

Encouraging One Another
In
Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs
Holy Harvest Meditations 2016



Holman Street Baptist Church 3501 Holman St. Houston, Texas
www.holmanstreet.org

A Word from our Shepherd-Teacher



Greetings to the Holman Street Family and Streamers Across the World:

*As we look forward to another Holy Harvest Season, there is much to be excited about; for the Lord has granted us another opportunity to gather in the crop of blessings that we have planted through prayer, during our season of sowing. All year long, we have been praying on second Wednesday nights, during our personal prayer time, on prayer cards, at designated hours on the prayer clock, and with your special prayer requests. I cannot wait to see what the Lord is going to do during this special season of reaping. I have given you a pattern for answered prayer through the sermon messages I have delivered from 1 Samuel chapter 1, concerning Hannah's experience with prayer. First, she got God's **attention**; she got God's **approval** and she got God's **acceptance** (Read 1 Samuel chapter 1). Stay focused, and in His own timing, the Lord will indeed hear and answer your prayers. Come with your, tubs, your buckets, your bushel baskets to be filled to overflowing, for this is harvest season! The fruit of blessings for your lives are ripe and ready for picking. This is a time to experience spiritual growth and maturity. It will amaze you to see how the Lord will strengthen your faith, deepen your trust, and inspire your hope in Him. Approach the throne of grace.....That's it! The throne of GRACE, expecting Him to do exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think, according to the power that worketh in you.*

1 John 5: 14- 15 says, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will he heareth us: 15. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask we now that we have the petitions that we desired of him." No matter what your present situation is, have faith in God to deliver you from doubt to faith and from guilt to forgiveness. He is able to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit in you. This month is holy unto the Lord and as our prayer leaders have outlined, in keeping with our customary practices, we will refrain from those things that will distract our attention away from our prayers. I have fasted for your prayers during the month of August as a prelude to this season of harvest. We must commit to be serious, determined and fervent; for that is the kind of praying that avails much with the Lord. We invite all to participate and be bountifully blessed!

Stay on Top!!

Greetings from our Prayer Ministry Leaders

Greetings to our Holman Street Baptist Church Family and our Friends and Neighbors around the World:

It's Harvest Time!!!!

Welcome to the season of reaping the harvest! As we prepare to get serious about prayer during this month of consecration, it is our pleasure to present to you another Prayer and Meditation Booklet for your use during your dedicated prayer time. Our writing team has been diligently working to prepare this tool to give you a daily focus and guide as you seek the Lord in prayer. If you have been a bit slack in your prayer life, as many of us have, we encourage you to refocus, and get back into the habit of putting God first. Yes, it will take some discipline, but the first step is to accept the fact that you must recommit to get started. The booklet will help, and as you progress through the month, you will realize a refreshing start to your day, a refreshing break in your day, or a refreshing end of your day, as you determine the best time to get alone with the Lord.

We believe that as you move from day to day, you will enjoy reflecting on the songs and hymns and spiritual songs that are presented for your consideration. You will likely find yourself humming them throughout the day. That in itself will keep you focused on the Lord and his goodness.

Please be mindful to observe the traditions that we have adhered to during the month of September:

- Complete as many prayer cards as you need and share cards with others. Bring completed cards with you and place them in the prayer boxes. Cards will be available on tables in the Narthex and at Planter stations. Ushers and prayer ministry members will also have them.
- Plant mustard seeds in the planters available around the church and watch them sprout. For if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can speak to the mountains in you life and they will move
- Abstain from watching TV, movies, or video streaming on your electronic devices
- Review your designated time to pray on the prayer clock and pray during that time
- Attend prayer meetings each Wednesday night during the month of September and invite others
- Be bold and leave your comfort zone and come to the altar to pray. You may inspire someone else to come also.
- Be present on September 25, 2016, at 10:30am for the "Table of Blessings Service". (Only one service that Sunday)

We believe God will move in our midst if you will be constant in prayer. "Ninety-nine and a Half" just won't do. The Lord wants 100% of us. Let's "Give Ourselves Away" to Him, and be blessed.

Wishing you a bountiful harvest,
James and Billie Grays



INTRODUCTION:

Scripture Focus:

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.” Ephesians 5:18–19 (ESV). “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

For Your Consideration:

So what is the difference between psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and how are they to be used?

The book of Psalms is the collection of songs written under the direction of the Holy Spirit (Mark 12:36; 2 Peter 1:21) by ancient Jewish leaders such as David, Moses, and Solomon. These inspired songs were part of the Hebrew Scriptures and used in corporate worship. The word *psalm* means “praise.” Although many of the psalms are cries for help, laments over Israel, or questions about God’s plan, the major theme in all of them is worship. Even when the psalmist was crying out his questions or frustrations to the Lord, he usually ended with a call to praise God in spite of everything (Psalm 42:11; 43:5; 71:13-14). The psalms have a timeless quality and are as relevant to our lives as though they were written yesterday. Many people find great comfort in reading or praying the psalms when they have difficulty finding adequate words to express their hearts to God. We can encourage, challenge, and extend comfort to ourselves and others by memorizing and sharing a psalm. Many of our modern worship songs are based on the psalms, and when we sing them, we are singing God’s Word.

A ***hymn*** is a song of praise to God. Unlike psalms, hymns were not written under the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit and are not considered part of Scripture. However, they contain much truth and often incorporate portions of Scripture. Many were written centuries ago by great pillars of the Christian faith and are filled with rich doctrinal truth and a depth born from adversity. The wisdom and spiritual gravity of the old hymns are not often found in modern music. Even in Jesus’ day, hymns were part of Jewish worship. After the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn Matthew 26:30, Mark 4:26.

The term ***spiritual songs*** can have a wider meaning. A “spiritual song” could refer to any song with a spiritual theme, such as a modern praise chorus or a song of personal testimony. A spiritual song might express the joy of one’s salvation, revel in the grace of Christ, exalt the greatness and power of God—in short, a spiritual song can communicate a wide variety of sacred themes. A spiritual song could also be what Scripture elsewhere calls a “new song.” From Psalms to Revelation, the Bible encourages us to “sing a new song to the Lord” (Psalm 96: 1; 144:9; Isaiah 44:10; Revelation 5:9; 14:3). Psalm 40:3 says, “He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.”

A **new song** is one that arises from the spirit of a person whose heart overflows with adoration for God. Paul’s instruction to the Ephesians about music is preceded by the command to “be filled with the Spirit” (5:18). When we are filled with the Spirit, then psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are the natural expression of our hearts. A Spirit-filled person is a singing person. One clear indication that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit is a natural desire to sing and praise God. Musical ability has little to do with

it. God created us to find great spiritual expression through music (Psalm 135:3; Judges 5:3). Scripture is filled with music and God delights when we use what He created to worship Him Deuteronomy 31:19; Psalm 33:2; 149:30.

Music finds its highest purpose when used as a way to extoll the greatness of God. It can console, encourage, teach, and even admonish those who are away from God. Music is a biblical way of expressing our worship of the Lord. Spiritual music gives voice to our joy and adoration unlike anything else. Whether a psalm or a hymn or a spiritual song, the purpose of music is to glorify God, and He wants us to use this gift as a means of worshipping Him.

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It is the prayer of this year's Prayer Ministry writing team that you will be encouraged and blessed from your reading and meditating on what the LORD has given us to share with you. On some days you will get song writer history and background, while on others you will get the inspiration behind the lyrics; but each day, you will get the writers words of encouragement as to how the song of the day either can minister to you, or has always ministered to the writer or someone in their life. Enjoy!

Prayer Focus:

Father we thank you for teaching us in Your Word to have a joyful heart because it is like medicine to our souls. As long as we have breath we will praise You. We choose to sing because we are happy and free in you. For Your eye is on the sparrow and we know that you are watching over us.



A Dove nesting high up on the Western Wall
Jerusalem 2016

September 1

Scripture Focus

¹¹For, I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹²Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.”

Jeremiah 11-13

For Your Consideration

Sometimes, circumstances and issues arise in our lives that will cause us to question if God really sees what's happening. "God, are you concerned about me?" is the sentiment echoing deep down inside. As we try to cope and not lose our minds, we can't help but wonder if God has forgotten about us! In Jeremiah's day, such was the sentiment of God's people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem as captives into Babylon. Their captivity was in God's permissive will. Through Jeremiah, He sent a letter of encouragement to reveal that He had not disinherited them regardless of how they viewed their circumstance. Romans 8:7 states that a carnal mind is enmity against God. It can cause us to distance ourselves from God, enter into doubt and be disobedient to His will. A good way to combat carnality is to know that God has our best interest at heart and He knows how to perform what is best for us. God assured us that He can take care of His end. He reminds us that, if anybody knows, He knows the thoughts and outcomes He desires for us. He will bring us to our place of deliverance in His appointed time. Meanwhile, we are to call upon Him and pray. Jeremiah's letter instructed God's people to move on with their lives and pray for the heathen nation that enslaved them. Today, we ought to continue living Godly lives and pray for our nation during these evil times. God wants you to know that He is thinking about you. You're in His plan! You're on His mind!

Prayer Focus:

God, I thank you for always having my best interests in mind. Thank you for your word which gives assurance and hope for my future. During these troubling times, help me to remember and share with others the commitment you have toward a good outcome for our lives. Give me strength to continue in righteousness as you direct my steps to my fruitful place. Thank you for thinking about me. Thank you for the plan you have for my life. Amen.



September 1

“God is Thinking About You”

Copyright © 2006 Willie Aron Taylor

God is thinking about you.
God is thinking about you.
You're in His plan. You're on His mind.
You're in His plan. You're on His mind.

God knows the thoughts that He's thinking about you.
He said in His Word, He'd never leave you nor forsake you.

He has thoughts of peace and not of evil.
He wants to give you a mighty good end.
God is thinking about you! God is thinking about you.

He's thinking about your prayers before you pray.
He's waiting just to hear what you have to say.
He will be found of you. He will listen.
Oh, what a joy to be in His presence!
God is thinking about you! God is thinking about you.

He's thinking about the fellowship so sweet.
Your needs and desires, He's going to meet.
He's thinking about the promises that He has made.
He's thinking about getting you to your blessed place!
He's thinking about the trials that you go through.
He'll give you the strength to help you endure.
He's thinking about you each and every day.
He's thinking about getting you to your blessed place!

God is thinking about you! God is thinking about you.
God is thinking! He's thinking.
You're in His plan. You're on His mind.



Willie Taylor and Friends

September 2

Scripture Focus:

“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.” John 20:15 (**John 20:15** as paraphrased by the author of, ***In the Garden***, C. Austin Miles (pseudonym A. A. Payne), March 1912

“The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, while it was yet very dark, unto the sepulcher. Instantly, completely there unfolded in my mind the scenes of the garden of Joseph. Out of the mists of the garden comes a form, halting, hesitating, tearful, seeking, and turning from side to side in bewildering amazement. Faltering, bearing grief in every accent with tear-dimmed eyes; she whispers, “If thou hast borne him hence” ...” He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” Just one word from his lips, and forgotten are the heartaches, the long dreary hours...all the past blotted out in the presence of the Living Present and the Eternal Future.”

For Your Consideration:

C. Austin Miles began his career as a pharmacist and after abandoning that career, he began writing gospel songs. He later served as editor and manager at the Hall-Mack Publishers for 37 years. When interviewed he simply stated, “It is as a writer of gospel songs I am proud to be known, for in that way I may be of the most use to my Master, whom I serve willingly although not as efficiently as in my desire.”

Growing up in the 1960s in a traditional Black Baptist church, when the choir sang **In the Garden**, subtle transformations occurred. Although we were comfortably seated within the church walls, I could sense the cool breeze of a pleasant spring day and envisioned myself taking a walk in a majestic garden. When my father died in 1965, I would often sit outside on the patio that he had built or walk in the garden that we had tended together and be consoled in my spirit by humming this song. When I was older and became a choir member, I sang this song with fervor and reverence. I felt the Holy Spirit embracing me.

When the Spirit of the Lord dwells within one’s heart, miracles occur. Troubled, perplexed, confused, distraught, or depressed? Take a walk in the garden. Smell the roses. Notice their uniqueness. Watch the butterflies and the bees in flight. Hear the birds sing in harmony. Listen to the voice of the Savior and be comforted. He will answer, if you call. He will give you a spirit of discernment so that you can recognize His presence and be filled with the love that only He can give. Pray for understanding and meditate on His promises.

Prayer Focus:

Dear Lord, I am so grateful for our time together, especially when I am alone with You in the beauty of the world you have made. The touches of a gentle breeze, the fragrance of a beautiful flower or the flight of a butterfly or bee all remind me of Your awesomeness. The sound of birds singing is a reminder to give praise to you always. Amen

September 2

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

I come to the garden a-lone,
While the dew is still on the ro-ses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God disclos-es.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

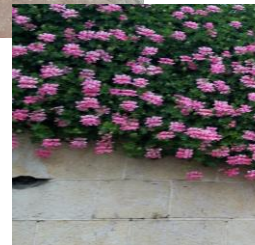
He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own.
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.



Scenes from around the Garden Tomb outside of the Old City of Jerusalem



The type of stone that possibly covered the tomb of Jesus.



September 3

Scripture Focus:

“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.” Zechariah 13:1:

For Your Consideration:

William Cowper was the son of a minister. He suffered with bouts of mental illness which during his lifetime was considered to be “an attack of temporary madness.” He tried to commit suicide because he was fearful of being publicly humiliated while trying to secure a prestigious job. He made several half-hearted, futile attempts at suicide and afterwards, he held himself in contempt. He felt scorned by others. He also felt that he had offended God so deeply that his guilt could never be forgiven. Nevertheless, he persevered and eventually realized that God can erase the stain of any sin.

What an assurance we have this day, that as we wrestle with our own minute deficiencies and may consistently berate ourselves, that God, in His omnipotence and with His Grace, allows us to become victorious examples of His goodness and love.

Cowper penned “*There Is a Fountain*” written around 1779. The former slave ship captain and author of “Amazing Grace”, John Newton, wrote the melody. It has been adapted as an American camp meeting melody and proudly sung by many Christians throughout the world. It proclaims joy in the midst of sorrows. It acknowledges healing in the body and the soul. It tells of the cleansing power of God’s Grace and Mercy toward us.

Prayer Focus:

Father, we thank you that your healing fountain is still available to us today. You truly have made provisions for our every need, even the forgiveness of sins. Amen.



September 3

There Is a Fountain

William Cowper

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see.
That fountain in his day,
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins a-way:
Wash all my sins a-way,
Wash all my sins a-way;
And there may I though vile as he, Wash all my sins a-way.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r, Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more
Be saved to sin no more
Be saved to sin no more
Till all the ransomed Church of God, Be saved to sin no more.

E're since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme
And shall be till I die
And shall be till I die
And shall be till I die
Redeeming love has been my theme And shall be till I die

When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue, Lies silent in the grave
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing Thy power to save
I'll sing Thy power to save
I'll sing Thy power to save
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing Thy power to save

September 4

Scripture Focus:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” James 4:10

For Your Consideration:

Horatio Spafford was a successful attorney in Chicago and the father of five children. He was a devout member of the Presbyterian faith, a loyal friend and supporter of the evangelist, D.L. Moody. A series of personal tragedies occurred in his life. In 1871, his only son died suddenly. Later that same year, the great Chicago fire wiped out his family’s extensive real estate investments. To help his family ease their misfortunate circumstances, he decided to take them to Europe on an evangelical mission. However, when the time for their departure arrived in November 1873, he was detained by urgent business. Nevertheless, he sent his wife and four daughters on the *SS Ville du Havre* with plans to follow. Halfway across the Atlantic Ocean the ship was struck by an English vessel and sank in twelve minutes. Only his wife was among the few to miraculously survive the ordeal. As he travelled the waterways on another vessel to be reunited with his wife in Cardiff, Wales, he was comforted by God when his ship passed the approximate place where his precious daughters had drowned. It was there that he wrote, “*When sorrows like sea billows roll... It is well with my soul.*”

Horatio’s faith and deep commitment to God first, and then his family speaks volumes! He endured the death of an only son, financial losses of a great magnitude, and the loss of his four surviving children within a span of about twenty months. How painful each of those experiences must have been for him. Yet, he didn’t wallow in his grief. He continued daily to strive to serve God as a dutiful servant. He compassionately placed the needs and well-being of his family before his own. He sought refuge in the waters that encompassed his loved ones. He found hope in the “Living Water,” - the Spirit of the Lord. Comforted, through his tears and by his trials, he penned a song that transcends time.

Will you allow God to minister to you when you are in the midst of your storms? Can your faith be evidenced by your actions and deeds? When God is the pilot of your ship and the sovereign commander of your soul, he will perform the unthinkable and remove the pain and suffering from your wounded heart. Just let him do it!

Prayer Focus:

Help me today Lord to cast all my cares upon you, because you care for me. I thank You for Your peace that surpasses all understanding, that only comes when I keep my eyes on you. I trust you with my life. Amen

September 4

It is Well with My Soul

H.G. Spafford

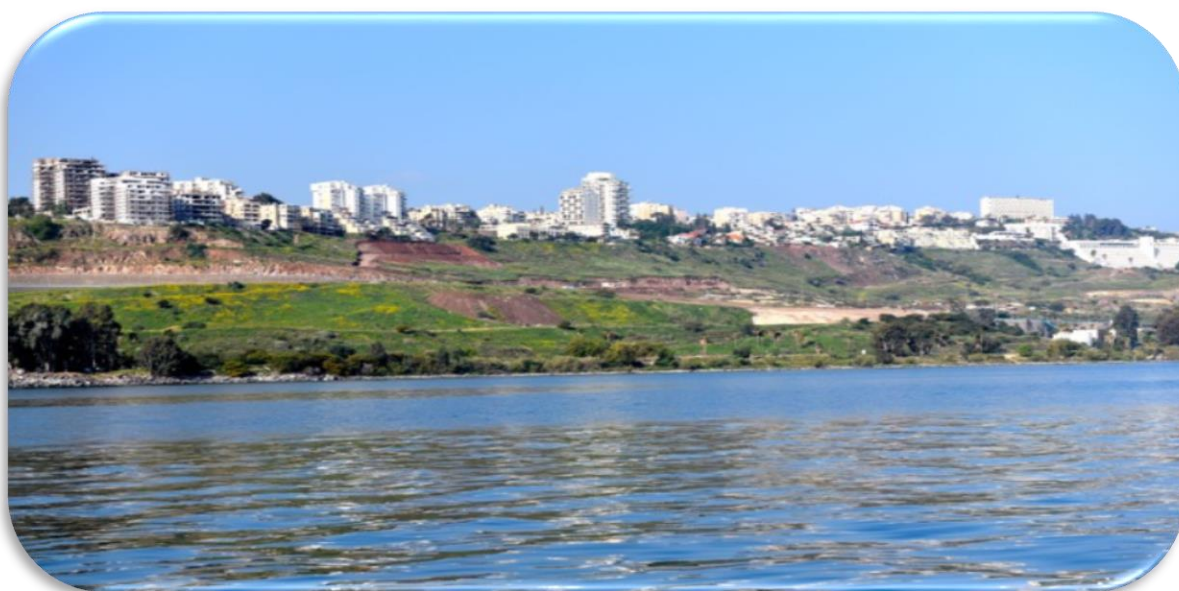
When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Chorus: It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And shed His own blood for my soul!

My sin----oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.



The Sea of Galilee with the
City of Jerusalem in the background

September 5

Scripture Reference:

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp: with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.” Psalm 98: 4-6

For Your Consideration:

Philip Doddridge’s parents died while he was a young child. However, because of the strong biblical foundation that he had received from his mother’s teachings, he grew up to be a renowned minister as well as the head of an academy where he trained over two hundred men for the ministry. He is recognized as one of England’s finest eighteenth–century hymn writers. At least five hundred of his compositions and hymns have been published since 1784 in many different Christian denominational publications.

His original version of the song, **O Happy Day**, was modernized by Edwin Hawkins in 1968. Hawkins also had a passion for singing this great testimony to the joy of sins forgiven. Its universal message resonates loudly in the hearts of diverse believers throughout the world.

Some people can actually pinpoint the exact day, hour, and location when they felt the presence of the Lord upon them. The Spirit came alive in their hearts and spoke directly to them. They openly confessed their transgressions and asked for repentance of their sins. For some it was in the sanctuary of a church. For others it could have been in the solitude of their residence or on a journey through the stormy seas of life. Whenever and wherever it happened, that resounding joy can never be forgotten. The cleansing, healing power of God is indescribable. Once you experience His presence, you cannot help but to Rejoice!

Prayer Focus:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for salvation. I thank you for the joy that now fills my heart and for the newness of life that comes in serving You. Because of Your winning the victory on Calvary, I can live rejoicing every day! Thank You for Your instructions that I find in Your Word that teaches me daily how to watch, fight and pray. With Your Lord, every day is a happy day! Amen.

September 5

Oh Happy Day

Philip Doddridge

Oh happy day,
Oh happy day,
When Jesus washed,
When Jesus washed,
Oh when He washed,
He washed my sins a-way.

He taught me how to walk, watch and pray, watch and pray
And live rejoicing ev'ry day, ev'ry day.

Oh, happy day, Oh happy day, Oh happy day!



September 6

Scripture Reference:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...” Ephesians 6:10-18 (ESV)

For Your Consideration:

Being a child of God, going to church on a regular basis, praying and reading the Bible on a daily basis will not exempt us from the troubles of this world. In fact, living a life to please God only makes us a target to be picked on by Satan. The major difference for children and servants of the Most High God is how we handle the trials that we face. We have our ‘Instruction Manual’ the BIBLE which is full of not only His promises, but also His specific instruction as to how we are to live. There is a You Tube recording that features Donnie McClurkin and Fred Hammond. In it they both talk about the various challenges they have faced in the in the past few years. Mr. Hammond indicated that he was having a difficult time walking because of double knee replacement. Mr. McClurkin stated that he had lost both parents less than ten months apart and that a few weeks after his father passed, his grandmother also died. Not long after that, pre-cancerous scar tissue was found on his right vocal cord.

There may be times when our lives resemble 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, troubled on every side, but because we serve a faithful God, we don’t have to be in distress. We may find ourselves perplexed, but we don’t have to be in despair; we may be wrongly persecuted, but our God will never forsake us; our soul may even fall cast down; but we don’t have to be destroyed. We have His Word! On Christ a solid Rock we stand, not in our own strength. When we can’t see His hand, we can always trust His heart toward us. Jeremiah 29:11

Perhaps even now you find yourself praying and crying as you go through what seems like a raging storm. Let the lyrics to “Stand” minister confidence in what you may already know to do, STAND firm and let the Lord see you through. I’m living proof that He can and will.

Prayer Focus:

Father God, we thank You for being our Solid Rock. Thank you for letting us know that there is no condemnation for those who accept You as Lord and Savior. We choose daily to wear Your armor, pray in the Spirit, and to continue to stand on your promises. In Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.

September 6

Stand

Donnie McClurkin/Sylvester Stewart

What do you do when you've done all you can
And it seems like it's never enough?
And what do you say when your friends turn away
And you're all alone, alone?
Tell me, what do you give when you've given your all
And it seems like you can't make it through?

Well you just stand when there's nothing left to do
You just stand, watch the Lord see you through
Yes, after you done all you can, you just stand

Tell me, how do you handle the guilt of your past?
Tell me, how do you deal with the shame?
And how can you smile while your heart has been broken
And filled with pain, filled with pain?
Tell me what do you give when you've given your all
Seems like you can't make it through?

Child, you just stand when there's nothing left to do
You just stand, watch the Lord see you through
Yes, after you've done all you can, you just stand

Stand and be sure
Be not entangled in that bondage again

You just stand, and endure
God has a purpose, yes, God has a plan

Tell me what do you do when you've done all you can
And it seems like you can't make it through?
Child, you just stand, you just stand, stand

Don't you dare give up through the storm, stand through the rain
Through the hurt, yeah, through the pain
Don't you bow, and don't bend don't give up, no, don't give in
Hold on, just be strong, God will step in and it won't be long

After you done all you can, after you done all you can
After you gone through the hurt, after you gone through the pain
After you gone through the storm, after you gone through the rain

Prayed and cried, prayed and cried
Prayed and you've cried
Prayed and cried, oh my

After you done all you can you just stand

September 7

Holy, Holy, Holy

John B. Dykes

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! tho the darkness hide Thee,
Tho the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!



James Grays & John Harris on the men's side of the Western Wall also known as the Wailing Wall located inside of the Old City of Jerusalem.



Grays Photography

September 7

Scripture Focus:

“And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isaiah 6:3

For Your Consideration:

My earliest memory of this hymn is that it was the official 1st Sunday song that the adult choir marched in on. I grew up in one of the oldest United Methodist Churches in the city of Houston. Many of the choir members were teachers from the local elementary through senior high schools in the area. Leading the procession was the over six foot tall Dr. Willie, the local Dr. of Optometry. His rich baritone voice melodically belting out, Holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty...” made a young impressionable girl feel as though she was in the very presence of a Holy God.

Over five decades later, whenever I hear this song my mind races back to those first Sunday mornings and images of the choir in their regal procession as they sang about a Holy God. What I am happiest about is that I now have a personal relation with the Holy God that they sang about.

I Samuel 2:2, “There is none holy as the Lord; for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.” There is no God like our God. He has promised in His Word that He would keep us in perfect peace when we trust Him and keep our minds stayed on Him. Isaiah 26:3. Verse 12:12 says “He has ordained peace for His people.”

I have found that when I begin my day with praising Him and just adoring Him for Who He Is and not only for what He has done, joy and peace are the highlight of my day. “But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy.” Psalm 59:16-17 says Unbelievers don’t know what we know about the God we serve. Verse two states: Tho the darkness hide Thee, Tho the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see...”

I challenge you to learn the verses of this almost two hundred year old hymn. When the enemy tries to disrupt your day include in your prayer, “perfect in power, in love and purity.” He is merciful and mighty.

Prayer Focus:

We exalt you O Lord our God and we worship You in the beauty of holiness. You are holy and deserving of all our praise. We bow in reverence to Your holiness. Amen.

September 8

Scripture Focus:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. ²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. Lamentations 3:22-26 (EVS)

For Your Consideration:

For many years from Monday thru Friday at 5:45 AM my radio was set to come on. It was tuned to a local Christian station and each day at that particular time the same song would play followed by scripture reading and words of encouragement. Fifteen minutes later, the alarm would blast signaling the reality of beginning the day ahead. The words to this song sustained me and got me through some perilous times in my life as I juggled, marriage, parenting, job related issues as well as my challenges of staying committed to my Christian walk. The times when I so desperately wanted to just give up and give in to what seemed easy, I could hear this is my spirit, "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me." Thomas O. Chisholm wrote this hymn in 1923 and Carol Cymbala penned a song over eighty years later titled, "He's Been Faithful." These two songs, written over seventy-five years apart, together convey a very powerful message of encouragement to the Body of Christ. It is not uncommon to hear the two combined by various artists and choirs, and rightly so, because, His faithfulness is not only great, but He has been more than faithful to me. Consider the following account of Carol Cymbala's testimony about her inspiration for writing "He's Been Faithful:

Jim and Carol Cymbala prayed and praised and preached their way through a personal 2-year nightmare. Their teenage daughter Chrissy had turned her back on the God they loved and served so faithfully. Although their hearts were breaking, Jim and Carol continued ministering to the people of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City.

Some people think that Carol wrote the song "He's Been Faithful" after her daughter's dramatic return to God, but she didn't. She wrote it before. Carol refers to it as "a song of hope born in the midst of my pain." While hurting deeply, Carol said that her song "became like a balm to my heart, strengthening me once again." The words she wrote during that time helped her to move forward. Although her daughter had not yet come back to the Lord, Carol could praise Him for His loving faithfulness in her own life.

Later, when Chrissy showed up at home and fell to her knees begging forgiveness, the truth of Psalm 119:90 became real to Carol: God is faithful not just to our generation, but to all generations! Carol also experienced in a new way a line of her own song that has blessed so many: "What I thought was impossible, I've seen my God do!" Article from Our Daily Bread February 11, 2003

Prayer Focus:

Even when we are faithless, we thank you Father for being faithful to your children. What we have thought to be impossible, we've seen You do. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto us! Amen.

September 8

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

He's Been Faithful

Carol Cymbala

In my moments of Fear
Through Every Pain Every Tear
There's A God Who's Been Faithful To Me
When My Strength Was All Gone
When My Heart Had No Song
Still In Love He's Proved Faithful To Me
Every Word He's Promised Is True
What I Thought Was Impossible I See My God Do

Chorus

He's Been Faithful, Faithful To Me
Looking Back, His Love And Mercy I See
Though In My Heart I Have Questioned
even Failed To Believe He's Been Faithful, Faithful To Me

When My Heart Looked Away The Many Times I Could Not Pray
Still My God- He Was Faithful To Me The Days I Spent So Selfishly
Reaching Out For What Pleased Me even Then God Was Faithful To Me
Every Time I Come Back To Him He Is Waiting with Open Arms
And I See Once Again

September 9

Scripture Reference:

“²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever. ²² And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.” 2 Chronicles 20:21-22

For Your Consideration:

I first remember hearing this delightful children’s song while riding in the car with my husband. I was driving, the song came on, and this middle-aged grandfather began not only singing along, but he put all of the marching, riding, shooting, arms stretched in flying motion and the saluting on the ‘yes sir’ action moves that he had learned in his then Sunday School Class. He responded to the startled look on my face by explaining that this was one of the class’ favorite. He further explained how excited the students were to be members of God’s Army. My husband worked with the Cradle Roll classes for many years. He was known (and many still address him as such today) as “Papa.”

I definitely classify this as a feel good song. As my husband was explaining the children’s excitement and joy when engaged in singing and marching, I thought how this should be every Christians’ joy’ knowing everyday of our lives, we are on active duty in God’s Army. It might even be a great idea if we got up and marched around the room a couple of times chanting, I’m in the Lord’s army! This should definitely bring a smile to our face and just might even help shrink our waistlines.

The Bible tells us that in 2 Chronicles 20:15, “And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou King Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for **the battle is not** yours, but God’s.” We don’t have to engage in a physical fight, but we must fight the good fight of faith. (1Timothy 6:12a) The Bible even describes our weapons in 2 Corinthians 10:4, “(For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds ;) Jesus defeated our enemy (Satan) on the cross. He is a defeated foe. He can and does harass us, but we must always be mindful, that the battle is the Lord’s. Every once in a while, let your child like faith have its way; march around the house with high knees, ride your imaginary horse, shoot your pretend gun, spread your wings in pretend flight and loudly sing, “I’m in the Lord’s army, yes sir!” (Then salute.) When you finish, take another lap to the Drill Team favorite, “We Are Soldiers in the Army.”

Prayer Focus:

Dear God we thank you for choosing us to be in Your army and for teaching us how to fight the good fight of faith. We choose to be happy in You. Amen.

September 9

I'm In The Lord's Army

Author Unknown

I may never march in the infantry
Ride in the cavalry
Shoot the artillery
I may never fly o'er the enemy
But I'm in the Lord's army (Yes, sir!)

I'm in the Lord's army (Yes, sir!)
I'm in the Lord's army (Yes, sir!)

I may never march in the infantry
Ride in the cavalry
Shoot the artillery
I may never fly o'er the enemy
But I'm in the Lord's army (Yes, sir!)

We Are Soldiers in the Army

Author Unknown-Traditional African Hymn

Chorus:

We are Soldiers,
In the army,
We have to fight,
Although we have to cry
We have to hold up the bloodstained banner
We have to hold it up
Until we Die!

My mother was a Soldier
Oh yes!
She had her hand on the Gospel Plow
Oh yes!
But one day she got old,
She couldn't fight anymore,
She said I'll stand here, and fight anyhow

My Father was a Soldier,
Oh yes!
He had his hands on the Gospel Plow
But one day he got old,
He couldn't fight anymore,
He said, I'll stand here and fight anyhow.

I'm so glad that I'm a Soldier
Oh yes!
I've got my hand on the Gospel Plow,
Oh yes!
One day I'll get old,
And can't fight anymore,
And I'll stand here and fight anyhow.



September 10

Scripture Focus:

“In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of GOD’s grace.” Ephesians 1:7

For Your Consideration:

Andraé Crouch wrote one of his most popular songs, "*The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power*," while still a “shy” teenager. He recalled the time he and twin sister, Sandra were attending a picnic where many older and more experienced songwriters and musicians were in attendance. Feeling intimidated by the guest list, he chose to stay inside while the others enjoyed themselves around the pool. While alone he remembered praying, “God I wish you would give me a song.” Shortly after uttering this request he recalled his ears popping and he began to see everybody moving in slow motion. No one was aware of what he was experiencing. In less than 5 minutes Crouch wrote "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power." However, lacking confidence in his work, he threw it in the trashcan. Sandra saw him and retrieved it. After reading what he had written she commented on how good it was. They sat at the piano together putting melody to the words. Their music began to fill the room and could be heard outside as well. This new sound drew the others inside and they instantly began singing along and questioning, “What is that song?” Sandra happily explained that Andréa had just written it. The words and melody brought strong emotional responses, including tears to the eyes of the crowd.

Involuntary tears are exactly what usually happen to me when I hear this awesome song. In my life experiences, Christ’s sacrifice “soothes my doubts and calms my fears” and it dries all my tears. Jesus’ blood helps me negotiate “my highest mountain” and especially “my lowest valley.” His blood atonement gives “me strength from day to day,” and I have assurance from God’s Word “it will never, never lose its’ power.” **I thank GOD for the blood. It was the blood that made the difference at Calvary.**

Prayer Focus:

Thank You God that while we were still sinners, You sent Jesus to die for us. Not because we were good enough but because You loved us, You died for us. I thank You God that we are now justified and reconciled by the blood of Jesus. Thank You that the **blood** still has miraculous power. I praise and rejoice in You. Amen and Amen!

September 10

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

Andraé Crouch

The blood that Jesus shed for me,
way back on Calvary;
the blood that gives me strength
from day to day,
it will never lose its power.

Chorus

It reaches to the highest mountain,
and it flows to the lowest valley;
the blood that gives me strength
from day to day,
it will never lose its power.

Verse 2

It soothes my doubts and calms my
fears,
and it dries all my tears;
the blood that gives me strength
from day to day,
it will never lose its power.



September 11

Scripture Focus:

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. ³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. ⁸ The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." Psalm 121

For Your Consideration:

The Israelites faced many dangers as they journeyed to the Promised Land. They could have been attacked by wild animals, ambushed by robbers from other regions, killed by oppressive heat from the sun by day, or from being exposed to the elements by night.

It was God who protected and guided them through those difficult times. Moses was their leader but God was their Keeper. Psalm 121 assures us that God will do the same for us.

It was God who created us, and we can always count on Him to keep us in perfect peace (in all of the ways mentioned above) if we keep our minds stayed on Him. Our God never slumbers nor sleeps; so why should we toss, turn and stay awake all night?

Keith Pringle with James Cleveland, and recently Marvin Sapp recorded a song called "Perfect Peace." This recording reminds us that God is the "Keeper of Our Souls." An old hymn of the church has the same message: "Oh to be Kept by Jesus." (If you're not familiar with either of these songs, go to YouTube and find "Keeper of my Soul.") Wheeler Avenue's Gospel Choir and also the Houston Mass Choir have both recorded the beautiful hymn, "Oh to be Kept by Jesus." You'll be blessed if you just read and meditate on the message given in each song.

Prayer Focus:

Father God, we thank You for keeping us from all hurt, harm, and danger. We are Your children and we bless Your Holy Name! We give You glory, honor and praise for being the Keeper of our souls.

September 11

Oh, to Be Kept by Jesus

Thurston Frazier

Oh to be kept by Jesus, kept by the power of God.

Kept from the world unspotted, treading where Jesus trod.

Oh to be kept by Jesus, kept by His power divine.

Kept thro' toil and trials, kept by His hand in mine.

Chorus:

Oh, to be kept by Jesus; Lord at Thy feet I fall.

I would be nothing, nothing, nothing;

Thou shalt be all and all.

Perfect Peace

Written by Rudolph Stanfield, Jr.

Performed by Keith Pringle; Marvin Sapp

I will keep you in perfect peace; all whose mind is stayed on Me (repeat)

Remember the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

The whole world and things that dwell therein.

It all belongs to the One who made us. He watches over me;

So why should I be bound when God has set me free?

So why should I be bound when Jesus died for you and me?

He has lifted all my burdens all away.

He is the keeper of my soul.

Let Him be the keeper of your soul.

September 12

My Tribute

Andrae' Crouch

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet You gave to prove Your love for me.
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.
To God be the glory; To God be the glory; To God be the glory
For the things He has done.
With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me
To God be the glory for the things He has done.
Just let me live my life and let it be pleasing Lord to Thee.
And if I gain any praise let it go to Calvary.
With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me
To God be the glory for the things He has done.



Thanking God for the great things He has done at the Chapel located on the Mt. of Beatitudes where Jesus preached" His Sermon on the Mount."

September 12

Scripture Focus:

“Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. ² Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 29:1-2 “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:1 & 5

For Your Consideration:

“Give glory to God, Saints! Give glory to God! I can still hear the melodious voice of Sis. Williene Jackson as she encouraged the congregation to give God the glory He deserves.

I was reading an article in a pamphlet from Our Daily Bread Ministries entitled, “Ten: How the Commandments Set Us Free” by Mark Mitchell. This article stated that in order to give God glory, we must put God first in everything we do. He made an acrostic for the word “First.”

F-FOCUS-What are you thinking about? What programs do you watch on Television? What programs do you listen to? Read Colossians 3:2

I-INCOME- How do you spend your money? Do you tithe? Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

R-RELATIONSHIPS-Who influences your life? Who are you trying to please or impress?

S-SPIRITUAL FOOD- What place does the Word of God really have in your life? How regularly do you feast on God’s Word? 2 Timothy 2:15

T-TIME- How do you spend your time? Mark goes on to say, “We all need time for relationships, for work, and for recreation. But when it’s time for things of God, we often say, I don’t have time for that.” Ephesians 5:15-16

We give God glory when we put Him first place in our lives. The late Andrae’ Crouch wrote a beautiful tribute to God. Once when asked where he got the inspiration for this particular song Andrae’ gave this explanation:

*“When I was 18 years of age, God called me to work in the Los Angeles Center of Teen Challenge, founded by David Wilkerson, author of the famed book, **“The Cross and the Switchblade.”** During my first day at the center, I came into contact with Larry Reed, half-white and half-Mexican, who had been released from San Quentin Prison. He was a totally radical guy, an atheist, who didn’t want anything to do with the Lord. However, he began to really love my music and finally became a Christian. As I was thanking God for those experiences at the teen center, I received a phone call from Larry Reed. He said, Hey Andy! This is Larry. I kind of chuckled. He said, ‘I had a dream about you the other night. I dreamed that you were going to write a song that is going to go around the world. It will be the biggest song you ever wrote, to this day. I asked, well, what do I have to read?’ He said, ‘Read John, chapter 17. In that passage Jesus said, ‘Father, I have glorified Thee, now glorify me.’ I read the passage and didn’t feel any inspiration to write. The following morning, I got up singing ‘To God be the glory.’ I asked myself, ‘Where did that come from?’ I then went to the piano and wrote “My Tribute,” in about 10 minutes.”*

Prayer Focus:

Father in heaven, how we love You. You deserve the glory, the honor, and all our praise. You are great and You are worthy to be praised. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

September 13

Scripture Focus:

(Read the Entire Chapter of Luke 15)

“And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.” Vv. 31-32

For Your Consideration:

As a nation, we are a blessed people. God has been good to America. (Read Psalm 33:12.) We have an abundance of resources in the United States. Many people who we classify as poor have more opportunities to get food, clothing, and shelter than people in other third world countries. How can such a nation as ours be so ungrateful to God?

Among the many of our freedoms is the freedom to worship in the church, temple, or synagogue of our choice. We even have the choice whether to attend a church at all.

Ungratefulness didn't start in 2016. Do you remember the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15? The son asks for his share of the father's fortune. He gets it, squanders it on women, strong drink and riotous living. Then he gets a job taking care of pigs, a horrible job for a Jewish man. He returns home thinking that he would work as a servant for his father because he felt unworthy to be called a son.

The father sees him, forgives him, and calls for a feast for the lost son. Guess who refuses to attend the celebration? His older brother!

Our lesson is this: Everything belonged to the father and he could do with his resources whatever pleased him. The older brother should have been thankful for whatever the father decided to give to him. We also should be grateful for whatever our Heavenly Father gives us. It all belongs to Him.

Sis. Valecia Kay Weeks used to sing the song of the day with the HSBC choir. She reminded us to “Thank God for All He's Done for Us.”

Prayer Focus:

Our Heavenly Father, You are high and lifted up and we give You thanks and praise for all You've done for us. We don't take it for granted that we've received Your favor. You are the giver of good gifts to those who ask according to Your will. We love You and we are ever grateful for every blessing that we receive. In Jesus' name. Amen.

September 13

Thank You Lord

Walter Hawkins

Tragedies are common place-All kinds of diseases-People are slipping away.

The economy's down-People can't get enough pay-As for me all I can say is

Thank You Lord for all You've done for me.

Folks without homes out in the streets-The drug habit some say they just can't beat.-Muggers and robbers no place seems to be safe. But You've been my protection every step of the way.

I want to say Thank You Lord for all You've done for me.

It could have been me outdoors (Thank You)

No food (thank You) No clothes (Thank You)

Or just alone (Thank You) Without a friend (Thank You)

But You didn't see fit (Thank You) To let none of these things be (Thank You)

Cause everyday Father (Thank You) You keep on keeping me (Thank You)

I want to say Thank You Lord for all You've done for me.

I want to thank You for Your love (Thank You)

I want to thank You for Your power (Thank You)

Thank You for protection (Thank You) Every hour (Thank You)

I want to say Thank You Lord for all You've done for me.

September 14

Scripture Focus:

“**No weapon** that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17 “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. ⁴One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. ⁵For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.” Psalm 27:1-4

For Your Consideration:

For the past several LTC/ Sunday School sessions, we have been taking a personal inventory of the devices or tactical weapons Satan uses against God’s people. Un-forgiveness, pride, demonic harassment are just a few of his tricks. All too often the saints of God find themselves engaged in real battles that we should never attempt in our own strength. Our Shepherd/Teacher posed this list of inquiry and also gave a very direct and doable solution. Carefully consider the following:

What is the battle that you are fighting NOW?

- Is your battle sickness?
- Is your battle the bottle?
- Is your battle sexual?
- Is your battle seeking a great mate?
- Is your battle spiritual weakness?
- Is your battle food?
- Is your battle an addiction? (does not have to be drugs)
- Is your battle aging?
- Is your battle worldly thinking?
- Is your battle profane language?

His question to us is, “**ARE YOU WINNING THE BATTLE?**” The solution her offered is, “**IF YOU ARE NOT, LET GOD CONTROL THE FIGHT!**”

Only by spending time in the Word of God, meditating upon His awesome promises and hiding it in our hearts (Psalm 119:11) will we be able to stand firm against the tricks of the devil. Isaiah does not say that weapons such as sickness, additions, job losses, or other calamities won’t happen, He emphatically states that they won’t prosper. The “b” part of the verse says that it is our right and heritage as a servant of God to condemn them because our righteousness is of Him.

Prayer Focus:

We praise your Lord that the battle is not ours, but yours. You have proven your faithfulness to us time and again. You never let the enemy triumph over us as long as we walk according to your will. We thank you for always coming through for us in every situation. We choose to trust You. Amen

September 14

No Weapon
Fred Hammond

No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work

God will do what He say He would do
He will stand by His word
And He will come through
God will do what He say He would do
He will stand by His word
And He will come through

[Chorus:]
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work

God will do what He said He would do
He's not a man that He should lie
He will come through
God will do what He said He would do
He will stand by His word
He will come through

[Bridge:]
Oh I won't be afraid of the arrows by day
From the hand of my enemy
I can stand my ground with the Lord on my side
For the snares they have set will not succeed

[Chorus:]
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work

For I Know God Will do(said he would do it) What he said he would do(said he would do it)
He will stand by his word(stand by his word), he will come through
God will do what (said he would do it) he said he he's gonna do (said he would do it) stand by his
word (stand by his word) no no no way!

[Chorus:]
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work
No weapon formed against me shall prosper, it won't work
It won't work don't be afraid of the arrows or the snares that... If you believe
say you oooo

There just ain't one (there just ain't one)
There just ain't one (there just ain't one)
No Weapon

September 15

Leave It There

Charles A. Tindley

If the world from you withhold of its silver and its gold,
And you have to get along with meager fare,
Just remember, in His Word, how He feeds the little bird;
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

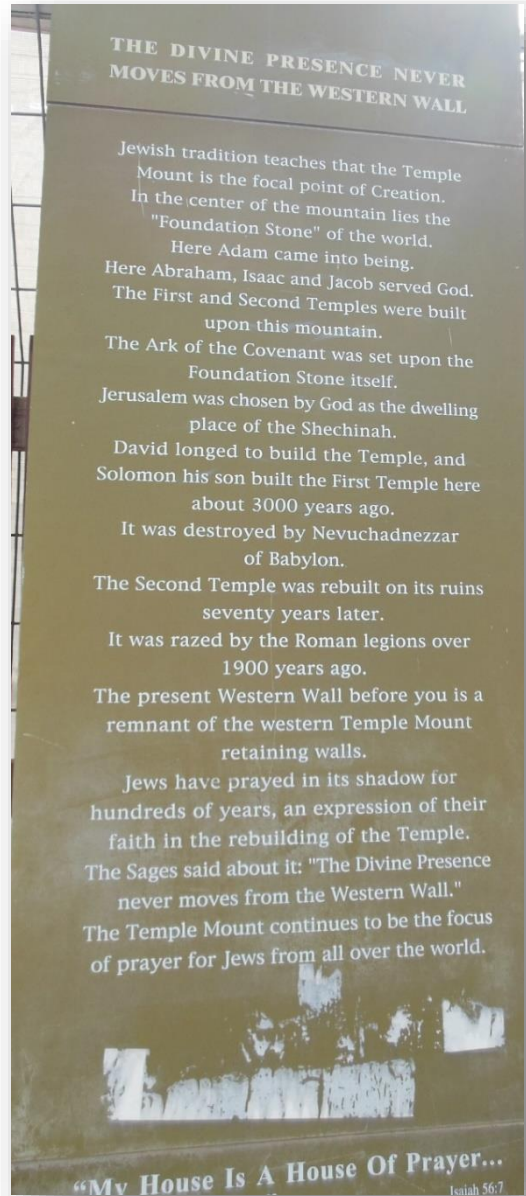
When your enemies assail and your heart begins to fail,
Don't forget that God in Heaven answers prayer;
He will make a way for you and will lead you safely
through.
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

If your body suffers pain and your health you can't
regain,
And your soul is almost sinking in despair,
Jesus knows the pain you feel, He can save and He can
heal;
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

When your youthful days are gone and old age is
stealing on,
And your body bends beneath the weight of care;
He will never leave you then, He'll go with you to the
end.
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

Refrain

*Leave it there, leave it there,
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.
If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out.
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*



Leaving Prayers at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

September 15

Scripture Focus:

“³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:31-33

For Your Consideration:

On any given Sunday morning, if a personal survey were given to Christians attending worship (at any church) it would reveal that each has a very personal need that only a Sovereign God can handle. That survey may reveal an urgent medical or financial crisis; relationship or employment woes; passing an examination for students from elementary through graduate studies; or how to navigate the new territory that comes with each birthday, especially as the candles on the cake increase.

The writer of our focus hymn is Rev. Dr. Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933). The son of a slave father and a free mother, he was self-educated. He learned Hebrew and Greek by taking correspondence courses through the Boston Theological School. Without a degree, Tindley qualified for ordination in the Methodist Episcopal Church by examination, with high ranking scores. After holding several pastoral positions in the denomination he became pastor of the very church where he once worked as a janitor. Over time the congregation grew from 130 members to an over 10,000 multiracial congregation. Now known as the “Tindley Temple United Methodist Church,” and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. A noted songwriter and composer of gospel hymns, Tindley is also recognized as one of the founding fathers of American gospel music. (Wikipedia)

Undoubtable, Mr. Tindley knew something about leaving his cares and concerns at the feet of Jesus. Like him, we too should follow the advice in today’s focus song, by taking our burdens to the Lord and leaving them there. Whatever you may be facing today, just remember, nothing is too hard for our God. When we seek Him first, we can confidently trust and never doubt that He will surely bring us out victoriously.

Prayer Focus:

Dear Jesus, we thank you that whatever the need, and regardless of our age or circumstances, we can always bring our cares and concerns to You. What you did for us on the cross has cancelled our need to fret and worry. We choose to trust You and never to doubt Your heart for your children.

September 16

Scripture Focus:

(Read John 19:16-27)

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman behold thy son!” Vv. 25-26

For Your Consideration:

As a child at Holman Street, I grew up singing the old hymns of the church. One of my all-time favorites is still “Near the Cross.” Just thinking about the pain that our Savior endured during His crucifixion brings tears to my eyes.

I heard a sermon about the people who stood near the cross while Jesus was being brutalized. The minister identified some people who were there:

1. The Roman soldiers who were there out of duty.
2. The Four women and one disciple who were there because they loved Jesus

The minister explained that today, many are like the soldiers. They come to church out of duty. They appear to be good people, all dressed up, wearing the cross around their necks. But, he said their hearts are far from God. Others, he said like the women and the disciple, love Jesus, but they are frightened to be recognized as Christ’s followers. Unlike John, the other disciples were afraid to come to the crucifixion. They probably watched from afar.

What would you have done? Would you have stood near the cross to show your love for Jesus? Would you have hidden or perhaps, just stayed at home? Today, when you’re among unbelievers, are you afraid to identify yourself as a Christian? We cannot go near the cross physically today. Now, coming near the cross means that we should have a special relationship with Jesus Christ. When we come near the cross through faith, we cannot hide ourselves. Jesus asks us to go and do the work that He has called us to do in Matt. 28:19-20.

Our hymn for today was written by Fannie Crosby who wrote over 900 songs, although she was blind from the age of 6 weeks.

Prayer Focus:

Our Father, thank You for giving us Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus. Keep us “Near the Cross until our raptured souls shall find rest beyond the river.” In Jesus’ Name we ask it all. Amen.

September 16

Near the Cross

Fanny J. Crosby

Jesus, keep me near the cross-There a precious fountain.
Free to all, a healing stream; Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Near the cross, a trembling soul- Love and mercy found me.
There the Bright and Morning Star-Shed its beam around me.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God-Bring its scenes before me.
Help me walk from day to day, with its shadows o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever.
Till I reach the golden strand-Just beyond the river.

Chorus:

In the cross, in the cross; be my glory ever.
Till my raptured soul shall find, rest beyond the river.

Note:

The Mississippi Mass Choir featuring the late Frank Williams has a beautiful recording of this great hymn of the church.



A Cross inside the Church of the Annunciation located in Galilee.

September 17

How Great is Our God

Written by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash Released in 2004

Say that You're worthy, great God, great God
You are matchless, You are boundless, Your love's unending
No one can compare with You

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice and trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands and time is in His hands
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end
The Godhead three in one, Father, Spirit, Son
The lion and the lamb, the lion and the lamb

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great, how great is our God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God and all will see
How great, how great is our God, yeah

Name above all names, worthy of our praise
And my heart will sing how great is our God
Let's share the great the, Savior of the world, Jesus

Name above all names, worthy of our praise
My heart will sing how great is our God, yeah
Name above all names, worthy of our praise
And my heart will sing how great is our God, great is our God

No one can sadden Your greatness, Your splendor
Your wonder, Your mercy is beautiful Lord, great is our God

September 17

Scripture Focus:

I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.² Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.⁴ One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.⁵ I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.⁶ And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.⁷ They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.⁸ The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.⁹ The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.¹⁰ All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;¹² To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.¹³ Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.¹⁴ The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.¹⁵ The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.¹⁶ Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.¹⁹ He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.²⁰ The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145

For Your Consideration:

Life and living all too often have a way of serving us more than we can handle in the natural. Failed relationship, financial difficulties, pressure in the workplace, overwhelmed by school assignments or just being sick and tired of being sick and tired, all reflect our frustrations.

Scripture admonishes us with these words: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." Hebrews 12:2a. NIV. When we take our eyes off our problems and replace fretting and worry with praise, encouragement and hope seem to spring forth. Meditating on the greatness of our God has a way of lifting us out of despair. One of the verses of today's featured song says, "You are matchless, You are boundless, Your love's unending, No one can compare with You. How great is our God, sing with me, how great is our God and all will see how great is our God."

Non-believers observe how we, believers in the Most High God, react to difficult circumstances and situations. Our dependence upon and faith in God are a powerful witness. Praise is a powerful weapon against the enemy and his schemes and tricks.

The next time you find yourself in the pit of despair, try encouraging yourself with the words and melody of "How Great Is Our God!"

Prayer Focus:

God, You are great, and greatly to be praised. We acknowledge you as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. How great is our GOD! Amen.

September 18

Scripture Focus:

“And Ezra blessed the Lord, the Great GOD. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” Nehemiah 8: 6
“Blessed be the LORD GOD of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen and Amen.” Psalm 41:13NIV
“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.” II Corinthians 1:20

For Your Consideration:

“Let the Church Say Amen” is featured on the Grammy® nominated CD, "The Journey" written by Andrae' Crouch and Pastor Marvin Winans sings lead.

“I’m a pastor, I say ‘let the church say amen’ and that settles it, everything has been said, you know, it’s like we have to agree with God.” But the Grammy award winner, who has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, revealed that the song means much more. Crouch experienced multiple losses in his life. His mother passed away and his father died one year later. If that weren’t enough, his brother, who became pastor of the church their father founded, died four months after taking the helm at the church. At his brother’s funeral the loss of so many loved ones weighed heavily on him: “It seemed like at the service for my brother the devil just threw them all in my face. “Now what are you going to do, your brother died?” Even though I kept saying ‘praise the Lord,’ I was hurting so bad nobody knew. During the funeral, the minister said ‘let the church say amen’, and told the church to lift their hands and praise the Lord. It was a difficult moment for Crouch. “My hand was so limp; I couldn’t even hold my hand up. “I asked the person sitting next to me, ‘will you hold my arm up?’ and I was saying ‘amen, praise the Lord’ and that’s where the seed was first sown for this particular song.

Prayer Focus:

Thank You Father for the assurance that when we pray according to Your will that You hear us and we have the confidence that if You hear us, we have the petitions that we ask for. Thank You Father that all promises You have made, are “Yes” in Christ and so through Him we say Amen.



September 18

Let the Church Say Amen

Andrae' Crouch

Make this your response... Amen.

To whatever He says... Amen

From the healing of your body. Amen.

To the raising of the dead. Amen

No matter how you're feeling. Amen

Or how your world is reeling. Amen

Battle on through the night. Amen

Cause you're going to win the fight. Amen

Even in the valley... Amen

Or standing at your red sea... Amen

Continue to say. Amen

Cause your help is on the way. Amen

I need you to say it. Amen

When your dream is about to die. Amen

Knowing that God is not a man. Amen.

He just can't lie. Amen

In spite of what the devil does. Amen

Know you've got a word... Amen

That has come from above. Amen

That settles it. Let the church say Amen

September 19

Is Your All on the Altar?

Elisha A. Hoffman

You have longed for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed;
But you cannot have rest,
Or be perfectly blest,
Until all on the altar is laid.

Refrain:

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

Would you walk with the Lord,
In the light of His word,
And have peace and contentment always?
You must do His sweet will,
To be free from all ill,
On the altar your all you must lay.

Oh, we never can know
What the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Till our body and soul
He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid.

Who can tell all the love
He will send from above,
And how happy our hearts will be made;
Of the fellowship sweet
We shall share at His feet,
When our all on the altar is laid.



September 19

Scripture Focus:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

For Your Consideration:

In 1969 pop singer Peggy Lee had a hit song titled, “Is That All There Is.” The lyrics of this song are written from the point of view of a person who is disillusioned with events in life that are supposedly unique experiences. The singer tells of witnessing her family's house on fire when she was a little girl, seeing the circus, and falling in love for the first time. After each recital she expresses her disappointment in the experience. She suggests that we “break out the booze and have a ball—if that's all there is”, instead of worrying about life. She explains that she'll never kill herself either because she knows that death will be a disappointment as well. (Wikipedia.org)

There is a great possibility that the writers of the song, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, had not taken the advice of Romans 12:1-2 in the early 1960's when they penned these lyrics. Possibility had they been familiar with the lyrics of “Is Your All on the Altar,” they would have known that there was so much more. In addition, they would have known what it took to achieve peace and contentment in life.

Elisha Hoffman grew up with his father, who was an Evangelical Association Minister and mother where they sang hymns on a daily basis. He never had any formal musical training but during his 33-year pastorate of the Benton Harbor Presbyterian Church in Michigan, he wrote the bulk of his more than 2,000 published hymns. Just a few of his hymns that may be familiar to you include: “Are you Washed in the Blood,” “I Must Tell Jesus,” and “Leaning On the Everlasting Arm.”

One verse of the songs says, “Oh, we never can know what the Lord will bestow of the blessings for which we have prayed, till our body and soul He doth fully control, and our all on the altar is laid. When we let Jesus have first place in our lives, we no longer willingly conform to the world's way of thinking and living. We can be blessed and have peace and sweet rest when we yield Him our body and soul. There is nothing wrong with academic, athletic, or career achievements. It is when there is still an emptiness and discontentment with each new achievement that you might want to try a relationship with the Lord. He can and will make a difference in your life.

Prayer Focus:

Today Jesus, I surrender my will and way of life to You. I confess my sins and give you permission to have Your way in my life. I want Your peace. I desire sweet fellowship with You. Amen.

September 20

Scripture Focus:

Please Read the Entire Chapter of 2 Chronicles 20

“And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.” V. 15

For Your Consideration:

As Christians, we face numerous battles in our daily walk with God. The enemy is constantly trying to seek and devour everyone that he can. He wants to attack our peace by wreaking havoc on our homes, our jobs, and even our churches. Second Chronicles chapter 20 tells the story of King Jehoshaphat.

The Moabites and the Ammonites along with some other tribes were on their way to attack the king of Judah. The king became very frightened when he learned that a very large army was on its way to attack his people. He called all the people together and asked them to fast. Then he prayed to the Lord and asked God to punish this approaching army because God Himself had promised them this land.

While all Judah stood before the king, the Lord’s Spirit came upon Jahaziel, son of Zechariah, a Levite. Jahaziel then told the people the reassuring words in our key scripture today. The last phrase assures us that we can’t handle Satan, “The Battle is not ours; it’s the Lord’s.”

Yolanda Adams and V. Michael McCay collaborated on our song for today. Let this song minister to you.

Prayer Focus:

Dear God, please help us to realize that all things work together according to Your will, and the battle is not ours; it’s Yours. We don’t have to wait until the battle is over, we can shout now! In Jesus’ Name. Amen and amen!



September 20

The Battle is the Lord's

Yolanda Adams/ V. Michael McCay

There is no pain Jesus can't feel. There is no hurt that He can't heal.

For all things work according to the Master's purpose and His holy will.

No matter what you're going through, remember that God wants a chance to use you. For the battle is not yours; it's the Lord's.

There's no sadness, Jesus can't feel; and there's no sorrow He's not able and willing to heal.

Remember that all things work according to God's purpose and His holy will.

No matter what you're going through remember God is only using you.

For this battle is not yours but the Lord's.

It's the Lord's (It's the Lord's) It's the Lord's.

Hold your head up high; don't you cry. It's the Lord's.

No matter what you're going through (Through)

God is only using you.

You've got to have faith (No matter what)

You've got to know in your heart (No matter what)

God loves you (He loves you)

It's not yours (It's not yours)

Hold on; hold on (Hold on, hold on)

It's not yours (It's not yours)

This battle is not yours; no it belongs to the Lord.



September 21

Scripture Focus:

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”
Ephesians 2:4-9[NIV]

For Your Consideration:

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...” So begins one of the most beloved hymns of all times, a staple in the hymnals of many denominations. The author of the words was John Newton, the self-proclaimed wretch who once was lost but then was found, saved by amazing grace. John Newton was born in London in 1725, the son of a Puritan mother and a stern ship commander father who took him to sea when he was 11 (“I am persuaded that he loved me but he seemed not willing that I should know it,” he later wrote). Although he had some early religious instruction from his mother, who died when he was a child, he had long since given up any religious convictions. In the early part of John Newton’s life he was an outspoken atheist, libertine and slave trader. However, on a homeward voyage, while he was attempting to steer his ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his “great deliverance.” He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he cried out, “Lord, have mercy upon us.” Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him.

For the rest of his life he observed the anniversary of May 10, 1748 as the day of his conversion. It was a day of humiliation in which he subjected his will to a higher power. “Thro’ many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; ’tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.” He continued in the slave trade for a time after his conversion; however, he saw to it that the slaves under his care were treated humanely. He apologized for “a confession, which ... comes too late ... It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.” Newton eventually renounced his trade and became a prominent supporter of abolitionism, living to see Britain’s abolition of the African slave trade in 1807. Newton died in 1807.

When President Barack Obama spoke at the funeral of the Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney in South Carolina in 2015, President Obama said “This whole week, I’ve been reflecting on this idea of grace. The grace of the families who lost loved ones; The grace that Reverend Pinckney would preach about in his sermons. The grace described in one of my favorite hymnals -- the one we all know: Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I’m found; was blind but now I see.

“As a nation, out of this terrible tragedy, God has visited grace upon us, for he has allowed us to see where we’ve been blind. He has given us the chance, where we’ve been lost, to find our best selves. We may not have earned it, this grace, with our rancor and complacency, and short-sightedness and fear of each other -- but we got it all the same. He gave it to us anyway. He’s once more given us grace. But it is up to us now to make the most of it, to receive it with gratitude, and to prove ourselves worthy of this gift.” I too am grateful for GOD’s amazing grace.

Prayer Focus:

Heavenly Father, I come to Your Throne of Grace, thanking You for Your Amazing Grace. Thank You Father that there is no shortage of Your Grace and it is greater than all our sins. Thank You for saving us from disgrace to Amazing Grace. Thank You that while we were sinking deep in sin Your grace and mercy saved us. I praise You and give You glory, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

September 21

Modern lyrics to Amazing Grace:

John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine.

The origin of the melody is unknown. Most hymnals attribute it to an early American folk melody. The Bill Moyers special on "Amazing Grace" speculated that it may have originated as the tune of a song the slaves sang. Some versions include an additional verse:

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

As you can see from the original version above, this verse is not by John Newton. According to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing_Grace) it was originally from a hymn called "Jerusalem, My Happy Home". It was added to a version of "Amazing Grace" by Harriet Beecher Stowe, as it appears in her novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin". In the novel, Uncle Tom joined the lyrics of several hymns together and those who learned the lyrics from that source have assumed that it was part of the original. *Time – Landon Jones 06-28-2015 The Incredible True Story Behind "Amazing Grace"*



Modern day baptism in the Jordan River
2016

September 22

Precious Lord Take My Hand

Composer Thomas Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:

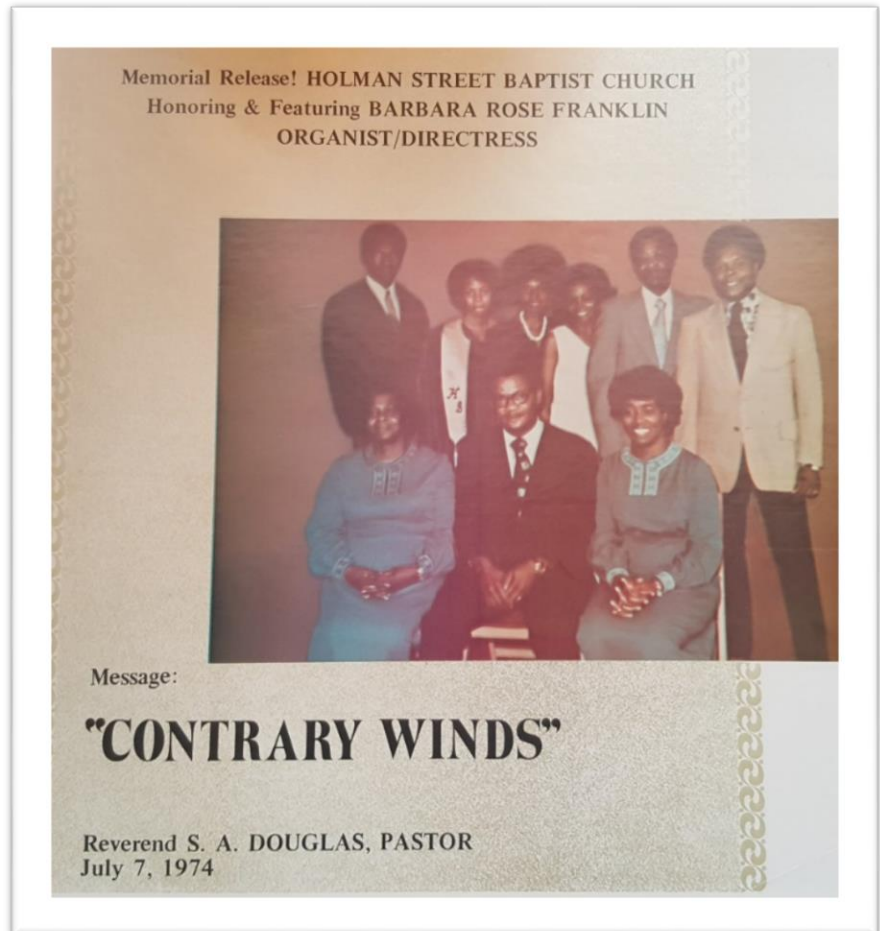
Refrain:

Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:

Refrain

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:



September 22

Scripture Focus:

"I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, 'Fear not; I will help thee.'" (Isaiah 41:13)

For Your Consideration:

Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993 - *not* the famous ball player) has an honored title of 'The Father of Gospel Music', and his music is loved around the world. The journey to this title and fame was a very difficult one.

Thomas loved music. At a very early age, long before his music education at the Chicago College of Composition and Arranging, he was playing piano in a Vaudeville act. After college, he frequented the Jazz clubs, gaining quite a reputation as the very talented "Georgia Tom.'

In 1921, at the age of 22, Thomas gave his life to Jesus. Almost immediately he left the jazz clubs and began writing Gospel music. He took great effort to circulate his musical scores, but it was three long years before anyone started to notice. Little by little his reputation grew, not only as a songwriter but as a church music director.

In 1932 while the now Reverend Dorsey was leading a church service, a man came on to the platform to hand him a telegram - his wife had just died in childbirth. Within 24 hours his newborn baby died also. Thomas quickly spiraled downward into the depths of despair, doubting the goodness of God and determining never to write another hymn.

A week after that horrible, life changing day, Thomas was deep into his grief, sitting alone at a piano, in a friend's music room. Into the room came a heavy peace such as he had never known before. As that peace enveloped him, Thomas felt the urge to play the piano. His fingers found a familiar melody and the words to *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* began to well up from his heart and to spill out of his mouth. God had given him a song that would not only lift him from despair, but would also change the course of his music career.

Like Thomas Dorsey, trust God to take hold of your hand through the difficult times. Allow him to join you, to walk hand in hand with you. Having God on your side you will not need to fear. Look at gold medal gymnast, Simone Biles and the other athletes who have had to endure negative statements about their hair, color, etc. in the 2016 Olympics. God said no weapon formed against me shall prosper, nothing, no enemy shall prosper. Our God is with thee. Just believe you are safe, being held by Him as a child in the hand of its parents, not afraid of anything. The Lord holds the right hand of his people, teaching them to walk by faith. He will strengthen us with His right hand to do his work and service. We will accomplish our goals and dreams and oppose our enemies.

Prayer Focus:

Thank you Lord God for taking hold of us with your right hand through the good times and the bad times. For you are an awesome God. In Jesus' name Amen.

September 23

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be no need for prayer
Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.



September 23

Scripture Focus:

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” John 15:13-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

For Your Consideration:

Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1896) was 25 years old, in love and to be married. The day before his wedding his fiancé died in a tragic drowning accident. Heartbroken, Joseph sailed from his homeland to start a new life in Canada. While in Canada working as a teacher, he fell in love again and became engaged to Eliza Roche, a relative of one of his students. Once again, Joseph's hopes and dreams were shattered when Eliza became ill and died before the wedding could take place.

Although one can only imagine the turmoil within this young man, history tells us that his faith in God sustained him. Soon after Eliza's death Joseph joined the Plymouth Brethren and began preaching for a Baptist church. He never married, but spent the remainder of his life giving all his time, money and even the clothes off his own back to help the less fortunate and to spread the love and of compassion of Jesus wherever he went.

Around the same time that Eliza died, Joseph received word from Ireland that his mother was ill. He could not go to be with her, so he wrote a letter of comfort and enclosed one of his poems entitled *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Many years later a friend was sitting with Joseph, as he was very ill. During this visit, the friend was very impressed when he ran across his poems, including *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. As a result of this visit, almost 30 years after his letter of comfort to his mother, Joseph's poems were published in a book called *Hymns and Other Verses*. Soon thereafter, noted musician Charles C. Converse (1834-1918) put music to *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

I was so blessed to hear my Uncle Rev. Harvey pray at the funeral of one of our cousins many years ago. He stood up behind the pulpit so serious as he always is, and just looked at us all, some crying, some not, and he said in his slow New Orleans accent. “What a Friend we have in Jesus.” He finished the first two stanza of that song before he started to pray. It was a WOW moment for me. Through the service I kept thinking about the words of that hymn. Oh what peace we forfeit and what needless pain we bear, all because we do not go to God in prayer. It was not my first time hearing the song. But that time it resonated in my spirit, and became one of my favorite hymns, and I love my Rev. Uncle Harvey for helping me to realize that even in times of grief and sorrow. What a Friend I have in Jesus.

Prayer Focus:

Thank you heavenly Father for the privilege of prayer. Thank you Father that I can bring every issue, every grief, everything to you. Thank you Jesus for being a faithful friend, and for making known to me all that you have heard from the Father. Please forgive me of my sins and create in me a clean heart. I praise You and give You all the Glory and honor. It's in the name of Your Son and my Savior Jesus name that I pray and ask it all. Amen.

September 24

Safe in His Arms

Because the Lord is my shepherd
I have everything I need
He lets me rest in the meadow's grass
He leads me beside the quiet streams
He restored my failing health
And He helps me to do what honors Him the most
That's why I'm safe
That's why I'm safe
That's why I'm safe
Safe in His arms



Sheep
grazing in a
Bethlehem
pasture.
2016



September 24

Scripture Focus:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23

For Your Consideration:

Many who were raised as “church babies” have fond memories of Christmas and Easter Program speeches, Sunday School, BYPU, Youth Conventions, Marching Drill Team and the Bible Drill Team. Participating in these various activities afforded the opportunity to memorize scripture. Chapter 23 of the Book of Psalms was usually one of the first complete chapters that many learned and recited to the delight of parents and leaders of these activities. It was a very proud accomplishment for a five or six-year-old to stand boldly, albeit nervously and finally get to the final phrase, “and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever,” bow and take his seat to a thunderous round of applause.

Reading, memorizing and learning lessons in Sunday School classes about the role of a shepherd and the attributes of sheep did not mean much to a fidgety youngster. Oh but how meaningful and full of blessings these words are to a now middle aged adult with grandchildren! These same words now speak life and hope to my very existence. There is so much comfort in knowing that “The Great Shepherd” is my provider, healer, comforter and protector. I am abundantly blessed and reassured knowing that I am safe in His arms. Psalm 23 has even become one of the “go to” passages as words of comfort to grieving families.

I am not sure just who is responsible for the modern day melody for “Safe In His Arms.”, but I do know that the words are direct quotes for the Psalm of David as recorded in the Bible. Milton Bronson and the Thompson Community Singers as well as Vickie Winans have very popular renditions of the song. Having the opportunity to minister the song, “Safe In His Arms” on many occasions, it never gets any easier to not become emotional as the words resonate and reinforce what has sustained me from a little girl in Sunday School to this very day. No matter what life brings my way, I am safe in His arms.

Prayer Focus:

Lord Jesus, I thank You for being my shepherd. Because You are, I have everything I need. There is no need for worry because I am safe in Your arms. Amen.

September 25

Scripture Focus:

⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; ⁶Who gave himself a ransom for all..." I Timothy 2:5-6a

For Your Consideration:

Acts 17:28a says, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being;" This particular passage of scripture along with today's scripture focus makes it abundantly clear that we have a friend in Jesus. We can do nothing to repay Him for willingly dying for the sins of the whole world. The bible also says that while we were yet in our sins, Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:8) A familiar saying among Christians is that Christ paid a debt that He did not owe because we owed a debt that we could not pay. To take things even further, Hebrews tells us that He (Christ) ever lives to make intercession for us. (Hebrews 7:25) Yes indeed, we owe Him our very lives.

Milton Biggum, founder and lead vocalist for the Georgia Mass Choir performed "How Much Do I Owe" in 1992, on their album titled, "I Sing Because I'm Happy." The lyrics are a vivid reminder that we owe God everything. They are a reminder to live a life of gratitude and praise. It is also a reminder that because of Christ's great sacrifice for us, we can and should live a life of sacrifice and service to others for His glory. Is there anyone who owes you an outstanding unpaid debt? Before dealing harshly with them, remember your debt to Christ

Prayer Focus:

God I thank You for allowing Your Son to pay my debt to You by dying on the cross. I owe You my life. Thank You, that as I forgive others, you continue to forgive me. May I always live a life of gratitude for all of the good things that you have done for me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

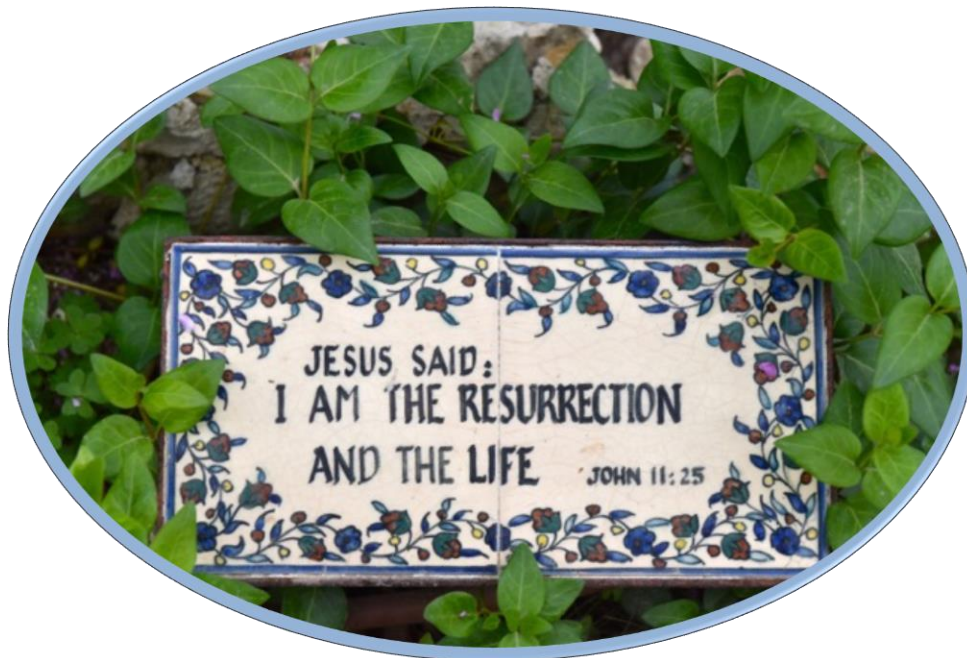
September 25

How Much Do I Owe

Milton Biggham

For all the things, You have done
And for every victory, that you have won
How much do I owe the Lord,
For the Price He paid on the cross?
So that you, you, you, you and I
Wouldn't have to be lost

How much do I owe, How much do I owe
Somebody tell me, Somebody tell me
Somebody tell me How much do I owe
I owe Him my life
I owe Him my praise
I owe Him my service
For the rest of my days
I owe Him all



September 26

Scripture Focus:

“³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35-39

For Your Consideration:

Less than twelve hours before she and her husband were scheduled to leave on the vacation of a lifetime, a dear friend tripped and fell breaking her femur. Throughout her painful and lengthy recovery, I never heard her complain. Seven months later, the couple and their friends were once again planning another fun exotic vacation. Deposits were paid and the travel group was very excited about their upcoming itinerary. Once again, the group made the trip without the couple. Six months before departure, my friend was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer. We prayed with she and her husband and did our best to bring comfort and support to the family. Just recently she sent us a video of her joyously ringing the bell signifying her completion of the treatment process.

Over the course of the last eighteen to twenty-four months, I am sure that my friend has had some good days and some hills to climb, not to mention weary days and some sleepless nights. I am a witness that as I journeyed through this ordeal with her, I never once heard her complain. There were many days and nights that during the course of our conversations she would express her feelings of gratitude for God's loving kindness for her.

Whatever challenges you may be facing, health issues, financial crisis, relationship issues, spiritual attacks from the enemy, an attitude of gratitude and dependency upon God's love for you can sustain you. (Isaiah 26:3) The God of all comfort (II Corinthians 1:3-4) is well able to bring you through like He has done for my friend. Trust Him today.

Prayer Focus:

Father God, we are so grateful that You are the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. You comfort us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. We rejoice that you are able to turn our mourning into dancing and to make our midnights into noonday light. Father we choose not to complain! Amen.

September 26

I Won't Complain

Rev. Paul Jones

I've had some good days
I've had some hills to climb
I've had some weary days
And some sleepless nights

But when I look around
And I think things over
All of my good days
Outweigh my bad days
I won't complain

Sometimes the clouds are low
I can hardly see the road
I ask a question, Lord
Lord, why so much pain?
But he knows what's best for me
Although my weary eyes
They can't see
So I'll just say thank you Lord
I won't complain

The Lord Has been so good to me
He's been good to me
More than this old world or you could ever be
He's been so good To me

He dried all of my tears away
Turned my midnights into day
So I'll just say thank you Lord
I won't complain

September 27

“YOU’LL NEVER WALK ALONE”

Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of the storm, there's a golden sky
And the sweet, silver song of a lark

Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown

Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone

You'll never walk alone



September 27

Scripture Focus:

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever.” I Peter 5:10-11

For Your Consideration:

Richard Rodgers wrote the lyrics and Oscar Hammerstein wrote the music to “You’ll Never Walk Alone” for the 1945 Broadway Musical Carrousel which has been called a story of hope and resilience. In 1972 Aretha Franklin included a version of the song on her “Amazing Grace” award winning gospel album, and Whitney Phipps has a beautiful rendition that can be viewed on YouTube.

The message of hope and encouragement found in the words of today’s featured song offer a special note of consideration to our most recent High School and College graduates:

Please note that there are will be seasons in your life when it appears as though you are going through a terrible and vicious storm, and the fact of the matter is that you may very well be. After days or perhaps weeks of this kind of agony, or better still after you have suffered for a little while, then remember the words of I Peter 5:10-11, read it with diligence and “HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH AND DON’T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK or STORM, “because at the end of the storm there is always a silver lining. With God, “YOU’LL NEVER WALK ALONE.” Also note that God may have you going through the storm for a reason, He uses storms to build your character, to develop your faith, to test your endurance, to broaden your temperament, and to help you grow spiritually. Therefore, “WALK ON THROUGH THE WIND, WALK ON THROUGH THE RAIN, THOUGH YOUR DREAMS BE TOSSED AND BLOWN, WALK ON, WALK ON,” because you will not be walking alone. Psalm 55:22 is reassurance, “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee; He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

God will perfect you, God will confirm you, God will strengthen you and God will establish you.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Father I thank you for the provisions that you have made for our High School and College graduates. I pray that they continue to work hard to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves. I pray that they would hide the words of the Bible in their hearts that they may not sin against You. Let them know without any doubt that You will never let them WALK ALONE. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

September 28

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Clare Herbert Woolston (Lyrics)/George Frederick Root (Music)

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus died for all the children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

Jesus calls the children dear,
Come to me and never fear,
For I love the little children of the world;
I will take you by the hand,
Lead you to the better land,
For I love the little children of the world.

Jesus is the Shepherd true,
And He'll always stand by you,
For He loves the little children of the world;
He's a Savior great and strong,
And He'll shield you from the wrong,
For He loves the little children of the world.

I am coming, Lord, to Thee,
And Your soldier I will be,
For You love the little children of the world;
And Your cross I'll always bear,
And for You I'll do and dare,
For You love the little children of the world.



September 28

Scripture Focus

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14)

For Your Consideration

Clare Herbert Woolston (1856-1927) was a preacher in Chicago Illinois. He wrote the words for *Jesus Loves the Little Children*. The music was written by George F. Root (1820-1895), who wrote the words and music for several well-known hymns, including *Behold the Bridegroom Cometh!*. Root originally wrote the tune for *Jesus Loves the Little Children* to accompany an American Civil War song called *Tramp, Tramp, Tramp*. Sung to the 1864 Civil War tune "[Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!](#)" by George Fredrick Root. Inspired by Matthew 19:14: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Some versions change Woolston's original words slightly by inserting the color "brown" between "red" and "yellow." Some modern versions read 'Ev'ry colour, ev'ry race, all are cover'd by His grace' instead of 'Red and yellow, black, and white, all are precious in His sight.

When we think about all the occurrences in our society today regarding the many children being killed, sometimes the song plays back in my mind that Jesus loves the little children of the world. Even though this is not a hymn, our need to reflect and remember that God is in control. He loves the little children of the world. When we think of our children being killed for no apparent reason and some were killed because of their actions, we are very saddened and wonder what about the children? What kind of world will they endure? We must trust God and remember that Jesus is the true Shepherd and He will always stand by our children. He will shield them from wrong, those who have put their trust in him. If they do stray, they will return. As parents we must continue to trust and commit our children to God.

Even though we are only familiar with the chorus of this song, the following stanza speaks volume to me:

Jesus is the Shepherd true,
And He'll always stand by you,
For He loves the little children of the world;
He's a Savior great and strong,
And He'll shield you from the wrong,
For He loves the little children of the world.

Prayer Focus:

Father in heaven, how we love You. You deserve the glory, the honor, and all our praise. Thank you for our children, thank you for loving us, Your children. Thank you for taking us by the hand, in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

September 29

Beyond The Veil

Daryl Coley

For this morning's risings, new mercies given, I thank you
For every miracle manifested, great or small I praise You
Yet there is one thing my heart desires
Is to worship You each day without fail
This is my earnest prayer, this is my earnest plea
Bid me, come ye beyond the veil

For every door now opened, every pathway cleared. Lord I thank You
For every one of my needs, You've already supplied, I praise You
Yet there is one thing my soul longs for Is to worship You face to face
This is my earnest prayer, this is my earnest plea
Bid me, come ye beyond the veil

Beyond the veil is where I witness all Your glory
Seated on your throne in majesty and power
I lay prostrate before You, Oh my King
In this place of sweet communion
This is my earnest prayer, this is my earnest plea
Bid me, come ye beyond the veil

I have entered Your gates with thanksgiving
I've entered Your courts with praise
Yet I hear You say, Come closer Step into this Holy place
And because the blood of Christ for me
It continues to prevail
Now I'm standing in Your presence, face to face
Beyond the veil

September 29

Scripture Focus

³¹And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: ³²And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. ³³And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.” Exodus 26:31-33 ³⁷ And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. ³⁸ And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.” Mark 15:37-98

For Your Consideration

As we come to the conclusion of another Holy Harvest Season we pray that you have been encouraged by what has been presented in this year’s Meditations. We hope that there is a song in your heart that will brighten your day and keep your spirit lifted. As you have spent time away from the distraction of television and social media hopefully you have been able to enhance your time spent in daily Bible reading, and prayer with an even closer walk with the LORD and a new and keener aware of His presence with you. In our focus scriptures for today we read in Exodus 26 where God gave specific instructions for the making of the vail that was to be hung in the tabernacle. Only the High Priest would be allowed to go behind it. Then in Mark we get our Good News! “And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.” Jesus’s dying in our place gave us access to the Father, He became our Mediator!

God has promised us in His Word that if we seek Him with our whole heart we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13) and that our ears shall hear a word behind us saying this is the way, walk in it. Isaiah 30:21. The late Daryl Coley had a hit recording titled, “Beyond The Veil.” Only when we deliberately and on purpose choose to spend uninterrupted, quality time with God on a consistent basis can we enjoy communion with Him in the personal way as described in this song. One verse of the song says:

*I have entered Your gates with thanksgiving
I’ve entered Your Courts with praise
Yet I hear You say, Come closer-Step into this Holy Place
And because the blood of Christ for me
It continues to prevail
Now I’m standing in Your presence, face to face
Beyond the veil*

Take your time, linger in His presence beyond the veil.

Prayer Focus

Thank you Father, for giving me unlimited access to You, through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 30

Lord Send A Revival

Baylus B. McKinney

Send a revival, O Christ, my Lord,
Let it go over the land and sea.
Send it according to Thy dear Word,
And let it begin in me.

Chorus:

Lord, send a revival,
Lord, send a revival,
Lord, send a revival,
And let it begin in me.

Send a revival among Thine own,
Help us to turn from our sins away.
Let us draw near to the Father's throne,
Revive us again, we pray. [Chorus]

Send a revival to those in sin,
Help them, O Jesus, to turn to Thee.
Let them the new life in Thee begin,
Oh, give them the victory. [Chorus]

Send a revival in ev'ry heart,
Draw the world nearer. O Lord to Thee.
Let Thy salvation true joy impart,
And let it begin in me. [Chorus]

September 30

Scripture Focus

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him that his glory may dwell in our land." Psalm 85:6-9

"Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved." Psalm 80:18-19

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." 2 Chronicles 7:14-15

For Your Consideration

Are you deeply concerned about the reaction of our world today? Will you make a difference by sacrificing your time and praying for a revival to begin in our church? When do we need a revival? When the fire has gone out in our own hearts, in our marriages and in our church? May Holman Street members and the community make a difference and start praying for our churches, families, communities and for the healing and reigniting of genuine love in all of our homes. Nothing is impossible with God. Let's become burdened about every one of our loved ones who are not saved who are headed to Hell if they do not confess with their mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. (Romans 10:9) Let's **pray scriptures** that can start a revival in us personally, our city, county, state and country. Imagine if we would all make a commitment to pray for others! What a difference we could make! Let us pray today for the Holy Spirit to revive us again!

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." **2 Chronicles 7:14-15**

Our January 2017 Prayer Still Works Conference's theme is "**Houses of Prayer Experiencing Genuine Revival.**" This conference will explore what it means to experience genuine revival from God's perspective. It will outline the role of prayer, the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing about genuine revival. We will be reminded that only God can send a true awakening – genuine revival and that revival should begin with us as individual believers. If we as individual houses of prayer experience refreshing and renewal, then our families will be impacted and our local churches, which are corporate houses of prayer, will become energized and refocused. As a result, the church at large will become a more effective force for God in the world today. We want God to revive us again. Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love. May each soul be rekindled with fire from above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Revive us again.

Prayer Focus

Father help us to hunger and thirst for you so that we stop watching so much television, reading newspapers or being on the computer for so many hours, or in chat rooms, but instead get down on our knees and pray for a revival in our own hearts, our homes, our own churches, counties and states. Please revive us again! Hallelujah. Amen!

Let us pray for a revival starting today, asking God to let it begin with me.

Notes:

My Favorite Songs:

My Favorite Scriptures:

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Visions of Faith



Bible Versions

Amplified

American Standard

English Standard

King James

New King James

New International

The Message

The Lord your

God

is with you,

Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;

in His love He will no longer
rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with

Singing!