

Morning Lamp — A 30-Day Devotional

Compiled from the writings of Joshua Paul Fockler

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Let the Silence Say It

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Introduction

Written as framing — not extracted from a blog post.

There is a kind of writing that happens close to the ground, pressed out by real life — by mornings when doubt feels loud and faith feels thin, by afternoons when grace arrives out of nowhere, by nights spent searching the same worn verses for something to hold onto. What follows is that kind of writing.

These thirty devotionals were written by one man, week by week, as he walked with God through ordinary days and extraordinary trials. They are not polished lectures from a distance. They are dispatches from the road. You will find in them Scripture quoted from the King James Version the author loves, the voices of Spurgeon and Lewis and Tozer and Watchman Nee woven in like old friends, personal testimony offered without performance, and prayers that land like exhaled breath.

The arc of these thirty days moves gently: from the first invitation to come and be known, through the naming of our sin and the relief of confession, into the deepening territory of grace, surrender, and identity. It passes through suffering and through joy, and it comes to rest in love — fervent, outward, merciful love. That is the shape of the Christian life. It is also the shape of these pages.

Read one each morning. Let the Scripture sit. Pray the closing prayer if one is offered. And know that the God who brought you to this book is the same God who has been seeking you all along.

Day 1 - From Death to Life

Day 1 of 30

""For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.""

- John 3:16

Hello, friend.

I'm so glad you're here.

As a child of the Most High God, I want to share my story with you — a story of redemption, love, and new life.

I used to be like the baby girl in Ezekiel 16:6 — helpless, covered in my own sin, and deserving of death. But God saw me in that state and said, "Live!" He intervened in my life, saving me from spiritual death and giving me a chance to live.

Through Jesus Christ, I was redeemed from spiritual death. Jesus died on the cross for me, taking the punishment for my sin, and rose again on the third day, offering me new life.

When I put my faith in Jesus, I was adopted into God's family. The Bible says, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). I'm no longer an orphan, but a beloved child of the Most High God.

As a child of God, I'm called to live a life of gratitude. I'm grateful for God's intervention in my life, for the gift of redemption, and for the new life I have in Jesus.

But gratitude isn't just a feeling; it's also a choice. As a child of God, I'm called to live a life of obedience to Him. The Bible says, "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15). I'm way far off from perfect, but I'm learning to obey God's commands, to follow His principles, and to live a life that honors Him.

As a child of God, I've discovered that I have a purpose. The Bible says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). I'm learning to use my gifts, talents, and experiences to serve others and to bring glory to God. It is such an adventure to be used as His hands and feet to bless others along "the way."

My journey with Jesus is one of redemption, love, and new life. If you're searching for a deeper connection with God, I invite you to explore His word and to discover the love and redemption that He offers to you.

Start walking with Him today and enter into His Family and presence.

Admit you need a savior. Believe that God has made a way where there was no way by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. You don't have to understand it all. With faith and time you will have evidence enough.

Choose to believe in The Christ, Jesus, to save you from your sins and promise to seek and follow Him with your heart.

Welcome to God's family, friend.

He has brought you here.

From: "From Death to Life," 2024-07-07

Day 2 - Freedom

Day 2 of 30

""Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.""

- 2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV

Salvation and freedom come not through our own efforts, but through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The Holy Spirit, who indwells believers, empowers them to live a life of freedom and obedience to God's will. This freedom is not just a freedom from external constraints, but also a freedom to live a life of love, joy, and peace, in accordance with the Spirit's guidance and the fullness of life that comes from being in relationship with God.

The Apostle Paul is contrasting the law, which he refers to as "the letter," with the Spirit. He argues that the law, though given by God, was unable to bring about true freedom and salvation. Instead, it served only to highlight the sinfulness of humanity and to condemn them for their failure to live up to its standards. The law, in this sense, is likened to a "minister of death" (2 Corinthians 3:7), as it brought about a sense of condemnation and guilt in those who were unable to keep its commands.

In contrast, the Spirit is described as a "minister of the new covenant" (2 Corinthians 3:8), which brings about a sense of freedom, life, and transformation.

The new covenant, established through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is said to be "written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3). This new covenant, empowered by the Holy Spirit, enables believers to live a life that is pleasing to God and to experience the freedom that comes from being liberated from the bondage of sin and the law.

From: "Freedom," 2024-07-04

Day 3 - Listen

Day 3 of 30

""But whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.""

- Proverbs 1:33 NIV

This verse, Proverbs 1:33, is an invitation to seek wisdom and the benefits that come with it.

"Whoever" is an inclusive term that refers to anyone who is willing to listen. "Listens" is a verb that means "to pay attention to" or "to follow." The speaker is ultimately God, who is the source of all wisdom.

"Will live in safety" suggests that those who listen to and follow God's wisdom will live a life free from danger or harm. (Psalm 4:8, "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.")

"Will be at peace" can be interpreted as "will be free from anxiety." (Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.")

"Without fear of harm" implies that the person who follows God's wisdom will not have to live in fear of bad things happening to them. (Psalm 23:4, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.")

In essence, the verse is saying that if you listen to and follow God's wisdom, you will be able to live a peaceful, safe, and secure life. You will be free from fear and anxiety because you will know that God is in control and is looking out for your well-being.

From: "Listen," 2024-07-06

Day 4 - Letting Go of Pride

Day 4 of 30

""Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.""

- Proverbs 16:18

As I reflect on my journey with Jesus, I've come to realize that there are certain things that can hinder harmony in our relationships and even within ourselves. One of those things is pride.

Pride can be a subtle but powerful force that drives us to focus on ourselves, our accomplishments, and our opinions. It can make us defensive, critical, and unyielding.

So, what does it mean to let go of pride for the sake of harmony? For me, it means:

Humility: Recognizing that I'm not always right and that others may have valuable insights. The Bible says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Listening: Listening to others without becoming defensive or dismissive. The Bible says, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).

Forgiveness: Forgiving others when they've wronged me, rather than holding onto resentment and bitterness. The Bible says, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).

Yielding: Yielding to others and considering their perspectives, even when I disagree. The Bible says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21).

When I let go of pride and focus on harmony, I experience deeper, more meaningful relationships, a sense of inner peace and calm, freedom from the burden of always needing to be right, and spiritual growth and maturity.

Letting go of pride for the sake of harmony isn't always easy, but it's essential for living a life that honors God. As the Bible says, "Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19). I pray that we, as children of the Most High God, will continue to let go of pride and focus on building harmony in our relationships and within ourselves.

From: "Letting Go of Pride," 2024-07-07

Day 5 - The Power of Calling Upon the Name of the Lord

Day 5 of 30

""For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.""

- Romans 10:13 KJV

In this powerful and promising scripture, we are reminded of the incredible gift of salvation that is available to all who call upon the name of the Lord. The apostle Paul emphasizes the universal nature of this gift, making it clear that it is not limited to a select few, but rather it is open to all, regardless of their background, status, or circumstances.

Watchman Nee notes that this verse highlights the simplicity and accessibility of salvation. He writes, "Salvation is not something that can be obtained by good works, nor is it something that can be earned by our own efforts. It is simply a matter of calling upon the name of the Lord."

CS Lewis adds that this verse underscores the idea that salvation is not a result of our own doing, but rather it is a gift that we receive through faith in Jesus Christ. He states, "The call upon the name of the Lord is not a call to do something, but a call to receive something."

Charles Spurgeon emphasizes the importance of calling upon the name of the Lord in faith. He writes, "The calling of the name of the Lord is not a mere lip profession, but a hearty, sincere, and believing invocation of the divine name."

Let's be inspired to call upon the name of the Lord with faith, humility, and gratitude, knowing that He is our Rock, our Salvation, and our Deliverer.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." — Romans 10:13 KJV

From: "The Power of Calling Upon the Name of the Lord," 2024-07-16

Day 6 - Understanding the Promises of God

Day 6 of 30

""For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ.""

- 2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV

Understand the promises God has made to His adopted children, who are "in Christ."

Chosen and loved. In John 15:16, Jesus says that He chose us, not the other way around. This is a profound truth, as it highlights God's sovereign will in our salvation. We didn't choose Him; He chose us. This promise assures us that God's love is not based on our performance or worthiness but on His sovereign choice.

New creation. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes that if we are in Christ, we are a new creation. This means that our old, sinful nature has been replaced by a new nature, one that is redeemed and forgiven.

No condemnation. Romans 8:1-2 declares that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. This is a powerful promise, as it frees us from the weight of guilt and shame.

Righteousness in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul writes that God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God. This promise reminds us that our righteousness is not based on our own good works but on the perfect righteousness of Christ.

Adopted as children. In Romans 8:14-15, Paul explains that those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. We can cry out to God as our Abba (Father).

More than conquerors. In Romans 8:37-39, Paul writes that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Loved with an everlasting love. In Jeremiah 31:3, God declares that He has loved us with an everlasting love. This promise reminds us that God's love is not based on our performance or feelings but on His sovereign will.

These promises remind us of our true identity as adopted children of God, who are "in Christ." They assure us that we are loved, chosen, and forgiven. As we stand on these promises, we can indeed be strong and take heart, trusting in the Lord and His purposes for us.

From: "Understanding the Promises of God," 2024-07-09

Day 7 - The Soul's Thirst for God

Day 7 of 30

""As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.""

- Psalm 42:1 NIV

The psalmist David's words in Psalm 42:1 resonate with us, reminding us of our inherent need for a relationship with God. This thirst for the divine is not unique to any one person or faith tradition; it is an innate aspect of the human experience. As Charles Spurgeon so eloquently put it, "The human soul is a deep ocean, and the divine Spirit can only be found by diving to the very bottom."

The pursuit of God is a journey that requires faith and grace. It is a path that is not always easy, but one that is filled with beauty, wonder, and transformation. As C.S. Lewis wrote, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I also see everything else."

Theologian AW Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is going to shape our lives." As we seek to know and understand God more deeply, we must be willing to let go of our preconceived notions and allow our minds to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Watchman Nee, in his book "The Normal Christian Life," wrote, "The normal Christian life is not a life of effort and struggle, but a life of rest and peace, based on the fact that the work of salvation has already been accomplished." Our journey of faith is not one of striving and accomplishing, but of resting and receiving.

The deep longing of our souls for God is a reminder of our true nature as beings created in His image. As we journey through life, may we be willing to dive deep into the depths of our souls and allow God's grace to transform us. May we be people who long for Him with all our hearts, minds, and strength.

Ask God if He will keep His promise to keep revealing your new nature in Christ and believe His answer: "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV)

From: "The Soul's Thirst for God: A Journey of Faith and Grace," 2024-07-24

Day 8 - The Cleansing Power of Confession

Day 8 of 30

""All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.""

- John 6:37 NIV

In the book of Leviticus, we find a peculiar regulation regarding leprosy, which, upon closer examination, reveals a profound truth about the nature of sin, confession, and redemption.

We are all afflicted with the leprosy of sin, which has defiled every aspect of our being. As Spurgeon so eloquently puts it, "We, too, are lepers, and may read the law of the leper as applicable to ourselves." Our natural response might be to try to hide or downplay our sin, but this only perpetuates the disease. It is only when we confront the reality of our sin, acknowledging our utter depravity and helplessness, that we can begin to experience the cleansing power of God's grace.

C.S. Lewis warns us, "The greatest sin is to think that one is not a sinner." Self-righteousness is a deadly trap that prevents us from recognizing our true condition and seeking help. As Tozer notes, "The most critical factor in our relationship with God is our willingness to be honest with Him about our sin."

Hidden, unfelt, and unconfessed sin is the true leprosy that plagues our souls. But when we bring our sin into the light, acknowledging its presence and our powerlessness to overcome it, we open the door to redemption. Watchman Nee writes, "When we see our sin, we are already on the road to recovery."

Confession is the key to unlocking the cleansing power of God's mercy. As D.L. Moody emphasizes, "The moment we confess our sin, God is ready to forgive us." When we come to Jesus, acknowledging our guilt and helplessness, He looks upon us with eyes of mercy, pronouncing us clean.

The thief on the cross, the woman who was a sinner, Saul of Tarsus, Manasseh, and the prodigal son — all these examples demonstrate that no one is beyond the reach of God's love and forgiveness. As the hymn goes:

"Come to him, then, poor heavy-laden sinner, Come needy, come guilty, come loathsome and bare; You can't come too filthy — come just as you are."

Admit you're a sinner in need of a Savior. Believe that God made a way where there was no way by sending His only begotten Son to die on the Cross for your sins. Choose to find and follow Jesus the rest of your days here on earth.

He has first loved you. He pursued you. He rescued you.

Come home.

From: "The Cleansing Power of Confession: Finding Hope in the Depths of Sin," 2024-09-29

Day 9 - The Unwavering Promise of Salvation

Day 9 of 30

""Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.""

- John 6:37 KJV

As a child of God, saved by grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we are granted an eternal assurance through His unbreakable promise.

In John 6:37, Jesus declares, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." This powerful verse is a testament to the boundless love and mercy of our Savior, who welcomes all who come to Him with faith and trust.

Charles Spurgeon, the renowned preacher, once said, "The original reads, 'I will not, not cast out,' or 'I will never, never cast out.' The text means that Christ will not at first reject a believer; and that as he will not do it at first, so he will not to the last."

Spurgeon wrote: "But suppose the believer sins after coming? 'If any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.' But suppose that believers backslide? 'I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.' But believers may fall under temptation! 'God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.'"

C.S. Lewis: *"Once in Christ, in Christ forever, Nothing from his love can sever."*

A.W. Tozer: "I give unto my sheep," saith he, "eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

D.L. Moody: "Oh! the grace of these words: 'I will in no wise cast out.'"

As we contemplate this incomprehensible promise, let us be reminded that coming to Christ is not a temporary arrangement but an eternal union. Our faith may falter, and our feet may stray, but His love remains steadfast, ever-faithful, and unchanging.

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

From: "The Unwavering Promise of Salvation," 2024-07-30

Day 10 - The Transforming Power of God's Mercy and Grace

Day 10 of 30

""But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.""

- Titus 3:4-5 NIV

As children of the one true God, saved by His boundless grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the importance of living a life that reflects our newfound identity in Christ.

In Titus 3:1-8, the Apostle Paul exhorts believers to live a life of obedience, peace, and gentleness towards all, not because of our own righteousness, but because of the mercy and kindness of God our Savior.

"The greatest glory of the gospel is, that it is a gospel of free mercy, and that it is freely preached to the very vilest of men." (Spurgeon, "The Guilt of Unbelief")

We were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved by our passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy towards others (Titus 3:3). But when the kindness and love of God appeared, He saved us, not because of our own righteousness, but because of His mercy (Titus 3:4-5). This salvation is not a result of our own efforts, but a gift of God, poured out generously through Jesus Christ our Savior (Titus 3:6).

"The cross is the symbol of the creative suffering of God, and it is in the cross that we find the ultimate meaning of the Christian faith." (Tozer, "The Pursuit of God")

This salvation brings about a transformation in our lives, where we are justified by His grace and become heirs of eternal life (Titus 3:7).

As believers, we are called to devote ourselves to doing what is good, not because of our own strength, but because of the empowering work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Titus 3:8).

"The Christian life is not a life of striving, but a life of surrender; not a life of effort, but a life of faith." (Nee, "The Normal Christian Life")

As we reflect on the transforming power of God's mercy and grace, let us remember the exhortation of Titus 3:1-8, and strive to live a life that honors our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

From: "The Transforming Power of God's Mercy and Grace," 2024-07-28

Day 11 - Accepted in the Beloved

Day 11 of 30

""To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.""

- Ephesians 1:6 KJV

As children of the one true God, saved by the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, we are reminded of our privileged state in Ephesians 1:6. Go back and read it again... "accepted."

The Greek word hints at divine delight or the satisfaction of a job well done. We are not only justified before God, but we are also the objects of divine delight, loved and cherished by our heavenly Father.

This truth is echoed in the writings of Charles Spurgeon, who notes that our acceptance is not based on our own experiences or emotions, but solely on our position in Christ. Spurgeon writes: "Some Christians seem to be accepted in their own experience, at least, that is their apprehension... But when their souls cleave to the dust, they are the victims of the fear that they are no longer accepted."

This fear, however, is unfounded. Our acceptance is not predicated on our feelings or performance, but on the unwavering perfection of Christ. As Spurgeon so eloquently puts it:

"If they could but see that all their high joys do not exalt them, and all their low despondencies do not really depress them in their Father's sight, but that they stand accepted in One who never alters, in One who is always the beloved of God, always perfect, always without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, how much happier they would be, and how much more they would honour the Saviour!"

C.S. Lewis writes, "The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."

Watchman Nee echoes this: "The blood of Christ has made us acceptable to God... We are accepted not because of what we are, but because of what Christ is."

Our acceptance in the beloved is a state of unwavering privilege. It is not based on our own experiences, emotions, or performance, but solely on the perfection of Christ. We are loved, cherished, and delighted in by our heavenly Father, not because of what we are, but because of what Christ is. May we rest in this truth, and may it bring us joy, peace, and confidence in our daily lives.

From: "Accepted in the Beloved: A State of Unwavering Privilege," 2024-09-23

Day 12 - The God Who Sees and Cares

Day 12 of 30

""The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.""

- Psalm 33:13 KJV

As children of the one true God, saved by grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the profound truth that our Lord is a God who sees and cares for us.

The Bible teaches us that God is a God who sees and knows everything. In Psalm 139:1-4, David writes, "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off."

Charles Spurgeon, in his sermon "The God Who Sees," reminds us that "God's eye is upon us, and his ear is open to our cry... He knows our every thought, our every word, and our every action... He sees us in our darkest night, and in our brightest day."

But God's knowledge of us is not just a matter of observation; it is also a matter of care. In 1 Peter 5:7, we read, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." C.S. Lewis writes, "God is not a distant, uninterested spectator of the human scene. He is a God who cares, who loves, who is involved in the affairs of his creatures."

A.W. Tozer reminds us that "God's love is not a sentimental feeling, but a deep and abiding concern for the well-being of his people... He is a God who is moved by our tears, our sighs, and our prayers."

But God's care for us is not just a matter of feeling; it is also a matter of action. In Isaiah 43:1-3, we read, "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee; I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee."

Watchman Nee writes, "God's love is not just a feeling, but a fact... He has acted on our behalf, and he continues to act on our behalf... He is a God who saves, who delivers, and who redeems."

As D.L. Moody once said, "God is not a distant God, but a God who is near to us... He is a God who is willing to stoop to us, to come down to our level, and to help us in our time of need."

From: "The God Who Sees and Cares," 2024-09-28

Day 13 - Exalting the Grace of God

Day 13 of 30

""Not I, but the grace of God which was with me!""

- Acts 15:11 (adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:10)

These powerful words echo through the pages of history, bearing witness to the transformative power of God's grace. As children of the one true God, saved by His divine grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we are called to proclaim His sovereignty and exalt His holy name.

"The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters."
(Psalm 29:3)

The Grace that Saves. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) Charles Spurgeon reminds us that salvation is entirely a work of God's sovereign grace. He writes, "Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, which has saved us from our sins and brought us to His blessed side."

The Grace that Sanctifies. "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ." (Philippians 1:9-10). A.W. Tozer notes that it is through the sanctifying work of grace that we are transformed into the image of Christ. He writes, "What a marvel! What a wonder! That the Almighty should be pleased to enter our hearts and dwell there as our life."

The Grace that Empowers. "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13). D.L. Moody reminds us that it is the grace of God that empowers us for service and ministry. He writes, "It is not our own strength or ability that enables us to do great things for God; it is His divine power that works mightily within us."

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name." (Psalm 29:2). May His name be exalted in our lives and in our words.

In closing, I encourage you to meditate on these words from Charles Spurgeon: "The grace of God which was with me! Oh, how it thrills my heart! How it elevates my soul! What a source of strength and consolation it is!"

Let us continue to depend on the grace of God.

From: "Exalting the Grace of God — A Testimony of Dependence," 2024-08-16

Day 14 - Suffering, Perseverance, and Hope

Day 14 of 30

""Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.""

- Romans 5:3-4 NIV

As children of the one true God, we are not immune to suffering. However, as believers saved by the grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we have a unique perspective on suffering that sets us apart from the world.

In this passage, Paul highlights the transformative power of suffering in the life of a believer. Suffering is not something to be avoided or feared, but rather it is an opportunity for growth and development in our faith. As Charles Spurgeon so eloquently put it, "The Lord gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction."

Suffering produces perseverance, which is the ability to endure hardships and difficulties without giving up. As AW Tozer wrote, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

Perseverance, in turn, produces character. Character refers to the moral and spiritual qualities that define who we are as believers. It is the sum total of our values, attitudes, and behaviors that reflect the image of Christ in us. As Watchman Nee observed, "The more we are willing to suffer, the more we will know the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus."

Finally, character produces hope. Hope is the confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises and bring us through difficult times. As DL Moody said, "Hope is the anticipation of something good, and it is the anchor that holds the soul fast."

What is the source of this hope? Paul tells us that it is God's love that has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. This love is not just a feeling or an emotion, but a reality that transforms our lives. As CS Lewis wrote, "God's love is not a sentimental indulgence, but a holy and consuming fire that demands our all."

Suffering is not something to be feared or avoided, but rather it is an opportunity for growth and development in our faith. As believers, we can glory in our sufferings because we know that they produce perseverance, character, and hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

From: "Suffering, Perseverance, and Hope: A Biblical Perspective," 2024-08-23

Day 15 - The Beauty of Humility

Day 15 of 30

""Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.""

- Ephesians 4:2 NIV

As children of the one true God, saved by the precious gift of grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we are called to embody the character of our Lord and Savior. One of the most essential qualities we are encouraged to cultivate is humility.

According to Charles Spurgeon, "Humility is the proper estimate of oneself." It involves recognizing our limitations, weaknesses, and dependence on God. In 1 Corinthians 4:7, Paul writes, "For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" This verse reminds us that everything we have, including our talents and accomplishments, is a gift from God.

In his book "Mere Christianity," C.S. Lewis emphasizes the significance of humility: "According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind."

So, how can we cultivate humility in our lives? A.W. Tozer suggests, "The way to get the humble mind is to get the self-centered mind off your hands." This involves shifting our focus from ourselves to God and others. In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul writes, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." By prioritizing the needs of others, we can develop a more humble and selfless attitude.

Watchman Nee highlights the connection between humility and love: "Love is the outflow of a humble heart." When we are humble, we are more likely to demonstrate love and compassion towards others.

D.L. Moody emphasizes the importance of humility in evangelism: "If you want to win men to Christ, you must be willing to be nothing." In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul writes, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." This passage highlights the paradoxical nature of humility: when we are weak, we are strong in Christ.

Humility is a vital quality that every Christian should strive to cultivate. May we heed the words of Ephesians 4:2 and strive to be completely humble and gentle, bearing with one another in love.

From: "The Beauty of Humility: A Biblical Perspective," 2024-09-08

Day 16 - The Comfort of Mourning

Day 16 of 30

""Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.""

- Matthew 5:4 NIV

As children of the one true God, saved by the gift of grace and faith in Jesus Christ, we often find ourselves navigating the complexities of the human experience. In the midst of joy and sorrow, we are reminded of the profound words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4, NIV).

At first glance, the idea of mourning being a blessing may seem counterintuitive. As Spurgeon so eloquently puts it, "The mourner is not blessed because of his sorrow, but because of the comfort that comes to him in the midst of his sorrow." This comfort is not a superficial solace but a profound, soul-satisfying consolation that only God can provide.

One of the primary reasons we mourn is because of our sin. We recognize the gravity of our rebellion against a holy God and the devastating consequences it brings. As C.S. Lewis writes, our sin separates us from God, and this realization brings us to a place of mourning. However, in this mourning, we find the comfort of God's forgiveness and redemption through Jesus Christ.

Another reason we mourn is because of loss — the loss of loved ones, the loss of innocence, or the loss of our sense of security. A.W. Tozer reminds us that "the Christian is not exempt from the pains and sorrows of the world. He is, however, exempt from their sting." In the midst of our loss, we find comfort in the promise of eternal life.

Watchman Nee writes, "The greatest sorrow is not the sorrow of circumstances, but the sorrow of self." We mourn because of our own inadequacies, our own failures, and our own limitations. However, in this mourning, we find the comfort of God's sufficiency and the promise that He will complete the good work He has started in us (Philippians 1:6).

The comfort that Jesus promises to those who mourn is not a fleeting sentiment but a profound, eternal reality. D.L. Moody writes, "The comfort of God is not a mere feeling, but a fact — a fact that has been proved by the experiences of countless saints." This comfort is rooted in the character of God Himself, who is the "Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

May we, as children of the one true God, find solace in the promise of eternal comfort and may we, in turn, comfort others with the comfort we have received from God.

From: "The Comfort of Mourning: A Reflection on Matthew 5:4," 2024-09-11

Day 17 - Grace Sufficient for Every Trial

Day 17 of 30

""My grace is sufficient for thee.""

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV

As a child of the One True God, saved by His grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, I find myself continually awed by the sufficiency of His love.

Life, with all its twists and turns, often brings us to moments where we feel the weight of our weakness. Yet it is precisely in those moments that the voice of our Savior speaks clearest: "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

The Apostle Paul penned these words after pleading with the Lord to remove a thorn in his flesh — a trial that lingered, a burden that pressed. God's response wasn't to take the difficulty away, but to provide something greater: His grace. Not a fleeting comfort, but a sustaining power, perfect in its ability to carry us through. This promise isn't just for Paul; it's for you and me, for every soul redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Charles Spurgeon once reflected on this truth with words that stir my heart: "The master-works of God are those men who stand in the midst of difficulties, stedfast, unmoveable — Calm mid the bewildering cry, Confident of victory."

He who would glorify his God must set his account upon meeting with many trials. If then, yours be a much-trying path, rejoice in it, because you will the better show forth the all-sufficient grace of God. As for his failing you, never dream of it — hate the thought. The God who has been sufficient until now, should be trusted to the end.

Spurgeon reminds us that the trials we face aren't a sign of God's absence, but an opportunity for His grace to shine. The men and women who stand firm in the storm — unshaken, trusting, even rejoicing — are living testimonies of God's masterpiece.

I've walked my own much-trying path, as I'm sure you have too. There are days when the bewildering cry of this world threatens to drown out hope — moments when the enemy whispers that surely God's grace has reached its limit. But oh, how wrong that lie is! The God who spoke the universe into being, who sent His Son to bear our sins, who raised Him from the dead — His grace knows no bounds. It has been sufficient until now, and it will be sufficient to the end.

Watchman Nee once wrote, "Grace means that God does something for me; law means that I do something for God." What a relief — His grace isn't earned, but given, a gift of His hesed, His unwavering covenant love.

C.S. Lewis said, "The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us." This is grace at work.

And John Bunyan, the pilgrim who knew trials well, declared, "He that is down needs fear no fall; he that is low, no pride; he that is humble ever shall have God to be his guide. Grace is never wanting when faith is true."

So, dear friend, if your road feels steep today, take heart. Stand steadfast, immovable, calm amid the chaos, confident of victory — not because of who we are, but because of who He is. Trust Him. Hate even the thought of His failing you. The One who saved us by grace will carry us by grace, all the way home.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father God, Your grace is enough. Thank You for sustaining us through every trial, for proving Your strength in our weakness. Help us to trust You, to stand firm, and to glorify You in all things. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Grace Sufficient for Every Trial," 2025-03-04

Day 18 - Dwelling in His Shadow

Day 18 of 30

""He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.'""

- Psalm 91:1-2 NKJV

As a child of the One True God, saved by His grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, I am beckoned to a sacred refuge. Life swirls with storms — some seen, some hidden in the heart — yet the promise stands firm.

These words paint a picture of safety, a call to rest in God's nearness. But how do we dwell there? How do we abide under His shadow and trust Him fully? It begins with seeking the secret place — not a physical hideaway, but the quiet of His presence. To dwell is to linger, to make our home in Him through prayer, through His Word, through surrender. It is choosing daily to turn our gaze from the chaos and fix it on the Most High.

Abiding under His shadow means staying close, like a child beneath a father's wing. It is not a one-time act, but a posture of dependence. We abide by leaning into His strength when ours fails, by listening for His whisper above the world's clamor. Success here is not in perfection, but in persistence — returning to Him again and again, trusting His covering never lifts.

Trusting Him is the bold declaration of the psalmist: "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust." It is speaking truth over fear, choosing faith over doubt. We grow in trust by remembering — His faithfulness in past storms, His love poured out on the cross, His Spirit alive in us.

Charles Spurgeon said, "To dwell in the secret place is to live in the very heart of God; to abide under His shadow is to find rest no tempest can disturb." Nearness to Him is our strength. Watchman Nee added, "Trust is not a feeling, but a resting; it is laying all we are upon all He is." We succeed by releasing, not grasping. C.S. Lewis noted, "We trust not because a God exists, but because this God exists — personal, present, promising."

I have tasted this refuge. In moments of trial, when I pause to dwell — to pray, to listen, to trust — I find peace that defies the wind. The secret place is not far; it is as near as His name on my lips.

Dear friend, dwell today. Abide under His shadow. Trust Him boldly. Speak His promises, rest in His presence, and know the God of peace is with you. He is our home, and in Him, we are safe forever.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father, draw us to Your secret place. Teach us to dwell, to abide, to trust. Be our refuge and fortress, and hold us close in Your shadow. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Dwelling in His Shadow," 2025-03-09

Day 19 - God's Hesed, For You and For Me

Day 19 of 30

""The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.""

- Exodus 34:6

The concept of Hesed, or loving kindness, is a profound and multifaceted theme that permeates the Bible, appearing approximately 250 times in the Old Testament.

As Charles Spurgeon once said, "The loving-kindness of God is a boundless ocean, and we are but tiny vessels trying to comprehend its depths."

As C.S. Lewis astutely observed, "God's love is not a sentimental fondness but a fierce and unyielding commitment to our well-being." This understanding is echoed in the words of A.W. Tozer, who wrote that "God's love is not a feeling but a fact."

The concept of Hesed embodies this idea, describing an emotion that links to salvation, binds the relationship between people and covenants with God, moves toward action, and endures throughout all time.

David expresses his confidence in God's lovingkindness (Hesed) in Psalm 23:6, "Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life."

Agape love in the New Testament is considered the highest form of love — unconditional, by choice, and self-sacrificing. As D.L. Moody once said, "The greatest thing you can do for God or man is to lift someone up." Agape moved God to send His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Watchman Nee said, "Love has no limits; it cannot be measured; it has no boundaries." Agape and Hesed entwine together — both rich in meaning and deep with affection — expressing faithful love.

So how can we experience this beautiful attribute of Hesed — this covenantal loyalty — on a daily basis?

1. **Practice reading God's Word:** Pour over scripture daily. 2. **Practice Prayer:** Speak words back to Father from scripture regarding His hesed. 3. **Memorization:** Hide scripture verses about hesed away within your heart by committing them to memory. 4. **Meditate on Scripture:** Reflect quietly upon these verses. 5. **Fellowship:** Surround yourself among believers and good people. 6. **Begin Each Day on Right Footing:** Read verses aloud daily.

From: "Gods Hesed, For You and For Me," 2025-01-15

Day 20 - The Power of Identity

Day 20 of 30

""Ye are Christ's.""

- 1 Corinthians 3:23 KJV

As believers, we often struggle to remember who we are in Christ. We get caught up in our daily lives, faced with challenges and temptations, and forget that we are children of the King. But the Bible reminds us that our identity is rooted in Christ, and that understanding this truth can transform our lives.

In 1 Corinthians 3:23, we read, "Ye are Christ's." This simple yet profound statement reminds us that we belong to Christ, and that He has purchased us with His own blood (Acts 20:28). As the apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

But what does it mean to be Christ's? According to John 15:15-16, Jesus says, "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you..." We are not just servants or slaves; we are friends of Jesus Christ.

As C.S. Lewis writes in his book *Mere Christianity*, "The Christian way is different: harder and easier. Christ says 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You.'" When we understand that we belong to Christ, we begin to see ourselves as His ambassadors on earth (2 Corinthians 5:20).

But how do we live out this identity? In Romans 12:1-2, Paul urges us to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, holy and acceptable unto Him. We must continually renew our minds with Scripture and seek to live according to His will.

As my favorite author Charles Spurgeon once said, "To believe on Him is not only a saving act but also an abiding attitude." Our faith must be more than just an event — it must become a lifestyle.

When faced with temptation or sin, let us remember who we are — children of God. As Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

From: "The Power of Identity," 2025-01-12

Day 21 - Children of God

Day 21 of 30

""Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.""

- Galatians 3:26 KJV

As a child of the One True God, saved by His grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, I stand in a truth that reshapes everything: "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26). Paul's words ring with power — not by works, not by birthright, but by faith, I am His. This is no distant relation; it is a bond sealed by the blood of the Son, drawing me into the heart of the Father.

Faith in Jesus makes me family. It is trust in His sacrifice, His rising, His reign that names me a child of God. The Spirit testifies within, whispering, "You belong." No storm can shake this, no thief can steal it. I am held by the One who spoke the stars into place, who calls me His own through the cross. What a gift — to be loved not as a servant, but as a son or daughter, with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ever near.

Charles Spurgeon said, "By faith in Christ, we are not merely pardoned, but adopted; not only forgiven, but brought into the family of God." Watchman Nee added, "Faith is the hand that takes what God gives — sonship, life, Himself." C.S. Lewis wrote, "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."

I live this truth daily. When doubt creeps or the world presses, I recall — by faith in Christ Jesus, I am God's child. It steadies me, lifts me, calls me to love as He loves. The Spirit wills it first, stirring me to trust, and in that trust, I find my place.

Dear friend, you too are a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Rest in it. Walk in it. Let His love shape you today.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father, thank You for making us Your children through faith in Jesus. Seal this truth in our hearts by Your Spirit. Draw us close as Your own. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Children of God," 2025-03-18

Day 22 - Strong in Faith

Day 22 of 30

""Strong in faith.""

- Romans 4:20 KJV

As a child of the One True God, saved by His grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, I am called to stand unwavering. Paul writes of Abraham, "strong in faith" (Romans 4:20), a man who trusted God's promise against all odds. That same strength is my calling, my lifeline to the Father's heart.

Faith is no idle hope — it is the muscle of the soul, the hand that grasps God's gifts. Charles Spurgeon said, "Christian, take good care of thy faith; for recollect faith is the only way whereby thou canst obtain blessings. If we want blessings from God, nothing can fetch them down but faith." Prayer may lift my voice, love may guide my steps, but faith alone unlocks the storehouse of heaven. It is trusting Jesus, the Son who pleased the Father, that brings me near, with the Spirit stirring me to believe.

I see it in my days — when I falter, blessings dim; when I stand strong, they flow. Faith is not blind; it is fixed on the One who never fails. The world shouts doubt, the thief sows fear, but faith holds fast, pulling down peace, strength, joy. Through faith, I am not just saved, but sustained, joined to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in unshakable trust.

Watchman Nee said, "Faith is not a leap in the dark, but a step into God's light." C.S. Lewis wrote, "Faith is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods." John Bunyan added, "He who is strong in faith walks with God as a friend; no promise is too great for him to claim."

So I guard my faith, feed it with His Word, water it with prayer. It is my bridge to blessing, my anchor in storms.

Dear friend, be strong in faith today. Trust Jesus fully. Watch God's goodness pour down.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father, make us strong in faith. Steady us by Your Spirit to trust Your Son. Open Your storehouse of blessings as we stand firm. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Strong in Faith," 2025-03-19

Day 23 - Joys Bought with Agonies

Day 23 of 30

""Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.""

- 1 Peter 1:8-9 NKJV

As a child of the One True God, saved by His grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, I live in a mystery of joy.

This joy, unseen yet felt, is a gift beyond words, a treasure from the Father's heart.

Charles Spurgeon captured it: "And all the unknown joys he gives, were bought with agonies unknown." Every smile of the soul, every pulse of peace, every hope that lifts me — purchased by Jesus on that dark cross. His suffering, hidden in depths I cannot fathom, bore the weight of my sin, securing joys I taste now and will know fully one day. Faith in Him, the Son who pleased the Father, brings me this gift, with the Spirit stirring my heart to rejoice.

I feel it — joy inexpressible — when trials fade before His presence. It is not a joy I earn, but one He gives, flowing from agonies I will never grasp. The thief prowls, the world dims, yet this joy holds, rooted in the unseen love of Christ. Through faith, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwell with me, turning sorrow into glory.

Watchman Nee said, "Joy is the echo of God's life in us, born of His pain." C.S. Lewis wrote, "Joy is the serious business of heaven, paid for by the grief of the cross." John Bunyan added, "The joys we know are but shadows of what Christ bought with His blood."

So I trust, I rejoice, I rest in His agonies that won my joys.

Dear friend, embrace the unknown joys today. Believe in Jesus. Let His purchase lift your countenance. Dry those tears, chosen one... and pray!

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father, thank You for joys bought by Your Son's agonies. Fill us with true faith and Your inexpressible joy by Your Spirit. Hold us close. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Joys Bought with Agonies," 2025-03-21

Day 24 - The Great Exchange

Day 24 of 30

""For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.""

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV

Have you ever stumbled across a Bible verse that stops you in your tracks? For me, it's 2 Corinthians 5:21. This isn't just a poetic line — it's the heartbeat of the gospel, a cosmic transaction that flips the script on everything we know about justice, love, and redemption.

Jesus didn't just avoid sinning — He was incapable of it. He was perfect, spotless, the Lamb without blemish. Every step He took, every word He spoke, every thought He had was pure. So how could someone like that be "made sin"?

Here's where it gets wild. God didn't turn Jesus into a sinner. Instead, God imputed our sin to Him. That's a fancy word for saying Jesus took on the legal weight of our mess. Picture it like this: every lie you've told, every selfish choice, every moment of pride or anger — God gathered it all up and laid it on Jesus' shoulders. He became our substitute, standing in our place under the crushing penalty of sin.

Isaiah 53:6 echoes this: "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." On the cross, Jesus didn't just carry a symbol of sin — He bore its full reality, its shame, its curse. Why? Because someone had to pay, and He volunteered.

Now, let's not miss those two little words: "for us." This wasn't some abstract theological exercise. Jesus didn't take on sin because He had to prove a point — He did it because He loves us.

Think about the courtroom of divine justice. We're the guilty ones, standing before a holy God with no defense. The sentence? Death. Separation. But then Jesus steps in, the sinless advocate, and says, "Put it on Me." He takes the rap sheet we wrote and lets the gavel fall on Him instead. That's not just mercy — that's love on a level we can barely grasp.

We don't just walk away from the cross with a clean slate — though that would be incredible enough. No, we get something far greater: God's own righteousness. This isn't our righteousness patched up or polished — it's Christ's perfect record credited to us. When God looks at you, He doesn't see your failures; He sees His Son's perfection. You're not just forgiven — you're declared righteous, as if you'd lived Jesus' flawless life yourself.

2 Corinthians 5:21 is the ultimate swap: Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness. It's not fair — it's grace. It's not logical — it's love. And it's not temporary — it's forever.

From: "The Great Exchange: How Jesus Took Our Sin and Gave Us His Righteousness," 2025-04-04

Day 25 - Finding Peace in Christ's Victory

Day 25 of 30

""In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.""

- John 16:33 KJV

Life can feel like a storm sometimes, can't it? The waves of worry, loss, or uncertainty crash hard, and I find myself longing for a quiet place to rest. That's when I turn to words like these from Jesus. These aren't just comforting words — they're a battle cry from the One who's already won. In a world full of trouble, Jesus offers us His peace and calls us to rejoice because He's conquered it all.

As a follower of Christ, saved by His grace, I'm learning that this peace isn't something I muster up — it's found in Him. The tribulations Jesus warned about are real, but so is His victory.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "The world is a roaring lion, but Christ has broken its teeth and tamed it for His own. Take heart, believer, for your Savior reigns!" When Jesus says, "I have overcome the world," He's declaring His absolute victory — over sin, death, and every power that threatens us. That's why we can be of good cheer, even when the world roars. Our Savior's triumph is our confidence.

Watchman Nee had a gift for pointing to Christ's sufficiency. He wrote, "Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of Christ in the trouble. To abide in Him is to dwell in victory." Jesus doesn't promise a life free of tribulation — He promises peace in it.

John Bunyan, who penned *The Pilgrim's Progress* from a prison cell, said, "Christ's victory is the pilgrim's song — though the way be rough, the end is sure, for He has overcome." His life was marked by hardship, yet his hope never wavered because he trusted in Jesus' words.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "The world's troubles are real, but Christ's victory is more real. To trust Him is to live in the light of a battle already won."

Romans 8:37 proclaims, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." And 1 John 5:4: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." We're not just survivors; we're conquerors in His name.

I've walked through my own tribulations — days when fear loomed large, when grief felt like it would swallow me whole. But here's what I'm holding onto: Jesus doesn't just offer peace as a feeling; He offers Himself, the Prince of Peace.

So, dear friend, if the world's tribulations are pressing in, lift your eyes to Jesus. Rest in His peace, the kind that holds steady when everything else shakes. Rejoice, not because the troubles are small, but because His victory is infinite.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father, thank You for Jesus, who overcame the world and gives us His peace. Help us to rest in Him, to face every tribulation with good cheer, and to trust in His victory. Fill us with Your strength and joy. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Finding Peace in Christ's Victory," 2025-04-20

Day 26 - Delivered from Every Affliction

Day 26 of 30

""Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.""

- Psalm 34:19 NKJV

Life has a way of testing our faith, doesn't it? I remember a time when everything seemed to be falling apart and I wondered, Why do the righteous face so many afflictions? But in the midst of that storm, I clung to a promise from God's Word: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19, NKJV). That verse has become my lifeline, reminding me that while troubles are inevitable, God's deliverance is certain.

Let's be honest — being a follower of Christ doesn't exempt us from hardship. In fact, sometimes it feels like the opposite is true. Psalm 34:19 acknowledges this head-on: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." It's a sobering reminder that pain, loss, and struggle are part of the journey. But the verse doesn't stop there.

This psalm was written by David during one of the darkest chapters of his life. He was on the run from King Saul, who wanted him dead, and found himself in enemy territory, pretending to be insane to escape capture (1 Samuel 21:10-15). Yet, even in that moment of fear and uncertainty, David chose to praise God and affirm His protection.

The beauty of Psalm 34:19 lies in its promise: no matter how many afflictions we face, God will deliver us from every single one. As C.S. Lewis once wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Our afflictions, though painful, can draw us closer to God and deepen our reliance on His strength.

I've seen this truth play out in my own life. During that season of fear and uncertainty, I felt overwhelmed. But as I leaned into prayer and God's Word, I began to sense His peace. Looking back, I can see how God was delivering me, even when I couldn't see the way forward.

So, how do we live out the truth of Psalm 34:19?

1. Acknowledge your afflictions: Don't deny the pain or pretend everything is fine. Like David, bring your fears and struggles to God. 2. Trust in God's timing: Deliverance may not come when or how we expect, but God's timing is perfect. Hold onto His promises. 3. Praise Him in the storm: Follow David's example — choose to praise God even in the midst of affliction. It shifts your focus from the problem to the Provider.

Take heart today: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all." Let this truth be your anchor, your hope, and your song of praise.

From: "Delivered from Every Affliction: Finding Hope in Psalm 34:19," 2025-04-25

Day 27 - Bold Prayers, Confident Hearts

Day 27 of 30

""And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.""

- 1 John 5:14 KJV

There's something powerful about knowing you're heard. Not just listened to, but truly heard — by the Creator of the universe.

I was reading 1 John 5:14 today, and it stopped me in my tracks. As a child of God, saved by grace through faith in Jesus, this verse feels like a lifeline. It's not just about praying — it's about praying with boldness, knowing that when our hearts align with God's will, He's right there, listening.

This confidence isn't something I muster up on my own. It's a gift, rooted in the relationship we have with Christ.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "When we pray in the name of Jesus, according to God's will, we knock at heaven's gate with the very hand of Christ Himself." 1 John 5:14 isn't about throwing out wishes and hoping they stick — it's about seeking God's heart and trusting that He hears every word.

Watchman Nee brought a quiet depth to this truth. He wrote, "To pray according to God's will is to lay aside our own desires and take up His. In such prayer, we find not only His ear but His heart." It's like tuning my heart to His frequency, where every request becomes a step deeper into His love.

John Bunyan said, "Prayer is the pilgrim's staff, upholding us when we seek God's will above our own. He hears, and His answer is always life." Even in my darkest moments, when prayers seem to go unanswered, Bunyan reminds me that God hears. The assurance of 1 John 5:14 is like a staff to lean on.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "Prayer doesn't change God; it changes us, aligning our hearts with His eternal purposes." When I pray according to His will, I'm not twisting God's arm; I'm letting Him shape my desires.

I've had moments when prayer felt like a leap of faith — times when I poured out my heart, unsure if I was "doing it right." But here's what I'm learning: the confidence of 1 John 5:14 isn't about perfect words; it's about a heart surrendered to God's will.

So, friend, if you're carrying a burden today, bring it to Jesus with confidence. Ask according to His will — seek His heart, trust His wisdom — and know that He hears you. Let's pray boldly, love deeply, and trust completely. The God who hears us is the God who holds us.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Father, thank You for the confidence we have in Jesus, that You hear us when we pray according to Your will. Align our hearts with Your purposes, and give us boldness to trust Your answers. Let our prayers draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "Bold Prayers, Confident Hearts," 2025-04-23

Day 28 - God's Delight in His People

Day 28 of 30

""The Lord taketh pleasure in his people.""

- Psalm 149:4 KJV

Salvation and freedom come not by our merits, but through Christ Jesus, in whom God delights in us, His people.

This truth stirs the heart — our Lord finds joy in us, not for our worth, but for His grace. The Holy Spirit kindles this assurance, urging us to live in the warmth of His love. Watchman Nee writes, "God's joy in us is the strength of our walk," calling us to rest in His delight.

The psalmist contrasts the law's burden, which exposed sin without joy, with the new covenant where God's pleasure shines. Through Christ's sacrifice, we're made His own, justified and adopted. Spurgeon exclaims, "Think of what His love has brought thee — justification, adoption, eternal life! Shall such a love have half our hearts?" The Spirit invites us to respond with wholehearted devotion, reflecting His joy.

C.S. Lewis notes, "Joy is the serious business of Heaven," reminding us God's delight is our eternal home. John Bunyan's pilgrim sang, "My King smiles on me, and my soul is glad," echoing the freedom of His favor.

The Spirit empowers us to live as His delight, loving Him fully, shining His grace to others.

As it is written:

"The Lord thy God... will rejoice over thee with joy." — Zephaniah 3:17

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may remain in you." — John 15:11

"Neither death nor life... shall separate us from the love of God." — Romans 8:38-39

"We have known and believed the love that God hath to us." — 1 John 4:16

From: "God's Delight in His People: Rejoicing in His Love," 2025-04-29

Day 29 - Ruth Whispers Truth

Day 29 of 30

*""Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people,
and your God my God.""*

- Ruth 1:16

The Book of Ruth, a beautiful and compact story in the Old Testament, carries profound meaning for those who see it through the lens of faith in the One True Most High God. At its heart, it's a tale of loyalty, redemption, and divine providence — themes that resonate deeply for a child of God seeking to understand their place in His plan.

One of the deepest meanings emerges from Ruth's unwavering devotion. Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to leave her homeland and cling to her mother-in-law, Naomi, declaring her famous words. This isn't just a sweet sentiment — it's a radical act of faith. Ruth abandons her familiar life and aligns herself with Naomi's God, the God of Israel, without any guarantee of what lies ahead. For a believer, this mirrors the call to trust and follow God fully, even when the path is uncertain. It's a picture of surrendering to His will, a step every child of God is invited to take.

Then there's the theme of redemption, embodied by Boaz. Ruth, an outsider with no claim to security, finds herself redeemed through Boaz, the kinsman-redeemer who steps in to marry her and restore Naomi's family line. This points straight to God's heart as the ultimate Redeemer. For a child of the Most High, it's a reminder that no matter how broken or far off we feel, God pursues and restores us through His grace. Boaz's actions foreshadow Christ, who redeems humanity from sin and desolation, grafting us into His family.

The deepest thread, though, might be God's unseen hand. The story doesn't shout miracles or thunder from heaven, yet every detail — Ruth "happening" to glean in Boaz's field (Ruth 2:3), the timing of their meeting, the preservation of a family line — shows God orchestrating redemption quietly, perfectly. For you, as His child, it's a promise: even in life's mundane or painful moments, God is working for your good and His glory, often in ways you won't see until later.

So, the Book of Ruth whispers this truth: you're called to faithful trust, you're redeemed by a loving God, and you're never outside His sovereign care. It's a small story with a massive heartbeat — God's love for His people, including you.

From: "Ruth Whispers Truth," 2025-02-23

Day 30 - The Beauty of Mercy

Day 30 of 30

""Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.""

- Matthew 5:7 NKJV

In a world quick to judge and slow to forgive, Jesus' words in Matthew 5:7 shine like a beacon. This simple yet profound Beatitude from the Sermon on the Mount invites us into a life of compassion, promising that those who show mercy will receive it in return.

Mercy goes beyond feeling sorry for someone; it's an action — extending forgiveness, help, or grace to those who don't deserve it. The merciful are those who "act with compassion toward others, even when it's undeserved," mirroring God's mercy toward us.

The promise that the merciful "shall obtain mercy" is both a present and future blessing. Those who show mercy experience God's grace in their lives, often through forgiveness and peace (James 2:13). And this echoes Jesus' teaching in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

In a culture often marked by grudges and self-interest, Matthew 5:7 calls us to be agents of God's mercy. Here are three ways to live out this Beatitude today:

1. **Forgive freely.** Mercy begins with letting go of bitterness. Choose forgiveness, even if it's a process. Colossians 3:13 urges us to forgive as Christ forgave us. 2. **Serve the hurting.** Mercy is active compassion. Look for opportunities to help those in need. Galatians 6:10 encourages doing good to all. 3. **Speak with grace.** In conversations, especially online, choose words that build up rather than tear down. Ephesians 4:29 calls for words that give grace.

A few weeks ago, I had a chance to practice mercy when our eleven year old snapped at me during a stressful day. My first instinct was to respond with sarcasm, but Matthew 5:7 came to mind. Instead, I told him that I love him and that he could never say or do anything that would hurt me so bad that I wouldn't hug him and love him. That small act of kindness shifted our interaction, and we ended up growing closer. Mercy, even in small doses, reflects God's heart and opens doors for healing.

Matthew 5:7 is a call to live differently, reflecting God's compassion in a world desperate for it. It's not about being soft or ignoring justice but about showing the same grace we've received from God. And the promise? As we pour out mercy, God pours His mercy into us, now and forever.

Closing prayer (from the post): "Lord, thank You for Your boundless mercy toward us. Teach us to be merciful, forgiving and serving others with Your love. Fill us with Your grace, and let our lives reflect Your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen."

From: "The Beauty of Mercy: Embracing Matthew 5:7," 2025-06-27

Back Page

Keep the Morning Lamp Burning

These thirty days were drawn from one man's walk. But they were always meant for more than one.

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You're not at the end of something. You're at the beginning.

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A Quiet Invitation

If these thirty days quieted something in you,
the same spirit carries into everything Joshua makes -
the music, the photographs, the gallery.

Selah Aisings - Let the Silence Say It

on Spotify, Apple Music, and all streaming platforms

The Gallery

thornsthistlesandolivebranches.com

Olive Branch by Joshua

on Etsy - black and white fine art prints from the Pacific coast and redwood forests

Olive Branch Productions - Let the Silence Say It