spirit	Spirit of Truth	Spirit of Christ
Spirit of Glory	The Lord		



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