

INSPIRATION

Blessed to Be a Blessing

NOVEMBER 2019

When you
need a

Miracle...

OPEN YOUR
HEART TO JOY

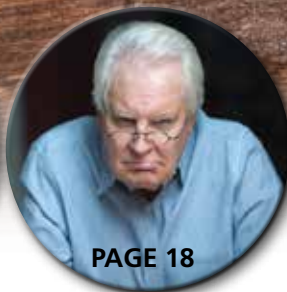
PAGE 15

LINDA'S MIRACLE
GRANDBABY

PAGE 16

LEAVE THE
WORRYING TO GOD!

PAGE 54



This Month's Theme Is



When You Need a Miracle...

What's the *ONE* miracle in your heart you've been praying for the most? Whatever your need may be today, God wants you to seek His face and abide in His presence. If you draw close to Him... *you will* draw close to your miracle breakthrough! See David's article on **page 5!**

Our Featured Partners This Month

God's miracles are real in the lives of our partners Kathy, Henry, and Bukola. See how they experienced monumental breakthroughs just by following God's voice (**pages 12 and 13**).

10 God is a Giver!
By Robert Morris

The Lord is concerned about our hearts. And a properly focused heart is more excited about the giving part than the receiving part.

14 Claiming Your Inheritance
By Derek Prince

Appropriating the promises of God gives us a new nature, personality, and life.

15 Open Your Heart to Joy
By David Jeremiah

When we're in a right relationship with God, He rejoices. And it's only through that relationship that we experience joy in its fullness.

16 Linda's Miracle Grandbaby

Despite the warning of doctors that her grandbaby was deformed and should be aborted, Linda stood in faith and turned to our International Prayer Center for prayer.

18 Get the Humbug Out of Your Holidays
By Jim Buchan

Having an attitude of gratitude and generosity during the holidays will do more for you than you ever thought possible. Here's why...

21 Your November Devotionals


A day-by-day guide to living in God's amazing promises.

54 Leave the Worrying to God!
By Isik Albla

Instead of striving and struggling as this year comes to a close, rest in the amazing fact that you are God's workmanship.

60 Feeling Overwhelmed? Follow These 7 Keys!
By Ben Cerullo

When we face overwhelming times in our lives, Jesus instructs us to look up and turn our eyes to Him!



Our prayer ministers are here to agree in prayer with YOU, believing for God to step into the circumstances of your life in supernatural ways!

What Do You Need From God?

Every day, our prayer ministers intercede for people with needs of every kind: marriage, kids, finances, salvation, addiction, depression, grief, illness...and the list goes on.

Praise God! Miracles are happening! Here are just a few of the great testimonies from Inspiration Partners who received a breakthrough in their circumstances when they prayed with our prayer ministers:

PAIN-FREE... *“I had been crippled with chronic, debilitating back pains due to arthritis. But after you prayed for my healing today, I’m walking pain free for the first time in three years!”* – SHARRON, United Kingdom

NEW JOB... *“Just one week after I sent you a prayer request that I would get a job, I received a call for an interview. I now have a job and am grateful for your prayers.”* – BELINDA, Texas

OFF OF LIFE SUPPORT... *“My niece had spent 15 days on life support, and I decided to call the Inspiration Prayer Center the day before they were going to turn off the machine and let her die. That same day she opened her eyes and started moving. Now she’s sitting up and talking!”* – JOHN, Tennessee

Let our prayer ministers pray for the breakthrough *you* need!

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When You Need a *Miracle*



STRENGTHEN
your walk
with David Cerullo

Of all the miracle breakthroughs you might be praying for today, which is the one that is most on your heart right now?

I encourage you to take a few minutes to ponder how you would answer this probing question. Generalities won't do. Be *specific* about the miracle you need from God.

If you could ask God for anything, what would you request?

I meet so many people who are frantically seeking a miracle of some kind. They're desperately hoping for a turnaround in their finances, their health, their family, or their emotions.

The problem is many of them are seeking a miracle by their own strength and ingenuity. They want His answers but they're not seeking them from the one true source: the King of kings, the Lord of glory. This approach nearly always results in frustration – not because God is unwilling to give people a breakthrough, but because He wants them to receive it from HIM.

Look throughout the Bible, and you'll see men and women who knew God as their source for every blessing and breakthrough. As a shepherd, David understood that sheep cannot survive very long on their own – they need a shepherd, both to lead them to provision and to rescue them from danger. That's why he joyfully proclaimed, *"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want"* (Psalm 23:1).

Today the Lord of breakthroughs is beckoning you to draw near to Him. When you do, He promises to also draw near to you: *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"* (James 4:8). And when you come boldly to His throne, He says you will *"find grace to help in time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16).

What kind of miracle do you need today? More love? More power? More peace? More provision? You can receive all of these things – and much more – when you draw near to the Lord of breakthroughs.



THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE

Remember the ark of the covenant and what a powerful symbol of God's presence it was? In one

instance during King David's reign, *"The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had"* (1 Chronicles 13:14).

Today, we don't have the physical ark to which we can draw near and receive God's blessings. Yet something far better has occurred to bring us into the very presence of the Lord. You see, when Christ died on the cross, *"the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom"* (Matthew 27:51). Now we can come *"boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16).

Believe it or not, when you choose to draw near to the Lord, one of the great rewards will be His blessing on your life. What God did for the household of *Obed-Edom*, He will do for you! His presence brings blessings!

EVERYTHING WE NEED!

God wants us to be dependent on Him every day...to receive a fresh experience from Him daily in His presence, in His Word, in prayer, and in worship. He desires day-to-day intimacy.

How can we expect to be fed and nourished by Him if we don't spend time with Him?

This is why – whether you realize

it or not – you may be starving to death spiritually. Your spiritual life is malnourished and lacking the power you need to live a life of happiness and peace. That changes when we choose to faithfully spend time with the Lord every day!

Everything we need can be found in God's presence! Physical healing...financial breakthroughs... freedom from fear, depression, and anxiety...or the restoration of a relationship with a loved one... our life and circumstances can be transformed in an instant!

Look at what happened to Jacob when he drew near to God (Genesis 32:24-31). After a transformative experience of wrestling with the Lord, Jacob's name was changed...his walk was changed... his outlook was changed...and even his DESTINY was changed! Instead of merely seeking the blessing, Jacob became a blessing!

YOUR BATTLE, LORD, NOT MINE

Don't ever underestimate the power of drawing near to Him. That's where you will find complete contentment, and it's where you will be empowered to overcome the devil and fulfill God's purpose for your life.

King Jehoshaphat once faced seemingly insurmountable enemies, but the Lord told him, "*Do not be afraid...the battle is not yours, but God's*" (2 Chronicles 20:15). So how

**Watch our video series
this month featuring
guest speaker
Robyn Gool...**

November
11-22



How do I begin and develop my faith walk? The more you know about a person, the more you can have faith in their integrity. Join Pastor Robyn Gool as he explores the characteristics of God that will help you build your faith.



YouTube



Visit StrengthenYourWalk.org to receive short Bible teaching videos in your inbox every day or to browse the archives of previous teachings.

did God instruct Jehoshaphat to win the battle? Through praise and worship!

He appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire as they went out before the army and said, “Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who were totally defeated as a result (2 Chronicles 20:21-22 NASB).

Just as King Jehoshaphat learned, God can use our time of worship as a powerful weapon to rout our spiritual enemies and give us overwhelming victory!

Drawing close to Him causes us to surrender the things in our life that have brought us fear... frustration... anxiety... confusion... and pain. Through it, we recognize that He alone is able to solve our problems and transform our lives.

It lifts us UP and OUT of the things of this world and places us in the realm of God’s Spirit. There the Lord showers us with His mercy, love, and grace, and He confirms that HE’S IN CONTROL of everything! What a wonderful experience and privilege it is to step out of our earthly cares and into the supernatural presence and provision of Almighty God!

As you go about your daily routine today, I encourage you...

draw close to the Lord. Find time to pray and be in God’s presence. No matter what you are facing today, the Bible says you don’t have to be anxious or stressed out about *anything*. Instead, you can “let your requests be made known to God.” When you do, He promises, “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Whatever your need may be today, remember that you have a Heavenly Father who loves you and who keeps His promises. Even if there’s a miracle you’ve been awaiting for a long time now, I am praying God’s answer is on the way.

Remember: You can ask Him for *anything*! His goodness is real... and His faithfulness is everlasting!

God bless you,



David

P.S. Our faithful prayer ministers are always here for you. Let them agree with you in prayer for whatever breakthrough you need.

We are Here for You!

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4 Reasons... EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE A WILL

The Bible makes several specific references to Wills (for example, Hebrews 9:16-17), and it also offers a number of important principles that illustrate why Christians should have their Wills made:

- 1. Death inevitably comes to each of us and often comes suddenly and unexpectedly** (Hebrews 9:27, Luke 12:15-21).
- 2. We can't take our wealth with us** (1 Timothy 6:7).
- 3. We're commanded to make provisions for our family** (Proverbs 13:22, 1 Timothy 5:8).
- 4. As believers, we have an opportunity to create a Christian Will, giving a portion of our assets to churches or ministries that are effectively sharing the Gospel and winning souls** (Proverbs 11:30).

If you don't already have a Will, please don't put it off any longer. And if you do already have a Will, it's a good idea to review it every few years to make sure it still meets your needs.



Remember: Through a properly drawn Christian Will, you may be able to win more souls for God's Kingdom than you did during a lifetime of faithful giving!

Questions about including Inspiration Ministries in your Will?

Contact our Partner Relations Team
today for FREE information:

US: 1 (855) 702-7042
plannedgiving.inspiration.org



GOD IS A GIVER!

“Give to everyone who asks of you...love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great...For He is kind to the unthankful and the evil” (Luke 6:30, 35 NKJV).

The message of Jesus’ words is “Give!” Give to those who ask of you. Give money to those who can’t pay you back. Give love to those who don’t deserve it. Give mercy to those who wrong you. Give the kind of treatment you would hope to receive from others. Give, give, give! Oh, and by the way when you do, your heavenly Father will make sure you get much more in return.

Do you see the subtle but important distinction in emphasis? When you give with what looks to the world like reckless abandon, you are following God’s example. He is kind to the unthankful and

the evil (see v. 35) – that was you and me at one time. God extended ultimate kindness to us by sending His Son when we were as bad as any sinner could be.

God is a giver. And, yes, it’s true that when we give, God will give back to us, but that should not be our motive for giving. We should give for the pure joy of imitating our wonderful Father.

The Lord is concerned about our hearts. And a properly focused heart is more excited about the giving part than the receiving part.

In other words, God is saying, “When you give just to give, I’m

going to reward you by giving back to you in much greater measure.” The reward comes because we have allowed God to do a work in our hearts in the area of giving – not in the area of getting.

An Old Testament glimpse of this truth is in Deuteronomy 15:7-15. There God gives a clear view of His heart for helping people. It is also more evidence that God looks at the heart attitude of the giver. He makes it a point to tell the Israelites not to let their hearts “*be grieved*” (v. 10) when they give. God has always loved a “*cheerful giver*” (2 Cor. 9:7).

It’s not hard to understand why this is so. Aren’t you proud of your children when they are unselfish? Are you blessed when you have to bribe or threaten them to get them to be generous?

We’re pleased when our children help and prefer one another in love. And what is true for us as earthly parents is infinitely true for God.

Whether it is greed or gratitude, money and material things will bring it out. If you are a parent, ask yourself this question: Which attitude am I most motivated to reward in my children – greed or gratitude? Obviously, every good parent wants to reward gratitude – and God is no different.

The issue is not the amount we give. The issue is the motive behind our giving.

Does God bless givers? Absolutely! But those promises of blessing are given not to entice us, but to free us from the fear and grief that keep so many believers from turning loose and giving.

Yes, when you give, “*It will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom*” (Luke 6:38).

God pours blessings on givers, and He does it, so they can continue to give even more to His kingdom – but it takes a heart transplant. When we come to the place where we give simply because we have an unselfish, liberal heart of gratitude toward God, we will be well on the road to a blessed life.

*The issue is not
the amount
we give.*

*The issue is the
motive behind
our giving.*



Robert Morris is a best-selling author and founding senior pastor of Gateway Church in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

This is an excerpt from his book *The Blessed Life*.

NOVEMBER'S Featured Partners



My Husband Got Saved on Thanksgiving!

If you're concerned about loved ones this holiday season, be encouraged by this amazing story of Kathy and the miracle she received on Thanksgiving.

Kathy knew the Lord was speaking to her one day as she watched an Inspiration Ministries special program about the power of sowing monthly \$58 seeds and expecting uncommon harvests from God; however, her funds were limited, and a battle ensued in her mind.

“Even though I didn’t feel like I could afford it, the Holy Spirit told me to do it anyway,” Kathy recalls. “The devil was screaming at me, ‘Are you crazy? You don’t have the money and won’t even be able to pay your bills!’”

During this time, one of Kathy’s biggest prayer requests continued to be the salvation of her husband Jimmy. But it seemed

unlikely that anything would change since she had been praying for him for 23 years.

“My husband would never listen to anything I had to say about God,” Kathy says. “Yet just three months after I sent my first financial seed to Inspiration Ministries, my husband got saved on Thanksgiving Day! Now he’s a completely changed person.”

Jimmy’s transformation brought great joy into Kathy’s life. “The time since my husband’s salvation has been the most wonderful time in my life,” she says. “I’m convinced this miracle is the result of God’s faithfulness after I started sowing my financial seeds into His Kingdom through Inspiration Ministries!”

**To take a step of faith and sow a Seed for Souls,
use the enclosed response form or visit inspiration.org/souls.**

Trading Despair for Delight

What appeared to be a small step of faith led to amazing breakthroughs for Henry and Bukola.



Henry and Bukola moved from Nigeria to the US in hopes that the American doctors could find a cure for their son's chronic asthma. Just six years old, their son Ade loved soccer, but his severe asthma made running very difficult. To their disappointment, the American doctors just recommended more breathing medications for Ade.

Henry and Bukola were discouraged. "Without a steady job, our finances were very low, and we wondered if we had made a great mistake by coming here," they recall.

But things began to turn around when they watched Inspiration Ministries' *Uncommon Harvest* special one day. They began sowing monthly financial seeds into God's Kingdom, even though it didn't seem like they could afford to do so.

Bukola told her husband, "We

cannot do this...but we MUST do this!"

Soon their breakthroughs came. A local sports organization offered Henry his dream job training young soccer players. Then an even greater miracle happened when Ade was completely healed.

"We sensed the Lord telling us to throw away all of our son's inhalers and medications," Henry says. "Since that day, Ade needs no medications at all! He's a great soccer player and represented his school in a mile run this year. Praise Jesus!"

Grateful for how God has used Inspiration Ministries in their lives, Henry and Bukola write, "These are just a few of God's blessings as we continue to partner with you to win souls. Your encouraging words and resources have made us feel at home in a strange land!"

What God has done for Kathy, Henry, and Bukola, He can do for YOU! Our prayer ministers would love to agree with you in prayer for the breakthrough you need.

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CLAIMING YOUR INHERITANCE

Your inheritance as a child of God is this: **all the promises of God.** That means about 8,000 promises are available as you need them.

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Every promise of God is “Yes” in Christ. A simple, clear **yes**. The word *amen* means “so let it be,” or “be it established.” When God says, “Yes,” we appropriate it by our “Amen!” This makes the promise ours at that very moment.

When we apply the promises to our lives, two amazing things take place:

- We participate in the nature of God Himself.
- We escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.

What an amazing statement: “*partakers of God’s nature.*” If it wasn’t right there in the 2 Peter 1:4, I don’t think I would ever dare to say it. The very nature of God Himself comes into us!

Our old fallen nature is corrupt – morally, spiritually, and physically.

But as God’s nature comes in, His incorruptible nature replaces our fallen nature. Claiming the promises of God brings a new kind of nature, personality, and life into us.

This leads to a wonderful conclusion! **Ultimately, God Himself becomes our inheritance.** Not blessings, not experiences – but God Himself! Experiences and blessings are wonderful, but God’s real purpose is that we inherit *Him* through His promises.

There is an important aspect of claiming God’s promises many overlook: They are conditional. Often when God gives a promise, He says, “*If you will do this, then I will do this.*” We cannot claim the promise until we meet the condition. Step past your circumstances, meet God’s conditions, and enter the glorious inheritance of His promises.



Derek Prince (1915-2003) is an internationally recognized Bible teacher and author with works translated in over 100 languages.

Open Your Heart to *Joy*



When we're in a right relationship with God, He rejoices. And it's only through that relationship that we experience joy in its fullness.

Jesus was completely comfortable at joyous events. In fact, Jesus' first miracle took place at a wedding celebration. It was performed in a setting of rejoicing, not a setting of mourning; it was a wedding, not a wake or a funeral.

Throughout the New Testament, the Lord generously imparted His joy to others. One day He healed a crippled woman. She stood straight up and began praising the Lord (Luke 13:13). The Samaritan leper healed by Jesus returned to thank him, "praising God in a loud voice" (Luke 17:15 NIV). When the lame man at the Beautiful Gate was healed, he got up and went into the temple, "walking, leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:8).

Describing joyous moments like these, Paul wrote: "The kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). Many Christians have the righteousness part down and maybe even the peace part. But they're

clueless when it comes to joy. Instead of enjoying the Christian life, they seem to merely endure it.

I speak for many who are Christ-followers: We must get better at living life joyously! Jesus experienced and expressed joy in life, and so should we.

When I wake up in the morning, I often repeat these words of the psalmist, taking liberty to replace *we* with *I*: "This is the day the LORD has made; [I] will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Try it. Write down this verse, and keep it by your bed, so it's the first thing you see in the morning. Say it aloud or in your heart to yourself and to God.

Trust me. This one small act will begin opening your heart to joy.



Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church. Excerpted from *A Life Beyond Amazing*. Dr. Jeremiah airs on Inspiration TV Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. ET.

Linda's Miracle Grandbaby



Despite the warning of doctors that the baby was deformed and should be aborted, Linda stood in faith and turned to our International Prayer Center for prayer support.

The blood of Jesus is powerful. That's what Linda kept telling herself when doctors said her pregnant daughter, Judith, should abort her baby because it was severely deformed.

"I said to my daughter, 'No, the baby is *not* deformed. We have to show them we are serving a living God,'" Linda recalls. "And even if the baby is deformed, things will be okay," she told her daughter. "You don't need to abort the baby."

One of the challenges Linda faced was that she lives in Ireland, thousands of miles away from her pregnant daughter's home in Ghana, where Linda originally lived. However, there's no distance in prayer, and Linda called an Inspiration Ministries prayer minister the next day. Together, they prayed that Judith's baby would be born healthy.

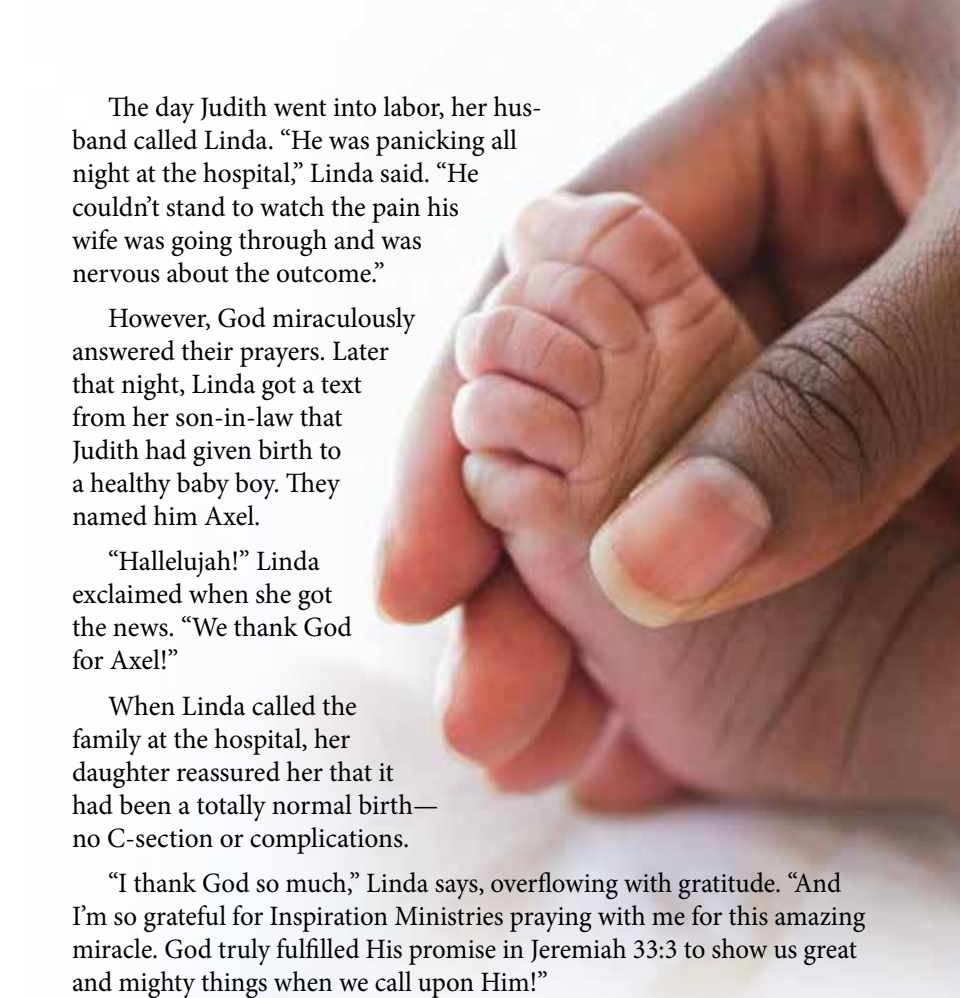
"It was hard being so far away from my daughter during this difficult time, but I put my trust in God," Linda says. "Anyone who puts their trust in Him will not fail."

One of the Scriptures that strengthened her faith during Judith's pregnancy was Hebrews 13:8, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" She also reminded herself how God had delivered Daniel from the lion's den and answered Hannah's prayer for a baby. "If He performed those miracles for Daniel and Hannah, surely He could deliver my grandchild to the world healthy and strong."

Linda's daughter was already very late in the pregnancy when the doctors discovered the abnormalities. Finally, at eight months, they said the baby's head was clearly too big.

But despite the overwhelming evidence, Linda told her daughter and son-in-law not to worry. "The doctors are just confused," I told them. "Don't worry. God is in control."

Linda then told her daughter to put her hand on her belly and pray: "No weapon formed against my baby will prosper. All abnormalities are canceled in the name of Jesus."



The day Judith went into labor, her husband called Linda. “He was panicking all night at the hospital,” Linda said. “He couldn’t stand to watch the pain his wife was going through and was nervous about the outcome.”

However, God miraculously answered their prayers. Later that night, Linda got a text from her son-in-law that Judith had given birth to a healthy baby boy. They named him Axel.

“Hallelujah!” Linda exclaimed when she got the news. “We thank God for Axel!”

When Linda called the family at the hospital, her daughter reassured her that it had been a totally normal birth—no C-section or complications.

“I thank God so much,” Linda says, overflowing with gratitude. “And I’m so grateful for Inspiration Ministries praying with me for this amazing miracle. God truly fulfilled His promise in Jeremiah 33:3 to show us great and mighty things when we call upon Him!”

What miracle do YOU need from God?

Contact the prayer ministers in our International Prayer Center today!

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We are here for you!



Get the Humbug Out of Your Holidays

Ever since his divorce several years back, my friend Ron has complained to me this time of year about the upcoming holidays. He has his reasons, to be sure, but he's begun to sound like a broken record.

"It's just not the same," he moans. "With my wife gone and my kids living far away, it's always an agonizing time for me."

Then he typically cites the gluttony, commercialization, overspending, and other holiday sins as justification for his negative attitudes. You've probably met people who think like that.

"Let's face it, Ron," I sometimes tease him. "With your 'humbug' attitude, your parents should have named you Ebenezer!"

A few weeks ago, he threw in a new line that really got me thinking. "I wish I could just press the fast forward button and wake up on January 2," he told me. Although part of me sympathized with Ron on this, I spent some time praying he would gain a new perspective.

Then suddenly it hit me: Thanksgiving and Christmas aren't just ordinary holidays. They represent two of the most important attributes of a happy, successful, and impactful life.

Let me explain...

If you asked me the most important attitudes a person could ever cultivate, my answer would clearly be **GRATITUDE** and **GENEROSITY**. Although I've lived more than six decades now, somehow I overlooked the fact that these are exactly the core principles behind Thanksgiving (*gratitude*) and Christmas (*generosity*).

Notice that gratitude and generosity are both magnetic traits. People in the secular world or the New Age Movement call this "The Law of Attraction," but it's a Biblical principle too. Gratitude and generosity attract blessings and favor to our lives, both from God and from other people.

In contrast, blessings and favor are *repulsed* by **INGRATITUDE**

and STINGINESS. No wonder Scrooge didn't have many friends until his epiphany came.

Through **gratitude** (a heart of thankfulness) we enter into the gates of the Lord's presence (Psalm 100:4). And have you noticed how people love to *give* things to a person who's truly grateful?

Likewise, **generosity** is one of the primary keys to a life of blessing and impact. Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT) beautifully points this out:

Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Do you want to prosper? Then set your heart on becoming more generous.

Do you want to enter into a time of refreshing in your life? Then make it your aim to refresh others.

More importantly, do you want to become more like your Heavenly Father? Then one of the very best ways is to become more generous. You see, a central character trait of your Father in Heaven is that He's a GIVER. "*God so loved the world*" that He didn't just think more positive *thoughts* toward us – He *GAVE* His Son! (John 3:16).

If you truly see how loving and generous your Father is, you'll be that way too. But if you view Him

as stingy and miserly, you'll end up behaving like Scrooge and having a miserable life to show for it.

So, what about Ron?

Armed with this new understanding of how Thanksgiving and Christmas mirror God's two major character traits for a happy and holy life, I've been endeavoring to help Ron gain a new perspective.

"Ron, you may not like every aspect of the holidays," I've told him. "But what if you used Thanksgiving as a monumental opportunity to work on your GRATITUDE? And what if Christmas became your yearly reminder to live a life of GENEROSITY?"

It may well be that next year at this time, Ron may have the same negative feelings. But who knows? If he truly begins to practice a life of gratitude and generosity, he may be in a totally different place emotionally – more free than he was before, encouraged, maybe even joyful, if I dare say. That would be amazing, but miracles really do happen...especially when we're consistently grateful and generous.



Jim Buchan is the Director of Partner Communications at Inspiration Ministries.

gen·er·os·i·ty

[jen-uh-ros-i-tee]

1. readiness or liberality in giving.
2. freedom from selfishness or smallness of mind or character.

Synonyms: bigheartedness, bountifulness, bounty, largess, openhandedness, openheartedness, philanthropy, unselfishness

Antonyms: cheapness, miserliness, penny-pinching, selfishness, stinginess, tightness

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. – Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)

Thank you, Inspiration Partners!

Your generous and sacrificial financial seeds are giving millions of people around the world access to the hope and salvation found in Christ alone.

Andrew Thomson stood in the pulpit of St. George's Church in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he had been parish minister since 1814. No one knew it, but that day, April 11, 1830, he would give one of his last messages. He died suddenly a few months later at age 52. It was said, "when he was taken at an early age, the whole country wept."

Dr. Thomson titled his sermon, "The Christian's Choice." His text was Joshua's message to Israel, just before *he* died. His audience was mostly Christians who were "kind and faithful...just and honorable." But, he warned, this was not enough. Good deeds were not "evidence that you are serving the Lord."

He reminded them "the service of God is exclusive. It does not admit interference, competition, or divided homage. It deserves – it demands – and it must have – the whole man." We can't commit *some* parts to Him. He must be "Lord over all" and requires our "whole heart."

Like Joshua, Thomson stressed the need to decide *today*. He argued that delaying a decision "will be the means of rendering it more difficult in the end." Bad habits would become more ingrained. It would be harder to change.

The choices Andrew Thomson emphasized are the same choices we face as individuals and nations. How are you responding? Is Jesus *your* Lord and Master? Decide today to submit your life to Him without conditions.

Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15 NASB

PRAYER:

Dear Lord Jesus, I surrender my life to You. You are my Lord. Use me to impact lives for the Gospel. In Your name, amen.

Preaching Christ

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1

We preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness.

1 Corinthians 1:23 NASB

Although born in Delaware in colonial America, Samuel Davies retained the flavor of his family's Welsh background. One commentator observed that as a pastor and evangelist, he delivered sermons "with all the pathos of his Welsh soul."

From his youth he sensed God's call on his life. He owed much of that sense to the faith of his parents. He once said, "I am a son of prayer, like my namesake, Samuel. My mother called me Samuel because, she said, I have asked him of the Lord."

Davies impacted thousands of people, including Patrick Henry, who played a key role during the America Revolution. As a boy, Henry often heard Davies preach and acknowledged his influence. In addition, pastors throughout the world studied his sermons, published in the United States and in England.

Frequently sick, he might have been tempted to cut back his efforts. But Davies would let nothing deter him from preaching. In fact, he found strength in being faithful to his call. He once wrote, "In my sickness, I found the unspeakable importance of a Mediator in a religion for sinners." He found all his sufficiency in Christ! What was his message? "It is Jesus whom you preach." He is "an all-sufficient Savior. None but Christ, none but Christ!"

The world needs people with this relentless passion for the Gospel who focus on serving Christ and making Him known. Dedicate *your* life to God and His Kingdom.

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Repentance

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: EZEKIEL 14

Tensions were high throughout the American colonies. War loomed on the horizon, and many were afraid. Conflicts had arisen between British and French forces, and violence had developed into what would become known as the French and Indian War. Samuel Davies, who was born on this day in 1723, lived among the colonists as a pastor and evangelist. In 1756 as the colonies faced serious problems, a special fast was called.

Davies reminded people that their only hope was to turn to God. He said, "National judgments are inflicted for national sins, and therefore reformation from national sins is the only hopeful way to escape them." What was the answer? "Pray frequently; pray fervently!"

Davies had previously expressed his thoughts about the importance of humility and repentance in a hymn called "While o'er our guilty land, O Lord." There was sin in the land, and they faced mighty problems. The answer was to call on God: "Before Thy throne of grace we fall."

Davies knew the importance of true humility. He wrote, "See, we repent, we weep, we mourn; to our forsaken God we turn." The country's only hope was to turn to God: "Oh, spare our guilty country, spare the Church which Thou hast planted there."

Today, our world urgently needs revival. Pray. Seek God. Humble yourself before Him. Ask for a revival in your life. And cry out for His mercy on your country and the world.

*Repent and turn away
from your idols and
turn your faces
away from all your
abominations.*

Ezekiel 14:6 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, forgive our nation of our sins. I cry out for Your mercy. Send Your Spirit. May Your glory dwell in our land. In Jesus' name, amen.

MONDAY

November

4

Your Responsibility

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: EPHESIANS 5

You were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

Ephesians 5:8 NASB

“Whatever be your place...cherish a public spirit. Serve your generation.” This charge was given by Samuel Davies, fourth president of Princeton University, to the eleven members of that school’s class of 1760. He spoke not merely as an educator, but as a passionate Christian. Called the “Apostle of Virginia,” he had spent years as a pastor and evangelist.

His example and encouragement set a standard those students followed throughout their lives. One became a member of the Continental Congress. Two became chaplains in the Continental Army. Two became judges. One founded a college. One was a member of the United States House of Representatives. Another signed the American Declaration of Independence.

Davies understood that Christians need to make it their primary goal to please God and proclaim salvation. But he knew that Christians have a responsibility to be involved in the world as well.

We are to pray for all those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2) and be good citizens (Titus 3:1). We should be the “*salt of the earth*,” and “*the light of the world*,” shining brightly that others “*may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*” (Matthew 5:13-16).

Today, the world needs Christians who are the salt of the earth, who are examples of integrity and honesty, and who show compassion and concern. Be ready to stand up for your faith. Pray. Vote. As God leads you, get involved!

PRAYER:

Father, I humble myself before You. I offer myself as a living sacrifice. Use me to bring revival and further Your Kingdom. In Jesus’ name, amen.

God made it clear that Jeremiah was being given a ministry He had designed. The messages he delivered were not matters of personal opinion or preference. He simply was God's messenger. In fact, God shaped his personality, gave him the words to speak, and told him when and where to speak.

This focus and dedication are different from the way many people approach their careers. Biographies from all generations reveal that a typical path starts with personal interests and beliefs and continues with goals and desires.

Throughout his ministry, Jeremiah was accused of having personal motivations. He was criticized for opinions contrary to what seemed popular and for advocating actions that did not seem beneficial to the Jews.

But Jeremiah knew that he was being God's messenger. In reality, his personal opinions didn't matter. His mission was to speak the words that God gave him, *regardless* of his feelings, the circumstances he faced, or the opinions of other people. His task was to be sensitive to God, to obey His call, to declare His message, and to trust the results to Him.

Seek to be faithful to the ministry God has given *you* in your life, no matter what others say. Be a faithful steward of the resources you have been given. Faithfully complete every assignment. Seek to be sensitive to His Spirit, do His will, and speak His messages. Strive to live for Him in all that you do.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations... Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

Jeremiah 1:5, 9 ESV

PRAYER:

Father, I commit my time, talent, and resources to You. Help me fulfill the assignments You have given me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Change Your Attitude

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 1

Over and over, Jeremiah faced situations that he personally did not desire or seek. He was called to deliver messages for God that he knew would be unpopular and did not necessarily reflect his personal views. Even before speaking, he knew he would be criticized. We sense his reluctance and lack of enthusiasm for many assignments.

But God had given him the attitude he was to embrace. Personally, he might have felt unqualified for some assignments. He might have felt he was the wrong person, and others could do the job better. God simply told Jeremiah that he had the wrong focus.

Instead of looking at his personal experiences, desires, and abilities, he was to focus on God. Everywhere he went, Jeremiah was His representative. His only challenge was to hear God clearly and do the things He called him to do. His only job was to deliver the messages God asked him to deliver and to remain faithful to his assignments.

In many ways we might feel the same way perhaps reluctant, unqualified, and overwhelmed by our challenges and the size of our opposition. We may not really know what to do. We are aware of our weaknesses, sometimes too aware. This is why we need to stay sensitive to God and in tune with His Spirit so that we can be bold to fulfill every assignment He gives and always trust completely in Him.

“Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” But the Lord said... “To all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.”

Jeremiah 1:6-7 ESV

PRAYER:

Father, help me to be a faithful servant. Thank You for providing all that I need. I trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 2

The Bible reminds us that God gives us freedom to make choices. But He also wants us to realize we are *responsible* for our actions, and we can expect *consequences* for the choices we make.

As Jeremiah describes, God watches the way we live. He sees the inevitable failure of some decisions and how frequently people seem willing to turn their backs on the truths He has revealed and the principles that can lead to success.

As we make decisions, we can be influenced by people in this world who can make their ways seem desirable. We can feel compelled to follow them, even if this means ignoring or rejecting the things of God and roaming from the sure foundation He has given us.

When faced with these kinds of temptations, we need to consider what God has done for us and remember that His Word has passed the test of time.

We need to ask ourselves some important questions. Are we sure that we want to ignore God? What has happened in the past to those who ignored His promises and violated His Word? In contrast, what has happened to those who kept His Word and applied His principles? Why would we follow paths that conflict with His will?

Ask God to help you stay true to Him and avoid the tendency to roam. Remember the principles in His Word and apply them in your life.

*Why do My people say,
“We are free to roam”?*

Jeremiah 2:31 NIV

PRAYER:

Father, help me stay anchored in Your Word. Keep me from straying away from truth. I trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Return

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 3

Faithless Israel has proved herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say, "Return, faithless Israel," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 3:11-12 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for being gracious. Forgive my sins and the sins of our nation. Thank You for Your mercy. Help us return to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Israel had been "*faithless*." They had "*perverted their way*" and "*forgotten the LORD their God*" (v. 21). As a result, they experienced countless problems. But God was eager to change their circumstances and bless them. He was "*gracious*" and did not look upon them in anger (v. 12).

He promised to give them leaders who would lead them in the right ways. There would be abundance. They would not "*walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart*" (v. 17) They would realize that He had given them "*a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance*" (v. 19).

What would it take for these promises to be fulfilled? It *started* with repentance when they humbled themselves before Him and confessed their sins. Seven times in this chapter God repeated their need to "*return*" (a word used more than *ninety* times in Jeremiah).

If they returned, they would call Him "*Father*" (v. 19) and not turn away. He would heal their faithlessness. They would realize they had followed wrong paths and wrong leaders, and they could find salvation only in Him.

How easily we can be like Israel walking on wrong paths, being faithless and disobedient, going our own way, and forgetting God. He stands before us beckoning us to return to Him.

Make sure to stay humble before God. Confess your sins. Seek *first* His Kingdom and His wisdom. Turn aside from worldly ideas and dedicate your life to serving Him.

Your Unplowed Ground

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 4

SATURDAY

November

9

The people of Judah had drifted away from God and embraced idolatry. They had chosen to walk in evil ways. How were they to respond? He told them to “*break up your unplowed ground*” (NIV).

This ground symbolized things in their lives that were fruitless where nothing productive was growing. They had sown seeds, but sowed in wrong places – “*among thorns.*” These “*thorns*” were thoughts, activities, and actions that choked the life out of the seeds and prevented them from developing and bearing fruit.

God’s promises still were true. But the presence of thorns prevented the full development of these seeds. By sowing in “*unplowed ground,*” the seeds simply would not grow.

The fact is that God has given each of us many kinds of “seeds” – our time, talents, and treasures. Just as the farmer reaps a harvest by sowing his seeds, we reap a harvest by sowing our seeds. But our lives can be robbed of God’s blessings if we have unplowed ground or if we sow our seeds in the wrong places.

Today, think about where you are sowing *your* seeds. Where are you investing your time, energy, and resources? Are you spending time with the wrong people or pursuing the wrong goals?

Ask God to help you break up *your* unplowed ground. Humble yourself before Him. Repent of any sin. Invest your resources and energies in activities that will bear fruit for His kingdom.

Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your heart.

Jeremiah 4:3-4 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for all You have given me. I recognize that I have been blessed to bless others. Use me to impact lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Fixed and Defiant

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 5

They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return... They are foolish; for they do not know the way of the Lord.

Jeremiah 5:3-4 NKJV

PRAYER:

Father, I humble myself before You. Teach me. Guide me. Shape my life according to Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

How natural it is to want our own way – to make decisions that make sense to us, to want to make up our own minds. Even long-time believers can find it difficult in practical ways *simply* to trust God.

But the Bible continually reminds us that God knows what is best for each person. We should not “*lean on our own understanding*,” but we must acknowledge Him and let Him direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6). Yet this can be so *hard* to do.

As our Creator, He *really* understands us better than we understand ourselves. He knows paths that might make sense to us may take us in wrong directions.

Yet, when faced with choices, some people become determined not to listen to Him. They become so resolute that they make “*their faces harder than rock*.” They are defiant, fixed, and stubborn.

In contrast, God encourages us to stay humble before Him, to have hearts able to learn from experiences, to be teachable, and to be ready to admit our mistakes and turn to Him.

Ask God to show you if you are guilty of pride. Don't stubbornly continue to seek your own way. Humble yourself before Him. Lay aside your personal feelings and surrender your life anew to His leading. Trust Him, and let Him direct your path. Seek to be pliable and sensitive to His Spirit. Be willing to learn and always ready to turn to Him.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 5

At first, Jeremiah thought that the problem was with the common people (“*the poor*”). He had delivered God’s warnings to them, but they had not responded. Perhaps, he wondered, they just didn’t know enough about God and His Word. Perhaps they did not have the necessary background or education.

Jeremiah concluded that the response would be different if he spoke to the elite people of the society instead: leaders and scholars, those who were highly educated. The people who, he might have thought, were more intelligent and receptive to messages from God.

But Jeremiah was wrong. He discovered that his biases were wrong. In fact, regardless of their backgrounds, all the people responded in the same way: no one received the word of the Lord.

We all can be like Jeremiah, jumping to conclusions based on appearances. We tend to make assumptions based on what seems to be true from our subjective perspective. Jeremiah learned that people can reject (or accept) God no matter their station in life.

We need to remember that God has a completely different perspective. As He told the prophet Samuel, “*The LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart*” (1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV).

Be careful before forming opinions of others just because of their circumstances. Ask God for discernment. Seek His wisdom. Always remember that He sees things differently than you do.

*They are just the poor...
they don't understand
the way of the Lord...I
will go to the powerful
and speak to them.
Surely they know the
way of the Lord...
However, these also had
broken the yoke and
torn off the chains.*

Jeremiah 5:4-6 CSB

PRAYER:

Father, help me to see others the way You see them. Give me discernment. Use me to minister to those in my life. In Jesus’ name, amen.

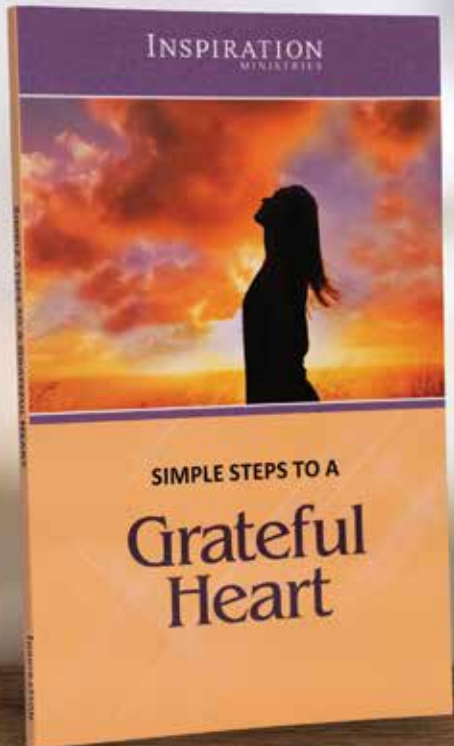
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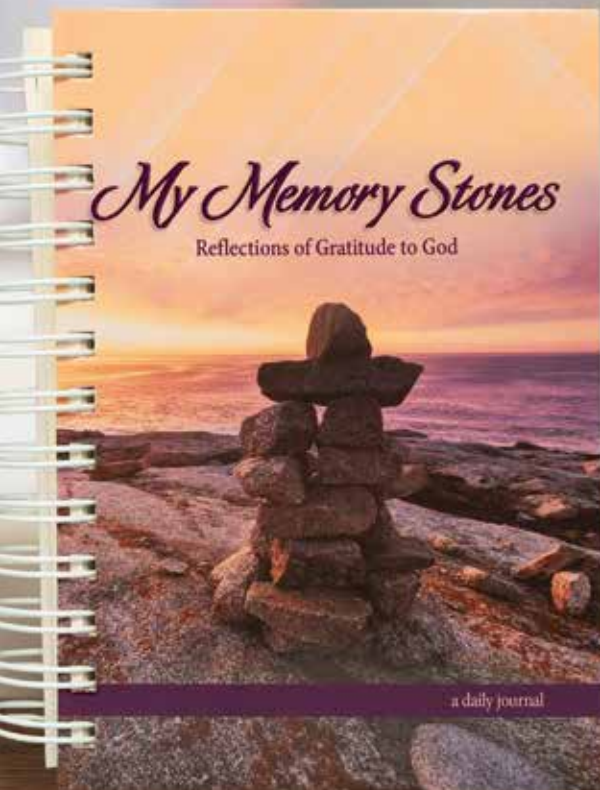


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TUESDAY

November

12

The Ultimate Destiny

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 5

An appalling and horrible thing has happened...prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

Jeremiah 5:30-31 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, I surrender my life to You. I seek first Your Kingdom. I commit my time, talents, and treasures to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

The land was filled with false prophets, men inspired not by God but their own thoughts and desires. Even priests ruled “*on their own authority.*” They did not submit to God or seek His will. Instead, they focused on their own *personal* interests.

What made matters worse was that God's people loved the actions of these priests and prophets! To God, this was “*an appalling and horrible thing.*” These religious leaders might have enjoyed exercising their personal power, but eventually, they would realize their own pleasures would not last into eternity.

God asked them, “*What will you do at the end of it?*” They failed to realize that the day was coming when their pleasures, power, and even their lives would come to an end. They would look back and see clearly how they had served themselves, but forgotten about God. They would see how they had done things that brought them immediate benefit, but for which they would pay the consequences in eternity.

You have the opportunity to learn from these men and their short-term perspective. Are you just living for today, or are you remembering the eternal consequences of your actions? Are you placing a higher emphasis on your personal interests and desires, or on serving God?

Remember, one day you will face God and give an account of your life. “*What will you do at the end of it?*”

False Promises

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 6

People were worried and afraid. There were threats from powerful neighbors, family and economic problems, and widespread immorality. The country was hungry for answers and peace.

In this environment, some spoke up promising hope. To a troubled nation urgently needing peace, these people promised peace.

But in reality *nothing* changed. Their promises proved to be empty. Their claims were false. Their solutions did not work. The treatments they recommended were just “*superficial*,” not making any substantive changes. As a result, a discouraged people became even more discouraged.

What was particularly noticeable was that the people making promises were filled with covetousness. They were most concerned about themselves and doing what was best for themselves. And they were not sorry for mistakes they had made: “*They don’t even know how to blush*” (v. 15).

How did God respond? He asked them to put aside their selfish desires, to stop walking on “*the road we want*.” Then they were to return to His ways. “*Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it*” (v. 16).

The Bible reminds us that God is ready to give us His peace, to bless us, to meet our needs, and to take away our fears and burdens. We simply need to turn to Him, do things His way, apply His principles, repent of any sins, and humble ourselves before Him. We can be confident then that we “*will find rest for [y]our souls*” (v. 16).

They offer superficial treatments for my people’s mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 6:14 NLT

PRAYER:

Father, I humble myself before You. I look to You for the answers I need. I trust in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Obstacles

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 6

This is what the LORD says: "I will put obstacles in my people's path. Fathers and sons will both fall over them."

Jeremiah 6:21 NLT

God wanted the best for His people. He taught them His ways and gave them His Word. He sent prophets and priests to guide them. He provided for them. He delivered them and protected them. He even warned them when they made mistakes and bad decisions.

When trouble was ahead, He sent guards to alert them, crying, "*Listen for the sound of the alarm*" (v. 17). But in spite of these warnings, they refused to listen and continued to reject His Word. They might have been intentionally defiant, or they might not have realized the mistakes they were making.

Yet He continued to reach out to them, hoping they would change and listen. One way He warned them was by putting "*obstacles*" in their paths. These could have been people or events, various things that might have interrupted their activities and forced them to stop and think. In Jeremiah's time, nothing seemed to work. Sadly, God's people continued to ignore His warnings. They continued to make mistakes and go in the wrong direction.

God has used this same pattern with people in other times. He continues to use this pattern today. We may experience unexpected delays. We might find ourselves being interrupted. Our paths may be blocked.

We need to turn to God to see if He is trying to get our attention in these moments. We need to pray and seek His face.

PRAYER:

Father, help me be sensitive to Your Spirit. Help me to listen when You are trying to get my attention. In Jesus' name, amen.

Empty Words

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 7

FRIDAY
November
15

As He looked at His people, God could see that many of them were ignoring His Word, acting in ways that were displeasing to Him. Yet they deceived themselves and became convinced they were right and didn't need to make any changes.

But God sent Jeremiah to warn them and correct their false assumptions. He communicated emphatically that they needed to “*amend [their] ways and [their] deeds.*”

Some simply refused to listen to His messages. In fact, they didn't feel that they needed to change at all. They thought they just needed to say that the building before them was the Lord's temple (as if that absolved them of any guilt). God felt that they were missing the point.

How easy it can be for us to make the same kinds of assumptions, as if we can make things different just through good intentions, empty words, and our own justifications.

The Bible consistently shows us that God looks for hearts that truly are sensitive to His Spirit. He looks for people who demonstrate their commitment by the words they speak and the things they do, people who recognize when they have sinned and are ready to ask for forgiveness.

If we desire to make a real and lasting impact, God tells us we need to turn away from sin, to seek Him, to be sensitive to His leading, and to apply the principles in His Word.

Do not trust in these deceptive words...truly amend your ways and your deeds...Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.

Jeremiah 7:4-8 ESV

PRAYER:

Father, cleanse me of my sins. Help me to live in a way that pleases You. I desire to do Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

Going Backward?

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 7

They did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.

Jeremiah 7:24 NKJV

Turning our backs on God can happen in so many subtle ways. Feeling the pull of things of this world, we can find ourselves *drifting* away from Him. The Bible teaches that He wants to see our faces and make sure that we are looking to Him and going forward, not backward. Going backward symbolically indicates that we are not facing God or the truth. This means that we are going in the wrong direction (and may not even know it). We go backward when we walk “*in the counsels and the dictates of [our] evil hearts.*” This happens when we fill our minds with the things of this world.

How easy it can be to form our opinions based on the content of the media, to become addicted to opinions expressed in social media, to pay attention to gossip, and to seek out advice from people not committed to God. We need to realize that God has a plan for our lives. He wants us to let Him direct our path. He wants us to seek first His kingdom, to fill our minds and hearts with His Word, and to spend time with Him in prayer. These actions help us go *forward*.

Incline your ears to God. Don't hide or run away, but focus on Him. Don't allow anything to distract you. Seek to go forward and follow His plan for you.

PRAYER:

Father, help me incline my ear to You and seek Your will. I want to go forward and follow Your plan for my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Shepherding Skills

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 10

SUNDAY

November

17

What does it take to be a good leader? Many would say that key characteristics include intelligence, experience, being articulate, understanding the times, being in tune with people, and having ideas that promise success.

Over time, many men and women have displayed these characteristics, only to find that they are not enough. What is *most* important? Acting with His wisdom, being sensitive to His will, being led by His Spirit, and knowing His Word.

The prophet Jeremiah lived at a time when many leaders seemed to have the right background and skills. They had been able to gain and keep power. On the surface, they seemed to be good leaders. But they failed in the most important area: They had “*not sought the Lord.*” Lacking His wisdom and insight, they literally had “*become stupid.*”

What about leaders in our time? What kind of shepherds are we depending on to lead our flock, our church, business, city, state, and nation?

These questions also apply to each of us as individuals. As we face the issues of life, it is important to have experience and intelligence. But what is most important is having God's wisdom and blessing. We need to be people of prayer who listen to Him, have experience being led by Him, and are in tune with His Spirit. We need to know His Word and be committed to seek first His kingdom and trust in Him.

The shepherds have become stupid and have not sought the Lord; therefore, they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.

Jeremiah 10:21 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, I commit these issues to You: _____. I seek Your wisdom and guidance. Speak to me. I trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

MONDAY

November

18

Personal Gods

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 11

*Your gods are as many
as your cities...as
many as the streets of
Jerusalem are the altars
you have set up to the
shameful thing, altars
to burn incense to Baal.*

Jeremiah 11:13 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, open my eyes to see whether I might be guilty of reinterpreting Your Word. Jesus is my Lord. I submit my life to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

By the time of Jeremiah, many of God's people had forgotten His first commandment, "*You shall have no other gods before Me*" (Exodus 20:3). How had they done this?

His Word no longer was absolute, but had been modified and *reinterpreted* to suit their own purposes. They were not content to serve God, but followed *personal* gods designed to conform to their own ideas and desires. They didn't even feel they were doing anything wrong.

They had remade God into their own image and adapted Him to fit their personal interests and what made sense to them. They were not worshiping at His designated altar in Jerusalem but at places set up for their own convenience.

All of us can find ourselves guilty of reinterpreting God's commands, justifying our own opinions, and ignoring His Word. This is why we need to know the Word and stay sensitive to His Spirit, so we are ready to let Him warn, correct, and teach us.

We need to submit our thoughts, actions, and beliefs to Him. We need to spend time in prayer, allowing Him to review our lives, guide our decisions, and check our motivations.

Today, give God permission to search your heart and mind. Submit your life for His review. Ask Him to free you from subjective opinions and help you recognize when you might be just *reinterpreting* His Word incorrectly. Determine to live in ways that are pleasing to Him.

Bearing Burdens

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 14

TUESDAY
November
19

Jeremiah personally had not committed the sins that led to Judah's troubles. And God was not angry with him. He could have felt that the people were getting what they deserved. Instead, he had *compassion* on them.

He felt the hurt and pain experienced throughout the nation. He even took on himself the sins of his people and pleaded their case before God.

When he prayed, he spoke in the first person: "Why have You stricken us so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but there was no good; and for the time of healing, and there was trouble" (v. 19). Some people may not have repented, but Jeremiah confessed on their behalf and pleaded for God's forgiveness.

Jeremiah's actions remind us that Jesus cared so much for sinners that He didn't just pray for them; He died on the cross for them, taking upon Himself the sins of the world. And He prayed for those who were crucifying Him, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Today, ask God to give you a burden for souls and to help you be sensitive to the needs of people all around you. Remember to "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). Seek to be a person of compassion. Pray for those with needs. And give of your resources that more souls may find Jesus.

Have You utterly rejected Judah?... We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You... Do not break Your covenant with us... We will wait for You.

Jeremiah 14:19-22 NKJV

PRAYER:

Father, give me a compassion for the lost. Fill me Your love. Forgive our nation of our sins. Be merciful to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Go and buy a potter's earthenware jar...

Go out to the valley of Ben-hinnom, which is by the entrance of the potsherd gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you.

Jeremiah 19:1-2 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, I will go where You want me to go and do what You want me to do. I commit my life to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

God's directions to Jeremiah often were *specific*: what to say, to whom, even *where* to stand. For example, one day God gave him a message for some elders and priests that was to be given by "*the entrance of the potsherd gate*" in a valley outside Jerusalem. God had a reason for this direction. He knew *specific* people would be at this place at this *specific* time.

The location also had special meaning. God was warning that He was about to "*bring a calamity upon this place*" (v. 3). Because of the disobedience of the people, "*this place*" would be called "*the valley of Slaughter*" (v. 6). God would "*make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place*" (v. 7). He needed Jeremiah to be in that specific place at that specific time. Since Jeremiah was sensitive to God's call, he obeyed.

We need to remember that God is a God of purpose, plans, and places. At times, He speaks words that apply in all situations and to all people. At other times, He also speaks words meant for specific times, places, and audiences.

Seek to be sensitive to God's Word and its applications. Remember that He has a special assignment just for you. He might call you to do specific tasks at specific places and times. When He calls, be sure to obey, speak His words, and do what He asks you to do.

False Expectations

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 21

THURSDAY

November

21

King Zedekiah realized he needed a miracle, or Judah would be defeated by Babylon. He sent messengers to ask Jeremiah to approach God, hoping He would help them. But God gave an answer the king did not expect. Instead of performing a miracle to save them, God said He would deliver them *into* the hands of the Babylonians.

They simply were reaping what they had sown. Zedekiah didn't seem to realize that God was aware of his conduct. Although living in sin, he still felt his actions wouldn't matter, and God would bless and protect him.

Many people are like Zedekiah. They believe they can live in any way they want. Then when facing a problem, they expect that God will perform miracles to help them.

But God is not a fool. He promises that there are *consequences* for our actions and that we will reap *whatever* we sow (Galatians 6:7).

The Bible reminds us that God wants us to be like Jeremiah, seeking to obey Him, listening to Him, developing a close personal relationship with Him, filling our lives with His Word, being sensitive to His will, and having a clean heart.

Do not wait for a crisis to turn to God. Determine to invest your time, talents, and treasures in your relationship with Him now. Seek first His kingdom. Seek Him with your whole heart and commit your life to Him.

*They begged Jeremiah,
"Please ask the Lord to
help us...Perhaps the
Lord will be gracious
and do a mighty miracle
as he has done in
the past."*

Jeremiah 21:1-2 NLT

PRAYER:

Father, I surrender my life to You. Help me know You more intimately. Cleanse my heart of sin, and help me please You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Whom Do You Believe?

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 28

*I have broken the yoke
of the king of Babylon.
Within two years I will
bring back to this place
all the vessels of the
Lord's house.*

Jeremiah 28:2-3 ESV

PRAYER:

Father, give me discernment. Help me know what to believe. I seek to walk in Your ways. In Jesus' name, amen.

Haniah was known as a prophet. He delivered a prophecy that *sounded* authentic. It was a message consistent with the hopes of the people, one they *wanted* to be true.

The problem was this message did not come from God. The only person who seemed aware of this deception was Jeremiah. He declared that God had not given Haniah these messages. Everyone would know the truth when his words were not fulfilled.

Responding to Jeremiah's accusations, Haniah continued to act in ways consistent with those of a prophet. Other people seemed convinced, but Jeremiah knew better.

Sometime later, God told Jeremiah to tell Haniah that he had *mised* the people. The message was clear: "*The Lord has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie.*" God declared that he would die because he had "*uttered rebellion against the Lord*" (v. 15-16). When he died as prophesied, Haniah was proven to be a fraud. Jeremiah's words were proven true.

This clash illustrates a common problem. How do we *really* discern the difference between genuine and false? Many people claim to know the truth. Politicians powerfully declare their convictions. Entertainers try to shape our morals. Society tries to persuade us that their ways are right. But these people are often fake.

Today, ask God for discernment that you might know the truth. Pray and seek His wisdom. Study His Word that you might know His standards.

King Zedekiah didn't hesitate to demonstrate his power. To him, his requests seemed logical. He hoped that Jeremiah would use his position as prophet to assure that God would deliver His people from Babylon. Instead, Jeremiah prophesied that God would deliver Jerusalem into Babylon's hands.

The king reacted by putting Jeremiah in prison, a place where he seemed completely isolated, vulnerable, and powerless. In contrast, Zedekiah seemed to retain his power. No one could challenge him as king.

But while Jeremiah was in prison, the word of the Lord came to him. God reminded Jeremiah that He is greater than Zedekiah and any other king or kingdom. Jeremiah might be in a man-made prison, but that didn't limit God in any way.

From prison, Jeremiah called to God, and He revealed the kinds of insights that He had promised – *amazing* things, things that no human could have imagined! Remember that God can speak to you any place, and any time. You may feel bound by problems or circumstances. You may feel inadequate or overwhelmed. But always remember that God has *no limits*.

In every situation, call to Him, confident that He can teach you new things and change your life in *extraordinary* ways. When you face seemingly impossible situations, don't give in to despair or hopelessness. Instead, call to God. Be prepared to receive unexpected answers and supernatural insights that might seem "*unsearchable*."

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3 NIV

PRAYER:

Father, open my mind to understand more of Your Truth. Teach me. I seek Your wisdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Overflowing Response

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: PSALM 149

Let them praise His name with dancing; let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre.

Psalm 149:3 NASB

PRAYER :

Father, I rejoice in all that You have done for me. I praise and worship You. In Jesus' name, amen.

We respond to God's presence many ways. We act in many different ways as we think about all that He has done for us and all we owe to Him.

Many people stay aloof and bottle up their feelings or are concerned about how others might react and are reluctant to show their emotions. But some people have hearts filled with gratitude and are willing to express these feelings in praise, words, and music.

The psalmist indicates that thoughts of God can inspire dancing. This is the response of souls who truly are moved by God. They feel the pulse coursing throughout their being, so moved that they cannot sit still.

These are expressions of complete surrender by those overwhelmed by His presence, men and women who sense His presence in amazing ways. People who realize all that He has done for them are unable to contain their joy and excitement. This is how David responded as the ark of the covenant was brought into Jerusalem. He just couldn't contain himself and expressed his joy by "*leaping and dancing before the LORD*" (2 Samuel 6:16).

Think about the many things God has done for you – the joy of salvation, peace, blessings, answers to prayer, protection, forgiveness, freedom, and more.

Don't be shy about expressing what all this means to you. Don't be inhibited by what others may think. Be ready to sing, raise your hands, and dance before the Lord!

Hildegard of Bingen was a talented poet and composer, writing music still performed today. Born to noble parents in 1098 in present-day Germany, she developed a deep, personal relationship with God and dedicated her life to serving Him.

Even as a child, she was known to have received visions whose messages were confirmed when submitted to spiritual authorities. In one of her visions, she recorded receiving insights about the importance of praise specifically associated with Psalm 150.

Describing her insights, she wrote, “In these words we are instructed about the interior life through exterior things.” Instead of bottling up our thoughts and feelings, we should “direct them as much as possible toward the praises of the Creator,” both in instrumental music and music with words.

She wrote, “Consider carefully that just as the body of Christ was born of the Holy Spirit...just so is the song of praise according to the heavenly music radiated by the Holy Spirit in the church.” She encouraged people to remember “the body is truly the garment of the soul, which has a living voice.” It is fitting for our souls constantly “to sing praises to God through the voice.”

Praise is central to the life of every believer. The Bible commands us to praise the Lord. Join with David and the angelic hosts to praise His name. Lift up your voice and give thanks. He is worthy!

*Praise the Lord! Praise
God in His sanctuary...
Let everything that has
breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 150:1, 6 NASB

PRAYER:

Lord, I praise Your Name. Thank You for all that You have done for me. I trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

TUESDAY

November

26

Kingdoms of this World

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 16

*I will build My church,
and the gates of hell
shall not prevail
against it.*

Matthew 16:18 ESV

PRAYER:

Father, help me to place my hope and trust in Your unshakable Word. I depend upon You. I seek first Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Arthur Coxe was the son of a well-known minister. Born in New Jersey in 1818, he went on to become an important pastor, church leader, and composer of many hymns.

One of his most memorable compositions describes his insights into the nature of the kingdoms of this world. Written in 1839, "O Where Are Kings and Empires Now?" urged worshipers to realize how *limited* human power is, how *little* we really understand, and how *quickly* the things of this world change.

Coxe asked, "O where are kings and empires now of old, that went and came"? In contrast, God never changes. His kingdom always is secure.

Churches may be attacked. Believers may make mistakes. But in spite of opposition, the church lasts throughout every storm and controversy: "Unshaken as eternal hills, immovable she stands, a mountain that shall fill the earth, a house not made by hands."

How easy it can be to focus on the kingdoms of this world and the things that seem important today. Coxe would urge us to remember that all of these people and things are temporary.

As Paul reminds us, we should not look at the "*things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*" Make sure that you focus on God's Kingdom. For all the things we see around us are just temporary. In contrast, "*the things that are unseen are eternal*" (2 Corinthians 4:18). These are the things of God!

Ten Thousand Times

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: REVELATION 5

As a child, Henry Alford demonstrated an unusual hunger to serve God. Born in London in 1810, by age six he had written a manuscript entitled "Travels of St. Paul." At the age of nine, he wrote a history of the Jews.

When he was sixteen, he wrote in his Bible that he solemnly dedicated his life to God and "to do His work as far as in me lies." This passion led to a life in which he served God in many ways, including being the dean of Canterbury Cathedral.

In 1867, he expressed his longing to spend eternity with Jesus in a hymn called, "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand." He pictured myriads of angels and "the armies of the ransomed saints throng up the steep of light." When all would be finished, and our "fight with death and sin" would be over, "what rush of alleluias fills all the earth and sky! What ringing of a thousand harps bespeaks the triumph nigh!" What a day of joy!

Perhaps reflecting the fact that his mother died when he was a child, Alford knew that on *that* day orphans would no longer be fatherless and widows would not be desolate. He longed for Jesus to come and reign.

Today let your heart focus on praise and worship. Stop and thank God for His provisions, protection, and blessings! Rejoice! You will spend eternity with Him!

I heard the voice of many angels... "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Revelation 5:11-12 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for all that You have done for me. I rejoice in Your goodness. I join the angels in praising and worshiping You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thankful People

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: PSALM 95

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Psalm 95:2 NASB

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for all that You have done for me. I don't take Your blessings for granted. I worship and praise You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Henry Alford was a master of languages. Even as a child, he could repeat many phrases in Greek and Latin. As an adult, he became a poet, painter, musician, Biblical scholar, and author. He served several churches in England before becoming dean of Canterbury Cathedral.

In spite of these accomplishments, he never forgot the importance of having a thankful heart. He made it a habit at the end of the day to stand up and thank God for what he had received.

In 1844 he expressed this spirit of thankfulness in a hymn, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," which celebrated the goodness of God.

His cry was for all thankful people to come forward. Reflecting the end of the harvest, he wrote, "Raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied."

Alford knew that "all the world is God's own field." He is the "Lord of the Harvest." Knowing that there are tares in the world, he prayed that God's people would be wholesome and pure.

He also looked forward to the day when the Lord would come and "take His harvest home." He prayed, "Even so, Lord, quickly come...gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin."

Pause and thank God for all He has done for you. Trust your life to Him. Worship Him!

We Plow the Fields

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 13

FRIDAY
November
29

Matthias Claudius was the son of a Lutheran pastor. After studying theology, he turned his attention to law and languages. Born in 1740 in northern Germany, he loved to write and in 1768, he joined the Hamburg News Agency, first as a writer, then as an editor. He was so influential that he became known as the father of popular German journalism.

In 1782, he heard farmers singing a song that expressed their faith in God and thankfulness for His blessings. Claudius copied the words, which he developed into a hymn. In 1861, Jane Campbell translated the words into English with the title “We Plow the Fields.”

These farmers realized that they could “plow the fields, and scatter the good seed,” but they depended on God to feed and water the seed. Claudius, like these farmers, knew that “all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above” and that God alone “is the Maker of all things.”

We see His hand everywhere as “He paints the wayside flower” and “lights the evening star.” We trust Him for we are “His children” and “He gives our daily bread.”

Particularly during harvest time, we can marvel at the ways He provides. We see that *everything* is from Him. Claudius prayed that we would offer Him what He most desires, “our humble, thankful hearts.”

Think about all that God has done for you. Thank Him and show your gratitude by bringing Him your offerings.

*The field is the world,
and the good seed is the
sons of the kingdom.*

Matthew 13:38 ESV

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for all that You have done for me. I depend upon You. I offer my time, talents, and treasures to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Hearts Open to God

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: JEREMIAH 37

*Zedekiah...reigned...
But neither he nor his
servants nor the people
of the land gave heed
to the words of the Lord
which He spoke by the
prophet Jeremiah.*

Jeremiah 37:1-2 NKJV

As a king, Zedekiah lived in luxury and was accustomed to power. He *claimed* he wanted to hear from God, but when Jeremiah delivered His message, Zedekiah would not pay attention, preferring his own ideas.

Jeremiah, on the other hand, carefully listened to what God said. Regardless of the reactions of other people, he focused on obeying God and being faithful to his assignments. He was completely committed to serving Him.

Jeremiah could tell Zedekiah was headed in the wrong direction and even begged him, “Please obey the Lord in what I am saying to you, that it may go well with you and you may live” (38:20 NASB). But the king would not change his ways.

Zedekiah must have known the kind of life Jeremiah had led – his dedication, his sincerity, and the fact that he really did know and hear from God. But, like many people, Zedekiah did not have that same commitment to God or a willingness to change.

In the end, Jeremiah the prophet, not Zedekiah the king, was proven right. He knew God and received the rewards that can come only from Him.

Learn from this lesson. God calls us to serve and obey Him. People can be fickle. They can change their minds, applauding you one minute and condemning you the next. But God never changes. You can depend on Him and on His messages.

PRAYER:

Father, I want to serve you. Open up my heart to hear from You, and cleanse me from sin and deceit. In Jesus' name, amen.

Faith Declarations for Family Breakthroughs

God wants to bless you and your family members with breakthroughs in your finances, health, emotions, and relationships! Take time this month to declare the promises of His Word in faith; then trust Him to step into your circumstances in supernatural ways.

Finances

Psalm 23:1

Philippians 4:19

The Lord will be the Shepherd of our family, and we shall not be in want.

God will supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Health

Exodus 15:26

Isaiah 53:4-6

Our family will follow the instructions of the Lord, and He will be our Healer.

Because of Jesus' death for us on the cross, we will walk in divine health, fully forgiven and set free from guilt, shame, sorrow, and grief.

Emotions

Isaiah 26:3

Philippians 4:6-7

We receive God's perfect peace today, because our minds are fixed on Him.

We won't be worried or anxious about anything, but instead will bring our requests to God with thanksgiving.

Relationships

Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 4:3

We choose to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave us.

We will bear with one another in love, continually endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**When you speak God's Word in faith, it won't return empty (Isaiah 55:11).
It will accomplish great things in your life and your family!**



Leave the Worrying to God!

For many, the holiday season is a very stressful time. But instead of striving and struggling as this year comes to a close, I encourage you to rest in the amazing fact that you are God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10). He knows everything about you...every detail of your life.

Psalm 139 (NLT) says God not only formed every part of us, but He also set a plan in motion for our lives before we were even born:

*You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was
recorded in your book.*

*Every moment was laid out
before a single day had
passed (v. 16).*

If the Lord is so intimately involved in the details of our lives, why would we ever have to be stressed out or worried?

YOU'RE CONSTANTLY IN HIS THOUGHTS

This great psalm declares that God thinks about us all the time. In fact, His thoughts concerning us outnumber the grains of sand on the seashore (vs. 17-18).

He knows when we sit down and stand up, and He knows what we're thinking (v. 2). He sees us when we go from place to place. He's there with us as we go throughout our day – as we prepare meals, work in the garden, go to work, visit the grocery store, spend time with our families, and when we're alone (v. 3).

What a joy to know that the one and only true God is interested in you and me. For some of us, the idea that the Creator loves us and cares about every part of our lives is hard to imagine. Perhaps we feel as if there's no one on earth who really cares about us or is truly interested in what we do.

So how can a holy and perfect God relate to imperfect and sinful creatures like us? This may sound like an impossible situation – and humanly, it is.

But the Bible declares that *“with God ALL things are possible”* (Matthew 19:26). Through the cross of His Son Jesus, He made a way where there seemed to be no way, and now *“He Himself is our peace”* (Ephesians 2:14).

AMAZING LOVE

Just as God had a specific plan for you as His workmanship, He also had a plan to redeem human-kind. Jesus sacrificed His life to

overcome the separation between us and our Heavenly Father caused by our sin.

Why did God send His beloved Son, knowing that the cross would await Him? John 3:16 makes it clear – because He loves us. The cross was the only way the barrier of sin could be broken, enabling us to have an intimate relationship with Him.

Pause and think about all your Heavenly Father has done to draw you into a close relationship with Him. Don't let anything come between you and His incredible plan for your life.

He delights in you! You're His workmanship...His handiwork... His masterpiece...His beloved child. This year you can experience the joy of watching His plans unfold in your life.



Isik Ablu is the founder of Isik Ablu Ministries and reaches Muslims with the love of Christ through Inspiration TV. Watch her Mondays

at 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET or 12:00 and 21:30 UK on the Inspiration TV app, Fire TV, Apple TV, Chromecast, Roku, or streaming on ini.tv.



Giving Muslims Hope

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” – Isaiah 9:2

When David Cerullo launched Inspiration Ministries in 1990, he was gripped with a passion to reach lost people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ: “My heart was grieved as I pondered how every second of every hour of every day thousands of desperate, thirsty souls around the world were dying, condemned to suffer eternity in hell without God.”

Over the years, Inspiration Ministries has created programs specifically targeted to reach people of all ages and backgrounds, including children, teens, men, women, including those from a Muslim heritage.

Inspiration launched *Muslim Journey to Hope*, a powerful TV show and website to reach Muslims interested in Christianity and new converts wanting to strengthen their faith. *Muslim Journey to Hope* features more than 70 amazing programs of Muslims who have

accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Converted Muslims from such countries as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Egypt talk about their discovery of salvation and freedom through Christ.

For spiritually hungry souls like Hanene from Tunisia, the life-giving messages of Christ seemed out of reach. “I thought Jesus was only for the Americans,” she said during an interview.

In many of the testimonies of former Muslims, Christ supernaturally revealed Himself to them while they were searching for the truth. “As the programs were being taped, I often shook my head in amazement,” says the show’s producer. “It’s awesome to hear people share their stories of discovering God’s great love for the first time.”

Viewers of *Muslim Journey to Hope* are deeply impacted by the

radical commitment these former Muslims have made to Christ.

“These individuals are on fire for the Lord,” the producer explains. “They have come out of the darkness and into the light. Now that they know the truth about Jesus Christ, they are willing to share His love and forgiveness with their people around the world – even putting their lives on the line to do so.”

Mahmoud is one of the ex-Muslims who jeopardized his life by converting to Christianity. When he read the Bible and discovered that Christ can provide comfort and peace, Mahmoud decided to become a Christian.

“I was astonished with the Bible’s teachings about Christ,” Mahmoud reported. “He spoke about loving and forgiving those who sin against you. That attracted me so much.”

But Mahmoud’s family wasn’t pleased with his conversion. Concluding that he was possessed by evil spirits, they thought he eventually would return to Islam.

“They did their best to take me away from my newfound faith,” Mahmoud said. “When that didn’t work, they tried to kill me for

leaving Islam.”

As his relatives were beating him with metal rods and other objects, Mahmoud began to pray for them. His heart’s cry was, “God, forgive them for what they are doing!”

Remarkably, he felt peace during this horrible ordeal. “Christ was the source of my peace,” he said. “Even while they were beating me, I experienced God’s forgiveness in my heart.”

Like Mahmoud, many Muslims interviewed on the program are putting their lives in danger by expressing their love for Christ. In many of their home countries, it’s a crime to preach the Gospel or to criticize the Islamic religion.

“It’s amazing that they agreed to be taped knowing their testimonies would be seen on the web and on television worldwide,” said the producer. “That’s how strongly they feel about the love of God.”

Available in English and Arabic, **MuslimJourneytoHope.com** provides answers to basic questions about Christianity, free downloadable books, links to Bible translations, and many other resources.

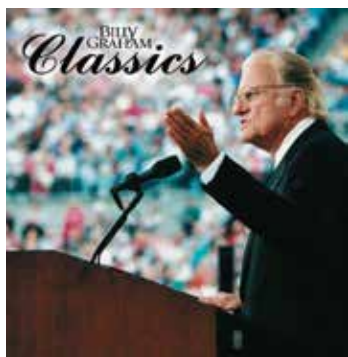
Thank you, Inspiration Partners! This is your powerful outreach to people living in spiritual darkness in the Muslim world.

Visit inspiration.org/souls TODAY to sow a financial seed into God’s Kingdom to win more people to Christ through Inspiration Ministries.

Celebrating Billy Graham

movie marathon

Join Inspiration TV this month for classic Billy Graham films that have brought thousands of people around the world to Christ.



Billy Graham Classics

In celebration of Billy Graham's birthday this month (Nov. 7), Inspiration TV is hosting a marathon of classic Billy Graham movies all month long. Join us for hours of inspiring, family-friendly, movie entertainment produced by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association!

Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. ET, 21:00 UK
Sundays at 5:30 p.m. ET, 17:30 UK

Here are a few of the wonderful, heart-warming Billy Graham films you won't want to miss this month...



Last Flight Out

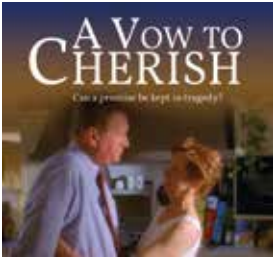
This moving film delves into important truths about family, friendship, and responsibility, showing the virtues of hard work, forgiveness, and sacrificial love.

◆ Saturday Nov. 9 at
9:00 p.m. ET, 21:00 UK

The Heart is a Rebel

For four years, Hal and Joan Foster had been struggling with their son's serious illness, but then a preacher comes on the scene – and everything changes.

◆ Sunday Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m. ET, 17:30 UK



A Vow to Cherish

A moving story of a family facing a tragedy that will either confirm their love for each other or destroy it when they examine the real meaning of commitment.

- ◆ Saturday Nov. 16 at 9:00 p.m. ET, 21:00 UK

Time to Run

On the run from his family, the authorities, and – most of all – God, Jeff, a student environmentalist who shames the legacy of his father, finally confronts the deep hole in his life that only one Person can fill.

- ◆ Sunday Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. ET, 17:30 UK



The Ride

An entertaining mix of emotion, action, and humor as washed-up rodeo champion Smokey Banks forms an unlikely friendship with a courageous, orphaned teen.

- ◆ Saturday Nov. 23 at 9:00 p.m. ET, 21:00 UK

Oiltown, U.S.A.

Les Manning has learned to rely on power and money. Challenged by the Gospel and life's devastating circumstances, Manning discovers an alternate power source.

- ◆ Sunday Nov. 24 at 5:30 p.m. ET, 17:30 UK

Don't miss these Christ-centered programs for your Christ-centered family! You can watch Inspiration TV 24/7 on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Chromecast, via livestream at ini.tv/livestream, or on the free Inspiration TV mobile app.

Livestream on
INI.TV

freesat

sky

Roku

apple tv

amazon fireTV



Overwhelmed?

Follow These 7 Keys!



Ben Cerullo

If you're anything like me, some days you feel like conquering the world – and other days, you feel like the world has conquered *you*. Although I usually respond pretty well when confronted with just one problem at a time, I'm overwhelmed when the problems come at me from every side.

Ever feel like you're playing Whac-a-Mole in your life, with troubles springing up everywhere?

Yet I'm comforted to know that many others have written about days when they were surrounded by problems. For example, King David wrote about deadly enemies who hemmed him in when he was in hiding (Psalm 17:9). He described how he cried out to the Lord when his heart was overwhelmed, saying, “*Lead me to the rock that is higher than I*” (Psalm 61:1-2).

King Jehoshaphat, likewise, felt overwhelmed when “*a great multitude*” of enemies surrounded him (2 Chronicles 20). I encourage you to read the entire story for yourself, but here are a few of the key tips for experiencing victory when problems attack you from every direction:

1. Recognize that God is bigger than your problems. When facing overwhelming situations, it's easy to feel quite small and vulnerable, if not hopeless. But look at how Jehoshaphat focused on God's power and sovereignty, rather than trying to defeat the enemies in his own strength: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?" (v. 6).

2. Reflect on God's past faithfulness. If you've been walking with the Lord for a while, you hopefully have many memories of how He came to your aid during past battles. Jehoshaphat called to mind stories of God's past miracles and promises, and he prayed, "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?" (v. 7). See our **Memory Stones Journal on page 32** if you would like help in reminding yourself of God's goodness.

3. Rely on God's power rather than your own. In crisis situations, there's often a temptation to "take matters into your own

hands" rather than trust the Lord and ask for His strategies. But Jehoshaphat freely acknowledged that he was powerless to handle things without God's intervention: "We have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You" (v. 12). Notice that Jehoshaphat made a conscious decision to fix his eyes on the Lord instead of on his problems (cf. Hebrews 12:2).

4. Cast aside all fear. In a crisis, you need faith. Fear is never your friend. While Jehoshaphat was praying about his dire situation, the Spirit of God spoke an encouraging word through the prophet Jahaziel to banish Jehoshaphat's fears: "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (v. 15). You see, if the battle is YOURS, it's quite reasonable for you to feel afraid. But when you realize that God is fighting on your behalf, victory is assured, and there's no need to fear.

5. Listen for God's strategy. Yes, the Lord will fight our battles, but victory comes only when we listen for and obey His strategy for our situation. In the case of this battle faced by the people of Judah, God's strategy was to send a team of *worshippers* before the army:

“When they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated” (v. 22). In times of trouble, praise is a powerful weapon, both to calm our hearts and to release God’s intervention.

6. Look for the blessings amid the battles. In this remarkable story, the Lord not only caused Jehoshaphat’s enemies to destroy each other, but the end result was a huge treasure trove of plunder: *“When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away”* (v. 25). When first surrounded by enemy armies, Jehoshaphat probably would have considered it a great victory just to SURVIVE the battle. But God has much *more* in mind. He wanted Jehoshaphat and his people to THRIVE, becoming far better off *after* the encounter than before. If you’re going through a difficult trial today, remember that God

can use it to give you far greater blessings in the end than in the beginning (Job 42:12).

7. Enter into God’s rest, even if the battle is still raging all around you. The story ends with this beautiful conclusion: *“Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around”* (v. 30). If your battles have been intense and long lasting, it may be difficult to envision finding a time of peace and security ever again. But God wants to give *your* story a happy ending, just as He did for Jehoshaphat.

Jesus predicted we would face some pretty overwhelming times in the Last Days, so we shouldn’t be surprised when that happens. His advice was simple, though. Instead of focusing on our surrounding circumstances, He told us, *“Look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near”* (Luke 21:28).

The Message paraphrases it this way: *“When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!”*

So take courage, my friend. When you look up and turn your eyes upon Jesus, you can be sure that help is on the way.



A Merry Heart...

A merry heart does good, like medicine. – Proverbs 17:22



BULLETIN BLOOPERS

TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church fellowship hall. Music will follow.

CHOIR PRACTICE

This evening at 7 p.m., we will practice in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

CLOTHING MINISTRY

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The INSPIRATION devotional magazine is looking for examples of humor in the church or the Christian life. If you have humorous stories, jokes, or photos you would like to share, please send them to MerryHeart@inspiration.org.

The Next Generation...



SS Teacher:
What's the name of Noah's wife?

Child:
Joan of Ark!



What's the best way to get a message to God?

Knee Mail!

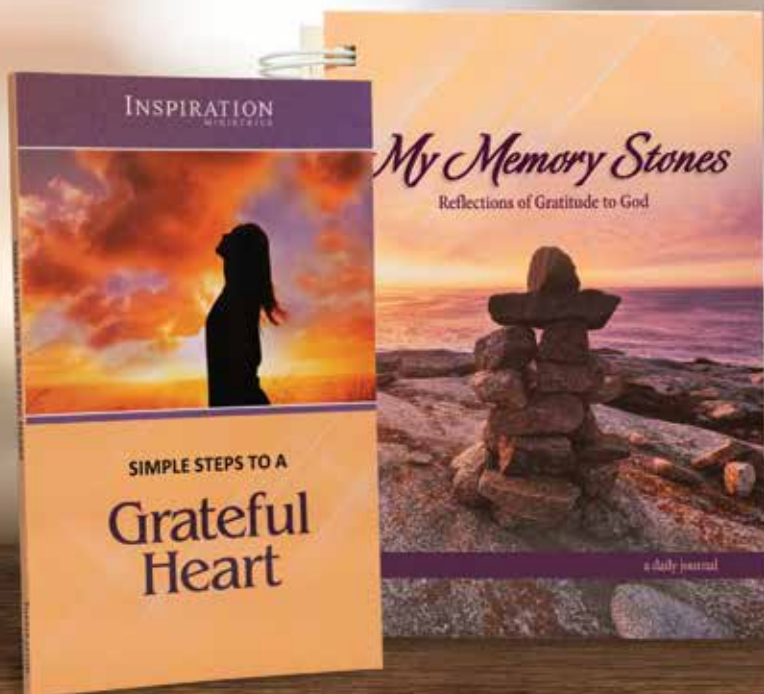
Unlock His Blessings Today!

Don't let circumstances keep you from His blessings...
receive more of God's favor by nurturing a grateful heart!

Discover how to...

- Live in a right relationship with your heavenly Father.
- Let go of your past, and overcome the limits of life's regrets.
- Revive your prayer and worship times, so you can experience His joy more intimately.
- Activate your faith by entering into a new season of thankfulness in Him.

*Begin today to receive God's favor
through a daily habit of thanksgiving and praise!*



To receive these tremendous resources as our **THANK YOU GIFTS** for your Seed to win Souls this month, use the enclosed response form, call our special resource line, or visit inspiration.org/NOV2019 TODAY:

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