

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
40 DAY DEVOTIONAL



OUR ANCHOR HOLDS

THE ANCHOR THAT HOLDS

I love the concept of the anchor as it relates to my faith. Before the cross became the central Christian symbol, the early believers clung to the anchor. In the first century — a time of persecution, secrecy, and danger — Christians carved anchors on tombs and meeting places as a quiet declaration of hope. To the world, it looked like a simple nautical emblem. To the church, it whispered a promise: Christ holds us fast.

Anchors hold ships secure. Even on calm seas, a vessel will drift if not anchored. The tide pulls; the currents push; and the winds nudge. Without an anchor, a ship slowly, silently slips away from its moorings. It does not take a storm to cause a ship to drift — only time and a gentle, persistent pull. The same is true for us. We drift not only in seasons of crisis but in seasons of comfort. We drift when life is busy, when our hearts grow distracted, when our prayers grow thin. The pull of the world, like the currents of the ocean, can cause us to drift toward the dangers of sin. We need Jesus as our Anchor to hold us firm and secure.

But it is in the face of storms that anchors truly prove their worth. When the sky darkens, the waves rise, the winds howl, and the deck beneath us trembles, then the anchor becomes the difference between safety and destruction. In the storm's fury, the anchor does not remove the battering waves — it holds the vessel through them. It does not silence the wind — it keeps the ship from being driven to destruction. It does not promise calm seas — it promises security amid them. And this is where the Christian hope stands apart. Our anchor is not cast downward into the shifting sands of the sea. Our anchor is cast upward — into the very presence of God.

Hebrews 6:19–20 tells us:

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, our forerunner, has entered on our behalf."

Our Anchor holds fast in the throne room of heaven, securing our future, steadying our present, and holding us firm when everything around us shakes. Storms will come — Jesus told us they would. Regardless of how strong the storms are, our perfect Anchor holds firm. When fear rises, He holds. When grief overwhelms, He holds. When uncertainty swirls, He holds. When the night is long and the waves are high, He holds. And because He holds, we do not drift into despair. We do not break apart on the rocks. We do not lose our way. When storms come, it is our faith that connects us with our Anchor, which will hold us firm and secure.

DAY ONE IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*


The very first verse of Scripture is a foundational stone for everything we believe. Before there was light, before there was time, before there was anything—There was God. With nothing but His word, He spoke galaxies into existence, set the stars on their courses, and shaped the earth with His hands. Creation itself is the first testimony of His limitless power.

And the God who created everything from nothing is the same God who intervened throughout Scripture in ways only the Creator could do including the following:

- Carve a dry highway through the Red Sea for His people.
- Shut the mouths of lions and gave Daniel rest in their den.
- Stand with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace and brought them out without even the smell of smoke.
- Guide David safely through the valley of the shadow of death.
- Multiply a boy's small lunch to feed thousands.
- Heal the sick, open blind eyes, and raise the dead.
- And ultimately, defeat death itself on the cross and in the empty tomb.

Every one of these miracles flows from the truth of Genesis 1:1. **If God can create the heavens and the earth, then nothing in your life is beyond His power.**

There will be moments when the weight of life feels too heavy for us to carry. Situations will arise that are too complex, too painful, or too overwhelming for human strength. But there will be nothing—**not one thing**—too difficult for the God who spoke creation into being. You can trust the One who formed the universe because He holds your life and future in His hands.

 **Lord, the God who spoke the heavens and the earth into being, speak Your power into my life today, reminding me that You, the Creator of all good, are more than able to carry every burden I face. Amen.**

DAY TWO

THE SOLDIER'S PSALM

Psalm 91 has long been known as "The soldier's psalm"—a prayer whispered on battlefields, in foxholes, and in every place where danger feels close enough to touch. The writer speaks like someone surrounded by threats, fully aware that his life hangs in the balance. Yet instead of surrendering to fear, he turns his heart toward God, declaring what he knows to be true about the Lord's character, protection, and unfailing presence.

The opening verses are among my favorites in all Scripture. They paint a picture of such nearness to God that one can rest in His very shadow: *"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" To be in His shadow is to be close enough to feel His covering, His strength, and His peace.*

Throughout the psalm, the writer names the dangers that surround him—arrows flying by day, pestilence creeping in the darkness, plagues striking at midday. Yet each threat is met with a greater truth: God Himself is his refuge. God is the shield that cannot be pierced, and the fortress that cannot be shaken.

The psalm closes with God's own voice, offering promises to the one who loves Him. Verses 14–16 declare: *"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."*

These are not battlefield promises made to ancient warriors; they are fresh promises of God to each of us if we draw close to Him and stay in His shadow. Whatever we face, whatever surrounds us, whatever threatens to shake our peace, God is with us. Our part is simple but profound: stay near Him; stay under His covering; stay in His shadow.



Lord, keep me close in the shelter of Your shadow, my refuge and fortress, and let Your unfailing presence quiet every fear that surrounds me. Amen.

DAY THREE

NEAR TO THE LORD

Yesterday, we focused on the soldier in Psalm 91—facing a host of dangers yet resting in perfect peace because he was sheltered in the shadow of the Almighty. Today, we will focus on others in the Bible who, in their nearness to God, found the same courage, strength, and hope.

Joshua stood on the banks of the Jordan River, staring into a land filled with battles that must be fought. Yet God's command was clear and comforting: *"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9). His courage was not rooted in his own ability, but in God's presence.

David, walking through the darkest valley of his life, declared with confidence, he would not fear. Why? *"For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me"* (Psalm 23:4). Even in the shadow of death, he found peace in his closeness to his Shepherd.

Isaiah faced overwhelming dangers, yet God assured him that he would not face any of them alone: *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned... For I am the Lord your God"* (Isaiah 43:2–3). The promise was not the absence of trials, but the presence of God in the trials.

Paul, chained in a Roman prison, overflowed with joy—not because his circumstances were easy, but because *"the Lord is near"* (Philippians 4:5). His chains nor his situation could silence his joy.

James echoed the same truth when he wrote that if we submit to God and resist the devil, the enemy will flee. And he added this beautiful invitation: *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"* (James 4:7–8). Nearness to God is not only a promise—it is a pursuit!

And long before any of these men lived, Moses spoke words that still give encouragement to our hearts: *"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Deuteronomy 31:6). These promises form what the writer of Hebrews calls *"the hope... an anchor for the soul, firm and secure"* (Hebrews 6:19). An anchor holds steady not because the storm is small, but because it is rooted in something stronger than the storm. So, whatever we face—rivers, valleys, fire, battlefields, prisons, or everyday problems—we can stand firm. Our peace is not found in the absence of trouble but in the presence of the Lord. Our anchor will hold.



Lord, draw me near to You today, for in Your presence—my anchor and my strength—I find the courage to face whatever lies before me. Amen.

DAY FOUR

THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

The struggles we walk through do not create faith, but they reveal it—and they strengthen it. Hard seasons press us closer to the Lord, teaching us to trust Him more deeply and to experience the comfort of His presence in ways we never would have known otherwise. And the comfort God gives us is never meant to be kept to ourselves. It becomes the very comfort we extend to others who walk through similar valleys. His compassion, His mercy, His peace, and His grace are gifts to be shared.

As I write this, the Lord reminded me of a dear friend, Sanford Shirk, whose life beautifully illustrates this truth.


Sanford married his high school sweetheart, Rebecca, and they built a life filled with love, work, and dreams. When he retired, they moved to a farm, believing they were stepping into a new and joyful season together. But their plans changed the day Rebecca—only fifty-four years old—was diagnosed with nongenetic earlyonset Alzheimer's.

Sanford said the news crushed him. It left him feeling abandoned, wandering in a valley overshadowed by death. But even in that valley, he was not alone. God was with him—his strength, his rock, the One he could trust. In time, Sanford understood God had given him a new assignment: to help his beloved wife reach heaven's door comfortably.

He sold the livestock and equipment that represented their new beginning. He devoted himself entirely to caring for Rebecca through what he described as a "very long goodbye." Her passing took nine years. And when the moment finally came, Sanford held her in his arms and prayed, "Father in heaven, please send Your Son or an angel to come get Rebecca. She is ready. She has suffered enough, and she wants to come Home." Before he could say "Amen," she took her last breath. God answered his prayer with tender mercy, and his wife of forty-three years slipped into eternity.

Through the nine years, God was with Sanford, providing him the comfort and peace which he so desperately needed. The Lord became his anchor—firm and secure. But the story did not end there. At his sister's urging, Sanford kept a journal of the journey he and Rebecca were taking. He emailed her updates, and she gathered them into a book. God has used that book to comfort countless families facing the same heartbreaking path.

And still, the story continued. Lesley, an old friend of Sanford and Rebecca's, heard about the book and reached out for a copy. She had been single for ten years. God used the story—born out of suffering—to bring Sanford and Lesley together. They have now been married for almost two years. Recently, I shared Sanford's testimony with a relative whose wife had recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and it brought him great peace. Sanford's life has shown me faith is often forged in deserts, and to help someone walk through a dark valley, you must first walk through dark valleys yourself. His story is living proof that to have a testimony, you must first have a test.

 **Lord, God of all compassion, wrap me in the same comfort You so faithfully give in every valley, and make me a vessel of that comfort to others who walk their own hard roads. Amen.**

DAY FIVE

JESUS IS ENOUGH

"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

I once heard someone say, "Jesus plus nothing equals everything." The more I walk with the Lord, the more I realize how true that statement is. As I reflected on it, the Lord gently reminded me that I will never face a situation too difficult for Jesus. Not one. There is no burden too heavy, no valley too deep, no night too dark for the One who holds all power in His hands. I will never go through a trial so great that He cannot give me joy in the midst of it. I will never experience grief so deep that He cannot comfort me. I will never feel pain so intense that He cannot bring relief. I will never encounter a problem so overwhelming that He cannot solve it. Our limitations do not limit Him. Our weakness does not weaken Him. Our impossibilities do not intimidate Him.

Paul's words in Philippians 4:13 are not a slogan—they are a spiritual reality. Paul had learned that Christ was not merely helpful; Christ was sufficient. Christ was not an addition to his strength; Christ was his strength. And the same is true for us.

If we have Jesus, then we have enough; enough strength for today; enough grace for the trial; enough peace for the storm; and enough hope for the future. As Brother Lee said in a sermon, "If you have everything, but you do not have Jesus, then you have nothing. If you have nothing, but have Jesus, then you have everything."



Lord, remind my heart each day that Jesus is truly enough, and fill me with the strength, peace, and hope that come from trusting in Him alone. Amen.

DAY SIX

TAKING THE RIGHT PATH


"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

Crossroads are rarely comfortable places. They demand pause, attention, and humility. They force us to admit that we are often filled with doubts about which direction we should take, knowing our decision will shape the next stretch of our journey. Scripture calls these moments "ancient paths"—the well-worn ways of God, the paths He has marked out for His people since the beginning. When I read Jeremiah's words, my mind went back to an ultramarathon I ran in Arkansas years ago. The course wound through rugged trails, and at mile three the path climbed over Pinnacle Mountain—1,011 feet of steep, rocky ascent. Before reaching the mountain, the trail narrowed and funneled into a junction where the trail separated into two paths going in opposite directions. The left trail led over the mountain. The right trail led away from it. As I approached the junction, several slower runners clogged the narrow path. Frustration rose. Instead of waiting, instead of slowing down, instead of thinking clearly, I made a snap decision. I veered right—away from the mountain, away from the race course, away from the direction I was supposed to go. Two miles later, when the trail spilled out onto a road, I realized the truth: I had taken the wrong path. My 31-mile race had just become a 35-mile race. And every one of those extra miles preached a sermon I have never forgotten. Crossroads require patience and clarity. Most of all, they demand prayer, and they require the humility to stop long enough to ask God which way is His way.

In life, the wrong road rarely looks dangerous initially. It often looks easier, quicker, or more convenient. Sometimes it looks like the path that helps us avoid discomfort—just as I tried to avoid the slower runners. But the wrong road always leads somewhere we never intended to go. It lengthens the journey, drains our strength, and burdens our spirit. Eventually, it forces us to face the truth: we moved ahead without seeking the Lord.

Jeremiah tells us to *stand* at the crossroads—not rush through them. To *look*—not assume. To *ask*—not to rely on our own instincts. To *listen*--not merely charge ahead. And then comes the promise: "*you will find rest for your souls.*" Rest is not found in speed, not found in self-confidence, and not found in choosing the path that feels easiest in the moment. Rest is found in choosing God's way—every time, at every crossroads.

I learned that lesson on a trail in Arkansas, but I have relearned it repeatedly since. The Lord has been patient with me when I rushed ahead. He has been merciful when I chose poorly. And He has been faithful to guide me back to the right road when I finally stopped long enough to ask. Our prayer must be that we never hurry through the crossroads of life; we seek the ancient paths; and ask Him the path that He wants us to take for His directions are always the best.

 **Lord, when I stand at the crossroads, quiet my heart and guide my steps so I may choose Your ancient path and walk in the way which brings rest to my soul and glory to Your Name. Amen.**

DAY SEVEN

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

"Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all." **1 Chronicles 29:11**

This world has a way of overwhelming us. Some days it comes through people—those who frustrate us, misunderstand us, or even wound us with their words. Other days the pressure comes from satan himself, whispering lies, stirring fear, or attacking our peace. And then there are the days when the weight comes from within—when our strength runs low, our resources run thin, and our patience feels nearly gone. But regardless of the source, the feeling is the same: we are not enough. And that is precisely the moment when Scripture calls us to take a spiritual deep breath—to be still, to lift our eyes, and to remember the greatness of our God.

David's words in 1 Chronicles 29:11 remind us that God is not merely strong—He is allpowerful. He is not merely wise—He is allknowing. He is not merely present—He is sovereign over everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing escapes His rule. Nothing threatens His throne. Nothing unfolds outside His authority.

When life overwhelms us, it is not a sign that God has lost control. It is a sign that we need to rest in the One who never does. Things may be too hard for us, but nothing is too hard for God. Our strength may fail, but His will never. Our resources may run out, but His are endless. Our patience may wear thin, but His mercy endures forever. When the world presses in, when people disappoint, when the enemy attacks, or when your own strength falters—pause. Be still. Remember who your God is. He is great. He is powerful. He is sovereign. He is protecting you even now. And you can trust Him.



Lord, when life feels overwhelming, lift my eyes to Your greatness and steady my heart with the strength, power, and peace that flow from Your sovereign hand. Amen.

DAY EIGHT A GREAT VERSE

Psalm 46:10 *"He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God.'"*

Psalm 46:10 has become one of my life verses. Repeatedly, in moments when anxiety tried to rise within me, I returned to these eight simple words. While few in number, they carry the weight of heaven. In this single sentence, God gives us both a command and a promise—an invitation and a reminder of who He is.


The NIV begins with the phrase *"He says,"* and this is fitting. These are not the psalmist's reflections or a poet's musings, but the very words of God spoken directly to His people. And the first thing God speaks is a command: **"Be still."** This is not a gentle suggestion. It is a divine directive. God calls us to stop striving, stop wrestling, stop trying to control what only He can handle. He commands us to pause—to quiet the noise around us and the noise within us. Stillness is not simply the absence of movement; it is a surrendered heart and spirit. It is the spiritual discipline of laying down our frantic thoughts and allowing God to steady our souls.

To "be still" means to release our grip on fear. It means to stop thinking of all the bad things that could happen and to silence the inner storm long enough to hear the whisper of God's presence. Stillness is the doorway through which peace enters.

But God does not stop there. After commanding us to be still, He gives us the reason we can obey that command: **"and know that I am God."** This is not a hope; not an assumption; not a wish. It is **to know**—with a certainty that does not tremble and a confidence that does not waver. Knowing that He is sovereign over every detail of our lives, both those we celebrate and those we never would have chosen. It is to know **He reigns** over every circumstance—seen and unseen. The things we can explain and the things that leave us speechless. The moments that make sense and the ones that break our hearts. He reigns in the sunlight, and reigns in the dark shadows. It is to know **He is God** when life is calm—when prayers are answered quickly, when the path is straight, when blessings seem to overflow. And it is to know **He is God** when life is chaotic—when the storm rages, when the waiting stretches long, when the answers seem delayed or silent.

It is to know **He is God** when we understand—when His hand is visible, when His timing feels perfect, when His plan aligns with our desires. And it is to know **He is God** when we do not understand—when the pieces do not fit, when the night feels long, when faith must walk without sight. This is the certainty Scripture calls us to: not a fragile optimism; not a trembling wish; but a deep, steady assurance that the God who spoke the universe into being is the same God who holds our lives with unwavering care. When we truly know who God is, fear loses its grip. Anxiety loses its voice. Worry loses its authority. Knowing God brings a peace that circumstances cannot steal.

Therefore, take time today, actual time, to be still. Allow the world to slow down. Let your heart breathe. Let your soul rest in the truth that God, the Creator of the Universe, is with you.

 **Lord, quiet my striving and steady my soul, that in stillness I may feel Your Holy presence and truly know You are the Great I AM and rest in Your sovereign care. Amen.**

DAY NINE

A CRY FOR HELP

Psalm 143:10 *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."*

When David penned the words of Psalm 143, he was not writing from a place of comfort or calm. He was a man pressed to the edge—emotionally, spiritually, and physically. The psalm opens with a desperate plea: *"Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief."* David's enemies were closing in, and he felt the weight of their pursuit so heavily that he described himself as being *"crushed to the ground"* (v.3). His strength was fading. His hope felt fragile.

By verse 7, the urgency in his voice is unmistakable: *"Answer me quickly, Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit."* This is not polished prayer—it is raw, trembling honesty. David is not pretending to be strong. He is admitting his weakness and crying out for God to intervene before he collapses under the pressure. And yet, even in his fear, David remembers. He recalls God's past faithfulness, and that memory becomes a spark of hope in the darkness. With renewed trust he prays, *"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life."* David knows that just as he can trust in the coming dawn, he can trust in the certainty of God's steadfast love.

Then comes the heart of the psalm—David's humble, teachable request: **"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God."** In the midst of the danger, David does not ask for revenge, escape, or even immediate victory. He asks to be taught. He wants God to shape his desires, align his choices, and guide his steps. He wants to walk in obedience even when life feels overwhelming. This is the prayer of someone who knows that God's will is the safest place to be.

David continues, *"May your good Spirit lead me on level ground."* Level ground—what an incredible image. It represents clarity instead of confusion, stability instead of stumbling, peace instead of panic. David longs for a place where his feet will not slip, where his heart will not faint, and where his path will not be swallowed by darkness. Only God's Spirit can lead him there. And the same is true for us. Like David, we face seasons when life feels uneven—when the ground beneath us shakes, when fear presses in, when our spirit feels faint. But the God who met David in his distress meets us in ours. He is still

the One who teaches, who guides, who steadies, who leads. He is still the Anchor who holds us firm and secure when everything around us feels uncertain.

When we pray, *"Teach me to do Your will,"* we are surrendering our plans for His. When we ask, *"Lead me on level ground,"* we are trusting His Spirit to guide our steps. And when we declare, *"You are my God,"* we are placing our confidence not in our strength, but in His faithfulness. He is our refuge. He is our hope. He is the One who brings us onto level ground, where we can walk with courage, peace, and unwavering hope.



Lord, teach me to do Your will and let Your good Spirit lead me onto level ground, where Your presence steadies my steps and strengthens my heart. Amen.

DAY TEN

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Jesus never hid the truth from us—life brings trouble. He did not promise a smooth road, an easy path, or a life free from storms. What He *did* promise was His peace in the midst of them. Being a Christian does not exempt us from hardship, but it does anchor us when the waters rise and the storm clouds gather.


When I was in college, one of my favorite songs was *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by Simon & Garfunkel. I loved the melody, the message, and the comfort woven into its lyrics. Years later, during a particularly difficult season at my law firm, that song found me again. One morning, weighed down with worry and praying for wisdom, I went out for a run. As I made my way down the road, the song began to play in my headphones. In that moment, the Lord used the song's familiar words to speak peace to my heart: *"Like a bridge over troubled water, I will ease your mind."* It felt as though God Himself whispered those words into my spirit. As I kept running, my thoughts turned to Isaiah 43—one of the most powerful promises in Scripture:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; you are Mine. I will be with you when you pass through the waters. And when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you."

God does not say *if* you pass through the waters—He says *when*. Trouble is certain, but so is His presence. The waters may rise, but they will not sweep us away. The fire may burn around us, but it will not consume us.

When I look again at John 16:33, I am reminded that Jesus Himself is our bridge over troubled waters. He does not always remove the difficulty, but He carries us through it or over it. He steadies our steps when the path feels unstable. He calms our fears when the waves roar. He gives us peace the world cannot give and cannot take away. He truly does ease our minds.

And when the waters become “troubled” again—as they surely will—we can rest in the One who has already overcome the world. We can trust the One who walks with us, carries us, and leads us safely to the other side. He is our Bridge over troubled waters!

 **Lord, when my life becomes troubled, be my peace and my bridge over troubled waters, carrying me safely by the power of the One who has overcome the world. Amen.**

DAY ELEVEN

NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR GOD

"After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat." — 2 Chronicles 20:1

Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah were staring down certain destruction. A vast coalition army was marching toward them—far too many for them to defeat. They knew they had no military strategy, no human strength, and no earthly resources that could save them. So instead of preparing their weapons, they prepared their hearts. They turned to the only One who could help. *"The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him." — 2 Chronicles 20:4*

Jehoshaphat stood before the assembly and prayed one of the most honest, humble, and faith-filled prayers in Scripture: *"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You." — 2 Chronicles 20:12*

What a confession. What an attitude. When we do not know what to do, the greatest act of faith is to lift our eyes and voices to the Lord. As he prayed, the entire nation—men, women, children, even the little ones—stood before the Lord in quiet expectation (v. 13). They had no plan except to trust God. And God responded. Through Jahaziel, the Spirit


of the Lord spoke words that still steady our hearts today:

"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you... Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you." — 2 Chronicles 20:15–17

And God did exactly what He promised. He delivered His people in a way only He could. Judah never lifted a sword—God fought the battle for them. Jehoshaphat and Judah learned a truth we still need today: **Some things are too hard for us, but nothing is too hard for God.**

As the Lord Himself declares: *"I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"* — Jeremiah 32:27

We serve that same faithful God. The God who fights battles we cannot fight. The God who makes a way where there is no way. The God who steps into impossible situations and makes everything possible. When we face circumstances that overwhelm us—when the diagnosis is frightening, when the finances do not add up, when the relationship feels broken beyond repair, when the future looks uncertain—we must do what Jehoshaphat did: Lift our eyes to the Lord. Stand firm. Trust Him to fight for us. The battle is not ours. It belongs to the Lord.

 **Lord, when I face battles too great for me, let me lift my eyes to You and trust in You to fight for me with the power of you, the Almighty God for whom nothing is too hard. Amen.**

DAY TWELVE


GOD IS WITH US

Romans 8:31 has become one of the anchor verses of my life: *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Such a short verse, yet it carries a depth of truth that steadies my soul every time I read it. These words remind me that God is not distant, not passive, not occasionally attentive—He is **with me**, actively working on my behalf. He is my constant help, my unfailing strength, my everpresent companion. When I am weak, He strengthens me. When I lack wisdom, He gives it generously. When I feel uncertain, He steadies my steps. When I feel unseen, He reminds me that He knows my name.

Every day of my life is already written in His book. Nothing surprises Him. Nothing confuses Him. Nothing overwhelms Him. He is continually preparing me for the very next moment—before I even arrive there. He is the source of my joy and the reason I have hope for tomorrow. I can trust Him with the future because He has proven Himself faithful in my past. Every answered prayer, every moment of comfort, every unexpected provision, every time He carried me through what I thought would break me—these are reminders that His faithfulness is not theoretical; it is personal.

His presence brings peace in the storms. His promises remove fear from my path. His strength sustains me when mine runs out. His love surrounds me when life feels uncertain.

Nothing is too difficult for Him. Not the burdens I carry. Not the questions I wrestle with. Not the challenges that lie ahead. He is the great I Am—everything I need, in every season, at every step. My refuge. My fortress. My Anchor. My confidence. My peace. My God. And because He is for me, nothing and no one can stand against His purposes for my life.

 **Lord, because You are for me, steady my heart with Your presence and let Your strength, wisdom, and unfailing love carry me through whatever stands before me. Amen.**

DAY THIRTEEN


BEING STILL

The word *still* carries the sense of deep silence and calm. It speaks of a quieted heart, a settled spirit, and a mind at rest. Scripture calls us repeatedly to be still, yet those are often the moments when stillness feels the hardest. When adversity presses in and life feels overwhelming, everything in us wants to act, fix, or escape. We want to take control, to solve the problem, to outrun the fear. But so often, the situation is beyond anything we can change or handle.

I am reminded of one of the most powerful moments in Scripture when God's people were told to "be still." The Israelites stood trapped between the Red Sea and the approaching Egyptian army. They had no strength, no strategy, and no ability to save themselves. The sound of chariots thundered behind them as the enemy drew closer, and the vast sea stretched before them. Fear rose so sharply resulting in the Israelites wishing for slavery in Egypt again rather than to die in the desert. But Moses answered with

words that still steady the soul: *"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."* — Exodus 14:13–14

And God did exactly that. He saved His people and destroyed the army that pursued them. The waters that once threatened to drown them became the very path that delivered them. Their stillness was not weakness, it was trust. It was the posture of a people who thought they had reached the end of all hope and finally placed their confidence in the God who never fails. Being still in times of adversity is not passive resignation. It is active trust. It is choosing to rest in the One who fights for us, delivers us, and holds every impossible situation in His hands. Stillness is not the absence of movement—it is the presence of faith. It is the quiet confidence that God is working even when we cannot see it. It is the surrender that says, "Lord, I cannot fix this, but I trust You." Stillness is the doorway to peace, the soil where faith grows, the place where fear loses its voice, and where God reveals that He is my Anchor that will hold my soul safe and secure. And stillness is where we discover again that the God who parted the Red Sea is the same God who stands with us today.

 **Lord, quiet my anxious heart and teach me to be still, trusting in You when I feel helpless. Let me always remember that you will fight for me and that you have never lost a battle! Amen.**

DAY FOURTEEN

THERE WAS JESUS

One Sunday, our church choir sang *There Was Jesus*. I'm not sure if I had ever truly listened to it before, but this time the words settled deeply into my heart. One stanza in particular stayed with me:

*When the life I built came crashing to the ground
When the friends I had were nowhere to be found
I couldn't see it then, but I can see it now—
There was Jesus.*

Those lines felt like they were written for the valleys I have walked through. Over the years, I have faced seasons so heavy that I wondered how I would take the next step. One season stands out vividly. My mother was suffering from dementia, and my father—her caregiver—was diagnosed with leukemia and given only a few weeks to live. I remember sitting in my office, feeling completely overwhelmed, unable to see a way forward. It was

a dark, heartbreaking time. But looking back now, I can say with absolute certainty: There was Jesus.

He was there in confusion, when nothing made sense. He was there in fear when my heart felt fragile. He was there in exhaustion, when I had no strength left. He was there when I did not recognize His presence. He was there when I did not know how to pray. He was there when I felt completely alone. And the truth is, He has always been there—quietly, faithfully, steadily—through every joy, every sorrow, every unexpected turn. His presence has been the constant thread woven through every page and chapter of my life. Jesus has always been my Anchor who has kept me safe and secure.

That is what gives me hope for the future. The same Jesus who walked with me through every moment of my past will walk with me through every moment yet to come. He does not change. He does not leave. He does not fail. Where I have been, there was Jesus. Where I am now, there is Jesus. And where I am going, there will be Jesus



Lord, thank You for being the constant presence in every valley of my life—my faithful Jesus who was there, is here, and will be with me in every step yet to come. Amen.

DAY FIFTEEN

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO BUILDERS

"Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell—and its fall was great." Matthew 7:24–27

I love the parables Jesus used in His teaching. They are simple enough for a child to understand, yet deep enough to anchor a lifetime of faith. One of my favorites is the parable of the two builders. In just a few verses, Jesus gives us a picture of wisdom, obedience, and the unshakable foundation He offers to every believer. There are striking similarities between the two builders. Both men built houses. Both heard the words of Jesus. And both faced the same storm. Jesus does not say that the wise man avoided the storm or that the foolish man encountered a different one. The winds, the rain, and the

floods came to both. Storms are the great equalizers of life. They come to the faithful and the faithless, the strong and the weak, the prepared and the unprepared.

But the differences in the parable are what carry the weight of Jesus' message. The first difference is obedience. Both men heard the words of Jesus, but only one put them into practice. Hearing truth is not enough. Admiring truth is not enough. It is obedience—trust expressed in action—that makes the difference between standing and falling. The second difference is the foundation. The wise man built on rock; the foolish man built on sand. One foundation was solid, tested, and unmovable. The other was shifting, unstable, and deceptive. The wise man built his life on the words of Christ. The foolish man built his life on everything else—his own wisdom, the world's values, the shifting sands of convenience and comfort. When the storm swept into their lives, the results were dramatically different. The house built on the rock stood firm. The house built on sand collapsed, and Jesus adds, "great was its fall." The storm did not create the weakness—it revealed it.

The bottom line is this: **everyone—both wise and foolish—will experience storms in life.** The question is not whether storms will come, but whether our foundation will hold. Those who build their lives on Jesus—His words, His truth, His presence—will stand. Those who build on anything else will eventually crumble under the weight of life's winds and waves. So, the question becomes deeply personal: **How strong is your foundation?**



Lord, help me build my life on the solid rock of Your Word, so that when the storms come, I will stand firm in You. Amen.

DAY SIXTEEN


THE JOURNEY

Over the last few days, I have found myself reflecting on my journey through life. When I look back over the long road I have traveled, I see moments of deep joy—my salvation, watching my bride walk down the aisle, and holding our two babies for the very first time. These memories shine like bright mile markers along the path. But I also see seasons marked by sorrow, disappointment, and the painful loss of loved ones. Life's road has taken me to mountaintops and through the darkest valleys, smooth stretches and rugged terrain. Yet through every high and every low, one truth has remained constant: the unwavering faithfulness of the Lord.

Just as I have learned to trust the GPS in my vehicle to guide me to the right destination, I know I can trust Jesus to guide me toward my final destination. His Word has become my compass, the steady voice that directs my steps, for it "is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." When I follow His leading, I find clarity. When I drift, His Word gently pulls me back.

There have been times when I chose my own detours—side roads that looked appealing but led only to regret. I have taken wrong turns, ignored warning signs, and insisted on my own way. But even then, God never abandoned me. He patiently redirected me, teaching me through experience the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5–6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

When the road carried me through difficult terrain—through grief, uncertainty, or seasons when the future felt hidden—it was His presence that brought comfort and strength. He walked beside me when I was weary. He carried me when I could not take another step. He whispered peace when fear tried to take hold. And He reminded me repeatedly that I was never walking alone. The truth is none of us know how long our journey will be. We do not know how many more miles lie ahead or what twists and turns the road may take. But I do know this: my final destination is secure. The One who has guided me this far will guide me all the way Home. And when that day comes—when my journey reaches its end—I pray that those who knew me will say that I walked in His shadow, trusted His leading, and followed His path with a grateful heart, and that I finished well.

 **Lord, guide each step of my journey and keep me faithful to Your path, trusting the One who has led me this far to lead me all the way Home. Amen.**

DAY SEVENTEEN

TRUSTING GOD LIKE JOB


I have always struggled to understand the Book of Job. On the surface, it just does not seem fair. How could a man described by God Himself as *"blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil"* experience such unimaginable suffering? Job lost his children, his wealth, his health, and the support of those closest to him. His name has become synonymous with patience—and rightly so. But patience was not the root. It was the fruit. Job's endurance flowed from something deeper: **Job trusted God completely.**

After losing everything—including his health—his wife, whose spiritual gift was certainly not that of encouragement, urged him to *"curse God and die."* His friends accused him of hidden sin. His body was covered in sores. His heart was shattered with grief. And yet Job said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

And Scripture adds this remarkable statement: "In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing."

For years, I admired Job's patience. But recently the Lord showed me something deeper: Job's patience was simply the evidence of Job's trust. It is easy to trust God when life is easy, when prayers are answered quickly, when blessings seem to overflow. But what about when the bottom falls out; when suffering comes to the faithful; when we are doing the best that we can to do the right thing, and everything still goes wrong. That is where trust becomes real; becomes more than words. That is where patience is born. Strong faith does not remove suffering but **endures** suffering, and trusts God when nothing makes sense. Job teaches us that trust is not based on explanations but on God's character. Job did not understand why he was suffering—but he knew **who** God was. And that was enough. We must always trust the Lord—in the good, in the bad, in the confusing, in the heartbreaking, in the seasons that make sense, and in the seasons that do not. Job trusted God completely. May we learn to do the same.

 **Lord, teach me to trust You like Job, resting in Your character when nothing makes sense and praising Your name in the good times and especially in the hard times. Amen.**

DAY EIGHTEEN

MY FINAL PRAYER

Psalm 91 *1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*


One Sunday morning, Brother Lee, during an incredible sermon, asked a question that has lingered in my heart: *If you could offer only one final prayer for your family, what would it be?* After much reflection, I realized that my last prayer would be Psalm 91 spoken over my family. With that prayer, I could step into eternity in peace.

Every day I ask the Lord to keep my family close to Him. Psalm 91 captures the very heart of that desire. It is a psalm of refuge and protection, assuring us that those who "dwell in the shelter of the Most High" will find strength, safety, and comfort—even in the midst of dangers, plagues, and wars. The psalmist paints a picture of God as both tender and mighty: a loving protector who covers His children with gentle wings and shields them with unbreakable strength.

I love the thought of my family resting in "the shadow of the Almighty." There is no safer place to be. And when we remain in His shadow, we can cling to the promises found in His words in the closing verses: *"He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."*

This is the prayer I want covering my family—not just at the end of my life, but every day of our lives. A prayer of nearness. A prayer of trust. A prayer of protection.

May our daily desire be simple and steadfast: to stay in His shadow.

 **Lord, may my family and I always dwell in Your shelter and rest in Your shadow, trusting You as our refuge, our fortress, and our everlasting protection. Amen.**

DAY NINETEEN

CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS

"⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." **Philippians 4:8**

Paul's words in this verse are not simply a suggestion for positive thinking—they are a spiritual strategy for victorious living. He knew what we often forget: the battle for the believer's peace is fought in the mind. That is why he directs us to fill our thoughts with what is *true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy*. These are not just virtues; they are safeguards.

Satan understands the power of our thought life. If he can influence what we dwell on, he can influence how we feel, how we act, and even how we see God. When our minds fixate on our weaknesses, failures, or fears, worry and anxiety rush in like a flood. But when our minds are anchored in the truth of God's Word, peace begins to rise. Neuroscientists estimate that the average person has **around 70,000 thoughts per day**. That means 70,000 opportunities for the enemy to whisper lies—or 70,000 opportunities to turn our minds toward God's goodness. The direction of our thoughts determines the direction of our hearts.

Paul's instruction is simple but transformative: Think on what reflects the character of God: on His faithfulness; on His promises; on His blessings; and on His love that never fails. When we intentionally fill our minds with the things of God, our attitudes shift. Fear loses its grip. Anxiety weakens. Joy grows. Peace settles in. Our thoughts become a place where God's truth reigns instead of the enemy's lies.

You cannot always control the thoughts that enter your mind, but you can control the ones you choose to dwell on. And when you choose to focus on the excellent and the praiseworthy, you will find your heart strengthened, your spirit lifted, and your attitude transformed.

 **Lord, guard my mind and help me dwell only on what is true, pure, and praiseworthy, so that Your peace rules my thoughts and steadies my heart. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY
THE TRUE MEANING OF HOPE

"Our hope comes from God. May He fill you with joy and peace because of your trust in Him. May your hope grow stronger by the power of the Holy Spirit." — **Romans 15:13**

I love taking a single verse—like Romans 15:13—and meditating on it long enough to uncover the richness we often overlook. As I reflected on this passage, I found myself thinking about what *hope* truly means in my life. In the world's vocabulary, hope is usually a **verb**—a wish, a desire for something that might or might not happen. People hope for good outcomes, yet there is no certainty behind it. It is fragile, uncertain, and easily shaken.

But for Christians, hope is a **noun**. It is not a wish—it is a reality. It is not vague—it is anchored. It is not uncertain—it is guaranteed by the character of God Himself. Our hope comes from the Lord, and as we grow in Him, that hope becomes stronger, deeper, and more firmly rooted.

Our hope is: **The assurance** that God will never leave or forsake us; **The peace** He gives that the world cannot grasp; **The joy** He provides even in seasons of hardship; **The promise** that when we take our final breath, He will welcome us home forever; and **The confidence** that every one of His promises is true because we belong to Him

Christian hope is not based on circumstances—it is based on Christ. It is not dependent on how we feel—it is anchored in who He is. It is not shaken by storms—it is strengthened through them. To the world, hope may simply be a verb. But for believers, hope is the very **object** of our lives—an anchor for our souls and a steadying truth that shapes how we live, endure, and look toward the future. Our hope is what anchors our souls.



Lord, fill me with the hope that comes from You alone, anchoring my soul in Your joy, Your peace, and the unshakable certainty of Your promises. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-ONE
THE IMMEASURABLE LOVE OF CHRIST

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20–21

Paul concludes his beautiful prayer for the Ephesians with a doxology that lifts our eyes to the limitless love and power of Christ. There is no boundary to His love for us, and no ceiling to what He can accomplish in our lives. Jesus can—and will—do *"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."* His love is not confined by our understanding, our expectations, or even our imagination.


Just a few verses earlier, Paul admits that we will never fully grasp *"how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,"* because His love *"surpasses knowledge."* It stretches beyond the reach of human comprehension. It is like the peace of God that Paul describes in Philippians 4:7—peace that *"transcends all understanding."* Christ's love is not something we measure; it is something we marvel at.

One writer captured the vastness of Christ's love with these simple yet profound words:

- His love is wide enough to include every person
- His love is long enough to last through all eternity
- His love is deep enough to reach the worst sinner
- His love is high enough to take us to heaven

What a Savior we have. What a love we have been given. And what a future awaits those who belong to Him.

If the love of Jesus fills our lives, then we can rest in the promise He made in John 14:1–4, that He has prepared a place for us in His Father's house. His immeasurable love not only sustains us today; it secures our eternity.

 **Lord, let the immeasurable love of Christ fill my heart and steady my life, reminding me that You can do far more than I could ever ask or imagine. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY-TWO

THE POWER OF PRAYER

James 5:16 *“The prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

The book of James has always been one of my favorites. Many have called it the New Testament’s Book of Proverbs because it is filled with practical wisdom for daily living. And among its many lessons, James 5:16 stands out as one of the most powerful teachings on prayer.

Prayer is the most intimate form of worship. When we pray, we are not speaking into the air—we are entering into conversation with the Lord, the Creator of the universe. Because prayer is worship, we must approach it with a heart that is right before God. To be righteous means we are surrendered to God’s will and walking in obedience to Him. Before we worship—before we pray—we must ensure that nothing stands between our heart and His.

Jesus taught this clearly when He instructed His disciples to pray, *“And forgive us our debts”* (Matthew 6:12). David prayed the same truth centuries earlier: *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me”* (Psalm 51:10). A clean heart matters because unconfessed sin disrupts our fellowship with God. Isaiah 59:2 warns us plainly: *“Your iniquities have separated you from your God... so that He will not hear.”*

But when we approach God with a righteous heart—when we come humbly, honestly, and repentantly—our prayers “avail much.” James is telling us that the prayers of a righteous person tap into the very power of God.

Jesus confirmed this truth when He said, *“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you”* (Matthew 17:20). Even the smallest seed of genuine faith, rooted in a righteous heart, can move mountains.

Joshua proved the power of prayer in one of the most astonishing moments in Scripture. He prayed for the sun to stand still—and God stopped the sun for an entire day. Joshua 10:14 records, *“There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being.”* That is the power of righteous prayer.

When we walk with God, when our hearts are clean before Him, we can pray mountainmoving, sunstopping prayers. Not because of our power—but because of His.



Lord, cleanse my heart and strengthen my faith so that my prayers, offered in righteousness, may tap into Your mighty power and accomplish what only You can do. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-THREE

THE LAST CONVERT OF JOHN HARPER

Acts 20:24 "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

I have watched movies and documentaries about the *Titanic* and read several books on the disaster, but until recently I had never encountered the astonishing story of an astonishing man—John Harper.

Harper was an English pastor traveling to Chicago, where he was to preach for several months at the Moody Church, founded by Dwight L. Moody. As a widower, he boarded the *Titanic* for its maiden voyage to America, accompanied by his six-year-old daughter and his niece.

Despite warnings of icebergs in the North Atlantic shipping lanes, the captain refused to reduce speed. The *Titanic* was the largest passenger ship in the world, and on her first voyage the desire to prove her speed overshadowed caution. After all, she was considered unsinkable.

But at 11:40 p.m. on April 15, 1912, a massive iceberg emerged from the darkness directly in the ship's path. The collision tore a long gash along the side of the 900-foot liner, and the "unsinkable" ship began to take on water. Because her designer believed she could not sink, she carried only twenty lifeboats—enough for barely half of the 2,200 passengers and crew.


In the two hours and forty minutes it took the *Titanic* to slip beneath the waves, John Harper lived out the very heart of Paul's words in Acts 20:24. Instead of securing a place for himself in a lifeboat—even though he could have boarded with his daughter and niece—Harper ran from person to person, urgently pleading with them to turn to Christ.

As the icy water climbed the decks, he was heard shouting, *"Women, children, and the unsaved into the lifeboats!"* When one man rejected the message of salvation, Harper removed his own life vest and handed it to him, saying, *"You need this more than I do."* Even after the ship disappeared beneath the surface, Harper continued swimming from one struggling survivor to another, sharing the Gospel until he could swim no more.

If the story ended there, it would already be incredible. But God was not finished.

Four years later, at a *Titanic* survivors' gathering in Ontario, Canada, a man stood and told of clinging to a piece of wreckage in the freezing Atlantic. John Harper swam to him—twice—urging him with the words of Scripture: *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."* The man admitted he rejected the message the first time, but when Harper returned and repeated the invitation, he surrendered his life to Christ. He concluded his testimony with these simple, unforgettable words: "I am the last convert of John Harper."

Harper's daughter and niece survived the sinking. And John Harper—this incredible man—finished his race and completed the task the Lord Jesus had given him. He died as he lived: proclaiming the good news of God's grace. His story reminds us that a life fully surrendered to Christ is never wasted. That courage in the face of death is possible when eternity is certain. And that even in the darkest waters, the Gospel's light shines brightest.

 **Lord, give me the courage of John Harper to finish my race faithfully and to share the hope of Christ with every life I touch. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

HIS FAREWELL MESSAGE

John 14:1–4

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

The words Jesus spoke in the upper room were not casual remarks; they were His farewell message—His final, tender instructions before the cross. He knew the weight of what was coming. He knew the fear that would soon grip His disciples. And He knew the

storms that would follow them for the rest of their earthly lives. Yet into that moment of uncertainty, He spoke the most comforting words imaginable:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you."

Jesus was not offering a vague hope or a poetic sentiment. He was giving His disciples—and us—a concrete promise. This world is not our home. We are travelers passing through, and our destination is already secured. In the Father's house, there is room for every child of God, and Jesus Himself has prepared that place.

But He did not stop there. He promised His presence for the journey. In verse 20, He tells them, **"You are in Me, and I am in you."** This is not symbolic language. It is the reality of every believer's life: we are united with Christ. His strength becomes our strength. His peace becomes our peace. His life becomes our life.

And then Jesus promised the Holy Spirit—the Advocate, the Helper, the One who would walk with them through every trial. The Spirit would remind them of truth, steady their hearts, and empower them to stand firm when the world pressed hard against them.

Finally, Jesus sealed His farewell message with a gift only He could give:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

This is not the world's fragile peace that depends on circumstances. This is the peace of Christ Himself—unshakable, enduring, and present even in the fiercest storms.

So, when life's winds howl and the waves rise high, Jesus invites us to lift our eyes beyond the storm. Fix your gaze on the place He has prepared. Remember the promise of His presence. Lean on the strength of the Spirit. And rest in the peace that only He can give.

For one day, every storm will cease. Every tear will be wiped away. Every sorrow will be healed. And we will stand in the place He prepared, where **"there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain"** (Revelation 21:4). Until that day, His farewell message continues to steady our hearts.



Lord, when I struggle, please let me focus on the promise of the place You have prepared for me, a place filled with only peace with no suffering. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

LOVE OF GOD

I was already in college the first time I ever saw the ocean. I can still picture myself standing on the shore, overwhelmed by its vastness. The steady roar of the waves, the endless stretch of blue, the horizon melting into sky—it all felt larger than life. Even after many visits since then, the ocean continues to fill me with awe. Its immensity always turns my thoughts toward something even greater—the immeasurable love of God.

His love is much like the ocean. We can see where the water meets the shore, but its farthest reaches disappear beyond the horizon. In the same way, we can see the beginning of the Lord's love in our lives—His grace in salvation, His mercy in forgiveness, His kindness in daily provision—yet its fullness stretches far beyond anything our limited vision can grasp.


Paul captures this beautifully in his prayer for the Ephesians: *"I pray that you... may have power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge"* (Ephesians 3:17–19). Christ's love extends farther than we can measure or comprehend. It is wider than our failures, longer than our journey, higher than our hopes, and deeper than our pain.

Whenever I look at the ocean, I am reminded of the old hymn, *The Love of God* that tries to describe the magnitude of God's love:

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

Even the oceans themselves would be emptied before His love could be fully described. Every wave that crashes on the shore is a reminder of His constancy. Every tide that rises and falls whispers of His faithfulness. Every horizon we cannot see beyond points to the limitless reach of His grace.

The extent of the love of Christ cannot be measured, it cannot be fully understood or explained. It reaches farther than our understanding and deeper than our gratitude can express. It meets us in our weakness, carries us in our sorrow, rejoices with us in our joy, and surrounds us in every season of life. All we can do is receive it with thankful hearts—resting in the truth that we serve a Lord who loves us perfectly, completely, and eternally.

 **Lord, let the vastness of Your love wash over my heart like an endless ocean, filling my heart with the assurance that I am held, known, and loved beyond measure. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY-SIX

LET GOD BE YOUR BOSS

Proverbs 16:3 *"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."*

I love this verse because in just a handful of words, God gives us a blueprint for living well. When we slow down and look closely, the wisdom is rich, simple, and deeply practical.

First, we're told to **"Commit to the Lord."** That means placing our decisions, our desires, and our direction under His authority. It means surrendering the steering wheel of our lives and trusting Him to guide us where we need to go. When we do this, He gives us the kind of wisdom we could never produce on our own. We begin to see life through His perfect eyes instead of our imperfect, self-focused ones.

Next, Scripture tells us *what* to commit: **"whatever you do."** Not some things. Not only just the big things. Everything. Too often we decide what is "worth" bringing to God, as if some matters are too small or we can handle them ourselves. We treat God like a last resort instead of the first priority. But this verse leaves no room for selective surrender. God invites us to bring it all—every choice, every burden, every plan, every question, every moment.


If we lived this way consistently, dependence on the Lord would become our natural rhythm. Prayer would become our first instinct, not our final attempt. Trust would become our posture, not our struggle. And when we place everything in His hands, the final promise of the verse becomes beautifully true: **"He will establish your plans."**

That does not mean He rubberstamps our ideas. It means He shapes them, aligns them, strengthens them, and brings them to completion according to His perfect will. His

purposes for our lives will stand, and His direction will lead us exactly where we need to go.

Letting God be your Boss is not about losing control—it is about gaining peace. It is not about giving up—it is about growing up. It is not about doing less—it is about trusting more.

And when we commit our lives fully to Him, we discover that His plans are always better, His timing is always wiser, and His leadership is always perfect.

 **Lord, teach me to commit every part of my life to You, trusting Your perfect wisdom to guide my steps and establish my plans. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

THE TIMELESS BLESSING


22 The LORD said to Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 "The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.' 27 "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."
Numbers 6:22–27

The blessing God entrusted to Aaron and his sons remains as powerful and necessary today as it was the day it was spoken for time has not diminished its truth. Generations have come and gone, kingdoms have risen and fallen, but this blessing still speaks with the same tenderness, the same authority, and the same promise. What the Israelites needed then is exactly what our hearts long for now: peace. It is the peace Paul describes—the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. It is the peace that steadies us in trials, the peace that brings joy even when circumstances are difficult. It is the peace that reminds us we will encounter situations far beyond our ability, yet never beyond God's ability. Nothing is too hard for Him. Nothing is beyond His reach. Nothing is outside His care.

This peace cannot be purchased or earned. It is a priceless gift, given freely because of God's immeasurable love for His people. When the Lord turns His face toward us, when His presence rests upon us, peace becomes more than a desire—it becomes our reality. His blessing is not merely words spoken over us; it is His heart extended toward us.

And notice the final promise: *"They will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."* God Himself takes responsibility for the blessing. He places His name—His character, His protection, His presence—upon His people. The blessing is not dependent on our worthiness but on His faithfulness.

This ancient benediction still whispers hope into modern hearts. It reminds us that God sees us. God keeps us. God shines His grace upon us. God turns His face toward us. And God gives us peace. A peace that heals. A peace that endures. A peace that anchors the soul.

 **Lord, turn Your shining face toward me and bless me with the deep, enduring peace that only Your faithful presence can give. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

THE LORD IS NEAR

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4–7

These verses have been the foundation of many of my devotionals over the years—mainly because they have been so lifechanging for me. They taught me to worry about nothing, pray about everything, and be thankful for anything. Paul wrote these words not from a place of comfort, but from a Roman prison. Yet his heart was not consumed with his own circumstances. He was more concerned about the spiritual wellbeing of the Philippians than about his chains.

How could Paul have such peace in such a place? The answer lies in four small words we often read right past: “The Lord is near.” These four words are the key to the entire passage.

THE — The one and only. Not one among many. The God above all gods.


LORD — Creator, Savior, Sustainer, Comforter, Father, Shepherd, Provider, AllKnowing, AllLoving, Just, Holy, Sovereign, King of Kings.

IS — The Great I AM. Not “was,” not “will be,” but eternally present.

NEAR — Close by. With us. Beside us. Watching over us. Walking with us. Holding us. Near in space, near in time, near in every moment of our lives.

THE LORD IS NEAR. That truth changes everything.

If I can remember this, there is nothing I cannot face; if I can remember this, discouragement loses its grip; if I can remember this, joy becomes my steady companion; and if I can remember this, I will live a life marked by praise, shaped by prayer, and filled with peace. And if I can remember this, I will carry this confidence and hope into every encounter, offering others the same assurance that steadies my own heart.

 **Lord, let the nearness of Your presence calm my spirit, lift my heart, and surround me with the peace that only You can give. Amen.**

DAY TWENTY-NINE

THE PEACE OF GOD

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:6–7


The fourth chapter of Philipians contains many of my life verses. Paul tells us plainly that we are not to be anxious—something far easier to read than to live. Anxiety has a way of slipping into our thoughts before we even realize it. It shows up in the quiet moments, in the middle of the night, or in the unexpected interruptions of the day. But Paul does not leave us with a command alone; he gives us the pathway to peace. "In every situation," he writes, *pray*. Not just when life feels overwhelming. Not only when the burden is too heavy. In *every* situation. And we are to pray *with thanksgiving*. That means we do not come to God wringing our hands—we come remembering His goodness. No matter what we face, we still have countless reasons to thank Him. Gratitude shifts our focus. When we intentionally reflect on His blessings, our hearts begin to lift with hope, even in the middle of difficulty.

God does not promise to remove the problem that may be causing our anxiety, but He does promise to give us His peace as we walk through it. His peace is not fragile or fleeting. It is not dependent on circumstances. It is perfect peace that comes from His presence, not from our understanding. Adrian Rogers once said, *"For the believer, peace is not the absence of trouble, but it is His presence with us in our troubles."* It is the

spiritual calmness that allows us to endure hardship with joy, trusting that in all things God is working for our good (Romans 8:28). Peace is not the product of control—it is the fruit of surrender.

We can rest in peace because, as Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."* Jesus Himself confirmed this truth in John 16:33 when He told His disciples, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Sometimes God calms the storm around us; other times He calms the believer within the storm. Either way, His peace stands guard over our hearts and minds—like a divine sentinel, protecting us from fear, doubt, and despair. His peace is not just a feeling; it is a fortress. And when we rest in that peace, we discover that even in the darkest moments, we are never alone and never without hope.

 **Lord, when anxiety and worry start to invade my life, let my thankful prayers fill my heart with the peace that only You can give. Amen.**

DAY THIRTY

TRUE WISDOM

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is doubleminded and unstable in all they do." **James 1:5–8**

Recently, the Lord has been speaking to me about wisdom likely because He knows how much more of it I need. We often define wisdom as experience, knowledge, and good judgment, but the wisdom James describes is far greater. It is not human insight

sharpened by time; it is divine understanding shaped by the heart of God. It is the perfect wisdom that comes only from Him, and He gives it freely when we ask.

What a gift that is. God does not scold us for needing wisdom. He does not shame us for not having all the answers. He invites us to come—emptyhanded, honest, dependent—and He promises to give generously.

The trials of life test our faith and produce perseverance. These tests strengthen us, but without God's wisdom we would never grow through them. His wisdom enables us to ask, *"Lord, what are You trying to teach me?"* instead of, *"Lord, why are You letting this happen to me?"* One question opens the heart to growth; the other closes it in frustration.

God's wisdom anchors us in the truth that He is always with us in every trial and that nothing we face is beyond His power. His wisdom steadies us when emotions swirl. It quiets the noise of fear. It lifts our eyes from the problem to the One who holds the solution. His perfect wisdom drives out worry, anxiety, and fear, replacing them with hope, peace, and joy.

And James reminds us when we ask for wisdom, we must ask with faith—not a perfect faith, but a trusting faith. Doubt tosses us like waves on the sea, but faith anchors us in the character of God. Faith says, *"Lord, I do not understand this, but I trust You."* Faith says, *"I do not see the way, but I know You do."* Faith says, *"Give me Your wisdom, and I will follow where You lead."*

True wisdom is not something we achieve. It is something we receive. And when we receive it, it changes everything.



Lord, give me Your wisdom generously and anchor my heart in unwavering faith, so I may trust You fully in every situation that I will face. Amen.

DAY THIRTY-ONE

THE GOD OF PROMISES

"13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil," **Hebrews 6:13–19**

When God made His promise to Abraham, He swore by Himself—because there was no one greater. That moment reveals the heart of divine faithfulness: God binds His word not to circumstance, but to His own unchanging nature. Abraham waited decades for fulfillment, and yet the waiting became the crucible of faith. Each year that passed was not wasted time but sacred preparation, teaching Abraham—and us—that delay does not mean denial.

God's promises are not fragile hopes; they are eternal certainties. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that "it is impossible for God to lie." His counsel is immutable, His oath unbreakable. These two unchanging realities—His word and His nature—form the foundation of our confidence. When we flee to Him for refuge, we find not a temporary shelter but an everlasting anchor. Hope, in this sense, is not wishful thinking; it is the steady assurance that the One who promised is faithful.

Charles Spurgeon focused on "strong consolation" when he wrote: "It is a strong consolation that can deal with outward trials when a man has poverty staring him in the face, and hears his little children crying for bread; when bankruptcy is likely to come upon him through unavoidable losses; when the poor man has just lost his wife, and his dear children have been put into the same grave; when one after another all earthly props and comforts have given way, it needs a strong consolation then; not in your pictured trials, but your real trials, not in your imaginary whimsied afflictions, but in the real afflictions, and the blustering storms of life. To rejoice then, and say, 'Though these things be not with me as I would have them, yet hath he made with me an everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure.' This is strong consolation." That is the strength of faith—trusting the unseen hand of God when visible supports crumble.

The Bible contains more than seven thousand promises, each one a thread in the tapestry of redemption. They are not relics of ancient faith but living assurances for every generation. God's promises are as fresh today as when first spoken to the patriarchs and prophets. They whisper peace to the anxious, courage to the weary, and hope to the brokenhearted. Every promise reflects His character—unchanging, faithful, and true.

If you find yourself in a season of waiting or uncertainty, open the Word and let His promises speak. They will remind you that the God who swore by Himself keeps covenant with His people. His promises are not bound by time or circumstance; but anchored in eternity.



Lord, anchor my soul in the certainty of Your unbreakable promises, and steady my heart with the hope that never fails. Amen.

DAY THIRTY-TWO

FAITH VS. FEAR

Fear is one of the enemy's sharpest weapons. It clouds our thinking, weakens our confidence, and distracts our hearts from the steady presence of God. This is why Scripture speaks so often—and so urgently—about fear. I read that the phrase "*do not fear*" appears 365 times in the Bible making the message unmistakably clear: God does not want His children living in the grip of fear.

David understood this deeply. As he walked through "*the valley of the shadow of death*" (Psalm 23:4), he did not deny the darkness around him—he simply refused to let fear rule him. Why? "*For You are with me.*" The presence of God was his courage.

Joshua faced a different valley—an untested future, a new leadership role, and a nation depending on him. Yet God's command was the same: "*Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go*" (Joshua 1:9). Joshua's strength did not come from his military skill or personal resolve. It came from the unchanging companionship of God.

As I searched the Scriptures, I found two short verses that speak with remarkable clarity:

- **Psalm 56:3** — "*When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.*" This verse does not pretend fear never comes. It simply tells us what to do when it does.
- **Psalm 34:4** — "*I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.*" Fear loses its grip when we turn our eyes toward the One who had the power to create everything from nothing.

Faith and fear cannot occupy the same space. Fear looks at the storm; faith looks at the Savior. Fear imagines what might happen; faith remembers what God has already done. Fear whispers, "*You are alone.*" Faith declares, "*Immanuel—God with us.*"

And this is the truth the Lord impressed on upon me: **we must trust in Immanuel.** Not a distant God. Not a symbolic presence. But the God who is *with us*—in the dark valley, at the wide river crossing, in the battle, in the uncertainty, and in the quiet hours when fear tries to creep in.

Faith is not the absence of fear; it is the refusal to bow to it. It is choosing to trust the One who has never failed His people. When fear rises, faith answers with the promises of God. When fear threatens, faith remembers His nearness. When fear shouts, faith whispers His name. And in that whisper—*Immanuel*—fear loses its power.



Lord, when fear tries to rise within me, draw my heart to Immanuel and fill me with the courage that comes from knowing You are always with me and that you will never leave or forsake me. Amen.

DAY THIRTY-THREE

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

***"But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt."* GENESIS 19:26**

God rescued Lot and his family from the wickedness of Sodom and commanded them to flee without hesitation. The angel's instruction could not have been clearer: "Do not look back." It was a call to urgency, obedience, and trust. Everyone obeyed—except Lot's wife. Scripture tells us that she turned and looked back, and in that moment, she became a pillar of salt.

As I reflected on this verse, I found myself wondering what pulled her gaze backward. I believe her heart was still tied to the life she was leaving behind. Her future was ahead of her, but her affections were with the past. She longed for what God had already called her out of. In looking back, she allowed what was behind her to destroy what God had placed before her.

This ancient story still speaks with surprising clarity today. Many people struggle in the same way. While I have never seen anyone literally turn into a pillar of salt (and I certainly hope I never do!), I have known many who are spiritually frozen—unable to move forward because their hearts are still tangled in the past. Some cling to old sinful patterns. Others are haunted by failures, regrets, or wounds that replay like a broken record. Either way, the past steals their happiness in the present and clouds their hope for the future.

I once heard a pastor say that Christians do not need rearview mirrors. That phrase has stayed with me. Like Lot and his family, we are called to move forward, not backward. God leads us toward life, not back into the ruins He rescued us from. We cannot change what is behind us, but we can choose whether the past will shape our present and our future.


The enemy loves to use the past as a chain. God uses it as a testimony. The enemy uses the past to accuse. God uses it to redeem. The enemy wants us as prisoners of the past. God wants us free.

Lot's wife teaches us a sobering truth: where we fix our eyes determines the direction of our lives. If we keep looking back, we will eventually stop moving forward. But if we keep our eyes on the Lord—on His promises, His presence, His calling—we will walk into the future He has prepared for us. So today, if the past tries to whisper, let God's voice speak louder. If regret tries to pull you backward, let grace pull you forward. If old patterns try to resurface, let the Spirit lead you into newness of life.

God is not behind you—He is ahead of you. He is not lingering in yesterday's failures or yesterday's fears. He is already standing in the place you have not yet reached, preparing the ground beneath your feet and the grace you will need when you arrive.

Your calling is ahead of you. Not in the memories you replay, not in the seasons you have already lived, but in the steps you have not yet taken. God is shaping you for something that still lies before you, something your past cannot contain and your present cannot yet see.

Walk in His shadow—the safest place you will ever stand, the strongest covering you will ever know, the surest path you will ever follow. For the God who goes before you will never fail to walk beside you.

 **Lord, fix my eyes on the future You are leading me toward, and by Your grace keep me from looking back at anything that You have already forgiven, and the sins of my past that called me out of. Amen.**

DAY THIRTY-FOUR

BEING THANKFUL AT ALL TIMES

“¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”. **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**

Paul's words in this passage are beautifully simple yet spiritually demanding: **"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances."** These are not suggestions for when life feels manageable. They are always God's will for us—in the ordinary, the joyful, and even the painful seasons.

What makes these verses so powerful is the way they connect **our inner posture** with **our outward practice**. Joy, prayer, and gratitude are not isolated commands; they feed

and strengthen one another. A heart that rejoices finds it easier to pray. A heart that prays finds it easier to give thanks. And a heart that gives thanks discovers joy rising repeatedly.


Paul echoes this in Philippians 4:4: "**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!**" He repeats it because he knows how quickly our joy can be stolen by circumstances. But notice the key phrase: "**in the Lord.**" Our joy is not rooted in what is happening around us but in who God is—unchanging, faithful, and endlessly good.

When we pause and remember how God has carried us, protected us, forgiven us, and blessed us, joy begins to well up again. Gratitude grows when we rehearse His goodness.

And we can "give thanks in all circumstances" because **God is with us in all circumstances.** Gratitude is not pretending everything is easy; it is recognizing that God's presence is constant. Whether we stand on the mountaintop or walk through the darkest valley, our Heavenly Father loves us beyond measure.

A thankful heart is not blind to hardship—it is anchored in God's character. A praying heart is not overwhelmed by life—it is strengthened by God's nearness. A rejoicing heart is not naive—it is confident that God is working all things for good.

We truly have so much to be thankful for. And when gratitude becomes our rhythm, joy becomes our strength.

 **Lord, teach me to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in every circumstance, resting in the goodness and nearness of Your faithful heart. Amen.**

DAY THIRTY-FIVE

FORGIVENESS

Other people's words and actions will wound us in this life. But the deepest wounds often come from those we call friends—those we trusted, those we let close. Because the hurt goes so deep, forgiveness becomes the hardest step to take. And satan knows it. He delights in seeing us carry resentment, replay old conversations, and nurse bitterness in the quiet places of our hearts.


Brother Danny once said that bitterness is like drinking poison and expecting it to hurt someone else. It never does. It only corrodes our own soul. Scripture is clear: unforgiveness is sin, and sin always creates distance between us and God.

Jesus said, *"If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift... First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift"* (Matthew 5:23–24). Reconciliation is not optional—it is worship.

When Peter asked how many times he must forgive, Jesus answered, *"Not seven times, but seventy times seven "* (Matthew 18:21–22). In other words: forgiveness is not about counting offenses; it is about cultivating a heart shaped by grace.

And when we feel justified in our hurt, we need only look at the cross. No one has ever been wounded more deeply than Jesus. Betrayed, abandoned, mocked, beaten, crucified—yet His prayer was, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* His forgiveness was not based on their repentance, their apology, or their understanding. It flowed from who He is.

The only way we can truly forgive those who have hurt us is to have **the love of Jesus** filling our hearts. Our strength is not enough. Our emotions are not enough. Our willpower is not enough. But His love is. Forgiveness does not excuse the wrong. It does not erase the pain. It does not rewrite the past. But it **frees the heart**, restores fellowship with God, and reflects the grace we ourselves have received. Forgiveness is not easy, but it is holy. And it is the way of Christ.

 **Lord, fill my heart with the forgiving love of Jesus, freeing me from bitterness and teaching me to extend the same grace I have received. Amen.**

DAY THIRTY-SIX

TAKING THE LOVE OF GOD FOR GRANTED

For more than forty years, I drove from my home to my office in downtown Memphis. My route carried me past the Mississippi River—broad, steady, and powerful. In the early years, I noticed it every morning. I would glance toward that wide stretch of water and feel a sense of awe. But as time passed, something subtle happened. The river did not change. I did.

Day after day, year after year, I passed the same mighty river until I hardly noticed it at all. The sight that once stirred wonder became part of the background. Even from my office window—where I had a beautiful view of the river—I rarely paused to look at it.


The Mississippi was as vast and mighty as the first day I saw it as a boy from Milan, Tennessee. But familiarity had dulled my appreciation.

As I reflected on this, the Lord gently showed me something deeper: In much the same way, I have taken His love for granted. Jesus has done so much for me—more than I can comprehend, more than I can recount, more than I can ever repay. Yet too often I move through my days without stopping to thank Him, without pausing to marvel, without letting my heart be stirred by the wonder of His love.

Paul prayed that the believers in Ephesus would grasp *"how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ"* and that they would *"know this love that surpasses knowledge"* (Ephesians 3:17–19). Paul understood that the danger is not that God's love will grow smaller, but that our awareness of it will.

The river never changed. God's love never changes. What changes is our attention, our gratitude, our sense of awe.

So, take time today—intentionally, quietly, gratefully—to thank Jesus for who He is and for all He has done. Let your heart return to wonder. Let your spirit remember the vastness of His mercy. Let your soul be stirred again by the love that has never diminished. His love is as mighty today as the first moment you encountered it. May we never grow so familiar that we fail to see its beauty.

 **Lord, awaken my heart again to the wonder of Your love, and keep me from ever growing so familiar that I fail to see its beauty. Amen.**

DAY THIRTY-SEVEN

LONGING FOR MY NEW HOME

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4

When John wrote these words, he was describing the New Heaven and the New Earth—the world as it will be when Jesus returns and makes all things new. But even as we wait for that day, this verse gives every believer a glimpse of what awaits us the moment we take our last breath on earth and our first breath in eternity.

As I read this beautiful promise, I cannot help but think of the people I have known who suffered deeply—those who battled disease, those who lived with chronic pain, those

whose bodies grew frail and weary. Their earthly journey was marked by struggle, but when they met Jesus, every burden fell away. Pain did not follow them. Disease did not cross the threshold of Heaven. Tears did not accompany them to glory.

I do not know every detail of what Heaven will be like, but I know this much with absolute certainty: there will be no mourning, no crying, no pain, and no death. The old order—the broken order—will be gone forever.

One of my favorite songs is *Sweet Beulah Land*. When I reflect on Revelation 21:4, I understand exactly what the songwriter was longing for. He captured that holy homesickness every believer feels at times—the ache for a country we have never seen yet somehow know deep in our spirit.


There is a line in the song that says, *"I'm kind of homesick for a country to which I have never been before."* That single sentence carries the weight of eternity. It names the longing we feel when this world grows heavy, when sorrow lingers too long, when pain becomes familiar, and when goodbyes come too often.

Revelation 21:4 tells us why our hearts ache for something more:

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Those words are not poetry. They are promise. They are not wishful thinking. They are certainty. A place where goodbyes are gone. A place where time no longer steals what we love. A place where the presence of Jesus is the atmosphere we breathe.

When the songwriter declared, *"Beulah Land, I'm longing for you,"* he was giving voice to the same longing John felt on the island of Patmos, the same longing Paul felt when he said he desired "to depart and be with Christ," and the same longing every believer feels when the weight of this world presses hard.

 **Lord, keep my heart longing for the home You have prepared, and fill me with hope as I look toward the day when all tears, pain, and grief will be wiped away and I shall be in Your presence for eternity. Amen.**

DAY THIRTY-EIGHT

CONQUERING FEAR

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Psalm 56:3–4

David did not live an easy life. From his youth until his final days, he faced enemies who wanted to destroy him. King Saul hunted him. Foreign armies opposed him. Even his own son revolted against him. David knew betrayal, danger, exhaustion, and fear in ways most of us will never experience. And yet—David trusted the Lord.

This is what amazes me about him. David was far from perfect. He stumbled. He sinned. He made decisions that brought pain into his own life and in others. But through every season—whether hiding in caves, fleeing for his life, or sitting on the throne—David returned repeatedly to one unshakable truth: God was worthy of his trust.

We are blessed to read David's words in the Psalms. They are not polished speeches from a king; they are the prayers of a man under pressure, a man who cried out in fear, a man who clung to God when everything around him was falling apart. And woven through all his writings is one constant thread: "In God I trust."

Most of us will never face the kind of trials David endured. But through his words, we learn how to face our own. When fear rises, David teaches us where to turn. When circumstances overwhelm us, David shows us what to declare. When people fail us, David reminds us of who never will.

Fear is conquered not by our strength, but by our trust. Not by our courage, but by His presence. Not by our understanding, but by His faithfulness. David trusted the Lord completely. Do we? The same God who delivered David is the God who walks beside us today. The same God who calmed David's fears is the God who speaks peace into ours. The same God who proved faithful then is faithful still. Fear may come—but it will not conquer if we place our trust in the great I AM.



Lord, when fear rises within me, draw me into Your presence and teach me to trust You with the same steady confidence David had, knowing You are faithful, near, and greater than anything I face. Amen.

DAY THIRTY-NINE


MERCY FALLS LIKE RAIN

As I sit here writing, I hear the steady rhythm of rain falling outside my study window. And once again, I am reminded that throughout Scripture, rain is often used to describe God's compassion, His faithfulness, and His unfailing love. Rain softens what has grown hard. It restores what has withered. It brings life where there was none. And as I listen to the rain, I am reminded of how thankful I am for God's provision—even in something as simple and ordinary as a nourishing shower from the sky.

The truth is, I have so much to be thankful for. Yet I am also know how seldom I truly thank God for all He does for me each moment of my life. Gratitude is easy to speak but easy to forget. And this morning, as the rain fell, the Lord brought back a memory from many years ago. It was a visit to a prison that I made with the prison ministry. A prisoner was asked to pray, and his prayer left a deep impression on me. He thanked God for giving him a good night's rest and for waking him up to see another day. I have never forgotten the simplicity and sincerity of his prayer. To the world, it might seem that this man had nothing to be thankful for. He slept locked in a small cell. Every morning he awoke to the same four walls of the prison block. Yet he understood something I often forget: every day God gives us is a blessing.

We overlook the miracles that surround us—the rain that falls from the sky, the sun that rises faithfully in the east, the breath in our lungs, the strength to stand, the grace that carries us. Gratitude opens our eyes to see God's hand in the ordinary. It softens the heart the way rain softens the earth. It restores what has grown weary. It brings life where discouragement once settled.

Today, give thanks to the Lord who is so good. Let the words of Psalm 107:1 settle into your heart: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."

 **Lord, let Your mercy fall on my heart like gentle rain, softening what has become hard and awakening fresh gratitude for every blessing You pour into my life. Amen.**

DAY FORTY

FINISHING THE RACE

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Acts 20:24

I have always been a goal-setter. In college, I set a goal for the highest GPA I could achieve. In law school, the goal was simpler—just finish and pass the bar. Later, I wanted to run a marathon... then an ultramarathon. As the years went by, I set more goals, pushing myself to accomplish things that required discipline, endurance, and determination. And by God's grace, I accomplished most of the goals I set.

But something unexpected happened. Instead of feeling satisfied when I reached a goal, I often felt empty—sometimes even depressed. It took me a long time to understand why. Eventually, the Lord showed me that many of the goals I was chasing were not truly important from an eternal standpoint. Some were driven by pride. Some were fueled by the desire to prove something to myself or to others. And some, though impressive on paper, did not matter in the light of eternity.

I was proud when I ran fifty miles in less than twelve hours. But when the race was over and the soreness set in, I had to ask myself: **What did I accomplish?** Other than proving I could do it, did it have lasting value?

Paul understood something I was slow to learn. His aim was not to accumulate achievements but to finish the race **Jesus** had given him. Not the race he chose. Not the race others expected of him. The race assigned by the Lord Himself. And that race had one central task: **to testify to the good news of God's grace.**

When we stand before Jesus for our "exit interview," He will not ask how many marathons we ran, how many degrees we earned, how many promotions we received, or how many personal goals we checked off our bucket list.

But He may ask:

- How many people did you share the Gospel with?
- How faithfully did you love?
- How generously did you serve?

- How fully did you trust Me?
- How diligently did you run the race I set before you?

Time spent reading Scripture, praying, teaching, encouraging, serving, and doing mission work—these are goals worthy of our lives. These are the goals that echo into eternity.

Earthly goals fade. Eternal goals endure. And the only race that truly matters is the one Jesus has called us to run. May we run it well. May we finish it with joy. When we cross life's finish line, may we say in truth, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”**

Lord, seal in my heart the race You have called me to run and give me the strength and faith to finish it well for Your glory. Amen.

MY EVENING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dear Jesus, as I stop at the end of this day, in the stillness of Your presence, I acknowledge again that You alone are my God. I ask You to forgive me for every transgression—every careless word, every impatient thought, every moment when I fell short of Your holiness. Wash me clean as only You can.

I pray that today I have walked in obedience to Your will. Thank You that on this day, as on every day of my life, You met my needs according to Your glorious riches. I did not know whether this day would bring happiness or hardship, but You did, for this day—like all my days—was written in Your book before one of them came to be.

Jesus, I pray all I did today was done in accordance with Your perfect will. As I reflect on Your goodness, let my heart pause and give thanks for the love You have shown me from morning until now. I pray that throughout the day I have been patient, kind, humble, and free from envy or pride. I pray those I encountered saw Your character in my actions and heard Your voice in my words.

Lord, I praise You for the wisdom You gave me to face each situation, and I pray that my actions brought glory to Your name. Thank You for the joy of Your presence in the trials I faced. Thank You that when anxiety tried to rise within me, You heard my prayers and filled me with the peace that surpasses all understanding. And when my burdens grew

heavy, You lifted them from my shoulders and gave me rest. Thank You for keeping me close—safe in the shelter of Your shadow.

Jesus, as I prepare to close my eyes in sleep, I pray You may look upon this day and say of me, *“Well done, My good and faithful servant.”* **Amen.**