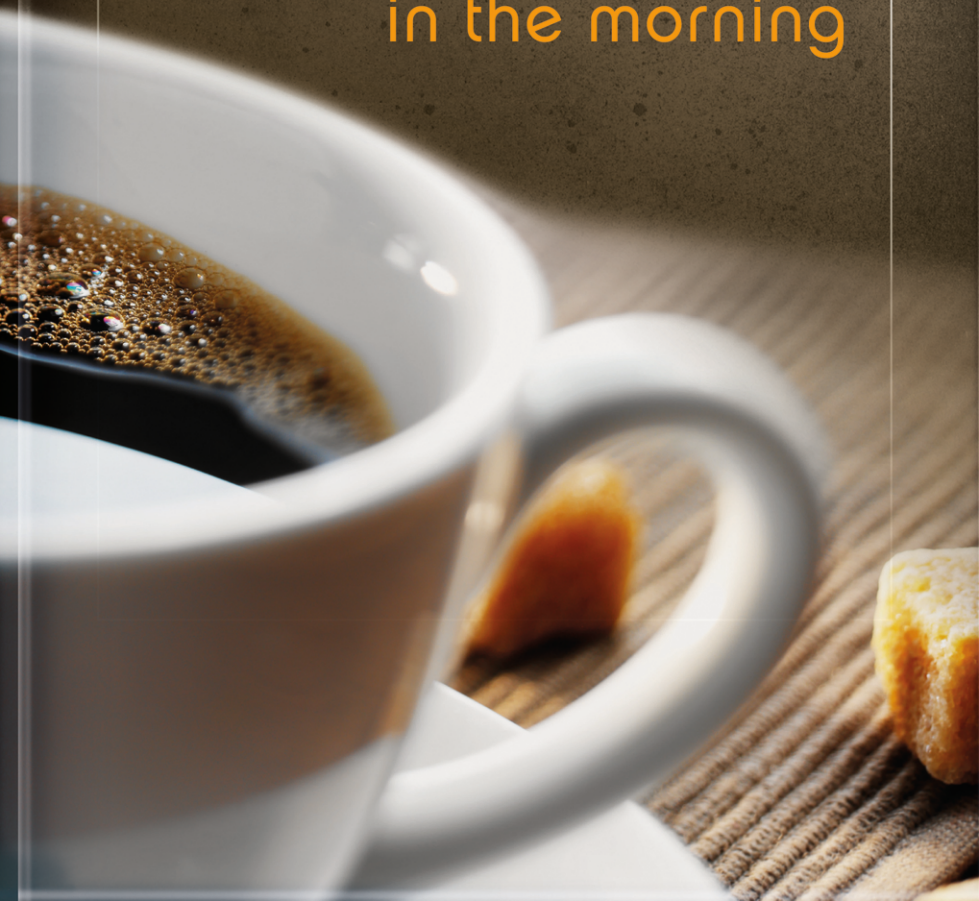


Abi May

Moments

in the morning



Moments

in the morning

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MOMENTS IN THE MORNING HAS BEEN TAKEN BOTH FROM WRITINGS that date back centuries as well as modern texts. Some were originally in languages other than English. Consequently, on these pages you will find a variety of styles, with differing conventions for punctuation, capitalisation, spelling and grammar. Quotations have been left as they were in the originals when texts were taken from contemporary writers. However, some quotations from historical authors have been adapted into more modern language for easier reading; British/American spellings, capitalisation, and other grammatical and typographical differences have also been standardised in some cases.

Texts by the compiler Abi May, identified as A. M., follow British spelling and grammatical conventions.

A variety of historical and contemporary figures are quoted throughout this book. Including a quotation is not meant to indicate agreement with everything that the author has written or done. In my view, we can enjoy these selected thoughts, no matter what their origin; there is an old anecdote that tells us: “Even a clock that has stopped is correct twice a day.” I hope you will find here an abundance of “apples of gold in settings of silver,” as Proverbs describes the right words at the right time.¹

A thematic index and a list of scripture references are also included, making this collection of readings an ideal resource for Christian teachers and leaders.

Abi May, April 2012

¹ Proverbs 25:11

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CHANCES ARE YOU START YOUR DAY WITH A DRINK OF SOME TYPE.

Thirsty? A glass of cool water replenishes your body's liquid balance. Still sleepy? A cup of coffee or tea provides stimulation. Need some energy? A glass of fruit juice restores your blood sugar, or maybe you prefer a mug of milk for body-building proteins and energy.

It does not take more than a few minutes to prepare and drink your morning liquid, but if on occasion you have to rush out of the door without it, you will notice the lack.

Enjoying this book, like your morning drink, will only take a few minutes. Each reading is designed to help you start your day out right. Some readings are quiet meditations; others are challenging. Some are devotional passages; others are a collection of thoughts. Drawn from a host of authors as well as favourite Bible passages, each selection provides a spiritual boost to start your day. Whether you need some encouragement, comfort or stamina to face the day ahead, you can find it in these pages.

Just like your favourite morning drink, you may soon find that you do not want to start your day without your *Moments in the Morning*.

Each daily reading has a theme that gives an idea of what to expect. Although the selections have been designed as daily readings, you can also travel through *Moments in the Morning* thematically, guided by the headings [symbols] on the top right-hand corner of each page. (If you are looking for something in particular, see the subject index on page 371.)



God's forever love is the theme of the *Alpha and Omega* pages. His love is nowhere seen more clearly than in His Son, Jesus, who is not only our Saviour, but much more—Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End; the Lamb and the Shepherd; the Door and the Way; the Light and the Life; our Friend.



How often do we wish that we could increase our faith?¹ *Foundations* pages explore some of the principles of faith, including the foundation upon which God grants it to us—His Word.



Special days commemorating people or events deserve our thoughts and sometimes celebrations. (A few days that are not fixed to the calendar are included in the *Special days* section on page 368.)



Life is full of challenges; climbing the mountains of challenge, appreciating the value of each day and seizing life's opportunities are vital ingredients for a successful life. You will find thought-provoking readings on *Onwards and upwards* pages.



Life is not always easy: Loss, disappointment and troubles are all part of the human condition. Yet there is comfort to be found, just as rainbows follow rain. Look for the *Rainbows* pages when you are in need of encouragement, strength or comfort.



Jesus offered the supreme advice on interpersonal relationships when He told us, in effect, that love is the most important thing.² Each of our lives touches the lives of many others: loved ones and family, friends and acquaintances, and strangers. A heart full of love will be moved to action, and that is why the pages on this theme have the title *Hearts and hands*.



When the followers of Jesus asked for help in learning to pray, Jesus responded by teaching them what is now known as the Lord's Prayer.³ Using somebody else's recorded prayer, from the Bible or another source, can be a very effective means of communicating what we want to tell the Lord. You will find example prayers, some of which are prayers of thanksgiving, every seven days.



Life's highway is busier and faster-paced than ever before. We all need occasions when we pause, take a deep breath and restore our peace before we carry on the journey. The theme of spiritual renewal threads throughout *Moments in the Morning*, and readings on this theme appear on *Renewal* pages in particular.



The treasures of the seashore include endless grains of sand, pebbles and shells—a variety of shapes and sizes—no two identical. On the *seashore* pages offer an assortment of reflections on diverse topics, ranging from the everyday to the eternal.



One of the special features you will find in this book is the messages that have been received from Jesus in prayer. Jesus, our shepherd, still speaks to His flock when we quieten our own thoughts and listen. Various individuals have graciously shared the heavenly messages they have received. "It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."⁴



"On wings of prayer, our burdens take flight," wrote Helen Steiner Rice, and oftentimes the wings that fly highest are those of gratitude. *Wings* selections explore the art of prayer and celebrate the positive up-look—above the clouds, the sun is always shining.

¹ Luke 17:5
² Matthew 22:37–40
³ Matthew 6:9–13
⁴ Joel 2:28

For Pax and Catherine

—always remembered, always loved;

And for Simon,

whose unending patience and support
has made this book possible.

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

The New Year is set before us like an unwritten volume, all of its pages blank. Let us write upon each day's page things that at the end of the year we will look upon with rejoicing rather than regret.

Mottos for Success

THE NEW YEAR COMES TO US WITH SMILES, BECAUSE IT COMES RICH AND beautiful with the boundless treasures of hope. We know not what the New Year may have in store for us, of good or of evil, but still we greet it hopefully, because we trust in the loving-kindness of our God. He will mix our cup for us, and his hand is that of a loving Father. In our anticipations of what is to come, hope predominates and hope has its roots in the boundless goodness of God.

Arthur Charles Hervey

The goodness of God endures continually.

Psalms 52:1

O LORD God ...

please give me success this day.

Genesis 24:12

One today is worth two tomorrows.

Francis Quarles

Know the true value of time; snatch, seize and enjoy every moment of it.—
No idleness, no delay, no procrastination; never put off till tomorrow what
you can do today.

Philip D. S. Chesterfield

Men spend their lives in anticipations, in determining to be vastly happy
at some period when they have time. But the present time has one
advantage over every other—it is our own. Past opportunities are gone,
future are not yet come. We may lay in a stock of pleasures, as we would
lay in a stock of wine; but if we defer the tasting of them too long, we shall
find that both are soured by age.

Caleb C. Colton

Happy the man, and happy he alone,
He who can call today his own;
He who, secure within, can say,
To-morrow, do thy worst, for I have liv'd today.

John Dryden

He has redeemed my soul in peace. ...

For He Himself is our peace.

Psalm 55:18, Ephesians 2:14

ALL THE PEACE AND FAVOUR OF THE WORLD CANNOT CALM A TROUBLED
heart; but where this peace is which Christ gives, all the trouble and
disquiet of the world cannot disturb it.

Robert Leighton

Submarine navigators tell us from their experience that storms do not
reach very deep into the ocean. The water is perfectly calm a hundred feet
down, no matter how high the breakers may rise on the surface. There is
quiet in the depths that no surface storms can disturb. This is possible,
too, in human lives; there can be serenity and peace within, undisturbed
by the storms of the world. Jesus is our peace.

Author unknown

Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace;
Thereby good will come to you.

Job 22:21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

IN THIS COMING YEAR, I CAN HELP YOU BECOME MORE LIKE YOU WANT TO be. In fact, I can do better than that! I can help you become more like I want you to be. As I do, I think you'll find that your plans for yourself and My plans for you really aren't that different. They may start out that way, but if you'll trust that I know best and go My way, you'll soon find that I was right. You will know that by the love and happiness and fulfilment you will experience, which will be much greater than anything you might have found on your own.

Jesus

There is but one way to tranquillity of mind and happiness, and that is to account no external things your own, but to commit all to God.

Epictetuses

Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

John 16:23

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His highest willingness.

Richard Chenevix Trench

Wonder at the love of God! He receives our prayers as if they were things of value. He longs that we should love him; and He receives our petitions for blessings as favours done to himself. He has greater joy in giving than we in receiving.

Gregory of Nazianzus

Our prayers and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while the one ascends, the other descends.

Mark Hopkins

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

1 John 5:14-15

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE VISIT OF THE THREE WISE MEN

NOW AFTER JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA IN THE DAYS OF Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

The star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

What can I give Him
As small as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I'd give Him a lamb.
If I were a wise man
I'd do my part.
I know what I'll give Him,
I'll give Him my heart.

Christina Rossetti

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:3-4

DEAR JESUS,

I don't know what the future holds for me, but I put that future in your hands. Thank you for the many promises you have given that encourage me to trust you. Help me to have faith as I begin this new year, to be fully persuaded that what you have promised, you will also perform.¹ No matter what life has in store, may I stay close to you and draw comfort from the knowledge that nothing can separate me from your love.² May I walk in truth, in love, in wisdom, and most of all with you.

¹ Romans 4:21

² Romans 8:38-39



In all these things we are more than
conquerors through Him who loved us.
Romans 8:37

I ARISE TODAY

Through God's mighty strength,
His power to uphold me,
His wisdom to guide me,
And his hand to guard me.

I ARISE TODAY,

Through Christ's mighty strength,
Through his death and resurrection,
Through the Spirit's empowering,
Through the presence of angels and the love of the saints,
Through the threefold Trinity to protect me from evil.

St Patrick

Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who
is fixed to a star does not change his mind.

Leonardo da Vinci

Keep a green branch in your heart and the singing bird will come.

Chinese proverb

This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:4

Blessings of heaven above,
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath.

Genesis 49:25

A WOMAN SPENT MOST OF HER LIFE YEARNING IMPATIENTLY FOR HEAVEN.

The years went slowly by, until in due time she passed from this life.

Upon her arrival in the next world, an angel took her on a tour. During
the guided visit she was shown magnificent mountains, sparkling rivers,
lush green fields, meadows of flowers, rolling hills and rich green woodland.
Leaves rustled as tall trees swayed in the gentle breeze. Vista after vista of
untold beauty unfolded, accompanied by the sounds of children laughing,
of birds singing, of music that stirred the soul.

Joy filled her heart until she exclaimed, "This is tremendous! Heaven is
all I ever dreamed of and more!" But the angel softly replied, "No. This is
the world which you lived in, but never saw."

Retold by A. M.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
Fire and hail, snow and clouds;
Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;
Mountains and all hills;
Fruitful trees and all cedars;
Beasts and all cattle;
Creeping things and flying fowl.

Psalms 148:7-10

Out of heaven He let you hear His voice,
that He might instruct you.

Deuteronomy 4:36

LEARNING TO CONVERSE FREELY WITH ME, LIKE LEARNING TO BE NATURAL, open, honest and trusting in your communications with any friend, is something that comes with time and practice. It may feel awkward or even seem like work at first, learning to come into My presence and recognize My voice, but if you will do your part by making that effort, I will speak to you. At first you may think that little voice you hear deep inside is your mind, but in time you will know that it is Mine. I may give you ideas or solutions or answers to your questions, or I may give you a feeling of peace and well-being, or I may simply tell you how special you are to Me and how much I enjoy being with you. I'm full of surprises, so you'll never know what to expect, but this one thing I promise: I will never disappoint you!

Jesus

The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8

WE MUST MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S WORD AND THE word of man. A man's word is a little sound, that flies into the air and soon vanishes; but the word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God and endures everlastingly.

Martin Luther

Many books in my library are now behind and beneath me. They were good in their way once, and so were the clothes I wore when I was ten years old; but I have outgrown them. Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

In the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psalm 88:13

Come into my soul, Lord,
As the dawn breaks into the sky;
Let your sun rise in my heart
At the coming of the day.

Traditional

The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day.

Henry Ward Beecher

I know the morning—I am acquainted with it, and I love it. I love it fresh and sweet as it is—a daily new creation, breaking forth and calling all that have life and breath and being to a new adoration, new enjoyments, and new gratitude.

Daniel Webster

The morning steals upon the night, melting the darkness.

William Shakespeare

He shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
Like the tender grass springing out of the earth,
By clear shining after rain.

2 Samuel 23:4

A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER STARTED HIS SEMINAR BY HOLDING UP A \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, “Who would like this \$20 bill?” Hands started going up.

He said, “I am going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this.” He proceeded to crumple the bill.

He then asked, “Who still wants it?” Still the hands were up in the air.

“Well,” he replied, “what if I do this?” And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. “Now who still wants it?” Still the hands went into the air.

“My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It is still worth \$20.

“Many times in our lives, we are crumpled, dropped and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God’s eyes. To him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless.”

Author unknown



Lord, teach us to pray.

Luke 11:1

TEACH ME HOW TO LET DOWN MY BURDENS AT YOUR FEET ONE BY ONE and leave them there. Instruct me in the art of tapping into the universe of power that is waiting for my command, if only I am willing to labour in prayer. Help me to go slow enough, to wait enough, that you have time to give the answers that I seek from you. Let me grow to depend on prayer as my defence, my insurance, my rest, my joy, my labour.

Teach me to pray, Lord. For some trust in their own intelligence and strength, some labour with their hands and endeavour to be great, but I will depend on you, my Lord and God, and through my prayers, you will change what needs to be changed.



Imagine ... you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you?

James 2:15–16 (adapted from The Message)

LIVE FOR SOMETHING. DO GOOD AND LEAVE BEHIND YOU A MONUMENT of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. Write your name in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with, year by year, and you will never be forgotten. Your name and your good deeds will shine as the stars of heaven.

Dr Thomas Chalmers

Little deeds of kindness, little words of love,
Make our earth an Eden like the heaven above.

Frances Sargent Osgood

Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea.
He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness
and prayed.

Mark 3:7; Luke 5:16

GOD IN HIS PEACE SPREADS PEACE ALL AROUND. TO BEHOLD HIM AT REST is to rest. You see the King, so to speak, after the day-long pleadings of all the various causes upon earth, the crowds dismissed, withdrawing from all cares, seeking his rest for the night, entering his chamber with the few, whom he counts worthy of his privacy and familiarity, resting more completely as in his own retiring-place, serener of aspect, as only looking on those whom he loves.

If any of you have been rapt and hidden in this secret sanctuary of God, so that no sense of want, no pricking care, no gnawing sin, nor, which are yet more difficult to put away, any thronging phantasms of earthly images, could at all distract or disturb you, then may you glory and say, "The King has brought me into his chamber."

Bernard of Clairvaux

A little while with Jesus, oh, how it soothes the soul,
And gathers all the threads of life into a perfect whole.

Author unknown

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.

Genesis 1:24

GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, YOU CREATED THE WORLD TO SERVE humanity's needs and to lead them to you. By our own fault we have lost the beautiful relationship which we once had with all your creation. Help us to see that by restoring our relationship with you we will also restore it with all your creation. Give us the grace to see animals as gifts from you and to treat them with respect, for they are your creation. Amen.

Prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi

A righteous man regards the life of his animal.

Proverbs 12:10

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their cry.

Psalms 34:15

THE LORD'S LOVE IS UNENDING, UNFAILING AND UNCHANGING. No matter what happens, no matter how dark it looks, no matter how difficult the battle, no matter how dark the tunnel, no matter how long the suffering, Jesus loves you—and He doesn't give His love stingily. He doesn't mete it out a little bit here or a little bit there as you earn it, and then get angry with you and withdraw His love if you are not good enough or make mistakes. That's not the way the Lord does it! He never stops pouring forth His love freely and abundantly. He never turns His back. He never closes His eyes or His ears to your needs or your cries for help and comfort.

M. S. Fontaine

If we will go with God upon the highway of love, we shall rest with him eternally and without end: and thus we shall eternally go forth towards God and enter into him and rest in him.

John of Ruysbroeck

I CRIED OUT TO GOD AND HE LISTENED TO ME. I AM IN DIFFICULTY AND I don't know what else to do but seek his help. I've been up all night; I'm so troubled I couldn't sleep. When I started to grumble and complain about my problems, then I got completely overwhelmed. Something to think about. I can't even put my sorrows into words.

Then again, I remember in the past, when things looked so bleak, he pulled me out of it. When I think back really hard and focus on what he has already done in my life, I can remember the ways he has helped me out.

Is he going to leave me this time? Won't he help me again? Won't he be merciful? Have his promises failed? Has he forgotten how to take care of me—or is he too angry this time? Something else to think about.

But I've got to go back to the crux of the matter. I've got to focus on how he has taken care of me and my loved ones all through the years.—And not just us, but so many of his children throughout the centuries. Just thinking about this and putting it into words is lifting me out of the doldrums.

Yes, God is great; he is taking care of things; he'll even do miracles if that's what it takes. He's going to work things out.

Psalms 77:1–14, loosely paraphrased

In everything give thanks; for this is the will
of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

REFLECT UPON YOUR BLESSINGS, OF WHICH EVERY MAN HAS PLENTY,
not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

Charles Dickens

Though prayer purchases blessings, giving praise keeps the quiet
possession of them.

Thomas Fuller

Praise is the best auxiliary to prayer; and he who most bears in mind what
has been done for him by God will be most emboldened to ask for fresh
gifts from above.

Henry Melville

Raise your heart continually to God, seek his aid and let the foundation
stone of your consolation be your happiness in being his. All vexations
and annoyances will be comparatively unimportant while you know that
you have such a friend, such a stay, such a refuge. May God be ever in
your heart.

Francis de Sales

Blessed be the Lord,
Who daily loads us with benefits,
The God of our salvation!

Psalms 68:19

JESUS, WHEN I FEEL WEAK, TIRED OR OUT OF SORTS, YOU'RE RIGHT THERE
to put your arms around me, to comfort me and tell me that everything is
going to be okay. You reach out and soothe my ruffled nerves, melt away
my worries and fears and blow away the confusion that seeks to surround
me.

Thank you for blessing me so! I'm so blessed to have your peace.
Thank you for delivering me from the worries of the world. Thank you for
your peace that passes all understanding. Thank you that I can sit down
for a few minutes with you and feel your soothing touch that gives me
strength to continue on in my
busy day.

Thank you, wonderful Jesus, for your touches of love that melt away the
mountains of obstacles and problems. Thank you, too, that when I feel
good, you make me feel even better.

Not that I have already attained, or am
already perfected; but I press on ... reaching
forward to those things which are ahead.

Philippians 3:12-13

EVERY YEAR OF MY LIFE I GROW MORE CONVINCED THAT IT IS WISEST AND
best to fix our attention on the beautiful and the good, and dwell as little
as possible on the evil and the false.

Richard Cecil

Faith that increaseth, walking in light;
Hope that aboundeth, glowing and bright;
Love that is perfect, casting out fear,
Crown with rejoicing thine opening year!

Frances Ridley Havergal

The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain
to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand.

Deuteronomy 28:12

I will praise You, for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.

Psalms 139:14

YOU'RE SPECIAL! YOU ARE PART OF A MAGNIFICENT, VAST, OVERALL PLAN.
You can't see that plan, but I can. You can't see how beautifully you fit in
with the overall panorama of life and the balance of the universe, but I
can. Someday you will see it too, and you will marvel together with Me at
how wonderfully it all came together and how perfect it all is.

You are unique. There has never been a person like you, nor will there
ever be another just like you. That's one of the things I like most about
you. Resist the temptation to look negatively at yourself and focus on
what you think are your shortcomings—weaknesses and inabilities, a
less-than-perfect body or personality or whatever. What you perceive as
imperfections, I perceive as uniqueness. What is perfection, after all? It is
fulfilling the purpose for which you were created, which is to love and be
loved. I love you just the way you are, and I love you as though you were
the only person in the world.

Jesus

January 24



I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall
be for the sign of the covenant between Me
and the earth.

Genesis 9:13

A rainbow ... that smiling daughter of the storm.

Caleb C. Colton

In times of trouble, it is as though the skies darken; thick clouds gather overhead. There is the rumble of thunder; down pours the rain. "Will it ever stop?" Mark Twain was asked. His reputed response: "It always has." And indeed, the rain does stop. The sun peeks through the clouds, and if we are fortunate, we will see the rainbow. Pause each time you see a rainbow, for each rainbow is a reminder of God's promises and care.

A. M.

Trust God where you cannot trace him. Do not try to penetrate the cloud he brings over you; rather look to the bow that is on it. The mystery is God's; the promise is yours.

John Macduff

January 25



IT IS BETTER TO TRUST IN THE LORD
Than to put confidence in man.

BETTER IS A DINNER OF HERBS WHERE LOVE IS,
Than a fatted calf with hatred.
Better is a little with righteousness,
Than vast revenues without justice.

BETTER TO BE OF A HUMBLE SPIRIT WITH THE LOWLY,
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.
Better is the poor who walks in his integrity
Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

BETTER IS A DRY MORSEL WITH QUIETNESS,
Than a house full of feasting with strife.
The end of a thing is better than its beginning;
The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

HOW MUCH BETTER TO GET WISDOM THAN GOLD!
For wisdom is better than rubies;
Wisdom is better than strength.

Psalms 118:8; Proverbs 15:17, 16:8, 16:19, 19:1, 17:1; Ecclesiastes 7:8;

Proverbs 16:16, 8:11; Ecclesiastes 9:16

Do you have faith?
Have it to yourself before God.

Romans 14:22

UNDERSTANDING IS THE REWARD OF FAITH. THEREFORE, DO NOT SEEK TO understand in order to believe, but believe that you may understand.

Augustine of Hippo

Faith tells us of things we have never seen, and cannot come to know by our natural senses.

John of the Cross

Faith is a grand cathedral, with divinely pictured windows. Standing without, you can see no glory, nor can imagine any, but standing within every ray of light reveals a harmony of unspeakable splendours.

Nathaniel Hawthorne

No man can do a greater honour to God than to count him true.

Patrick Hamilton

Corrie ten Boom survived a concentration camp and the death of her closest family during the Second World War. She went on to share her faith with the world, telling us, "Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible."

A. M.

Then [Saul] fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus."

Acts 9:4-5

THE COMMON EXPRESSION "TO SEE THE LIGHT" MEANS TO REALISE THE truth, and it is an allusion to the conversion of Paul (earlier known as Saul), one of Christianity's founders. The Bible describes how during his journey to Damascus, intent on persecuting believers, a light shone around him from heaven. The voice from the light told him it was Jesus.

Paul got the message directly from Jesus himself. We may not meet the Lord in such a dramatic way, but we can be assured that when we open our hearts to him, the Light of the world enters.¹

A. M.

As many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

John 1:12

¹ John 8:12



LORD,

Give us hearts never to forget your love, but to dwell therein whatever we do, whether we sleep or wake, live or die, or rise again to the life that is to come. For your love is eternal life and everlasting rest; for this is life eternal, to know you and your infinite goodness.

O let its flame never be quenched in our hearts; let it grow and brighten, until our whole souls are glowing and shining with its light and warmth. Be our joy, our hope, our strength and life, our shield and shepherd, our portion for ever. For we are happy if we continue in the love with which you have loved us; holy are we when we love you steadfastly. Therefore, dear Lord, whose name and essence is love, enkindle our hearts, enlighten our understanding, sanctify our wills, and fill all the thoughts of our hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Prayer of Johann Arndt, adapted

I am with you always.

Matthew 28:20

I AM NOT A FABRICATION, A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION, OR A FABLE. I am real—and I am what you need. I am the great problem-solver. If you want to know how to overcome life's trials, come to Me. I will give you comfort to replace anxiety, faith to replace fear, rest in place of struggle, peace in place of worry, happiness in place of sadness and answers to your questions. I will be your strength, your help in time of need, your friend and companion. That does not mean you will never have another problem or challenge in life, but I will be able to help you with life's problems. You will no longer have to try to handle things on your own, because you can call on Me.

I have all that you need, but you must open your heart to receive My blessings and love. Reach out and receive My love, and there you will find fulfilment.

Jesus

Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise
to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving
thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

BLESSINGS WE ENJOY DAILY, AND FOR THE MOST OF THEM, BECAUSE THEY
be so common, men forget to pay their praises.—But let not us, because
it is a sacrifice so pleasing to him who still protects us, and gives us
flowers, and showers, and meat, and content.

Izaak Walton

Let praise begin the day and wake	I thank thee who art day by day
The echoes of the morn,	The fountain of all love,
As I my pilgrim journey take	Whence spring the lower streams and they
In strength of life new-born.	That flow from heaven above.

To thee my thankful heart does sing,	But for thyself I thank thee most,
God, my exceeding joy;	In praises o'er and o'er—
My morning sacrifice I bring,	The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Of love without alloy.	Lord for evermore.

Author unknown

Every promise which God makes is evidence
of his good will.

John Calvin

THE BIBLE IS FULL OF PROMISES THAT GOD HAS MADE—PROMISES LADEN
with spiritual power that He wants us to apply practically. Some of His
promises are universal, like: “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall
be saved.”¹ Others were originally made to certain individuals or groups,
like, “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”²—a promise that Jesus
first made to His twelve disciples.

But God’s promises were not given solely for the sake of the original
hearers. They are for anyone who has faith enough to believe that God will
be true to His word. God means exactly what He has promised, and He
will fulfil His promises to the very letter if you will reach out with the hand
of faith and claim them in a definite manner.

Jason Rae and Shannon Shayler

¹ Acts 2:21
² John 14:14

February 1



As your days, so shall your strength be.
Deuteronomy 33:25

TODAY IS THE DAY TO LOVE, TO GIVE, TO TAKE ACTION. TOMORROW IS NOT within your realm of view, so don't worry about it. If there was ever a time to practice the art of taking one day at a time, it's now! I've given you the strength, wisdom, and nurturing you need for today, and today is all you have at this moment. I'll give you resources equivalent to your needs tomorrow, and more, all because of My love for you—love that comes from an endless reservoir. So trust.

Jesus

I love to think that God appoints
My portion day by day;
Events of life are in His hand,
And I would only say,
Appoint them in Thine own good time,
And in Thine own best way.

Anna Laetitia Waring

February 2



I am the light of the world. He who follows
Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the
light of life.

John 8:12

THE SKY IS GREY TODAY, DARK CLOUDS FILLING THE WIDE EXPANSE. THERE appears no hope on the horizon. But the sun is always shining, constantly lighting and heating the earth, keeping our planet in orbit. Just so, Jesus, the light of the world, is always with us, loving and caring for us, and keeping us on his path.

A. M.

Light is the shadow of God.

Plato

Walk in the light! And thou shalt find
Thy heart made truly His,
Who dwells in cloudless light enshrined,
In whom no darkness is.

Walk in the light! Thy path shall be
A path, though thorny, bright;
For God, by grace, shall dwell in thee,
And God Himself is light.

Bernard Barton

For in Him we live and move
and have our being.

Acts 17:28

But what is heaven, great God, compared to thee?
Without thy presence, heaven's no heaven to me.

Francis Quarles

Thou art a sea without a shore,
A sun without a sphere;
Thy time is now and evermore,
Thy place is everywhere.

John Mason

No masses of earth can block his vision as he looks over all. With one
glance of his intelligence, he sees all that has been, that is, and that is
to come.

Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has
loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,
comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the
sea, and there was a great calm.

Matthew 8:26

YESTERDAY, THE SEA WAS CALM. YOU PROMISED YOURSELF THAT YOU
would sail out into the open waters, and that nothing would stop you. Your
heart was ready; your courage at its peak. Your hands gripped the vessel's
helm and the gentle breeze calmed your spirit. You steered forward.

But today, today ... rain lashes at your ship. Towering waves roll before
you. The fog obstructs your vision so you cannot see beyond your bow. But
you don't need to see. You just know that something spurs you onward—
the same thing that gave you such peace yesterday. That thing called faith,
a belief in what you cannot see. It anticipated and rose to this challenge.
It tells you that the sun will eventually break through those murky clouds.
That knowledge buoys your spirit and guides you.

Sail on, with your focus not on the storm, but beyond it. There, your
destiny awaits you. Today is the tomorrow you dreamed of yesterday. It is
stormy, yes, but faith knows no limits, no depths, no boundaries. With your
faith in God strong, you will be able to weather any storm and sail any sea.

Sail beyond the billows!

Nyx Martinez

Do not worry about your life.

Matthew 6:25

EACH EVENT IN A PERSON'S LIFE, EACH THOUGHT, EACH DECISION, EACH bit of love and each interaction with someone else is like a thread in a tapestry. Day after day, dark threads and bright threads are woven together, often, it seems, without rhyme or reason, but in the end they form a picture.

I'm looking at the tapestry of your life now, and it's beautiful! All the good things—the happiness and fulfilment, the love you gave and received, the lives that were better because of you—these are bright threads. The dark threads are the difficulties and disappointments, the trials and the tears. These are also necessary because they make the bright threads look all the brighter and help give your tapestry its rich, warm glow.

No one else has ever woven a tapestry quite like yours, and no one could have. Your life is unique.

Jesus

God's goodness hath been great to thee. Let never day nor night unhallowed pass, but still remember what the Lord hath done.

William Shakespeare

PRAISE THE LORD FROM THE EARTH,

You great sea creatures and all the depths;

Fire and hail, snow and clouds;

Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

Mountains and all hills;

Fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle;

Creeping things and flying fowl;

Kings of the earth and all peoples;

Princes and all judges of the earth;

Both young men and maidens;

Old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

For His name alone is exalted;

His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Psalms 148:7–13

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.

Henry van Dyke



DEAR JESUS,

Thank you for Your love! Your love is light and warmth, love and caring, sharing, believing and receiving. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. It never brings fear or worry or anxiety, pressure, problems, pain or preoccupation. You only are light, life, liberty and love!—Love beyond measure, love that never fails, love that knows no hours, love that is always there, love that extends beyond the tides of time.

Your love reaches up to the highest star, and even reaches down to the very depths of the deepest sea. Your love knows no days, no nights, no hours. It's always! It's forever, and goes on and on and on and on and on and on!

My song shall be of you, Lord,
Your mercy crowns my days.
You fill my cup with blessings,
And tune my heart to praise.



Suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

Matthew 9:20–22

THE GOOD INSTRUCTOR, THE WISDOM, THE WORD OF THE FATHER, WHO made man, cares for the whole nature of His creature. The all-sufficient Physician of humanity, the Saviour, heals both our body and soul, which are the proper man.

Clement of Alexandria

Let us come in the simplicity of sickness, in the helplessness of want; to trust is to be healed, to touch the hem of his garment is to be whole; but let us keep touching him, for virtue is ever coming from him.

Lady Theodosia Powerscourt

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:1-2,14

THE LONGER YOU READ THE BIBLE, THE MORE YOU WILL LIKE IT; IT WILL grow sweeter and sweeter; and the more you get into the spirit of it, the more you will get into the spirit of Christ.

William Romaine

The Bible is to us what the star was to the wise men; but if we spend all our time in gazing upon it, observing its motions, and admiring its splendour, without being led to Christ by it, the use of it will be lost to us.

Thomas Adams

We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true.

1 John 5:20

He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work.

Exodus 35:35

ALL THE PERFORMANCES OF HUMAN ART, AT WHICH WE LOOK WITH PRAISE or wonder, are instances of the resistless force of perseverance: it is by this that the quarry becomes a pyramid, and that distant countries are united with canals. If a man was to compare the effect of a single stroke of the pickaxe, or of one impression of the spade, with the general design and last result, he would be overwhelmed by the sense of their disproportion; yet those petty operations, incessantly continued, in time surmount the greatest difficulties, and mountains are levelled, and oceans bounded, by the slender force of human beings.

Samuel Johnson

If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counsellor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius.

Joseph Addison

Love, simplicity and humility—if you embrace these three qualities, you can't go wrong.

Mottos for Success

THE WORLD MEASURES GREATNESS BY MONEY, OR ELOQUENCE, OR intellectual skill, or even by prowess on the field of battle. But here is the Lord's standard: "Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."¹

John Henry Jowett

"I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."—Thus wrote Helen Keller, blind, deaf and dumb from infancy.

A. M.

If you are humble, nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.

Mother Teresa

Come to me, all you who labour and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28–30 (WEB)

EVERY TIME YOU FEEL THE CARES AND BURDENS OF THIS LIFE, PICTURE yourself taking that backpack of burdens and throwing it off your shoulders and then walking away from it. Will you do that for Me today? Don't even look back, wondering if I'm going to take care of your burdens. I will. I promise to take all your burdens upon Myself, as My Word says.

Jesus

"Come unto Me, ye weary, and I will give you rest."

O blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace and peace,

Of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

William C. Dix

¹ Matthew 18:4 (kjv)

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ... made us alive together with Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-5

God will never leave thee,
All thy wants He knows,
Feels the pains that grieve thee,
Sees thy cares and woes.

When in grief we languish,
He will dry the tear,
Who His children's anguish
Soothes with succour near.

H. S. Oswald

The Lord's love is amazing! When we are reassured of His love, it gives us the faith to reach beyond our own limits and confines, and enables us to step out into the unknown and reach our full potential. It helps us to believe that anything is possible. His love gives us confidence. His love gives us faith.

M. S. Fontaine

God loves you as though you are the only person in the world, and He loves everyone the way He loves you.

Augustine of Hippo

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE LOVE

Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.

Song of Solomon 8:7

Love is not blind. Love is the only thing that sees.

Frank Crane

The heart of him who truly loves is a paradise on earth; he has God in himself, for God is love.

Abbé Hugo Félicité de Lamennais

Love is an image of God, and not a lifeless image, but the living essence of the divine nature which beams full of all goodness.

Martin Luther

In peace, love tunes the shepherd's reed; in war, he mounts the warrior's steed; in halls, in gay attire is seen; in hamlets, dances on the green. Love rules the court, the camp, the grove, and man below, and saints above; for love is heaven, and heaven is love.

Sir Walter Scott

To love another person is to see the face of God.

Victor Hugo



AS THE DEER PANTS FOR THE WATER BROOKS,
 So pants my soul for You, O God.
 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
 When shall I come and appear before God?
 My tears have been my food day and night,
 While they continually say to me,
 “Where is your God?”

WHEN I REMEMBER THESE THINGS,
 I pour out my soul within me.
 For I used to go with the multitude;
 I went with them to the house of God,
 With the voice of joy and praise,
 With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

WHY ARE YOU CAST DOWN, O MY SOUL?
 And why are you disquieted within me?
 Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him
 For the help of His countenance.

Psalm 42:1-5



The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,
 To the soul who seeks Him.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
 righteousness,
 For they shall be filled.
 Blessed are the pure in heart,
 For they shall see God.

Lamentations 3:25; Matthew 5:6,8

I KNOW THAT, IF ANY OF YOU HAVE TASTED THE SWEETNESS OF CHRIST,
 you would be content to abide in him for eternity.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Filling up our time *with* and *for* God is the way to rise up and lie down
 in peace.

David Brainerd

The capital of heaven is the heart in which Jesus Christ is enthroned
 as King.

Sadhu Sundar Singh

O God, who art the truth, make me one with thee in everlasting love! I am
 often weary of reading and weary of hearing; in thee alone is the sum of
 all my desires. Let all teachers be silent, let the whole creation be dumb
 before thee, and do thou only speak to my soul.

Thomas à Kempis

February 17

HH
hearts and
hands

If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others?

Matthew 5:46-47

LOVE IS GREATER THAN FAITH, BECAUSE THE END IS GREATER THAN THE means. What is the use of having faith? It is to connect the soul with God. And what is the object of connecting man with God? That he may become like God. But God is Love. Hence faith, the means, is in order to love, the end. Love, therefore, obviously is greater than faith. "If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

Henry Drummond

He that sows, even with tears, the precious seed of faith, hope and love, shall doubtless come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him,² because it is the very nature of that seed to yield a joyful harvest.

Richard Cecil

February 18

AO
alpha and
omega

I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."

Revelation 21:3

EVERY NATURAL LONGING HAS ITS NATURAL SATISFACTION. IF WE THIRST, God has created liquids to gratify thirst. If we thirst for life and love eternal, it is likely that there is an eternal life and an eternal love to satisfy that craving.

Frederick William Robertson, adapted

We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth.—There is a realm where the rainbow never fades, where the stars will be spread out before us like islands that slumber on the ocean, and where the beings that pass before us like shadows will stay in our presence forever.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton

As it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

¹ 1 Corinthians 13:2 (ASV)

² Psalm 126:6

I WANT YOU TO BRING ME INTO EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE. I WANT YOU TO think about Me, to talk to Me, and to listen to Me, and to learn to follow where I lead. I don't ask this because I want to harness or control you, but because I love you. I want to provide for you and protect you and shower you with love. I want to be with you and around you and in you all the time, like a lover wants to be with the one he loves.

When you include Me in whatever it is you're doing, it strengthens our relationship; it draws you closer to My Spirit, and we form stronger bonds of love and communication. The more we talk, the more you come to Me for companionship, the more you look to Me for answers to your questions and solutions to your problems, the more you bring Me into each area of your life, the more our love will grow and the greater satisfaction you will find in life, because all you do will be blessed with My presence.

Jesus

Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous.

Judges 18:5

WHY SHOULD WE THINK THAT UNLESS WE HEAR A BOOMING, AUDIBLE voice thundering from the top of Mt. Sinai, or unless we see the throne of God in the midst of an emerald sea with a rainbow round about, we are not *really* hearing from Him? The "still, small voice" came neither in the wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire.¹ David's messianic prophecies came in song. Jeremiah dictated his message of woe to the king, and Baruch wrote it "upon a roll of a book."²

Mike Holland

God is your true friend and will always give you the counsel and comfort you need.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

¹ 1 Kings 19:11,12
² Jeremiah 36:4



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE LANGUAGES

We hear them speaking in our own tongues
the wonderful works of God.

Acts 2:11

Language is the light of the mind.

John Stuart Mill

Language is an anonymous, collective and unconscious art; the result of
the creativity of thousands of generations.

Edward Sapir

Language is the amber in which a thousand precious thoughts have been
safely embedded and preserved.

Richard Chenevix Trench

You live a new life for every new language you speak.

Czech proverb

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If
you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

Nelson Mandela

You are worth as many men as you know languages.

Attributed to Charles V

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold
In settings of silver.

Proverbs 25:11



My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD ;
In the morning I will direct it to You,
And I will look up.

Psalms 5:3

O LORD,

Grant me the blessing of greeting the coming day in peace. Help me in
all things to rely upon your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal your
will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat
all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm
conviction that your will governs us all. In all my deeds and words guide
my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all
are sent by you. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and
embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of this coming
day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray yourself
in me.

Prayer of Filaret Drozdov, adapted

How great are His signs,
And how mighty His wonders!

Daniel 4:3

In the vast and the minute, we see
The unambiguous footsteps of the God
Who gives its lustre to the insect's wing,
And wheels his throne upon the rolling worlds.

William Cowper

The universe is one of God's thoughts.

Friedrich Schiller

What is a miracle? I know of nothing else but miracles. Every hour of the light and the dark is a miracle. Every cubic inch of space is a miracle. Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread with the same; every foot underground swarms with the same. The sea is a continual miracle. The fishes that swim, the rocks, the motions of the waves, the ships with men in them. What stranger miracles are there?

Walt Whitman

The wise man's eyes are in his head, he sees with an inner sight, and discovers God everywhere at work.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

Revelation 21:6

SAGES OF THE EARTH,

Christ is the key of your problems, the completion of that philosophy which you resume without ceasing, but never finish;

Troubled spirits, he is your peace;

Lovers of wealth, he is your true treasure;

Men, he is the word that solves the enigma of life, and conquers the power of death.

He alone binds us to the author of our being, and to universal order.

Alexandre Rodolphe Vinet

I believe there is no one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus—not only is there no one else like him, but there could never be anyone like him.

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Even the sparrow has found a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may lay her young—
Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts,
My King and my God.

Psalms 84:3

WHEN YOU HEARD THE BIRD SINGING THIS MORNING OUTSIDE YOUR window, that was a sign of My love for you. I knew that the bird's song would encourage you. You see how I take care of the birds? How I supply food for them, shelter for their young, and how I put a song in their heart, how carefree and happy I make them?

That's exactly what I would like to do for you too, every day of your life—care for you, supply all of your needs, and make you carefree and happy. All you need to do is come to Me and trust in My power that I am able to do it, and I will.

Jesus

Hear my cry, O God;
Attend to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I will cry to You,
When my heart is overwhelmed;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalms 61:1-2

SHOULD WE FEEL AT TIMES DISHEARTENED AND DISCOURAGED, A confiding thought, a simple movement of heart toward God will renew our powers. Whatever he may demand of us, he will give us at the moment the strength and the courage that we need.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

From one disaster after another he delivers you; no matter what the calamity, the evil can't touch you.

Job 5:19 (The Message)

Grant, O God, that amidst all the discouragements, difficulties, dangers, distress and darkness of this mortal life, I may depend upon your mercy and on this build my hopes, as on a sure foundation. Let your infinite mercy in Christ Jesus deliver me from despair.

Thomas Wilson

February 27

HH
hearts and
hands

There is a wonderful law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else.

Peyton Conway March

YOU LEARN TO SPEAK BY SPEAKING, TO STUDY BY STUDYING, TO RUN BY running, to work by working; and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves.

Francis de Sales

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer, no disease that enough love will not heal. No door that enough love will not open, no gulf that enough love will not bridge. No wall that enough love will not throw down, no sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble, how hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake. Sufficient love will dissolve it all.

Emmet Fox

February 28

my
prayer

It is good for me to draw near to God;
I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,
That I may declare all Your works.

Psalms 73:28

JESUS,

I can be thankful even for the struggles in my life and the things that are difficult, because they force me to turn to you for help and you always give me the answers. You make things so clear and easy to understand. All I have to do is turn my heart to you and receive.

Without difficulties, disappointments, and failures, I wouldn't have come to know your compassion, your understanding and your forgiveness, and I wouldn't be able to pass them on to others.

Thank you for all the things you bring my way to keep me humble and make me more dependent on you. Thank you for keeping me close to you.

"For the mountains shall depart
And the hills be removed,
But My kindness shall not depart from you,
Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,"
Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

Isaiah 54:10

I WILL HEAR WHAT GOD THE LORD WILL SPEAK,
For He will speak peace
To His people.
LORD, You will establish peace for us,
For You have also done all our works in us.
Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD—
Your salvation according to Your word.

Psalms 85:8; Isaiah 26:12; Psalm 119:41

O God, you are the unsearchable abyss of peace,
The ineffable sea of love,
And the fountain of blessings.
Water us with plenteous streams
From the riches of your grace;
And from the sweet springs of your kindness,
Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace.

Clement of Alexandria

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful
also in much.

Luke 16:10

Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you
have seen me do and heard about.

St David

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Take your needle, my child, and work at your pattern; it will come out a
rose by and by." Life is like that; one stitch at a time taken patiently, and
the pattern will come out all right, like embroidery.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

It's not a single, great, heroic deed that defines who you really are. It's the
little things you do day by day that count.

Mottos for Success

March 2



God is my strength and power,
And He makes my way perfect.

2 Samuel 22:33

THIS LIFE AND ITS LIMITED EXISTENCE CAN BE SO FULL OF CARE, WORRY, and fear if you let those things in. But if you instead choose to accept My love and My perspective in all things, you will begin to see the opportunity in every difficulty, the positive in every negative situation. You will have the faith to rise above this finite world and accept that there is a higher plan for your life and that I am the one who is ultimately in control.

Jesus

The life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

March 3



The path of the just is like the shining sun,
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 4:18

ALL OF US CARRY THE FUTURE IN US, THE HOPES, THE DREAMS, THE GOOD and the evil, the potential to create a better world, if we can only make the right choices, if we are only willing to pay the price, to search for the goal and reach out for it.

We all search for love at some time or other, and so love will come to us. But how will we treat it when it arrives? For love might come to you as a princess, or as a beggar, or a slave; majestic and glorious, or uncomely and in rags, and void of respect. Though we cannot choose who we are when we are born, and what kind of life we get born into, still we can choose how to live our lives and what kind of person we will be when our earthly path ends.

Colin C. Bell

In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.
Isaiah 30:15

Stillness of spirit is like the canvas for the Holy Spirit to draw his various
graces upon.

John Love

Have you ever stopped to listen to the silence? Quietness is a virtue, and
it takes practice to perfect. But it's so beneficial. Quietness teaches you
stillness of mind. Your mind must be quiet for you to really enjoy that state
of quiet calm.

Mottos for Success

Lift up my soul, O Lord,
above the weary round of harassing thoughts,
to your eternal presence.

Lift up my mind
to the pure, bright, serene
atmosphere of your presence,
that I may breathe freely,
and rest there in your love.

From there, surrounded by your peace,
may I return to do or to bear
whatever shall best please you,
O blessed Lord.

Prayer of Edward Pusey, adapted

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?
And not one of them falls to the ground apart
from your Father's will. But the very hairs
of your head are all numbered. Do not fear
therefore; you are of more value than many
sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31

I SIT HERE AND CONSIDER THE LILIES, AND BEHOLD THE SPARROWS, AND
know that as the Lord is taking care of them, he will certainly take care of
us. Whenever one sparrow falls to the ground, our heavenly Father knows
that it has fallen. How much more is he looking after us! Each of us is
special to him.

Author unknown

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Civilla D. Martin

March 6



Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Psalm 90:2

DEAR LORD,

How brief is our span of life compared with the time since you created the universe. How tiny we are compared with the enormity of your universe. How trivial are our concerns compared with the complexity of your universe. How stupid we are compared with the genius of your creation. Yet during every minute and every second of our lives you are present, within and around us. You give your attention to each and every one of us. Our concerns are your concerns. And you are infinitely patient with our stupidity. I thank you with all my heart—knowing that my thanks are worthless compared to your greatness.

Prayer of Fulbert of Chartres

March 7



So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:12

ACCORDING TO RESEARCHERS, ON AVERAGE IT TAKES 66 DAYS TO FORM A habit. Add some new activity into your daily routine—such as taking a walk after dinner, eating fruit in the mid-afternoon, or having five minutes of quiet meditation when you wake in the morning—and if you're still doing it two months later, it is likely you'll be doing it automatically.

Did you make a resolution at the start of this year? If so, and you've been able to keep it up, you have successfully integrated a new feature into your daily living. Today is the 66th day! If you haven't yet, it's never too late to start.

A. M.

We think very little of time present; we anticipate the future, as being too slow, and with a view to hasten it onward, we recall the past to stay it as too swiftly gone. We are so thoughtless, that we thus wander through the hours that are not here, regardless only of the moment that is actually our own.—To eternity itself there is no other handle than the present moment.

Blaise Pascal

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Woman was taken out of man; not out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled underfoot; but out of his side to be equal to him, under his arm to be protected and near his heart to be loved.

Matthew Henry

DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY, THE FLEDGLING MOVEMENT suffered considerable persecution. Gatherings of any number could draw the attention of the authorities, yet even under these circumstances, Mary, the mother of a follower named John Mark, opened her house for prayer meetings.¹ She was presumably a widow, as the biblical text refers to the house as her own, not her husband's. She knew the risks, but that did not stop her opening her doors. In doing so, she was not only supporting the new church, but also her own son, and stands as yet another example of the generosity and bravery of women.

A. M.

There were also women looking on from afar ... who also followed [Jesus] and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Mark 15:40-41

¹ Acts 12:12

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
And with my song I will praise Him.

Psalms 28:7

God has two dwellings: one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.

Izaak Walton

Joy is the echo of God's life within us.

Joseph Marmion

Gratitude is the memory of the heart; therefore forget not to say often, I have all I have ever enjoyed.

Lydia M. Child

A map tells us where we're going and a compass tells us the direction to travel, but Owen Young gives us heavenly directions: "Praise, more divine than prayer; prayer points our ready path to heaven; praise is already there."

A. M.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Psalms 100:4

I heard the voice of the Lord.

Isaiah 6:8

I'M LIKE A BUTTERFLY FLOATING DOWN FROM HEAVEN. I FLUTTER DOWN TO rest on your shoulder. I am gentle and unobtrusive. You can talk to Me about any of those secret thoughts that you have—those inner thoughts that are not talked about or shared with anyone else. You can tell Me anything that weighs on your heart.

I will listen to your heart's cries and they will be our secret. I will then carry them away up to heaven, and you will feel a healing balm on your life and your heart which will help you to carry on. I look forward to these times together, where you speak and I listen.

Then, I can fly high to heaven with all that you have given to Me, and you can know that the answers are on their way to you in heaven's time. Your secrets will be turned into prayers, and the answers that you receive will be tailored just for you.

Jesus

I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

Leviticus 26:4

FOUR FRIENDS WERE REMINISCING OVER A DRINK. IT SO HAPPENED THAT during the course of the year, each in turn had passed through a picturesque valley some distance away, well known for its pear orchards.

The first friend had passed through the area in winter. He described his disappointment at driving through a bleak landscape of twisted, bare trees. The second friend disagreed with his negative appraisal of the countryside; the trees had been covered with green buds. The third had passed through a little later in the year, and during his visit the trees had been filled with sweet fragrant blossoms.

The last friend had seen something different from all of them. "The orchards were heavy with ripe golden fruit!" In fact, the sweet pear cider they were drinking had been bottled in that valley.

Sometimes we think we know the whole picture, but we are only seeing a part, just as each of the friends had only seen one season of life in the valley. It may seem like winter in our lives, but the promise of spring, the beauty of summer and the fulfilment of autumn await us.

Retold by A. M.

Unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

IN THE WORDS OF BETTIE J. EADIE, NEAR-DEATH SURVIVOR AND AUTHOR of *Embraced by the Light*: “Heaven in all its glory could be summed up in one word: Christ. He is the light of creation, the joy of all life, and above all, the deepest love of our souls. To embrace Him is to embrace the meaning of life and the eternal power of God.”

A. M.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

Henry van Dyke

The LORD will guide you continually.

Isaiah 58:11

GOD SPEAKS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS. AS YOU READ THE BIBLE, HE WILL often cause a particular passage to stand out to you and show you how it applies to your situation or how it answers a question you may have. He may speak to you through vivid dreams or visions. He may speak through godly counsellors, people who are strong in faith and knowledge of God’s Word and ways, who he inspires with advice that he knows will benefit you.

God is also able to speak to you directly. Under special circumstances, some people hear God speak in an audible voice, like the child prophet Samuel did¹ and as appears to have been the case when he spoke to the prophet Elijah through a “gentle whisper” when Elijah was desperate for God’s guidance.² Usually, however, he speaks in our minds at those times when we get quiet, clear our minds of other busy thoughts, ask him to speak and then wait for an answer. Sometimes he may not even use words; he may just give you an impression or inner conviction, a sort of intuitive knowledge about a particular situation.

Alex Peterson

¹ 1 Samuel 3

² 1 Kings 19:11–12

March 14



March 15



HEAVENLY FATHER,

Thank you for another fresh start today. The most important thing I want to do with this day is share it with you. Before I do anything else, I want to sit right here, at your feet, and listen to what you have to tell me today. If you want to tell me anything, here I am, Lord. You have my undivided attention. If you have any direction, counsel, guidance, words of wisdom—or maybe even some practical tips that could help me to make it through this day—or any of your sweet words of love, here I am. I'm listening.

This is my favourite part of each brand-new day, this time in the morning when I can put aside the cares of life to listen to you and find the strength I need to make it through the day. Thank you for this time.

In the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

The end of all is love,

And the crown of love is peace.

Emma Marshall

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS, BUT HAVE not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1–3, 13

They are the true disciples of Christ, not who know most, but who love most.

Frederick Spanheim

Love is not getting, but giving. Love is ... the best thing in the world, and the thing that lives the longest.

Henry van Dyke

March 16



Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 1:12

WHAT IS THIS INHERITANCE?

It is a tearless state: God himself will wipe away all tears. *Now* He puts them into His bottle; *then* He will stop their flow.

But it is also a place. There is a heavenly “city.”¹ This suggests the idea of locality, society, security; there will be sweet companionship.

It is a “fold” where all the sheep of the Good Shepherd will be safe: He who brought them there will guard them.

It is a “kingdom:” and there the glory of God will be revealed.

It is a “feast:” and there the bounties of the great Giver will be enjoyed.

It is a “garden,” an Eden, a paradise: and there will bloom, in immortal freshness, the most beautiful and fragrant flowers.

It is an inheritance in light.

Rev Canon Money, adapted

Now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Ephesians 5:8

¹ Revelation 21

March 17



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE ST PATRICK

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

PATRICK (373–465 AD), THE PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND, IS SAID TO HAVE used a shamrock—a three-leaf clover—to explain the three parts of the Godhead: God the Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit.

Patrick would hold up a shamrock and challenge his hearers, “Is it one leaf or three?”

“It is both one leaf and three,” was their reply.

“And so it is with God,” he would say.

Retold by A. M.

All glory to the Father,
The unbegotten One;
All honour be to Jesus,
His sole begotten Son;
And to the Holy Spirit—
The perfect Trinity.
Let all the worlds give answer,
“Amen—so let it be.”

Columba

March 18



"With everlasting kindness I will have mercy
on you,"
Says the LORD, your Redeemer.
Isaiah 54:8

NO MATTER WHAT, YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE MY UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. IT
will see you through anything. It will be a light in dark places, a compass
when you are lost, an anchor to hold you fast in a storm, and a warm
blanket to comfort you when you are alone and cold.

Treasure My unconditional love. Know that it doesn't cost you anything,
but has been freely given to you from someone who loves you to the core.
Jesus

Bless the LORD, O my soul ...
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:2-5

March 19



Oh, the depth of the riches both of
the wisdom and knowledge of God! How
unsearchable are His judgments and His
ways past finding out!

Romans 11:33

AS WELL MIGHT A GNAT SEEK TO DRINK IN THE OCEAN, AS A FINITE
creature to comprehend the Eternal God. A God whom we could
understand would be no God. If we could grasp him, he could not be
infinite: if we could understand him, then were he not divine.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

To believe in God for me is to feel that there is a God, not a dead one,
or a stuffed one, but a living one, who with irresistible force urges us
towards more loving.

Vincent van Gogh

LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below
like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk
before You with all their hearts.

1 Kings 8:23

Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Galatians 6:7

The gardens of kindness never fade.

Greek proverb

Wherever there is a human being there is a chance for kindness.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles, and kindnesses, and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort.

Sir Humphrey Davy

In this world of hurry, and work, and sudden end,
If a thought comes quick of doing kindness to a friend,
Do it that very minute; don't put it off, don't wait;
What's the use of doing a kindness, if you do it a day too late?

Author unknown

God's got you covered. He's watching out for you, and he guarantees that all decisions made for love will be rewarded.

Author unknown

I will give thanks to You, O LORD ...

And sing praises to Your name.

2 Samuel 22:50

ON MY LIPS ARE PRAISES TO YOU, MY GOD. IN MY HEART I WANT TO continually sing songs of thanksgiving to you, my Lord. In my mind I want to continually think thoughts of goodness towards you, my King. Your mercy endures forever. Your tenderness and forgiveness are without end. Your love envelops me as a warm, soft summer breeze. It refreshes my soul; it gives me life and strength and vision.

In my weakness I look to you, O my God. In my sinfulness, I look to you, and I find strength and forgiveness and the realisation that your love is without end. I know that I am undeserving. I am unworthy of such love and such forgiveness. I am unworthy of such tender care. But I find such peace of mind, such satisfaction and contentment in knowing that you care for me.

March 22



March 23



Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say,
rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

“WHEN I THINK UPON MY GOD, MY HEART IS SO FULL OF JOY THAT THE notes dance and leap from my pen; and since God has given me a cheerful heart, it will be pardoned me that I serve Him with a cheerful spirit.”—So spoke the creative inspiration of composer Franz Joseph Haydn.

A. M.

A praiseful heart can find joy in so many things—learning a skill, walking through the woods, meeting a friend, viewing a beautiful sight, cooking a good meal, giving a gift, teaching a child, helping someone in need, finding ways to serve, discovering a new truth, appreciating an old one, reaching out to God in prayer, passing His love on in little or big ways. There are so many things in life to be happy about—simple things, little things, joyous things, precious things.

Jesus, please help us to seize each opportunity for enjoyment of all You’ve given us. Help us to see all the sparkles You’ve put in our path and to not fail to thank You for them, knowing that they and You are what make life wonderful.

Chloe West

Then [Jesus] came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.” Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

Mark 8:22–25

WE DON’T ALWAYS UNDERSTAND WHY THINGS ARE OUT OF FOCUS. HOURS turn into days, and days into weeks, and it seems there is a never-ending stream of things to take care of. Then one morning we wake up, and we just feel at a loss. Where are we heading? It’s hard to keep going when our vision is blurred.

The solution is there waiting for us: First of all, step aside with Jesus, “out of town” in spirit if not in body. Focus on him. Have patience; the answer doesn’t always come right away, but in those quiet moments, resting in prayer and meditation, he will restore our vision.

A. M.

March 24



[JESUS] CAME TO A CITY OF SAMARIA WHICH IS CALLED SYCHAR. ... NOW Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink. ... If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst."
John 4:5-15

March 25



Truly God is good.

Psalms 73:1

DARKNESS IS FLED.—NOW FLOWERS UNFOLD THEIR BEAUTIES TO THE SUN, and blushing, kiss the beam he sends to wake them.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

If the sun of God's countenance shines upon me, I may well be content with the rain of adversity.

Author unknown

What we count the ills of life are often blessings in disguise, resulting in good to us in the end.—Though for the present not joyous but grievous, yet, if received in a right spirit, they work out fruits of righteousness for us at last.

Matthew Henry

The very word "God" suggests care, kindness, goodness; and the idea of God in His infinity, is infinite care, infinite kindness, infinite goodness.

Henry Ward Beecher

There are many who say,

"Who will show us any good?"

LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.

For You are my lamp, O LORD;

The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.

Psalms 4:6; 2 Samuel 22:29

What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?
For ... You have crowned him with glory
and honor.

Psalm 8:4-5

AS SMALL AS WE MAY FEEL, AS INSIGNIFICANT AS WE MAY JUDGE
ourselves to be in the great scope of the world and history, God thinks
about each of us. He “is mindful” of us. The God who set the great
creation into motion, the same God knows the very hairs of our heads,¹
knows our thoughts and plans,² knows our secret sorrows just as He
knows our wishes.³ We are not alone in the universe; God knows and loves
me and you.⁴

A sense of wonder accompanies this realisation of the distinct love
of God for each of us, each solitary individual. We can surely conclude
along with David, “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the
earth!”⁵

A. M.

¹ Luke 12:7
² Hebrews 4:12
³ Psalm 38:9
⁴ John 3:16
⁵ Psalm 8:9

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making
mention of you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:16

IT'S A SACRIFICE TO PRAY FOR OTHERS. IT COSTS YOU TIME AND EFFORT,
but it's a sacrifice that pleases Me.

If you haven't made prayer a habit, don't worry; I see your heart. If you
don't know where to start, don't worry; I see your heart. If you don't feel
eloquent, don't worry; I see your heart. If you think you don't have much
faith, don't worry; I see your heart. It's your love and concern that moves
My hand to meet the needs of those you pray for.

So put your love into action, your faith to work, and My promises to the
test by praying for others, and I will more than repay.

Jesus

March 28



The LORD is my shepherd.
So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture,
Will give You thanks forever;
We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

Psalm 23:1; Psalm 79:13

O OUR SAVIOUR! OF OURSELVES WE CANNOT LOVE YOU, CANNOT FOLLOW you, cannot become one with you, but you came down that we might love you. You ascended that we might follow you. You bound us close to you that we might be held fast to you.

Since you have loved us, make us love you. Since you found us when we were lost, be yourself the way, that we may find you and be found in you, our only hope and our everlasting joy.

Prayer of Edward Pusey

March 29



This hope we have as an anchor of the soul,
both sure and steadfast.

Hebrews 6:19

WE DO NOT STEADY THE SHIP BY FIXING THE ANCHOR ON ANYTHING THAT is inside the vessel. The anchorage must be outside of the ship. And so the soul does not rest on what it sees in itself, but on what it sees in the character of God, the certainty of his truth, the impossibility of his falsehood.

Dr Thomas Chalmers, adapted

I've an anchor safe and sure, that can evermore endure.
[I withstand] the tempest's shock, for my anchor grips
the rock.

Through the storm I safely ride, till the turning of the tide.
For in Christ I can be bold, I've an anchor that shall hold.

And it holds, my anchor holds;
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail;
By His grace I shall not fail;
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.

William Clark Martin

A FAMILY HAD A FEW APPLE TREES AT THE BOTTOM OF THEIR GARDEN. THE trees yielded more fruit than could be eaten immediately or given to neighbours, so some needed to be stored for the coming months.

One autumn, little Tommy was finally big enough to help his mother store the apples. They had been picked and piled up in a basket with care, as bruised apples will spoil. Now it was time to transfer them to storage racks in the cellar.

Tommy, eager to help, put his arms around a dozen shiny apples and tried to carry them over to the rack. To his dismay, one by one the apples dropped out of his arms until they were all on the floor.

His mother wasn't too worried. "Here, let me show you," she said gently as she put his hands around one apple. "Take this one and put it over there, and then come back and get another one."

Too often we try to put our arms around a year or a month or a week, but God tells us, "Take it a day at a time." We aren't equipped to carry all of our future cares at once, but we can face each challenge as it comes.

Retold by A. M.

Heaven, the treasury of everlasting joy.

William Shakespeare

JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY, "OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."—AND THAT'S WHY heaven is heaven. God is there.

A. M.

The happiness of mankind is not to be found in this life; it is a flower that grows in the garden of eternity, and to be expected in its full fruition only in that life which is to come.

Matthew Hale

This is the house of complaints, heaven is the house of praise; this is the house of sorrow, heaven is the house of joy; this is the house of pilgrimage, heaven is the house of our abode; this is the house of our misery, heaven is the house of our eternal solace, when there shall be no end of our joy and rejoicing. Wait, and then, for behold he comes with ten thousand of his saints.

Andrew Gray

If God hath made this world so fair, where sin and death abound, how beautiful, beyond compare, will paradise be found.

James Montgomery

¹ Matthew 6:34

¹ Luke 11:2

Take heed, and beware of all covetousness;
for a man's life does not consist in the
abundance of his possessions.

Luke 12:15 (RSV)

HE WHO PROVIDES FOR THIS LIFE, BUT TAKES NO CARE FOR ETERNITY,
is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.

John Tillotson

Beware what earth calls happiness; beware all joys, but joys that never
can expire.

Edward Young

Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the subject of
your desire.

Thomas à Kempis

Lift up our hearts, O Christ, above the false shows of things, above
laziness and fear, above selfishness and covetousness, above whim
and fashion, up to the everlasting Truth that you are; that so we may live
joyfully and freely, in the faith that you are our King and our Saviour, our
Example and our Judge, and that, so long as we are loyal to you, all will
ultimately be well.

Charles Kingsley

"What is truth?"

John 18:38

IT SEEMS THAT EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK TODAY, SOMEONE IS MARKETING
"the truth" in the form of some new book, program, or product. Who are
you supposed to believe—and how much will it cost you?

Jesus has the real article. "If you abide in My word," He promises, "you
are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall
make you free."¹ You can rest assured that the Bible tells the truth. Become
familiar with its precepts and you will have a standard by which you can
measure all things.

Jason Rae and Shannon Shayler

The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks *through* his telescope, then he
sees worlds beyond; but if he looks *at* his telescope, then he does not see
anything but that. The Bible is a thing to look through, to see that which is
beyond.

Phillips Brooks

For the word of the LORD is right,
And all His work is done in truth.

Psalms 33:4

¹ John 8:31–32

My prayer is to You,
O LORD, in the acceptable time.

Psalm 69:13

THE PRAYER THAT BEGINS WITH TRUSTFULNESS, AND PASSES ON INTO waiting, will always end in thankfulness, triumph and praise.

Alexander Maclaren

God looks not at the oratory of your prayers, how elegant they may be; nor at the geometry of your prayers, how long they may be; nor at the arithmetic of your prayers, how many they may be; not at the logic of your prayers, how methodical they may be; but the sincerity of them He looks at.

Thomas Brooks

O my divine Master, teach me to hold myself in silence before you, to adore you in the depths of my being, to wait upon you always and never to ask anything of you but the fulfilment of your will. Teach me to let you act in my soul, and form in it the simple prayer that says little but includes everything. Grant me this favour for the glory of your name.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Wait on the LORD.

Psalm 37:34

THE REALM OF PRAYER IS SO VAST AND THE ANSWERS AND RESOLUTIONS to a problem can be so numerous. Don't tie your expectations and faith only to the solution that you have in mind. It might not be what I have planned for you.

Consider a man in the woods who encounters a giant tree blocking his path. I could lift him over it, I could tunnel him under it, I could lift it, I could help him climb it, I could show him a way around it, or I could even help him to see why it's not My will for him to cross it in the first place. But all that the man prays for is a chainsaw—his ideal solution to the problem. He shouldn't be disappointed if I don't supply that saw, because maybe My answer to the situation is not at all what he was expecting.

Don't be so stuck on a situation ending up exactly as you think it should that you miss the other options that I wanted to use to bring the ultimate answer to your prayer.

Jesus



Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
Sing praises on the harp to our God,
Who covers the heavens with clouds.
Psalm 147:7-8

The soul would have no rainbow had the eyes
had no tears.
John Vance Cheney

Life is not a cloudless journey,
Storms and darkness oft oppress,
But the Father's changeless mercy
Comes to cheer the heart's distress;
Heavy clouds may darkly hover,
Hiding all faith's view above,
But across the thickest darkness
Shines the rainbow of His love.
Flora Kirkland

Why should we hang down our heads? Why do we not pluck up good
hearts and be of good cheer? God is our father, our best friend, our daily
benefactor. Let us, therefore, rejoice and be merry; for heaven is ours,
earth is ours, God is ours, Christ is ours, all is ours.
Arthur Dent

The next day a great multitude that had come
to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was
coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm
trees and went out to meet Him, and cried
out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the
name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"
John 12:12-13

EXCITEMENT MOUNTED. AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD HAD GATHERED, SOME
waving branches of palm trees. Others, to show their respect, spread
clothes on the road before him. Shouts of praise rang out. The
tumultuous, joyous entry of Jesus is described in all four Gospels,
signifying just how important this event was.

Just as those men, women and children of long ago welcomed Jesus
into their city, we can each welcome him into our lives. When we greet
him with the same enthusiasm, love and respect that they showed, we are
rewarded with the joy of his presence.
A. M.

To you before your passion	You accepted their praises;
They sang their hymns of praise;	Accept the prayers we bring
To you now high exalted	Who in all good delights,
Our melody we raise.	Oh good and gracious King.

Theodulph of Orleans, adapted

April 7



April 8



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE WORLD HEALTH DAY

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:19

LOOK TO YOUR HEALTH; AND IF YOU HAVE IT, PRAISE GOD AND VALUE IT next to a good conscience; for health is the second blessing that we mortals are capable of—a blessing that money cannot buy; therefore value it, and be thankful for it.

Izaak Walton

Wellness—balance of health of body, mind and soul—is something to work and pray for. The Lord promises restoration of health, healing and safekeeping. Let us do our part so He can do what we cannot.

A. M.

‘For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,’ says the LORD. Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily.

Jeremiah 30:17; Isaiah 58:8

I will meditate on the glorious splendor
of Your majesty,
And on Your wondrous works. ...
I will declare Your greatness.

Psalms 145:5–6

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE, JESUS. THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME AS I AM and loving me in spite of all my many weaknesses. Thank you for leaving your Father and your heavenly home and coming down to earth to be a sample of love for us. Thank you for dying for me that I may live with you forever.

I thank you, Jesus, that I’m able to travel the road of life with you as my constant companion. I thank you for revealing to me our ultimate destination, your heavenly kingdom. Thank you for the heavenly kingdom that you have prepared for your children, a place of such beauty and happiness!

Thank you, Jesus, that your love, mercy and patience with me is not the same as mine is for others. Your love cannot be measured. Your mercy is higher than the heavens. Your patience is deeper than the deepest sea. Your understanding of my problems and cares gives me comfort and faith. I love you! I praise you! I honour and extol you!

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well.

James 2:8

OUR GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY TO LOVE OTHERS IS SPELLED OUT IN THE Old Testament,¹ and asserted by Jesus² and His followers.³ Christian authors through the ages have returned repeatedly to the theme. One of these, Betty J. Eadie, expressed our duty beautifully when she wrote,

“Whatever we become here in mortality is meaningless unless it is done for the benefit of others. Our gifts and talents are given to us to help us serve. And in serving others we grow spiritually. We are here to help each other, to care for each other, to understand, forgive and serve one another. We are here to have love for every person on earth.”

A. M.

Be loving—because God is love.

Mottos for Success

Behold, I will bring it health and healing;
I will heal them and reveal to them the
abundance of peace and truth.

Jeremiah 33:6

ISOLATED FROM INFANCY DUE TO BEING DEAF AND BLIND, AFTER MUCH effort Helen Keller learned to communicate and went on to achieve a place of influence in the world. Aptly she tells us, “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

A. M.

May you have enough happiness to keep you sweet,
Trials to keep you strong, sorrow to keep you human;
Hope to keep you happy, failure to keep you humble;
Success to keep you eager, friends to give you comfort,
Wealth to meet your needs, enthusiasm to look forward;
Faith to banish depression,
And determination enough to make each day better than yesterday.

Author unknown

¹ Leviticus 19:18

² Matthew 22:39

³ Galatians 5:14

April 11



April 12



He poured out His soul unto death...
And He bore the sin of many.

Isaiah 53:12

The nail-pierced hands of Jesus reveal the love-filled heart of God.

Author unknown

A man who was completely innocent offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.

Mahatma Gandhi

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,
Eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,
Eternal power, be our support,
Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
Eternal pity, have mercy upon us;
That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength
We may seek thy face
And be brought by thine infinite mercy to thy holy presence;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alcuin of York

Who shall separate us from the love
of Christ?

Romans 8:35

TEST MY LOVE WHEN YOU FEEL LONELY. WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE NO ONE cares and there is no love to be found, that is the time to rest, to lie back in My arms and find peace. And when you are discouraged and you feel like you are a great big mess—look up into My wonderful face and see Me smile upon you, for I love you just the way you are!

When you feel weak, I will be strong for you. When you feel confusion, I will give you peace. When you feel fearful, I will comfort your heart. When you are doubting, I will give you faith. When you feel strain, I will bring relief. When you feel lost, I am right here to be found. When you feel useless, I will give you a purpose. When you feel anguish, I will give you joy. When you lack confidence, I will be your assurance. When you feel muddled and cloudy, I will give you clarity of thought. When all seems dark and stormy, I will be your shining light.

In big ways or small ways, I'm always there, ready, willing and waiting to shower you with love.

Jesus

Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face
to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall
know just as I also am known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

Brief life is here our portion;
Brief sorrow, short-lived care;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life, is there.

And He, whom now we trust in,
Shall then be seen and known;
And they that know and see Him
Shall have Him for their own.

There grief is turned to pleasure;
Such pleasure as below
No human voice can utter,
No human heart can know.

The morning shall awaken,
The shadows flee away,
And each true hearted servant
Shall shine as doth the day.

And after fleshly weakness,
And after this world's night,
And after storm and whirlwind,
Are calm, and joy, and light.

There God, our King and Portion,
In fullness of His grace,
We then shall see forever,
And worship face to face.

Bernard of Morlaix, translated by John M. Neale

I go and prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also.

John 14:3

The LORD is your keeper;
The LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.
The LORD shall preserve your going out
and your coming in
From this time forth, and even forevermore.

Psalms 121:5-8

O CHRIST, THE KEEPER OF US ALL, LET THY RIGHT HAND GUARD AND
protect me day and night, when I rest at home, when I walk in my work
abroad, when I lie down and when I rise up, that I may not anywhere fail.
I commit my whole being unto thee; take charge of me; provide for all my
real needs, from this moment forth and always.

Prayer of Nerses

April 15



April 16



Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.

Psalm 51:12

TO REGAIN YOUR JOY OF THE LORD, YOU HAVE TO LOOK PAST ALL YOUR other priorities, all the things that keep you busy, all the things that you are bored with, and you have to realise that despite all those things, you have already obtained the most valuable asset you could possibly gain in any walk of life—eternal life.

That's the joy of the Lord—to realise that you are a sinner, but that I have forgiven you; to realise that I unconditionally love you; to realise that I will never give up on you; to realise that at any point when you reach out and take My hand, I will take it immediately into Mine and forgive you; to realise that you will one day enter eternal joy and heavenly bliss forever.

Jesus

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!

For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.

For You are great, and do wondrous things;
You alone are God.

So I will go about Your altar, O LORD,
That I may proclaim with the voice of
thanksgiving,

And tell of all Your wondrous works.

Psalm 75:1; 86:10; 26:6–7

IMAGINE A SMALL CHILD WITH A BIRTHDAY PRESENT. EXCITEDLY HE OR SHE tears off the wrapping paper to discover what is in the package. Eyes widen as the new toy is revealed, and there is a shriek of joy. Perhaps she hugs the doll with golden hair, or perhaps he starts racing around the room pushing the little car.

That's a tiny picture of the sense of wonder and appreciation we read in the Psalms—so let us express our own wonder and appreciation for all God's gifts.

A. M.

Let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving, and for every breath a song.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

April 17



April 18



There is a time to be born, and a time to die, says Solomon,¹ and it is the memento of a truly wise man; but there is an interval between these two times of infinite importance.

Leigh Richmond

There is not a single moment in life that we can afford to lose.

Edward M. Goulburn

What is not started today is never finished tomorrow.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Have you ever dreamed a great dream or had an inspiring idea, but then went back to your daily routine and lost sight of it? The next time inspiration knocks, invite it in.

Mottos for Success

Time is not a commodity that can be stored for future use. It must be invested hour by hour, or else it is gone forever.

Thomas Alva Edison

Now is the watchword of the wise.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Romans 11:29

IN MY GARDEN, EACH FLOWER IS DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE, BEAUTIFUL AND special to My eyes. Each flower is a unique colour, and a unique size, and serves its own purpose and has its own place in the garden, and its own place in the heart of the Gardener. And I take each flower in My hand and I look upon it with great love and mercy. I water these flowers with the tears of My sympathy. I shine upon each flower the warmth of My love. I protect each flower with My own hands. I look upon it with great tenderness and I know each flower personally.

So do I know *you*—each of you is unique to Me. Each of you is a special flower in My eyes. Each has its own place, and its own purpose and calling.

Jesus

¹ Ecclesiastes 3:2

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

John 14:2-3

ETERNITY IS THE DIVINE TREASURE HOUSE, AND HOPE IS THE WINDOW, BY means of which mortals are permitted to see, as through a glass dearly, the things which God is preparing.

William Mountford

Our home, our country, is heaven, where there are no sorrows, nor fears, nor troubles: this world is the place of our travel and pilgrimage, and, at the best, our inn.

Matthew Hale

I have a home, forever free
From toil, and care, and misery,
Where stormy seas can never roll,
Where bliss eternal crowns the soul.

I have a home prepared for me,
A mansion bright across the sea;
And when I pass to yon bright shore,
I'll dwell with Christ forevermore.

Barney E. Warren

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD ,
The people He has chosen as His own
inheritance.

Psalms 33:12

WE MUST LEARN TO SEE OURSELVES THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH, through the perspective of what we can become, what God's power can transform us into, what Jesus can be in us. So what if you aren't perfect? Who is? You can still be a great success in life if you let the Spirit of God work in you and through you. His Spirit will fill in the gaps of the little problems and imperfections. God doesn't need perfection from us to work His wonders.

Peter Amsterdam

When the impossibilities of life loom large, take God's hand and take it one step at a time.

Ariana Keating

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

April 21



April 22



The joy of the LORD is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

DEAR JESUS,

You are the joy and the rejoicing of my heart, the sunshine of my soul, the light of my life. Thank you for reaching into the depths of my soul, opening the windows of heaven upon my life and causing your light to burst forth. When I asked you to come into my heart a tingle of joy, of excitement, a thrill of soul and spirit came into my life, as one who had been blind and had only known darkness, but who was then thrust into seeing a glorious and brilliant light.

I want to keep that thrill of soul and spirit and not allow the cares of this life—the burdens, the trials, the heartaches—to eclipse or crowd out the wonderful, glorious, marvellous light that you have shed abroad in my heart. I want to always keep my eyes on you, so that your power of love can shine brighter and brighter in me, while the things of the world grow dimmer and dimmer. You are the light and love of my life.

Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10

WE MAY BE RICHER IN FAITH, AND SO RICHER IN HOPE, AND SO RICHER IN joy today, by remembering the certainty of God's gracious promises, and how his word endures to all generations. In quiet hours, when we are laid aside, we may remember, too, that though the world is still the same world—full of disappointments—full of care—full of change—full of uncertainty—yet this one great certainty makes up to the Christian for all else. Truly all things are ours—life, death, things present, things to come, for we are his who says, "I am the Lord, I change not."¹

Our Father is unchangeable in truth and love; and as we feel afresh our spiritual union with Christ, let us call to mind the words of his apostle John, "We are in him that is true."²

William M. Statham

Can we not learn, like tired children, to fall into the everlasting arms and rest, not in what we know, but in whom we trust?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

¹ Malachi 3:6

² 1 John 5:20

April 23



April 24



Lean on God's love, and it will uphold you;
abide in God's love, and it will sustain you.

Mottos for Success

THE LIFE OF FAITH IS THE REVELATION OF JESUS TO THE SOUL; THE
inshining of the glorious gospel; his indwelling and illuminating presence,
rooting and grounding us in love. ... Belief without the abiding presence of
Jesus pines and dies, but the abiding presence keeps faith alive.

Robert Milman

Long did I toil, and knew no earthly rest,
Far did I rove, and found no certain home;
At last I sought them in his sheltering breast,
Who opens his arms, and bids the weary come.
With him I found a home, a rest divine,
And I since then am his, and he is mine.

John Quarles

Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is
at hand.

Zephaniah 1:7 (KJV)

Then a voice came from the throne [in
heaven], saying, "Praise our God, all you His
servants and those who fear Him, both small
and great!"

Revelation 19:5

ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF THIS DAY, AS GOD SENDS THEM; AND THE
difficulties of it bear patiently and sweetly; for this day is only ours, we are
dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow.

Jeremy Taylor

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that
what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.

Epicurus

We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting
something we don't have, but rather of recognising and appreciating what
we do have.

Friedrich Gottlob Koenig

Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains, and enjoyed every
day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; ... it has rained down from
heaven, at our very doors.

Tryon Edwards

April 25



April 26



His banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:4

COME HOME, MY SOUL, MY WANDERING, TIRED, GRIEVED SOUL! LOVE where thy love shall not be lost. Love him that will not reject thee, nor deceive thee, nor requite thee with injuries as the world does. The peaceable region is above. Retire to the harbour if you would be free from storms. God will receive you when the world does cast you off.

Richard Baxter

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Augustus M. Toplady

I love the LORD, because He has heard
My voice and my supplications.

Psalms 116:1

God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:3-4

WHAT DO WE KNOW OF LIGHT? BY REFRACTION AND REFLECTION WE learn more of the nature and beauty of light; we can analyse and we can feel. Look at those rosy tints on the snow-clad mountain, that wonderful glow in the western sky, those gorgeous clouds; see the rays of the setting sun lighting up some beautiful old ruin. Is there not something here which reveals to us more of a wonderful beauty and harmony than light alone unmingled with these forms of matter?

Well, hereafter, not on mountain, and sky, and ruin, but on the glistening robes of a great multitude, we shall see reflected the glory of God himself. By the light he gives we shall see the light which he is.

Rev Canon Money, adapted

In Your light we see light.

Psalms 36:9

April 27



I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5

MY LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL. I LOVE WITHOUT PARTIALITY. I LOVE THE unlovely and the difficult to love. I love the sad and the lonely. I love those who are struggling and those who are lost and confused. My unconditional love expects nothing in return. It doesn't say, "This one does not return My love, so I will withdraw My love." My unconditional love never gives up hope; it is enduring, patient and unfailing. My love gives and gives and gives again. My love knows no limits and has no stopping place. My love will go any distance to love and bring one lost, lonely, battered soul through to victory.

Of course you have weaknesses and shortcomings, but I don't love you any less because of them. My love is unconditional. That means no matter what condition you are in, I love you just as much. My love for you doesn't depend on you having a glowing record. Don't ever think that I love you any less because you aren't all that you would like to be or think you should be. When I look at you, I don't see any of your lacks. I only see My creation that I love, and I love you just the way I made you.

Jesus

April 28



For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

DEAR LORD,

Help me to spread your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, O Lord! Stay with me and then I will begin to shine as you do; so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Lord, will be all from you; none of it will be mine. It will be you shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise you in the way that you love best, by shining on those around me.

Prayer of John Henry Newman

April 29

WINGS
of prayer
and praise

April 30

AO
alpha and
omega

You will make your prayer to Him,
He will hear you.

Job 22:27

CERTAIN THOUGHTS ARE PRAYERS. THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN,
whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees.

Victor Hugo

How God works in answer to prayer is a mystery that logic cannot
penetrate, but that He does work in answer to prayer is gloriously true.

Oswald Chambers

Some prayers have a longer voyage than others, but they return with the
richer cargo at last, so that the praying soul is a gainer by waiting for
an answer.

William Gurnall

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would
see the glory of God?" Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask
when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

John 11:40; Mark 11:24

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy
Spirit and with power, who went about doing
good and healing all who were oppressed by
the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38

JESUS HAD NO SERVANTS, YET THEY CALLED HIM MASTER.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Author unknown

Jesus Christ is the centre of all, and the goal to which all tends.

Blaise Pascal

Having been perfected, He [Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation
to all who obey Him.

Hebrews 5:9

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE WORK

Man goes out to his work and to his labour until the evening. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might. When you eat the labour of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. That every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labour ... is the gift of God.

Based on Psalm 104:23, 128:2; Ecclesiastes 9:10, 3:13

Our labour here is brief, but the reward is eternal.

Clare of Assisi

He who labours as he prays lifts up his heart to God with his hands.

Bernard of Clairvaux

Lord, in union with your love, unite my work with your great work, and perfect it. As a drop of water, poured into a river, is taken up into the activity of the river, so may my labour become part of your work. Thus may those among whom I live and work be drawn into your love.

Gertrude the Great

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1–2

AS YOU'RE GOING UP THE MOUNTAIN, DON'T JUST KEEP LOOKING DOWN and around you at the ground and the rocks under you, but stop as often as you can and look up! Look up to the beautiful blue sky and to the mountain peaks that you are climbing toward, and that will encourage you and refresh you and give you the stamina to keep going a little longer.

You'll hardly notice the muddy paths because you'll be looking up! You'll be looking forward, and when you have that vision, these little nagging problems won't get you down. That's a promise!

Jesus

May 3



May 4



Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope
for tomorrow.

Albert Einstein

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE MADE MISTAKES, TAKEN WRONG TURNS, EVEN failed miserably at this or that, you're in good company. Many of God's heroes in the Bible did those same things, but they learned from their mistakes. And God came to them, sitting in the midst of failed dreams or disappointed hopes, and gave them a new reason to live. That's what He can do when we give up on our own plans and projects and decide to try His. He gives us goals to help us grow and move in the right direction, and then He helps us attain them.

Give Him your heart and life, and let Him give you all the good things He has planned for you.

Nana Williams

Never hesitate to trust the unknown future to a known God.

Mottos for Success

This is the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

AN OLD MAN WHO HAD LIVED BUOYANTLY THROUGH EIGHTY YEARS WAS asked, "Which is the happiest season of life?" He replied thoughtfully:

"When spring comes, the air is soft, the buds are breaking on the trees and they are covered with blossoms. I think, how beautiful is spring!

"And when the summer comes, and covers the trees and bushes with heavy foliage, and singing birds mingle with branches, I think, how beautiful is summer!

"When autumn loads them with golden fruit, and their leaves bear the gorgeous tint of frost, I think, how beautiful is autumn!

"And when it is sore winter, and there is neither foliage nor fruit, then when I look up through the leafless branches and see, as I can see in no other season, the shining stars of heaven, I think, how beautiful is the winter of life!"

A. M., adapted from "The Fireside," 1885

Cheerfulness is a friend to grace; it puts the heart in tune to praise God.

Thomas Watson

May 5



May 6



Be transformed by the renewing
of your mind.

Romans 12:2

OUR DAILY LIVES CAN EASILY BECOME FILLED WITH STRESS, PRESSURE AND confusion. But we can stop at any moment and slip away into the presence of God's Spirit through prayer and meditation, and there find peace and refreshing.

Mottos for Success

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

William W. Walford

O God, who art peace everlasting, whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who has taught us that the peacemakers are thy children, pour thy sweet peace into our souls, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and all that makes for peace be sweet to us forever. Amen.

Gelasian Sacramentary

JESUS MADE HIS DISCIPLES GET INTO THE BOAT AND GO BEFORE HIM TO the other side. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So Jesus said, "Come."

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14:22–31, abridged

Peter learned, and quickly forgot, the lesson of looking to Jesus.¹ If we want to pass safely over our own sea of troubles, we should remember to keep our eyes on the Author and Finisher of our faith.

A. M.

¹ Hebrews 12:2

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR ALWAYS BEING WITH ME, NO MATTER WHETHER I am trudging through the valley of sorrow, or strolling through meadows of joy; surviving in the desert of need, or swimming in the oceans of plenty; climbing the mountain of difficulty, or resting in an oasis of peace. No matter my circumstances, you are always constant, and for that I give you my heartfelt thanks.

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalms 139:7–10

I HAVE SURROUNDED YOU WITH CONSTANT REMINDERS OF MY LOVE. I could have made the world drab or boring, but I made it special for you. I painted the skies and the land with exquisite living colours. Look at the flowers and the trees—they are alive with detail and variety. I could have made just a few types of trees and flowers, or made them all one colour, but I made nature full of diversity and beautiful for you.

There are so many kinds of flowers, and each one is unique and lovely in its own way. There are so many trees and they come in all different sizes and designs. Some trees bear fruit or nuts, while others do not bear anything edible. Even the trees that lose their leaves or whose leaves turn brown are a reminder of My love and care for you. Even though they go through hardships or dry or cold seasons, they eventually blossom again.

From now on, look around you at the things that I have created and be reminded of My love for you. Don't take anything for granted. Each tree is alive and growing and part of the miracle of life. Each flower is a part of My creation. Each star in the heavens was placed there by My hand and according to My plan. I created it all because I love you.

Jesus

May 9

AO
alpha and
omega

[I would that you] may be able to
comprehend what is the width and length and
depth and height—to know the love of Christ
which passes knowledge; that you may be
filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:18–19

Sweet Jesus, who shall lend me wings
Of peace and perfect love,
That I may rise from earthly things
To rest with thee above?

Author unknown

Without Christ you are like a sheep without its shepherd; like a tree
without water at its roots; like a mere leaf in the tempest—not bound to
the tree of life. With your whole heart seek him, and he will be found of
you: only give yourself thoroughly up to the search, and truly, you will yet
discover him to your joy and gladness.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, adapted

May 10

foundations
F

Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

LIVE IN FAITH AND HOPE, THOUGH IT BE IN DARKNESS, FOR IN THIS
darkness God protects the soul. Cast your care upon God, for you are his
and he will not forget you.

John of the Cross

The steps of faith fall on the seeming void, but find the rock beneath.

John Greenleaf Whittier

To place faith in something other than one's self requires an element of
courage. Yet those who have put faith in God can testify that even greater
courage—along with peace of mind—is to be found in doing so.

Mottos for Success

For who is God, except the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?
The LORD lives!
Blessed be my Rock!
Let God be exalted,
The Rock of my salvation!

2 Samuel 22:32,47

When He had called all the multitude to
Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me,
everyone, and understand."

Mark 7:14

Not in the earthquake or devouring flame,
But in the hush that could all fear transform,
The still, small whisper to the prophet came.
Oh soul, keep silence on the mount of God!
Though cares and needs throb around like a sea
From supplication and desires unshod,
Be still and hear what God shall say to thee.

Mary Rowles Jarvis

It is the man of prayer that receives large communications from God.

James Harrington Evans

The best and sweetest flowers in paradise, God gives to His people when
they are on their knees in the closet. Prayer, if not the very gate of heaven,
is the key to let us into its ... joys.

Thomas Brooks

Consider the lilies of the field, how they
grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I
say to you that even Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God
so clothes the grass of the field, which today
is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will
He not much more clothe you?

Matthew 6:28-30

"CONSIDER THE LILIES," JESUS TELLS US. AS WE THINK OF ALL THE
wonder and beauty of the flowers, the anxious spirit that haunts and
distresses us often will be put to shame. We learn to trust the wisdom,
love and power of him who clothes the little blossoms. The future may
look dark, but that flower in the foreground takes away its awe.

Canon Wynne

With grateful hearts the past we own;
The future, all to us unknown,
We to thy guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before thy feet.

Philip Doddridge

May 13



May 14



Great is the LORD , and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145:3

I AM NOT SO MUCH OF A FARMER AS SOME PEOPLE CLAIM, BUT I HAVE observed the watermelon seed. It has the power of drawing from the ground and through itself 200,000 times its weight. When you can tell me how it takes this material and out of it colors an outside surface beyond the imitation of art, and then forms inside of it a white rind and within again a red heart, thickly inlaid with black seeds, each one of which in turn is capable of drawing through itself 200,000 times its weight. When you can explain to me the mystery of a watermelon, you can ask me to explain the mystery of God.

William Jennings Bryan

We don't know the millionth part of one percent about anything. We don't know what water is. We don't know what light is. We don't know what gravitation is. We don't know what heat is. But we do not let our ignorance about these things deprive us of their use.

Thomas Alva Edison

Open to me the gates of righteousness:
I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD :
I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me,
and art become my salvation.

Psalm 118:19,21 (KJV)

GIVE ME THY GRACE, GOOD LORD,
To set the world at nought;
To set my mind fast upon thee,
And not to hang upon the blast of men's mouths;
To be content to be solitary;
Not to long for worldly company;
To lean unto the comfort of God;
Busily to labour to love him;
To humble and meeken myself
Under the mighty hand of God.

Prayer of Thomas More

Thou art my God, and I will praise thee:
Thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

Psalm 118:28 (KJV)

May 15



May 16



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

Give love today. Love others. Love your family. Love God. He will see to it that you have sufficient love, and give you more in return than you can ever give away.

Mottos for Success

Building a home of hearts, my love,
Is what we've got to do.
Making a peaceful haven
To shelter others, too.

Beholding heart to heart, my love,
Sharing secret dreams,
Putting first the other,
This is what it means.

Giving your heart to another
Is making it a home,
Where the heart can rest in safety
With no more need to roam.

Laughing with one another
At the funniest things we do,
Learning to be a family,
Jesus, me and you.

Esther David

The union of the family lies in love.

Robert Hugh Benson

Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my meditation.

Psalms 5:1

AS THE SUN RADIATES, THE DAY ILLUMINATES, THE FOUNTAIN IRRIGATES, the shower sprinkles of its own accord spontaneously, so the spirit of God infuses itself into us. When the soul, gazing heavenward, has come to know its Maker, it is exalted far above all earthly principality and power, and begins already to be what it believes itself to be. There can be no poverty when the wealth of heaven has once satiated our heart. We speak with God and God with us. He instructs us. The house that he enriches, none can impoverish.

Robert Milman, adapted

By meditation I can converse with God, solace myself in the arms of the Saviour, bathe myself in the rivers of divine pleasure, tread the paths of my rest, and view the mansions of eternity.

Author unknown

He satisfies the longing soul,
And fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Psalms 107:9

May 17



May 18



The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46

The glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Proverbs 25:2

Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine; and jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths for every searcher there.

Edwin Hodder

Do not be content with swimming on the surface of divine truth; make it
your element; dive into it.

William Howells

O Lord, you have given us your word for a light to shine upon our path;
inspire us to meditate on that word, and to follow its teaching, that we
may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jerome

God our Savior showed us how good
and kind he is.

Titus 3:4 (CEV)

DOST THOU NOT KNOW THAT THY GOD LOVES THEE IN THE MIDST OF ALL
this? Mountains, when in darkness hidden, are as real as in day, and
God's love is as true to thee now as it was in thy brightest moments.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

We may not climb the heavenly steeps
To bring the Lord Christ down;
In vain we search the lowest deeps,
For him no depths can drown;

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
A present help is he;
And faith has still its Olivet,
And love its Galilee.

John Greenleaf Whittier

Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has
done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.

Mark 5:19

May 19



Flowers are lovely;
Love is flower-like;
Friendship is a sheltering tree.
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

FAITH, LIKE LIGHT, SHALL ALWAYS BE SIMPLE, AND UNBENDING; WHILE
love, like warmth, should beam forth on every side, and bend to every
necessity of our brethren.

Martin Luther

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade
itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is
not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in
the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all
things. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4–8

Life is short. Be swift to love! Make haste to be kind!

Henri-Frédéric Amiel

May 20



Peace comes not from the absence of trouble,
but from the presence of God.

Author unknown

THE TRIUMPH OF QUIETNESS IS NOT EASE. IT IS NOT ABSENCE OF
disturbing force. It is a triumph over all. In Christ there is the image of this
quietness. Galilee's lake in its stillest hour was never so restful as the heart
of Jesus. This is the face we want to see. "When he was reviled, he reviled
not again."¹ It is *this* quietness that has touched the world's deepest heart.

It is true of our Saviour that he did possess a rest, a peace, a joy, such
as the sons of earth and time have never known, and having manifested
these on earth, he left us as his own dying legacy, what he calls "my joy,"
"my peace." In seeking him, we partake of this peace.

William M. Statham, adapted

Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart,
All you who hope in the Lord.

Psalms 31:24

¹ 1 Peter 2:23 (KJV)

May 21



May 22



When He gives quietness,
who then can make trouble?

Job 34:29

DEAR JESUS,

When I feel you near me, I have sweet peace and rest and I know that you will take care of everything. You dissolve all of my worries with your reassuring words. You give me all that I need. It's just amazing how much you accomplish in my life, giving me peace when I know I'm such a worrywart, giving me good thoughts when I'm prone to negative thinking, making me feel so fulfilled and happy even when problems surround me. You're truly amazing, Jesus. Only you can do that for me.

Do not fear, for from the first day that
you set your heart to understand, and to
humble yourself before your God, your
words were heard.

Daniel 10:12

NOT ONE PRAYER EVER GOES UNANSWERED; THEY'RE ALL HEARD AND answered the moment they're spoken. But sometimes you have to wait awhile to see the answer; and sometimes the answer isn't what you were expecting.

I answer right away, but if you're not quite ready, or if it's not the right time in your life, then the answer will wait until you are ready. But I have answered!

Even when it seems like I don't answer, it's still an answer, because I know that not giving you what you've asked for is what's best for you. So that's an answer in itself.

Jesus

When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

Matthew 14:34-36

FROM THE WATCH OF LONELY MOUNTAIN PRAYER, IN GATHERING STORM
and blast—

From the path no mortal foot could tread, o'er waters wild and vast,
He came, the glorious Son of God, with healing, love and light,
To the land of far Gennesaret, that lay in shadowy night.

O TENDER ONE, O MIGHTY ONE, WHO NEVER SENT AWAY

The sinner or the sufferer, Thou art the same today!
The same in love, the same in power, and Thou art waiting still
To heal the multitudes that come, yea, 'whosoever will!'

Frances Ridley Havergal

Let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17

Let patience have its perfect work,
that you may be perfect and complete,
lacking nothing.

James 1:4

BE LIKE THE FARMER WHO HAS A THOUSAND ACRES TO PLANT. HE JUST gets started. He doesn't lament that he's not finished at the end of the first day. He knew full well he wouldn't be finished, so to be disappointed that he's not would be unrealistic and silly. Instead, at the end of each day he feasts his eyes on the part of the field that *has* been worked, prepared and planted. And each day that portion of the field grows and grows. That's where his inspiration comes from, by remembering and encouraging himself in how far he's come—not by lamenting how far he's still got to go.

Measure by the progress made, the victories won and how far you've come. Look at where you started, and celebrate the distance covered already.

Author unknown

May 25

WINGS
of prayer
and praise

IN A FACTORY, AN ELONGATED STEEL BAR WEIGHING 500 LBS (ABOUT 225 kg) was suspended by a chain. Near it, an average-size cork was suspended by a silk thread. “When we come back to this spot later,” a tour guide told a group of sightseers, “you will see something that is seemingly impossible. This cork will have set this steel bar in motion.” The guide set in motion a mechanism whereby the cork tapped gently and repeatedly against the steel bar, which remained motionless. The visitors watched for a minute or two as the cork struck the iron bar with pendulum-like regularity, then they moved on. Ten minutes later, the bar was vibrating slightly, and when the tour group returned at the end of an hour, the heavy bar was swinging like the pendulum of a clock.

So the next time you feel you aren’t exerting a feather’s weight of influence on others through your prayers, remember the cork. God hears and answers every prayer in His time and as He knows best, but sometimes you must be patient. Often people and situations don’t change overnight, even after we have prayed. But if you will be like the cork, your love and prayers will eventually prevail. Every prayer you pray is like another tap of the cork. It may not appear to make a difference, but over time it will all add up and bring the victory.

Keith Phillips

May 26

foundation
F

Heaven and earth will pass away,
but My words will by no means pass away.

Luke 21:33

I CONSIDER THE GOSPELS TO BE THOROUGHLY GENUINE, FOR IN THEM there is the effective reflection of a sublimity which emanated from the person of Christ, and this is as divine as ever the divine appeared on earth.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

You never get to the end of Christ’s words. There is something in them always behind. They pass into proverbs, into laws, into doctrines, into consolations; but they never pass away, and, after all the use that is made of them they are still not exhausted.

Arthur P. Stanley

These writings bring back to you the living image of that most holy mind, the very Christ himself speaking, healing, dying, rising, in fact so entirely present, that you would see less of him if you beheld him with your eyes.

Desiderius Erasmus

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 14:23

May 27



May 28



He calms the storm,
So that its waves are still.
Then they are glad because they are quiet;
So He guides them to their desired haven.

Psalm 107:29-30

Gliding o'er life's fitful waters,
Heavy surges sometimes roll;
And we sigh for yonder haven,
For the homeland of the soul.

'Tis the weary pilgrim's homeland,
Where each throbbing care shall cease,
And our longings and our yearnings,
Like a wave, be hushed to peace.

Fanny Crosby

In our heavenly homeland, peace flows as a river; joy springs as a fountain; love is boundless as an ocean. Our Saviour has gained us entrance to this haven of peace; our fears, our tears, our sorrows are erased in his embrace. Our loved ones wait patiently until they may take us into their arms once more. So far, yet so near! Heaven is but a prayer's breath away.

A. M.

DEAR LORD,

In the Bible when Jabez called on you, saying, "Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain," you granted him what he requested.¹ Likewise I ask you to grant me my requests. Please be with me this day; help my thoughts to be centred on you, and my actions to be for the benefit of others.

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.

The second part of this prayer is attributed to St Patrick

¹ 1 Chronicles 4:10

As for me, I will call upon God,
And the LORD shall save me.
Evening and morning and at noon I will pray,
and cry aloud,
And He shall hear my voice.

Psalm 55:16–17

MEDITATING ON JESUS AND LEARNING TO STOP AND GET CALM BEFORE Him, no matter what else is going on in your life, no matter what else is going on around you, is what makes it possible to praise Him, even when you're facing what seem like impossible situations. The fruits of praise grow from the roots of learning to rest in Jesus.

M. S. Fontaine

If you allow yourself to be constantly distracted, your heart will grow hard.
Retire to pray when you can and live the rest of your day in love.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

I have called, and he has answered,
Ever faithful does he prove!
He has shown me his salvation,
And a lifetime of his love.

Author unknown

PROVERBS WISELY SAYS, “BOAST NOT THYSELF OF TOMORROW; FOR THOU knowest not what a day may bring forth.”¹ Rather, be like David, who said, “In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever.”² That is the key. You can plan for tomorrow, but you know that tomorrow may never come. So praise God and enjoy the time that you have. “Tomorrow” might not just be the next day, but the principle can apply to the next hour or even the next minute. What you have is now. The future is not a given. So you may as well enjoy the moment, because in reality that is all you are assured of.

You are, therefore, free to enjoy the time you have right now. If you don't enjoy it right now, you really don't get another chance. You can reminisce about good times or regret bad times. You can remember with fondness how you did enjoy the moment, or lament that you didn't. But the only actual time you can enjoy the moment is right now, at the moment. So seize the moment! Seize the day! Seize the joy!

Jesus

¹ Proverbs 27:1 (kjv)

² Psalm 44:8 (kjv)

May 31



June 1



You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy.

Psalms 16:11

IN THE SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE HOW MY SOUL DELIGHTS TO HIDE!

Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go,
To the secret place I go.

WHEN MY SOUL IS FAINT AND THIRSTY, 'NEATH THE SHADOW OF HIS WING

There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a fresh and crystal spring;
And my Saviour rests beside me, as we hold communion sweet:
If I tried, I could not utter what He says when thus we meet,
What He says when thus we meet.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE SWEETNESS OF THE SECRET OF THE LORD?

Go and hide beneath His shadow: this shall then be your reward;
And where'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting place,
You must mind and bear the image of the Master in your face,
Of the Master in your face.

Ellen L. Goreh

I have set before you today life and good.

Deuteronomy 30:15

WITH GOD AS YOUR GUIDE AND COACH, YOU'RE SURE TO BE SUCCESSFUL
in the things that matter, the ones that will last beyond this life and
into eternity.

Mottos for Success

God is always there to give us a new chance, a fresh start, a way out of any
situation we find hopeless. He always believes in us, always knows our
greatest potential, and is always ready to help us achieve it. We do well
when we take full advantage of His opportunities to change for the better.

Chloe West

You had better live your best and act your best and think your best today;
for today is the sure preparation for tomorrow and all the other tomorrows
that follow.

Harriet Martineau

While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 1:9

BECAUSE CHRIST LIVES I TOO SHALL LIVE, OH GLORIOUS TRUTH DIVINE,

To think that resurrection life was his and shall be mine.

Because Christ lives I too shall live, I'll leave this lump of clay

And lift my wings to higher heights on resurrection day.

Because Christ lives I too shall live, with him I'll ever be,

Rejoicing that he broke death's chains and set my spirit free.

Author unknown

James S. Stewart is not overstating when he tells us, "God raised up Jesus, not simply to give credence to man's immemorial hopes of life beyond the grave, but to shatter history and remake it by a cosmic, creative event, ushering in a new age and a new dimension of existence."

A. M.

Blessed [are] the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7

BE KIND AND MERCIFUL. LET NO ONE EVER COME TO YOU WITHOUT leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness—kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting. In the slums we are the light of God's kindness to the poor.

To children, to the poor, to all who suffer and are lonely, give always a happy smile. Give them not only your care but also your heart. Because of God's goodness and love every moment of our life can be the beginning of great things. Be open, ready to receive and you will find Him everywhere. Every work of love brings a person face to face with God.

Mother Teresa

Hail! Ye small sweet courtesies of life; for smooth do ye make the road of it, like grace and beauty, which beget inclinations to love at first sight; it is ye who open the door and let the stranger in.

Laurence Sterne

Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness
in the morning,
For in You do I trust;
Cause me to know the way in which
I should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Psalm 143:8

Walk boldly and wisely. There is a hand above that will help you on.

Philip James Bailey

The quieter the mind, the more powerful, the worthier, the deeper, the
more telling and more perfect the prayer is.

Meister Eckhart

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can
lay my telescope aside, go into my room and shut the door, and while in
earnest prayer I see more of heaven and get closer to God than I can when
assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

Isaac Newton

Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.

1 Samuel 3:9

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF EACH HOUR
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

FOR EACH PERFECT GIFT OF THINE,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

Francis Pierpoint

For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Isaiah 57:15

HAPPINESS IS MADE UP OF MANY THINGS: IT IS THE SMILE OF A CHILD, the golden glows of a sunrise, the warm hug of a loved one, health after sickness. But such happiness is also transitory: A child does not always smile, the sunrise may be overshadowed with dark clouds, a loved one may leave, sickness may not pass. There is another happiness, that is deeper and everlasting, and that is the happiness that comes into your soul when you realise the depth, breadth and height of God’s love for you, a love embodied in his Son, Jesus.

To find Jesus is to discover that no matter your weakness, no matter your inabilities, no matter your despair, there is a strength you can draw upon, a hope you can lean upon, a love you can dwell within. Truly, “Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.”¹

A. M.

Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

JESUS,

Thank you for always holding on to me. All my life long, every day, you’ve been right there, holding my hand, and I love you for that. It’s such a secure feeling to know you’re there.

Sometimes I know I’ve let go. I’ve walked away and I’ve walked alone, and I’m sorry for that. But I love how you come after me and you take my hand and you keep holding on. You never let go. You never leave me.

And you not only hold my hand, but you speak to me and you love me and guide me. I love you for that. Thank you for sticking close, Jesus. Thank you for reminding me not to fear, because you are always right there beside me, watching out for me. I love you. Keep holding on to me, Jesus!

¹ Psalm 144:15 (KJV)

With God, there are no coincidences.

Mottos for Success

Coincidences? To me they are little signs, the footprints of a God who is walking right beside me.

Colin C. Bell

What men call accident is the doing of God's providence.

Camaliel Bailey

To everything there is a season,	And a time to refrain from
A time for every purpose under	embracing;
heaven:	A time to gain,
A time to be born,	And a time to lose;
And a time to die;	A time to keep,
A time to plant,	And a time to throw away;
And a time to pluck what is planted;	A time to tear,
A time to weep,	And a time to sew;
And a time to laugh;	A time to keep silence,
A time to mourn,	And a time to speak;
And a time to dance;	A time to love,
A time to cast away stones,	And a time to hate;
And a time to gather stones;	A time of war,
A time to embrace,	And a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4-8

WHEN LIFE IS DIFFICULT, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? THINK ABOUT ME.

Think about how much I love you. Think about My power. Think about all your blessings, and thank Me.

You can praise your way right out of a bad mood! If you thank Me for all the good things in your life, the negative feelings will dissipate.

You may sometimes find yourself in situations where there doesn't seem to be anything at all good to thank Me for. Well, then thank Me for the good that will eventually come out of the bad, because if you love Me, sooner or later it will. That's explained in the Bible, in Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to those who love God." For those who love Me, I can bring good out of anything.

Let Me change your difficult day into a happy one. You can always find something to thank Me for. Praise Me for one thing, and you'll usually be reminded of another, and another. Happiness will find you as you focus on Me and on the positive.

Jesus

No duty is more urgent than that
of returning thanks.

Ambrose

THEN AS HE ENTERED A CERTAIN VILLAGE, THERE MET HIM TEN MEN WHO
were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said,
“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the
priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a
loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him
thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where
are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God
except this foreigner?”

And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Luke 17:12–19

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 106:1

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to
you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let
it be afraid.

John 14:27

FROM THE WORLD’S “HOT, RESTLESS GLEAM,” FROM ITS HOPES AND
fears, joys, sorrows, sins and struggles, we turn to personal communion
with him who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities and knows
our sorrows. Even as the dewy coolness and the soft twilight shades steal
over the day, when the summer day melts into the summer evening,
so the sense of pain and shame, anxiety, fatigue, and worry of mind all
soften into childlike trust and peaceful confidence as we “cast our care
upon him who cares for us.”¹

Canon Wynne, adapted

To re-create strength, rest. To re-create mind, repose. To re-create
cheerfulness, hope in God.

Charles Simmons

While we look not at the things which are
seen, but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are temporal;
but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (KJV)

Our duty as Christians is always to keep heaven in our eye and earth under
our feet.

Matthew Henry

He who has no vision of eternity will never get a true hold of time.

Thomas Carlyle

Holy Spirit of God, visit now this soul of mine, and tarry within it until the
eventide. Inspire all my thoughts. Pervade all my imaginations. Suggest
all my decisions. Lodge in my soul's most inward citadel, and order all my
doings. Be with me in silence and in my speech, in my haste and in my
leisure, in company and in solitude, in the freshness of the morning and
the weariness of the evening. Give me grace at all times to rejoice in thy
mysterious companionship.

John Baillie

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not
overflow you.

Isaiah 43:2

GOD DOESN'T OPEN PATHS FOR US IN ADVANCE OF OUR COMING. HE
doesn't promise help before help is needed. He doesn't remove obstacles
out of our way before we reach them. Yet when we are on the edge of our
need, God's hand is stretched out. Many people forget this and are forever
worrying about difficulties that they foresee in the future. They expect that
God is going to make the way plain and open before them miles and miles
ahead, whereas he has promised to do it only step by step as they may
need. You must get to the floodwaters before you can claim
the promise.

Author unknown

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

MY GOD, I LOVE THEE ABOVE ALL ELSE AND THEE I DESIRE AS MY LAST END. Always and in all things, with my whole heart and strength I seek thee. If thou give not thyself to me, thou givest nothing; if I find thee not, I find nothing. Grant to me, therefore, most loving God, that I may ever love thee for thyself above all things, and seek thee in all things in this life present, so that at last I may find thee and keep thee for ever in the world to come.

Prayer of Thomas Bradwardine

Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the [people] and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

Exodus 3:13-14

MAKING TEA OR COFFEE REQUIRES BOILING WATER. WHEN I HEAT THE water, it boils at 100 degrees centigrade. When my great-grandmother heated water for tea, the water boiled at 100 degrees centigrade. When the people of antiquity heated water, whether in Greece or Rome, China or India, the water boiled at 100 degrees centigrade. We can reasonably expect that our grandchildren will also find that water boils at 100 degrees centigrade.

Some things simply don't change. Water boils; God is.

A. M.

The LORD shall endure forever.

Psalms 9:7

A righteous man may fall seven times
And rise again.

Proverbs 24:16

YOU ARE NOT A DISAPPOINTMENT BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT PERFECT, OR because you didn't do as well as someone else. It's like when you have a child, and when that child starts walking, or learning to eat or talk, they fall, they make a mess, and sometimes they don't make sense, but you don't love them any less.

Life on earth is a mystery, just as walking is initially a mystery to a baby. Even though you eventually learn to take a step, and you learn something new about life, there's always something new coming up ahead. Life is about continuing the journey, recognising that falling is a part of the journey, but that I am proud of you and I love you.

Jesus

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:29

THOMAS DOUBTED THAT JESUS HAD RISEN TO LIFE FOLLOWING HIS crucifixion; it took the actual sight of the Saviour for him to be convinced. Such privileges are rare in the walk of faith. It seems that more often we are expected to believe without seeing, which can be quite a struggle.

Part of the answer lies around us. The flowers that appear in springtime, the trees laden with fruit, and every rich crop of wheat, corn and rice grows from tiny seeds. Buried unseen in the dark earth, nurtured by the warmth of the sun, watered by the rain, the seeds undergo their transformation. In time they stand as full-grown plants.

That all these plants, with their beauty and usefulness, grow from a tiny seed is an illustration of faith. Jesus himself likened faith to a mustard seed. Faith doesn't start as a majestic tree. It just needs to be a tiny seed. Plant it, believe, and it will grow.

A. M.

If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed...

Matthew 17:20

June 18



June 19



He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Study nature as the countenance of God.

Charles Kingsley

The person who, in living union of the mind and heart, can converse with God through nature, finds in the material forms around him a source of power and happiness inexhaustible, and like the life of angels.

The highest life and glory of humanity is to be alive unto God; and when this grandeur of responsiveness to him, and this power of communion with him is carried, as the habit of the soul, into the forms of nature, then the walls of our world are as the gates of heaven.

George B. Cheever, adapted

There is a signature of wisdom and power impressed on the works of God.
... Not only the splendour of the sun, but the glimmering light of the glow-worm proclaims his glory.

John Newton

Let us love one another, for love is of God.

1 John 4:7

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?

George Eliot

If, instead of a gem or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give.

George MacDonald

Eternal goodness,

You want me to gaze into you and see that you love me.

You love me freely, and you want me to love and serve my neighbours with the same love, offering them my prayers and my possessions, as far as in me lies.

O God, come to my assistance!

Catherine of Siena

He who is filled with love is filled with God himself.

Augustine of Hippo

[She] also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

Luke 10:39

God only knows the love of God;
Oh that it now were shed abroad
In this poor stony heart;
For love I sigh, for love I pine;
This only portion, Lord, be mine!
Be mine this better part!

Oh that I could for ever sit,
With Mary, at the Master's feet;
Be this my happy choice!
My only care, delight and bliss,
My joy, my heaven on earth be this,
To hear the Bridegroom's voice!

Charles Wesley

Come, O Christ my Light, and illumine my darkness.
Come, my Life, and revive me from death.
Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds.
Come, Flame of Divine Love, and burn up the thorns of my sins,
Kindling my heart with the flame of your love.
For you alone are my King and my Lord.

Dimitri of Rostov

PRAISE YOU, LORD! PRAISE YOUR NAME!

I'm going to bless your name, Lord, from now and forever. From the rising of the sun to when it goes down, your name is to be praised.
You are high above all nations, your glory is above the heavens.
Who is like you, oh Lord my God? You dwell on high, yet you look down and pay attention to the things of this earth. You raise me up when I'm down; you lift me up out of the ash heap! You have given me a roof overhead, and much more.

I love you, Lord, because you have heard my voice and my supplications. Because you have inclined your ear to me, therefore I will call upon you as long as I live.

Praise you, Lord!

Based on Psalm 113 and 116:1-2

He makes His sun rise.

Matthew 5:45

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, THE SUN HAS BEEN RISING AND SETTING each and every day. Can you imagine how many different sunrises and sunsets I've painted since time began? And yet, there have never ever been two sunsets exactly alike in all the world—and there never will be. I'll never run out of incredible colour schemes and far-out patterns to use.

And just as I'll never run out of sunsets, neither will I ever run out of things to say to you. As you learn to hear from Me, you'll discover that I have an endless stock of word pictures and visions to choose from; and I'll always have something left to show you. There'll never be a time when I won't have any new ideas to give you or interesting ways to explain things to you if you'll just ask Me to.

I'll never run out of love for you either. In fact, nothing about Me is ever going to run out or come to an end!

Jesus

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"Therefore I hope in Him!"

Lamentations 3:24

FINALLY OUR HOPE AND FAITH ARE STRONG AND STEADY. THEN, WHEN that happens, we are able to hold our heads high no matter what happens and know that all is well, for we know how dearly God loves us.

Romans 5:4–5 (TLB)

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.

Martin Luther

Union with Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope.

Jean-Jacques Pictet

O Christ, our Morning Star, splendour of light eternal, shining with the glory of the rainbow, come and waken us from the greyness of our apathy and renew in us your gift of hope.

The Venerable Bede

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

June 24



June 25



Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing,
you will receive.

Matthew 21:22

PRAYER IS CONNECTING WITH GOD, UPLOADING YOUR LOVE, REQUESTS
and thanks, and downloading His love and answers.

Mottos for Success

Pray to God at the beginning of all thy works, that so thou mayest bring
them all to a good ending.

Xenophon

Prayer touches the only spring that can ensure success. By speaking, we
move man; but by prayer, we move God.

Robert Hall

Talk to him in prayer of all your wants, your troubles, even of the weariness
you feel in serving him. You cannot speak too freely, too trustfully, of him.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:24

He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to
a deserted place and rest a while."

Mark 6:31

OH FOR A 'DESERT PLACE,' WITH ONLY THE MASTER'S SMILE!

Oh for the 'coming apart,' with only His 'rest awhile!'

Many are 'coming and going' with busy restless feet,

And the soul is hungering now, with 'no leisure so much as to eat.'

WELL! I WILL WAIT IN THE CROWD TILL HE SHALL CALL ME APART,

Till the silence fall which shall waken the music of mind and heart;

Patiently wait till He give the work of my secret choice,

Blending the song of life with the thrill of the Master's voice.

Frances Ridley Havergal

Good Jesus, strength of the weary, rest of the restless, by the weariness
and unrest of your sacred cross, come to me who am weary that I may
rest in you.

Edward Pusey

June 26

HH
hearts and
hands

June 27

the SV
shepherd's
voice

It is in giving that we receive,
it is in loving that we are loved.

Francis of Assisi

KIND WORDS ARE THE MUSIC OF THE WORLD. THEY HAVE A POWER WHICH seems to be beyond natural causes, as though they were some angel's sons which had lost their way and come to earth.

Frederick William Faber

The cure for all the ills and wrongs, the cares, the sorrows and the crimes of humanity, all lie in that one word "love." It is the divine vitality that everywhere produces and restores life. To each and every one of us, it gives the power of working miracles if we will.

Lydia M. Child

The truly generous is the truly wise, and he who loves not others, lives unblest.

Henry Home

Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another.

George Eliot

Your ears shall hear a word behind you,
saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever
you turn to the right hand or whenever you
turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:21

I WANT TO BE A VERY PRESENT COMPANION, COUNSELLOR AND HELP TO you—not merely someone you know of, or someone you met once but rarely think about or talk to, or even an advisor that you consult from time to time when you have a problem or need to make an important decision. I want to be a constant, loving presence.

I want to communicate with you personally and directly, and not in a distant, formal, or mental sort of way, but heart to heart. I want us to commune as intimates would, to talk things over, to reach decisions together and to sometimes communicate without saying a word. I want to develop a bond of love between us that you've never experienced with anyone else and can't even imagine.

Jesus

June 28



June 29



Revive me according to Your lovingkindness.

Psalm 119:88

GOD OF OUR LIFE, THERE ARE DAYS WHEN THE BURDENS WE CARRY CHAFE our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage.

Flood the path with light; run our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so revive our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honour and glory.

Prayer attributed to Augustine

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

In books I converse with men, in the Bible I converse with God.

William Romaine

After all, the Bible must be its own argument and defence. The power of it can never be proved unless it is felt. The authority of it can never be supported unless it is manifest. The light of it can never be demonstrated unless it shines.

Henry van Dyke

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,
And I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.

Psalm 119:33–35

Blessed [are] those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:6

We feed our minds daily with knowledge, yet let us not forget to feed our
spirits daily with truth.

Mottos for Success

It is obvious that to be in earnest in seeking the truth is an indispensable
requisite for finding it.

John Henry Newman

True wisdom is to know what is best worth knowing, and to do what is
best worth doing.

Edward Porter Humphrey

The light which we have gained was given to us, not to be ever staring on,
but by it to discover onward things more remote from our knowledge.

John Milton

The LORD gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6

Faith gives us courage to face the present
with confidence and the future with
expectancy.

Mottos for Success

A TEACHER TOOK HER PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO THE ASSEMBLY HALL
for a lesson with a difference. Standing at the foot of the steps leading up
to the stage, she asked, "Is anybody good at jumping?"

Quite a few young hands shot up.

"Well," she continued, "could any of you jump from the floor here up
onto the stage?"

No hands went up this time.

"I can," said the teacher, "and I'll show you how." Beginning at the foot
of the steps leading up to the stage, she hopped onto the first step. From
there she hopped onto the second, and so on until she reached the top.

Many things can only be accomplished little by little, step by step.
When a task looks daunting or the way ahead too steep, just take it one
step at a time.

A. M.

Does He not see my ways,
And count all my steps?

Job 31:4

Peace rules the day when Christ rules
the mind.

Author unknown

IT IS GOOD THAT ONE SHOULD HOPE AND WAIT QUIETLY

For the salvation of the LORD.

In the [reverence] of the LORD there is strong confidence,

And His children will have a place of refuge.

Lamentations 3:26; Proverbs 14:26

Precious hiding place,
In the shelter of His love;
Not a doubt or fear,
Since my Lord is near,
And I'm sheltered in His love.

Avis Christiansen

O God, make us children of quietness, and heirs of peace.

Clement I of Rome

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

For you shall go out with joy,
And be led out with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12

Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Psalms 36:5

SKIES TO BE PERFECTLY BEAUTIFUL MUST NOT BE CLOUDLESS. THE SUNRISE owes half its charms to the morning clouds that catch the glory of the coming day. They are the outriders of the king, heralding his grand approach. And when the giant has run his course and must depart, the evening clouds assist him. In purple robes and crimson vestments with silver lining and golden edgings, he bedecks them all. The moon, too, uses the clouds to good account. The silver queen appears to know that a thin veil becomes her well. Clouds are the river of God that is full of water.

Thomas Spurgeon

Life to be wonderful is not cloudless. An endless blue sky may represent drought; the appearance of clouds a welcome harbinger of needed rain. Rays of hope shine more brilliantly when reflected off the clouds of disappointment. Clouds, as well as sunshine, bring good things.

A. M.

God is a refuge for us.

Psalm 62:8

PICTURE THE GRAND CANYON. ITS MANY LEVELS, FROM STARK CLIFFS TO lush inner sanctums, tell a story. The waters that created this seeming wound in the landscape also bring forth its most beautiful and abundant life deep within.

The same majesty and beauty is formed in your soul as the sometimes raging currents of battles, failures, tears and suffering create what at first glance may seem to be deep scars on your heart or life. I allow those waters of troubles to flow through your life to create a refuge where My most precious and treasured gifts can grow like rare flowers.

As you look beyond the surface into the depths of a heart reshaped by troubles that were carried to Me, you'll find that hidden within those canyons are the most beautiful of blossoms. Soul blossoms are brilliant, and breathtaking in colour and fragrance. They are a source of inspiration and comfort to the heart that bears them, and to the spirits of others who venture there in search of comfort, solace and the waters of My love to slake their thirst. Everything there carries a distinctiveness that says: Jesus has been here.

Jesus

The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth her green figs,
And the vines with the tender grapes
Give a good smell.

Song of Solomon 2:12–13

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday,
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play;
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees;
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what might
happen,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay;
Among the husking of the corn,
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good
are born—
Out in the fields with God!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory.

Revelation 19:7

If you want to really live, start off each day by finding something to be thankful for.

Mottos for Success

There are always flowers for those who want to see them.

Henri Matisse

Happiness is what we make it. Some people are unbelievably cheerful in the midst of difficulty or obstacles; others bemoan the slightest inconvenience. Those who look for the upside of any trouble are the ones who come out ahead in quality of life, and the radiance of their positive attitude sheds light on the paths of others.

Chloe West

'Tis easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows along like a song,
But the man worthwhile
Is the one who will smile
When everything goes dead wrong.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

The best way to show my gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy.

Mother Teresa

MOST HIGH, MOST POWERFUL, GOOD LORD, TO YOU BELONG PRAISE, glory, honour and all blessing!

Praised be my Lord God with all his creatures, and especially our brother the sun, who brings us the day and brings us the light; fair is he and shines with a great splendour. O Lord, he signifies you.

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon and for the stars, which he has set clear and lovely in the heavens.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which you uphold life in all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water, who is very serviceable unto us and humble and precious and pure.

Praised be my Lord for our brother fire, through whom you give light in the darkness, and he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the earth, who sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth various fruits and flowers of many colours.

Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks unto him, and serve him with great humility.

Prayer of Francis of Assisi

When [Jesus] was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 9:33-35

I USED TO THINK THAT GOD'S GIFTS WERE ON SHELVES ONE ABOVE THE other and that the taller we grew in Christian character the more easily we could reach them. I now find that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that it is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower.

Frederick Brotherton Meyer

He that is down need fear no fall, he that is low no pride.

John Bunyan

All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

1 Peter 5:5-6

[God has] given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.

2 Peter 1:4

WHAT IS THE "DIVINE NATURE"? IT IS THE ESSENCE OF GOD, HOW HE thinks and how He acts. And through the promises He gives in His Word, we can be like He is. We can partake of those same attitudes, those same feelings, those same ways of looking at things by believing and putting into practice the principles and promises that are right there in the Bible.

M. S. Fontaine

My God,

I pray that I may so know you and love you that I may rejoice in you. And if I may not do so fully in this life, let me go steadily on to the day when I come to fullness of life.

Meanwhile let my mind meditate on your eternal goodness,

let my tongue speak of it,

let my heart live it,

let my mouth speak it,

let my soul hunger for it,

and my whole being desire it,

until I enter into your joy.

Anselm of Canterbury

As the shadow of a great rock
in a weary land.

Isaiah 32:2

SOONER OR LATER, AMIDST THE PLEASURES AND THE CARES OF ORDINARY life, the human spirit feels the need of a quiet, a comfort and a calm, beyond what anything in ordinary life can afford. In such seasons, there is one soft, restful shadow in the “weary land,” and one only. It is in close personal union with him who has said, “Come unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”¹

His pardon for our sins, his sympathy in our troubles, his divine promises to believe in and dwell upon, himself to love and trust and have as our portion forever—in this is our rest.

Canon Wynne, adapted

Oh how divinely sweet it is to come into the secret of his presence, and abide in his pavilion!

David Brainerd

I waited patiently for the LORD ;
And He inclined to me, and heard my cry.
He also brought me up out of a horrible pit,
Out of the miry clay,
And set my feet upon a rock,
And established my steps.

Psalms 40:1–2

A rock, though beaten on by winds and waves, is immovable; so faith, grounded on the rock Christ, holds out in all temptations.

John Chrysostom

Great tempest, great calm; God proportions the comfort to the affliction.

Pasquier Quesnel

As the beautiful, dew-covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you, my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit.

Hadewijch of Brabant

Hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Hebrews 3:6

¹ Matthew 11:28

July 12



July 13



Blessed [are] the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

WHEN YOU CALL ON ME, YOU OPEN A LINE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN us. When this happens, if you listen, I will speak to your heart and show you ways you can be a peacemaker. I will teach you how you can promote peace, using tools of faith, love and compassion, kind words and deeds.

Do not think that you can never make a difference in the world. Even one man or woman, when empowered by My love, can change the world. You can change your part of the world, the world around you, right now! Start by letting Me change your heart, and by making the decision to stand up for good over evil, for love over hate. Which will you choose?

Jesus

The Word of God, Jesus Christ, out of his
boundless love, became what we are, that he
might make us what he is.

Irenaeus

THE LOVE OF JESUS IS EVERLASTING. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WILL BE here one day and gone the next. Jesus' love will not expire or fade. It can't be stolen or forfeited. It doesn't get old with the times or go out of style. It's traditional and historic, but also modern and current. It's always. Even before we knew Him, He loved us. He has loved us from the very beginning of time, and He will love us throughout eternity.

M. S. Fontaine

He loved us even to the death! May this love kindle ours; filling our souls with peace and joy; enabling us to resign grandeur, fame and pleasure; to count as nothing all that time shall destroy; to will the will of God, and to watch in unwearied and blissful expectation for the coming of the Lord.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

July 14



July 15



Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

LORD AND FATHER, WE THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTY OF THIS PLACE THAT you created. In all the uncertainties of our world, may the hills that stand steadfast and sure about us speak of the steadfastness of your love; may the sea around us with its eternal ebb and flow keep us aware of your ever-flowing grace; may the open sky above us remind us that your mercy is always offered to us. Help us to remember that we are part of your creation and that you cherish us and hold us in the palm of your hand.

Prayer found at St. Tudno's Church, Wales; author unknown

In the morning the word of the LORD
came to me.

Ezekiel 12:8

I met God in the morning,
When the day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Ralph Spaulding Cushman

MY SOUL HATH DESIRED THEE ALL NIGHT, O ETERNAL WISDOM! AND IN the early morning I turn to thee from the depths of my heart. May the holy presence remove all dangers from my soul and body. May thy many graces fill my heart, and inflame it with thy divine love. O most sweet Jesus! Turn thy face towards me, for this morning with all the powers of my soul I fly to thee.

Henry Suso

You are my hope, O LORD God.

Psalms 71:5

The power of God is capable of finding hope where hope no longer exists, and a way where the way is impossible.

Gregory of Nyssa

Hope is a lover's staff; walk hence with that, and manage it against despairing thoughts.

William Shakespeare

I would say to my soul, O my soul, this is not the place of despair; this is not the time to despair in. As long as mine eyes can find a promise in the Bible, as long as there is a moment left me of breath or life in this world, so long will I wait or look for mercy, so long will I fight against unbelief and despair.

John Bunyan

Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.

Psalms 43:5

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

CHRIST IS A FREE WAY; CHRIST IS A NEAR WAY; CHRIST IS A FIRM WAY—there is no need of sinking; Christ is a pleasant way—"all thy ways are ways of pleasantness";¹ Christ is a safe way—there is a continual guard in that way; Christ is an easy way to hit—"wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein";² Christ is a spacious way—"thou hast set my feet in a large room."³

Tobias Crisp

The Word made flesh for us gives us the greatest hope that the murky night of darkness will not overwhelm us, but we shall see the daylight of eternity. Lord, let us receive your clear light; be for us such a mirror of light that we may be given grace to see you unendingly.

Hildegard of Bingen

¹ Proverbs 3:17

² Isaiah 35:8

³ Psalm 31:8

July 18

WINGS
of prayer
and praise

Look up and lift up your heads, because your
redemption draws near.

Luke 21:28

THERE WAS ONCE A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WHO SPRINKLED HIS lectures with personal reflections that invariably began with, "As I was walking in my garden, it occurred to me that..." Over and over he passed on to his students thoughts that his garden had inspired.

One day he invited two of his most promising students to visit him at home, and over a cup of coffee the students asked to see his garden. To their amazement it was only a narrow strip, barely wider than the walkway, with the house on one side and a high wall on the other.

"Is this really the garden where you have all those inspiring thoughts, doctor?" one of the students asked.

"Yes," came the professor's reply.

"But it's so small!" protested the student.

"Ah, yes," said the professor, a twinkle in his eye as he gestured toward the sky, "but look how high it is!"

Retold by A. M.

July 19

SEA
on the seashore

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite.
He counts the number of the stars;
He calls them all by name.

Psalms 147:5,4

IF THE STARS SHOULD APPEAR ONE NIGHT IN A THOUSAND YEARS, HOW would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

When the blazing sun is gone,
When he nothing shines upon,
Then you show your little light,
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.
Then the traveller in the dark
Thanks you for your tiny spark,
How could he see where to go,
If you did not twinkle so?

Jane Taylor

There they stand, the innumerable stars, shining in order like a living hymn, written in light.

Nathaniel Parker Willis

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 10:3

WHAT AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE THOUGHT: THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE tells us, "I know you well and you are special to me. I know you by name."¹

A.M.

The sun, which has all those planets revolving around it, is able to ripen the smallest bunch of grapes as though it had nothing else to do in the universe.

Galileo Galilei

There is not one life which the Life-Giver ever loses out of his sight; not one which sins so that he casts it away; not one which is not so near to him that whatever touches it touches him with sorrow or with joy.

Phillips Brooks

Sweet is the solace of Thy love,
My Heavenly Friend, to me,
While through the hidden way of faith
I journey home with Thee,
Learning by quiet thankfulness
As a dear child to be.

Anna Laetitia Waring

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Psalms 136:3 (RSV)

TEACH ME YOUR WAY, O LORD; I WILL WALK IN YOUR TRUTH; UNITE MY heart to fear your name. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness; make your way straight before my face. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; on you I wait all the day. For you are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Based on Psalm 86:11; 5:8; 25:5; 31:3; 139:1-4, 23-24; 143:10

¹ Exodus 33:17 (the message)

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey
toward it, casts the shadow of our burden
behind us.

Samuel Smiles

WHEN JESUS HAD ENTERED CAPERNAUM, A CENTURION CAME TO HIM,
pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed,
dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You
should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be
healed.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed,
“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in
Israel!”

Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have
believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same
hour.

Matthew 8:5–8,10,13

Though today may not fulfil
All your hopes, have patience still;
For perchance tomorrow’s sun
Sees your happier days begun.

Author unknown

THE JOY WE LOOK FORWARD TO IN HEAVEN CAN BEGIN RIGHT NOW. IN
the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus prays to God the Father, “Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”¹ And another time, when
asked when the kingdom of God would come, He said, “The kingdom of
God does not come with observation, for indeed, the kingdom of God is
within you.”² In other words, it’s already here in our hearts—or *can* be.

The 1828 edition of *Webster’s Dictionary* defined “life” as “The
enjoyments or blessings of the present life; supreme felicity; eternal
happiness in heaven.” Again, it’s both here and now, and there and then.

The apostle John makes it more personal by saying, “This is eternal life,
that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You
have sent.”³

To know Jesus personally *is* to have a taste of heaven.

Curtis Peter van Gorder

¹ Matthew 6:10
² Luke 17:20–21
³ John 17:3

In the morning, having risen a long while
before daylight, He went out and departed to
a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Mark 1:35

BEFORE YOUR DAY BEGINS, TAKE A FEW QUIET MINUTES WITH ME. TRY TO
block from your mind all of your plans and thoughts about the day ahead
and spend those few minutes reading My Word, thinking about Me,
thanking Me for all I've done for you in the past, and thanking Me in
advance for My continued help and blessings. As you do these things, our
minds and spirits will meet. Once you've made that connection, if you will
continually turn your thoughts toward Me, My love, peace and power will
carry you through the day, come what may.

Jesus

Let the weary, wandering soul bethink itself and retire to God. He will not
mock thee with shadows as the world has done.

John Howe

Then Jesus, moved with compassion,
stretched out His hand and touched him, and
said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

Mark 1:41

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.¹ NOT WAS, NOT MAY BE, NOR WILL BE. THE
Lord *is* my shepherd. He is on Sunday, is on Monday, and is through every
day of the week; is in January, is in December, and every month of the year;
is at home, and is in China; is in peace, and is in war; in abundance, and
in penury.

James Hudson Taylor

I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.

Author unknown

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus
Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 21

¹ Psalm 23:1

July 26



July 27



Exhort one another daily, while it is called
"Today," lest any of you be hardened through
the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

IN A STORY FROM NATIVE AMERICAN FOLKLORE, A GRANDFATHER EXPLAINS
to his young grandson the inner struggle between good and evil.

"A battle goes on inside us all," the grandfather begins. "It is a battle
between two wolves. One wolf is the embodiment of everything evil, like
hate, anger, jealousy, resentment, greed, arrogance, lying and selfishness.
The other wolf is the embodiment of everything good, like love, joy, peace,
hope, serenity, humility, kindness, empathy, generosity, compassion, truth
and faith."

The grandson thinks about those words and then asks, "Which wolf
wins?"

The grandfather replies, "The one you feed."

Keith Phillips

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing,
but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:41

Courage, brother! Do not stumble,
Though thy path is dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble,
Trust in God and do the right.

Norman Macleod

WHATEVER YOU DO, YOU NEED COURAGE. WHATEVER COURSE YOU DECIDE
upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are
always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right.
To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of
the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes
brave men and women to win them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Courage may be loud and vigorous, but more often it is the silent
conviction to take one step in front of another. Quiet determination to try
again tomorrow is courage at its best.

A. M.

July 28



July 29



I will give peace and quietness.

1 Chronicles 22:9

I PRAISE YOU, MY LORD, FOR YOUR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

Where else could I ever find such love?—Love that is always, love never ending, love without measure.

I can't always understand with my finite mind or begin to fathom how you can love me so, but I know you do. I thank you that I don't need to understand. I only have to reach out my hand and receive from you. You make everything so easy.

Sometimes when I feel so weak, so low, so muddled and lacking for words, not knowing how to express the innermost secrets of my heart, I stand in silent wonder, resting in the quiet assurance that only you can give, and I know you understand. You lift my worries and fears, and you kiss away my tears with your gentle care.

Thank you!

*You will keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You.*

Isaiah 26:3

ALWAYS LONG AND PRAY THAT THE WILL OF GOD MAY BE FULLY REALISED in your life. You will find that the man who does this walks in the land of peace and quietness.

Thomas à Kempis

Christ is the Way; he is also the Truth and the Life. This power, this life, is within our reach each moment of our life; as near, as free, as abundant as the air we breathe. A breath of prayer in the morning, and the morning life is sure. A breath of prayer in the evening, and the evening blessing comes.

Henry Drummond

*Dear restless heart, be still, for peace is God's own smile,
His love can every wrong and sorrow reconcile;
Just love, and love, and love, and calmly wait awhile.*

Edith Willis Linn

Therefore take heart, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

Acts 27:25

July 30



To cultivate the sense of the beautiful is one of the most effectual ways of cultivating an appreciation of the divine goodness.

Christian Nestell Bovee

ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS, FOR THEY ARE THE ESSENCE OF LIFE.

Appreciate the senses I have given you; use them to their fullest. When you look, see. When you eat, taste. When you hear, listen. When you touch, feel. When you smell, let the scent fill your whole body. It is only when you take My blessings for granted that life loses its lustre.

Jesus

There you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.

Deuteronomy 12:7

July 31



Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!
For my soul trusts in You;
And in the shadow of Your wings I will make
my refuge,
Until these calamities have passed by.

Psalms 57:1

THERE IS ONE ONLY CALM AND SURE TRANQUILLITY; ONE ONLY SOLID, firm and lasting security; and this is ours when withdrawn from the whirlwinds of this unquiet life, and settled in the anchorage of the harbour of salvation, we lift our eyes from earth to heaven; and, admitted to the grace of the Lord, and made near to God in our mind, we rejoice.

How firm, how immovable a defence is ours! What a heavenly safeguard of unfading blessings, when we are loose from the snares of this entangling life, and purged from the dregs of earth into the light of immortality and eternity! There is no need of money, of the hand or work of man, to obtain this highest dignity and power. It is the free, gratuitous gift of God.

Robert Milman

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

THINK OF THE NUMBER OF TREES AND BLADES OF GRASS AND FLOWERS,
the extravagant wealth of beauty no one ever sees! Think of the sunrises
and sunsets we never look at! God is lavish in every degree.

Oswald Chambers

We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

Matthias Claudius

Then you shall go on forward from there.

1 Samuel 10:3

God never puts any man in a space too small to grow in.

Author unknown

Nothing ever built arose to touch the skies unless some man dreamed
that it should, some man believed that it could, and some man willed that
it must.

Charles F. Kettering

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in
what direction we are moving.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

In activity we must find our joy as well as glory; and labour, like everything
else that is good, is its own reward.

Edwin Percy Whipple

Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach
them but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them and try to
follow where they lead.

Louisa May Alcott

BEHOLD THE LOVE OF GOD. IN THOSE YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY, IT never failed. When we fell, it raised us; when we wandered, it recalled us; when we fainted, it revived us; when we sinned, it pardoned us; when we wept, it comforted us. In those moments of agony and doubt and almost despair, which some can recall, it was all-sufficient.

Rev Canon Money, adapted

O God, whose smile is in the sky,
Whose path is in the sea,
Once more from earth's tumultuous strife
We gladly turn to thee.
We come as those with toil far spent
Who crave thy rest and peace,
And from the care and fret of life
Would find in thee release.

John H. Holmes

Think about the good things.

Philippians 4:8, paraphrased

AN UNHAPPY WOMAN, DISSATISFIED WITH HER LOT IN LIFE, WAS STRUCK by an account of a would-be emigrant who sold everything he had on an internet auction site, including his house and all of its contents, his car, and even an invitation to meet his friends. Starting again sounded a good prospect, so she decided to follow suit.

She wrote a detailed advertisement, describing her flat and possessions, her circle of friends, and the nice places to visit in her neighbourhood.

“How does this sound?” she asked herself, hoping her advert would invite generous bids. As she read the draft aloud, it suddenly struck her that if she had seen an advertisement like this five years earlier, she would have jumped at the chance to have everything that this person described. But she already had it! Her advertisement was never posted. As Bob Gass has wisely written, “Contentment isn’t getting what we want, but enjoying what we’ve got.”

Retold by A. M.

IF YOU'RE FEELING DOWN, JUST SING A SONG. IF YOU CAN SING OUT LOUD, then sing out loud. There's something about singing out loud, even if you don't feel like it, that helps pull you out of the dumps. But even if circumstances don't permit you to sing out loud, then sing in your heart, and I will lift those burdens and weights. Or if you don't feel like singing, say some words of praise to Me, and the heaviness will lift.

Jesus

Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love, and the future to God's providence.

Augustine of Hippo

IT HAPPENED, AS [JESUS] WAS COMING NEAR JERICO, THAT A CERTAIN blind man sat by the road begging, and he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And when [Jesus] had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well."

And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God.

Luke 18:35-42

How often we look upon God as our last and feeblest resource! We go to him because we have nowhere else to go. And then we learn that the storms of life have driven us, not upon the rocks, but into the desired haven.

George MacDonald



Prayer is the key to open the day,
and the bolt to shut in the night.

Jeremy Taylor

DEAR JESUS, I WANT EACH DAY THAT COMES

To share some part with you,
Where I can sit, receive your peace,
And hear you speak to me.

A PLACE WHERE I CAN TURN ASIDE

And leave the cares of life,
Where I can get the strength I need
To banish storm and strife.

A QUIET, SERENE AND TRUSTING PLACE

Where you alone can give
The very blessing that I need—
Here would I rest and live.

Author unknown

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits
nothing. The words that I speak to you are
spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

A MAN MAY READ THE FIGURES ON THE SUNDIAL, BUT HE CANNOT TELL
how the day goes unless the sun is shining on it; so we may read the Bible
over, but we cannot learn its purpose till the spirit of God shines upon it
and into our hearts.

Thomas Watson

The Bible is the light of my understanding, the joy of my heart, the fullness
of my hope, the clarifier of my affections, the mirror of my thoughts,
the consoler of my sorrows, the guide of my soul through this gloomy
labyrinth of time, the telescope sent from heaven to reveal to the eye of
man the amazing glories of the far distant world.

Sir William Jones

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
On You I wait all the day.

Psalms 25:5



Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

Luke 8:22-24

NOTHING DOES SO MUCH ESTABLISH THE MIND AMIDST THE ROLLINGS and turbulency of present things, as both a look above them, and a look beyond them; above them to the good and steady Hand by which they are ruled, and beyond them to the sweet and beautiful end to which, by that Hand, they shall be brought.

Attributed to Jeremy Taylor

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

The manifestations of the power of God, like His mercies, are "new every morning" and fresh every moment.

Daniel Webster

There's a wideness in God's mercy,	For the love of God is broader
Like the wideness of the sea;	Than the measure of our mind;
There's a kindness in His justice,	And the heart of the Eternal
Which is more than liberty.	Is most wonderfully kind.

Frederick William Faber

Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works
Which You have done;
And Your thoughts toward us
Cannot be recounted to You in order;
If I would declare and speak of them,
They are more than can be numbered.

Psalms 40:5

The just shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4

Faith is to believe what you do not yet see: the reward for this faith is to see what you believe.

Augustine of Hippo

Faith is the foot of the soul by which it can march along the road of the commandments. Love can make the feet move more swiftly, but faith is the foot that carries the soul. With faith I can do all things; without faith I shall neither have the inclination nor the power to do anything in the service of God. If you would find the men who serve God the best, you must look for the men of the most faith. Little faith will save a man, but little faith cannot do great things for God.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Faith is the eye that sees him, the hand that clings to him, the receiving power that appropriates him.

John E. Woodbridge

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Then said I:

“Ah, Lord GOD!

Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

But the LORD said to me:

“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’

For you shall go to all to whom I send you,

And whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Do not be afraid of their faces,

For I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:6–8

FINDING MEANING AND FULLNESS OF LIFE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH age. Fulfilling God's purpose has nothing to do with age. God is not limited by age or experience, not limited by many or by few.¹ Gideon won a major battle with only 300 men and some motley weapons: torches, trumpets and empty clay jars.² Jesus fed the multitude with a boy's lunch.³ Never allow yourself to be intimidated; go forward with God's support and there will be no stopping you.

A. M.

¹ 1 Samuel 14:6

² Judges 6 and 7

³ John 6:5–13

I SPOKE GREAT TRUTHS, PROFOUND WORDS THAT CHANGED LIVES AND continue to do so. But I also spoke to the children. I was simple, I was clear and I didn't lose My appreciation of little things. I stopped to enjoy the flowers. I cooked for My disciples.¹

It's when you can't find joy in the everyday things of life that you become complicated and lose the human touch. You exchange depth of character for a labyrinth of complex thinking, a heart that is sensitive to the things of the spirit for mere head knowledge.

Simplicity is a gift. Everyone starts out with it, but as some people grow up they discount this gift because they associate it with ignorance, naiveté, immaturity and a lack of sophistication. They prefer to weave a web of complexity to cover it. But did I not say that unless you have childlike simplicity to believe in the "impossible" and the unseen—Me, the one who died for you and rose to life again so you could have the wonderful but simple gift of eternal life—you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven?² The gift of simplicity remains for those who have the humility and wisdom to value it and claim it as their own.

There is much to discover throughout life and even more in heaven, but you will always find that the most profound truths, the greatest beauty and the most outstanding wisdom are all expressed simply.

Jesus

¹ John 21:9, 12

² Matthew 18:3

GIVE ME, GOOD LORD, A HUMBLE, LOWLY, QUIET, PEACEABLE, PATIENT, charitable, kind, tender and pitiful mind, in all my works and all my words and all my thoughts, to have a taste of your holy, blessed Spirit.

Give me, good Lord, a full faith, a firm hope and a fervent charity, a love of you incomparably above the love of myself.

Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with you, not to void the calamities of this world, nor so much to attain the joys of heaven, as simply for love of you.

And give me, good Lord, your love and favour, which my love of you, however great it might be, could not deserve were it not for your great goodness.

These things, good Lord, that I pray for, give me your grace to labour for.

Prayer of Thomas More

Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.
John 18:9

THERE CAN BE NO SUCH THING AS LOSING WITH GOD. GOD CANNOT tolerate the loss of what really belongs to him. This is a truth we cannot explain, and yet, it helps us to keep silence in the presence of some of the riddles of life.

“The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”¹ The lost sheep, and the lost piece of money, and the lost son of the parables, were only lost for a time: “I have found my sheep... I have found the piece... This my son was lost, and is found.” This is a precious thought, assuring us that in all that God does, there is a meaning and a purpose. He takes care that “nothing be lost.”

P. F. Eliot

You can never lose God’s unconditional love; and because of his unfailing love, you will never be lost.

Mottos for Success

These things I command you, that you love
one another.

John 15:17

The more you love, the more love you are given to love with.

Lucian Price

Kind words are the flowers in life’s garden, bringing scent and colour to the landscape.

A. M.

Love is the shortest and swiftest way to God.

Johannes Tauler

O God of love, we ask you to give us love;
Love in our thinking, love in our speaking,
Love in our doing,
And love in the hidden places of our souls;
Love of those with whom we find it hard to bear,
And love of those who find it hard to bear with us;
Love of those with whom we work,
And love of those with whom we take our ease;
That so at length we may be worthy to dwell with you,
Who are eternal love.

William Temple

¹ Matthew 18:11 (kjv)

[At the house] he saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." When He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Immediately the girl arose and walked.

Mark 5:38-42, abridged

IF WE LET GOD'S THOUGHTS, AS THEY ARE REVEALED IN THE WORD, COME in and fill the chamber of our minds, our views and feelings regarding both God and ourselves will be so different! If we let God's thoughts in, it will be like Jesus coming into the midst of the mourners and saying, "Why are you making such a commotion, and weeping? The damsel is not dead, but sleeping."¹

As the minstrels and other mourners were put out of the house by Jesus, so must our thoughts be put out of our hearts by God's thoughts. Then, all being still, the sweet voice of the Redeemer will be heard, "Maid, arise!"

William Hepburn Hewitson, adapted

¹ Mark 5:39

O LORD GOD, You are God,
and Your words are true.

2 Samuel 7:28

THERE IS ABUNDANT EVIDENCE THAT THE BIBLE, THOUGH WRITTEN BY men, is not the product of the human mind. By countless multitudes it has always been revered as a communication to us from the Creator of the universe.

Sir Ambrose Fleming

For me, the Bible is the Book. I cannot see how anybody can live without it.

Gabriela Mistral

The Bible is a rock of diamonds, a chain of pearls, the sword of the Spirit; a chart by which the Christian sails to eternity; the map by which he daily walks; the sundial by which he sets his life; the balance in which he weighs his actions.

Thomas Watson

Every word of God is pure;
He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Proverbs 30:5

JUST AS YOU WOULD EXPECT A CHILD TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP WHEN HE'S trying to lift an object that's too heavy for him, or trying to reach something too high for him, so I expect you to ask Me to help you when the burdens are too heavy and the obstacles are too difficult for you to navigate. As a loving parent, I will do everything within My power to make things easier for you; you have but to ask.

Jesus

What man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then ... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Matthew 7:9-11

Let us not grow weary while doing good,
for in due season we shall reap if we do not
lose heart.

Galatians 6:9

Success is like a buried treasure: Only the most believing and persevering find it.

Mottos for Success

A single stroke of an axe won't bring down an oak, but many will.

Spanish proverb

All that I have accomplished, or expect or hope to accomplish, has been and will be by that plodding, patient, persevering process of accumulation that builds the ant-heap, particle by particle, thought by thought, fact by fact.

Elihu Burritt

Here is the great secret of success: Work with all your might, but never trust in your work. Pray with all your might for the blessing in God, but work at the same time with all diligence, with all patience, with all perseverance. Pray and work. Work and pray.

George Müller

August 21



August 22



Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD ;
Lord, hear my voice!

Psalm 130:1-2

JESUS,

I was nothing, yet you came and died for me so that you might always have me with you. You reached down to the depths for me, and I took hold of your hand. Sometimes, though, I get so caught up in the cares of this life and the things around me that I forget you. But even when I do, you understand, and keep loving me and encouraging me. You keep reminding me that you're always there, waiting for me to come to you and be refreshed and renewed. When I turn my attention to you, your love reaches down and touches my heart, and I am renewed. Thank you!

He who has seen Me has seen the Father.

John 14:9

KEDLESTON HALL IN THE ROLLING GREEN HILLS OF ENGLAND WAS THE work of craftsmen in centuries past; visitors today admire the panelled walls and exquisite paintings. The elaborate patterns on the high-domed plaster ceiling in the saloon can best be examined by gazing into mirrors placed strategically on the floor. The mirrors reflect and bring into plain view the intricate designs that would otherwise be too distant to appreciate.

God is too great for our sight; we cannot focus upon him. He is too high. Jesus is like the mirror; in him we see God's reflection.

A. M.

Jesus brings God into our world and within our reach. He enables us to know what God is like. God is in heaven, but we see his reflection in Jesus.

John MacBeath

You are my hiding place;
You shall preserve me from trouble;
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalm 32:7

THE LORD IS ALWAYS A SANCTUARY OR HIDING PLACE TO HIS CHILDREN; IN every place, in every company, they may hide in the secret of his presence from the strife of tongues about them. Better never enter into society, even into that of Christians, than go without taking our hiding place within us.

Mary Anne Schimmelpenninck

I put aside my weighty cares and leave my wearisome toils for a while. I abandon myself to you, O God, and rest for a little in you.

I enter the inner chamber of my soul, and seek only God and the things that can help me in my quest for you.

Come then, Lord my God, teach my heart where and how to look for you, where and how to find you.

Anselm of Canterbury

I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18 (AV)

CHRISTIAN, WHY WEEPEST THOU? LOOK UP! HEAVEN IS SMILING ABOVE you! Look around! Heaven is opening before you! Let your tears, if they must fall, be as the drops of rain which fall in the sunshine and reflect the colours of the rainbow. The last year of earth will soon be wiped away, amid the first smile of heaven; and that smile will be eternal.

John Angell James

O Lord,
The help of the helpless,
The hope of the hopeless,
The saviour of the storm-tossed,
The harbour of voyagers,
The physician of the sick;
We pray to you.

O Lord,
You know each of us and our petitions;
You know each house and its needs;
Receive us all into your kingdom;
Make us children of light,
And bestow your peace and love
upon us.

Basil of Caesarea

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:15-16

How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

William Shakespeare

Happiness is a sunbeam which may pass through a thousand [hearts] without losing a particle of its original ray; nay, when it strikes on a kindred heart, like the converged light on a mirror, it reflects itself with redoubled brightness.—It is not perfected till it is shared.

Jane Porter

For You will light my lamp;
The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Psalms 118:28

[Martha] had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:39-42

START YOUR DAY OFF WITH SWEET TIME WITH ME, AND THEN LET THAT time and My presence linger throughout the day. Before your day begins, lock Martha and her busy mind and many duties out for the time being, and commune with Me in quietness and confidence, like Mary. There you will find your strength, your peace, your power and love and anointing for the day.

Jesus

While I live I will praise the LORD ;
I will sing praises to my God
while I have my being.

Psalms 146:2

I KNOW NOTHING MORE CONSTANT TO EXPEL THE SADNESS OF THE WORLD
than to sound out the praises of God as with a trumpet; and when the
heart is cast down, this will make it rebound from earth to heaven.

Jeremy Taylor

When thankfulness o'erflows the swelling heart, and breathes in free and
uncorrupted praise for benefits received, propitious heaven takes such
acknowledgement as fragrant incense, and doubles all its blessings.

George Lillo

Joy is the echo of God's life within us.

Joseph Marmion

I'll lift my hands, I'll raise my voice,
While I have breath to pray or praise;
This work shall make my heart rejoice
And spend the remnant of my days.

Isaac Watts

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch
cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in
the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in
Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He
who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much
fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

LORD, BE WITHIN ME

To strengthen me; without me
To preserve me; over me
To shelter me; beneath me
To support me; before me
To direct me; behind me
To bring me back; around me
To fortify me.

Prayer of Lancelot Andrews

[But God has] raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-7

O Jesus, Friend unfailing,	For every tribulation,
How dear you are to me!	For every sore distress,
Are cares or fears assailing?	In Christ I've full salvation,
I find my strength in thee!	Sure help and quiet rest.

No fear of foes prevailing,
I triumph, Lord, in thee!
O Jesus, Friend unfailing,
How dear you are to me!

Samuel C.G. Kaester, adapted

You will find him an unfading flower in a fading world.

James Harrington Evans

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God will shine forth.

Psalms 50:2

In returning and rest you shall be saved.

Isaiah 30:15

ENTER THIS WILD WOOD AND VIEW THE HAUNTS OF NATURE. THE CALM shade shall bring a kindred calm, and the sweet breeze that makes the green leaves dance shall waft a balm to thy sick heart.

William Cullen Bryant

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.

Anne Frank

Lonely woods with paths dim and silent,
A haunt of peace for weary hearted.
There's healing in your shade,
And in your stillness balm.
Here seek repose
From the world's strife and glamour,
Find a haven calm and secure
And go forward strengthened and renewed.

Jean-Baptiste de Lully

I WANT TO MAKE A STRONG CONNECTION WITH YOU FIRST THING IN THE morning, and then I want to keep that connection strong all day long as we enjoy each other's company, talk things over, and work things out together.

You're in the habit of launching right into your day without making that connection, and when situations or problems arise you try to sort them out on your own, as best you can. By the time you remember to pray—if you remember at all—you've usually already decided what to do, based on your experience or what seems reasonable. Because I can see things more clearly and completely than you can, I often have a better plan, but it's hard for Me to get through to you because your own thoughts get in the way. You mean well, but things would go smoother and turn out better if you were in closer communication with Me.

As things come up don't just ask yourself, "What should I do now?" or "What should I say?" but ask Me. When you have a problem or feel frustrated or hurried or worried or confused or discouraged, tell Me about it. Come to Me and I'll give you exactly what you need at the time, whether it's solutions or help or comfort or reassurance or encouragement. You'll find overcoming power in My presence.

Jesus

Our heart has not turned back,
Nor have our steps departed from Your way.

Psalms 44:18

I try to avoid looking forward or backward, and try to keep looking upward.

Charlotte Brontë

Don't look at the rough road, but at the bright rainbow up ahead; not at the mud at your feet, but at the next milestone; not at the rocks in the way, but at the flowers by the wayside. Don't dwell on the sores and calluses, but on the strength you've gained through toil; not at the pain, but at the joy that springs up afterward.

Mottos for Success

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

Exodus 9:5

In all hard work there is profit.

Proverbs 14:23 (WEB)

AN ELDERLY CARPENTER WAS READY TO RETIRE. WHEN HE TOLD HIS BOSS his plans, the contractor was sorry to see such a good worker go, and he asked the carpenter to build just one more house as a personal favour.

The carpenter agreed, but his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials.

When he had finished, the employer came to inspect the house. He handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said. "It is my gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then with a shock we realise we have to live in the house we have built.

If we could do it over, we'd do it much differently. But we cannot go back.

You are the carpenter of your life. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Your attitudes and the choices you make today build your "house" for tomorrow. Build wisely!

Author unknown

I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Jeremiah 18:3-4

This world is God's workshop for making men in.

Henry Ward Beecher

You are surprised at your imperfections—why? Surely, you might rather be astonished that you do not fall into more frequent and more grievous faults, and thank God for His upholding grace.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Without imperfections, there would be no mistakes. Without mistakes there would be no way to learn and grow. Without learning and growing, life would have no purpose.

Mottos for Success

It is the nature of God to make something out of nothing; therefore, when anyone is nothing, God may yet make something of him.

Martin Luther

STRUGGLING TO START YOUR DAY? PERHAPS IT'S NOT COFFEE YOU NEED but something else: "The very moment you wake up each morning ... all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in."—So advises C. S. Lewis.

A. M.

I will begin here also with the beginning of time, the morning; so soon as you wake, retire your mind into a pure silence from all thoughts and ideas of worldly things, and in that frame wait upon God to feel his good presence, to lift up your hearts to him, and commit your whole self into his blessed care and protection.

William Penn

O secret Christ,
Lord of the rose of dawn,
hide me within thy silent peace,
that, throughout the turmoil of the day,
I may abide within the quiet of the daybreak.

Used in the chapel at Launde Abbey, author unknown.

Jesus answered and said to them,
"Have faith in God."

Mark 11:22

Faith is the hand by which we may hold on to Jesus.

Jean Mestrezat

Faith makes God and man good friends; faith brings God and man together.

Patrick Hamilton

Faith is the door whereby we enter into the house of God.

Desiderius Erasmus

Faith in Jesus Christ is the soul's flight into the city of refuge.

Hugh Binning

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbour. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me and strengthen my faith and trust in you.

Martin Luther

The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the sky proclaims the work of His hands.

Psalm 19:1 (CSB)

LOOK UP AT THE SKY. DURING THE DAY YOU HAVE THE SUN TO LIGHT your way and give you warmth. At night you have the moon and the stars that come out and shine for you. And at the beginning and end of every day, you have the sunrises and sunsets that are symbols of My love for you. I create a unique, one-of-a-kind masterpiece on the canvas of the sky each morning and evening, because I love you.

Jesus

A star-filled sky is a picture of hope; twinkles of light in dark distant space remind us that we are never alone.

A. M.

God of the earth, the sky, the sea!
Maker of all above, below!
Creation lives and moves in Thee,
Thy present life in all doth flow.

Samuel Longfellow

We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR YOUR UNFAILING LOVE. NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN always count on that. When things are going great for me, I am certain that's because you're looking out for me, answering my prayers, and blessing me in more ways than I probably even realise. And when things aren't going my way, it helps me keep things in perspective so that I appreciate you and your love all the more. Through all life's ups and downs, you're always there for me. What more could I ask?

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

When they had read it,
they rejoiced over its encouragement.

Acts 15:31

LITERACY GIVES THE READER ACCESS TO THE MIND AND THOUGHTS OF people the world over, from the past to the present. It opens a universe of knowledge. What's more, literacy gives us access to God's thoughts, as revealed through the Bible and the inspired writers of all time.

The Bible abounds with literacy events, ranging from public readings, such as Moses reading the book of the Covenant aloud to the people¹ and Jesus reading from the book of Isaiah in the synagogue,² to admonitions to quiet, meditative reading.³ According to Revelation 20:12, there are apparently even books in heaven itself: "Books were opened." Literacy lasts forever!

A. M.

Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people. ... So [the leaders] read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

Nehemiah 8:5,8

¹ Exodus 24:7

² Luke 4:17

³ Deuteronomy 17:19

"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

Rest of the weary,
Joy of the sad,
Hope of the dreary,
Light of the glad;
Home of the stranger,
Strength to the end,
Refuge from danger,
Saviour and Friend!

Author unknown

Christ willed to become what man is, in order that man might become what Christ is.

Cyprian of Carthage

To me, Jesus is the Life I want to live, the Light I want to reflect, the Way to the Father, the Love I want to express, the Joy I want to share, the Peace I want to sow around me. Jesus is everything to me.

Mother Teresa

Fashion in me, Lord, eyes within my eyes, so that, with new eyes,
I may contemplate your divine sacrifice.
Create in me a pure heart, so that, through the power of your Spirit,
I may inhale your salvation.

Joseph the Visionary

For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning
heat than it withers the grass; its flower
falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes.

James 1:11

IT IS FAIR, THAT LILY DRESSED BY GOD, BUT IT FADES. HE ONLY INTENDED
its beauty to be for a day; all our earthly joy he intends for a similar short
duration. Its earthly part, like the petals of the flower, must droop and
disappear.

This is not our home, nor our rest. But underneath, growing and
strengthening in the Christian's daily life, there is a joy that will never
fade and a beauty that will never be dimmed. His life is "hid with Christ in
God."¹

The joy he has in his Saviour's love, the joy he shares—that joy no one
can take away. It is not an earthly but a celestial flower, and it will bloom
hereafter in the paradise of God with a splendour and fragrance that it has
not entered into the heart of man to conceive.

Canon Wynne, adapted

Let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;
Let those also who love Your name
Be joyful in You.

Psalms 5:11

As sure as ever God puts his children in the
furnace, he will be in the furnace with them.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

THESE THREE MEN, SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO, FELL DOWN
bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and
spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into
the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of
the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son
of God."

Daniel 3:23–25

Troubles are an inevitable part of the fabric of life. At times we may
wonder if God has forgotten us. Perhaps the three young men, captives
of a hostile nation, threatened with execution if they would not renounce
their faith, wondered the same. Yet they held firm, and the Lord not only
did not fail them, but stood with them in the midst of their trouble.

What greater comfort than to realise that God is with us, no matter the
heat of our trial.

A. M.

¹ Colossians 3:3

Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors.

African proverb

LIFE IS VERY MUCH LIKE SAILING. I AM YOUR CAPTAIN AND I KNOW THE seas of life. Many are content to just sail around in the safe harbours and not really go anywhere with their life; whereas others set their sails toward the horizon and head out into the open sea. It takes faith to set out into the unknown, to believe that My Word is true and that I will keep you safe and lead you on a true course. This type of faith is learned through difficult situations where you do what I show you to do and you find that it works out.

With each test comes stronger faith. The shores of My blessings are not visible to those who stay in the harbour and never venture out; it takes faith to set sail and find them. Don't believe the doubter who has never ventured out of the safety of his harbour and who says, "There are no new shores, no new challenges, nothing new to learn." Be the first to venture out, to let Me set the course of your life!

Jesus

Abide in Me, and I in you.

John 15:4

IN ITS ARCHAIC MEANING, TO ABIDE IS TO RESIDE OR TO LIVE. EDWARD M. Blaiklock described abiding in Christ with these words: "Experience God's presence by an unbroken attitude of mind; visualise God within; remember that he is the hearer of all speech, the monitor of all thoughts, the judge of all actions. Then you will precisely 'abide in Christ.'"

It takes faith as well as practical effort to live in Christ, but the reward is peace.

A. M.

O my God, Trinity whom I adore, let me entirely forget myself that I may abide in you, still and peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity; let nothing disturb my peace nor separate me from you, O my unchanging God, but that each moment may take me further into the depths of your mystery.

Elizabeth of the Trinity

September 14



September 15



Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of thy loving heart.

Jean Sophia Pigott

ONE THING I HAVE DESIRED OF YOU, THAT WILL I SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL
in your house all the days of my life, to behold your beauty, and to inquire
in your temple. For in the time of trouble you shall hide me in your
pavilion; in the secret place of your tabernacle you shall hide me; you will
set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up; therefore
I will offer sacrifices of joy in your presence; I will sing, yes, I will sing
praises to you.

Prayer adapted from Psalm 27:4-6

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
He is their strength in the time of trouble.

Psalm 37:39

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where we our Saviour meet,
Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.

Cleland Boyd McAfee

I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

A CERTAIN CENTURION'S SERVANT, WHO WAS DEAR TO HIM, WAS SICK AND ready to die. The centurion sent friends to [Jesus], saying to Him,

"Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. But say the word, and my servant will be healed."

When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him. And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

Luke 7:2-10, abridged

I am not worthy, Master and Lord, that you should come beneath the roof of my soul; yet since in your love towards all, you wish to dwell in me, in boldness I come. You command; open the gates, which you alone have made. And you will come in, and enlighten my darkened reasoning. I believe that you will do this; for you did not send away the harlot who came to you with tears, nor cast out the repenting tax-collector, nor reject the thief who acknowledged your kingdom. But you counted all of these as members of your band of friends. You are blessed for evermore.

John Chrysostom

"Be strong, all you people of the land," says the LORD, "and work; for I am with you."

Haggai 2:4

YOUR LIFE IS LIKE A RIVER THAT TRAVELS THROUGH MANY PLACES AND takes on many forms. At times it is a peaceful stream that winds through the meadow, glimmering in the sun for all to see and enjoy. At other times it is like a raging torrent, cascading down the mountain with fury and great noise, and everyone is in awe. At other times the river vanishes underground out of the sight of everyone, and many wonder if it has disappeared altogether. But it is still there, hidden. It is still flowing, still carrying life and nutrients, and it will eventually come out in the open again as a beautiful current of clean, pure water.

So it is with your life sometimes. It can be glorious and beautiful for all to see, and at other times, hidden, quiet, and unnoticed. But that doesn't take away your usefulness or role, and it certainly doesn't diminish My love for you. I am always there by your side, always helping you to flow and move on, even if at times no one sees it.

Jesus

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:8-10

FAITH MUST GO BEFORE, AND THEN FEELING WILL FOLLOW. THOUGH YOU feel not as you would, yet doubt not, but hope beyond all hope, as Abraham did; for always, faith goes before feeling.

John Bradford

Like legs, faith and works should travel side-by-side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again—until they can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other.

William Booth

We walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63:9

THINK BACK TO YESTERDAY. BEFORE YOUR DAY EVEN STARTED, JESUS WAS with you as you slept, watching over you. Morning came, and just as sure as the sun rose, he was there. When you thought about the day ahead, he was there, just waiting for you to ask his help in planning and carrying out that plan. On your way to work, he was right beside you. Every time you encountered a problem, he was waiting with the answer you needed, hoping you would ask him for it. When you heard some good news, he was happy along with you. When the day took a difficult turn, he was there to comfort you.

Today is a new day. Just as he was there beside you yesterday, he is with you now.

A. M.

My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

Exodus 33:14

September 20



Jesus prayed, "Holy Father, keep through
Your name those whom You have given Me,
that they may be one as We are."

John 17:11

IF I ONLY POSSESSED THE GRACE, GOOD JESUS, TO BE UTTERLY AT ONE
with you! Amidst all the variety of worldly things around me, Lord, the
only thing I crave is unity with you. You are all my soul needs. Unite,
dear Friend of my heart, this unique little soul of mine to your perfect
goodness. You are all mine; when shall I be yours? Lord Jesus, my beloved,
be the magnet of my heart; clasp, press, unite me forever to your sacred
heart. You have made me for yourself; make me one with you. Absorb this
tiny drop of life into the ocean of goodness whence it came.

Prayer of Francis de Sales

September 21



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Seek peace and pursue it.

Psalms 34:14

All men desire peace, but very few desire those things that make for peace.

Thomas à Kempis

Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought
about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely an absence of war. It is
also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.

Jawaharlal Nehru

All works of love are works of peace. ... Peace begins with a smile.

Mother Teresa

We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of
power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace.

William E. Gladstone

Christ is the fountain of peace and life.

Tobias Crisp

Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest.

Psalms 55:6

THE SPOT THE LITTLE BIRD HAD CHOSEN FOR HIS PLAYGROUND THAT morning happened to be a busy parking lot. I watched nervously as he hopped between the cars. Everyone, it seemed, was in too big of a hurry or too preoccupied by cares of the day to notice him.

“You’re on your own, little fellow,” I muttered in what was half statement and half prayer.

A moment later panic gripped me as the little bird nonchalantly pranced out in front of oncoming traffic. Panic was soon replaced by relief as the bird took flight and climbed into the sky. I had been so focused on all the potential dangers that I had forgotten the bird had wings, a way of escape.

And so it is with us. When our happiness or well-being is threatened, we can escape to heavenly places on the wings of prayer.

Tomoko Matsuoka

The testing of your faith produces patience.

James 1:3

Patience is accepting a difficult situation from God without giving Him a deadline to remove it.

Mottos for Success

Never think that God’s delays are God’s denials. Hold on; hold fast; hold out. Patience is genius.

Georges Louis Buffon

God is infinitely patient. He waits for the perfect ripening of things; he waits for the coming of things in their own proper time and order. He has ever an unbroken eternity to work in, and, therefore, he has not the need for haste that the shortness and uncertainty of our life seems to urge upon us at all time. He waits to be gracious.

Hugh Macmillan, adapted

Hope anticipates, faith believes, and patience quietly waits.

Mottos for Success

By your patience possess your souls.

Luke 21:19

The eyes of all look expectantly to You.

Psalm 145:15

BE THOU MY VISION, O LORD OF MY HEART;

Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

BE THOU MY WISDOM, AND THOU MY TRUE WORD;

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

BE THOU MY BATTLE SHIELD, SWORD FOR THE FIGHT;

Be thou my Dignity, thou my Delight;
Thou my Soul's Shelter, thou my high Tower:
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

HIGH KING OF HEAVEN, MY VICTORY WON,

May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish hymn of the 8th century

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

WHAT DEEP MYSTERIES, MY DEAREST BROTHERS, ARE CONTAINED IN THE Lord's Prayer! How many and great they are! They are expressed in a few words but they are rich in spiritual powers so that nothing is left out; every petition and prayer we have to make is included. It is a compendium of heavenly doctrine.

Cyprian of Carthage

Whatever else we say when we pray, if we pray as we should, we are only saying what is already contained in the Lord's Prayer.

Augustine of Hippo

I am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor
things present nor things to come, nor height
nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall
be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39

YOU ARE HOLY, LORD, THE ONLY GOD,

And your deeds are wonderful.

You are love, you are wisdom.

You are humility, you are endurance.

You are rest, you are peace.

You are joy and gladness.

You are all our riches, and you suffice for us.

You are beauty, you are gentleness.

You are our protector,

You are our guardian and defender.

You are courage,

You are our haven and hope.

You are our faith, our great consolation.

You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord,

God almighty, merciful Saviour.

Francis of Assisi, abridged

From there you will seek the LORD your God,
and you will find Him if you seek Him with all
your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DAY.

Number one, talk to Me first thing or even the night before about what
you need or want to do. It doesn't have to take long—just long enough
to get your bearings on the day and to let Me remind you of anything you
may have forgotten.

Number two, each time you are about to start a new task, ask Me if
you're on the right track. It may seem like the logical thing to do, or you
may have done it a thousand times before, but perhaps I see factors you
don't see or want to show you a better way to do it. When you make an
effort to check your plans with Me, it's much easier for Me to help you get
it right. Nothing is too small to ask Me about.

Number three, when new factors arise, ask Me what to do. I see the big
picture, and I can help you see things more clearly too. The quickest and
surest route isn't always a straight line. Sometimes you need to sidestep
or even backtrack. I know the way, but I can only lead you step by step if
you ask Me step by step.

Jesus

September 28



Dear Lord,
You have given me the shield of Your salvation;
Your right hand has held me up,
Your gentleness has made me great.
You enlarged my path under me,
So my feet did not slip.

Psalm 18:35-36

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR BOUNDLESS LOVE, WHICH HAS NEVER LET ME down nor forsaken me. I thank you even for my imperfections and my weaknesses and for the failures which I experience, because they show me my own limits and drive me to you. I thank you, O my God, for all that you do in my life, for all the wonderful things that you do for me. Most of all I thank you for the warmth and the reassurance and the joy of your presence, for how you are with me every step and how you uphold me with your strong right hand.

September 29



Receive, please, instruction from His mouth,
And lay up His words in your heart.

Job 22:22

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S CHART FOR YOU TO STEER BY, TO KEEP YOU FROM THE bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbour is, and how to reach it without running on rocks and bars.

Henry Ward Beecher

By studying God's Word, you will come to understand His loving ways. This will give you faith that whatever your circumstances may be, He is in control and has your best interests at heart. When disappointments, obstacles and setbacks wear on you, taking a little time to read from God's Word will put things back in proper perspective.

Jason Rae and Shannon Shayler

He that takes truth for his guide, and duty for his end, may safely trust to God's providence to lead him aright.

Blaise Pascal

You will guide me with Your counsel.

Psalm 73:24

September 30

HH
hearts and
hands

Whatever you want men to do to you,
do also to them.

Matthew 7:12

Love has a thousand varied notes to move the human heart.

George Crabbe

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Stephen Grellet

Is life not full of opportunities for learning Love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is *how better we can love*. ... To love abundantly, and to love forever is to live forever.

Henry Drummond

The spirit of a person's life is ever shedding some power, just as a flower is steadily bestowing fragrance upon the air.

Thomas Starr King

If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:12

October 1

on
this day

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

Wisdom is with aged men,
And with length of days, understanding.

Job 12:12

A MAN'S AGE IS SOMETHING IMPRESSIVE; IT SUMS UP HIS LIFE: MATURITY reached slowly and against many obstacles, illnesses cured, griefs and despairs overcome, and unconscious risks taken; maturity formed through so many desires, hopes, regrets, forgotten things, loves. A man's age represents a fine cargo of experiences and memories.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another dress;
And as the evening twilight fades away,
The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young.

Arthur Wing Pinero

I have created you and cared for you since you were born. I will be your God through all your lifetime, Yes, even when your hair is white with age. I made you and I will care for you.

Isaiah 46:3-4 (Living Bible)

THERE IS STILL PEACE TO BE FOUND IN A TROUBLED WORLD. IT RESIDES IN that quiet place of rest in My arms, which you can travel to in spirit any time, no matter what's happening around you. If you find yourself having a hard time finding that special place, take some time to practice going there. Get familiar with the route that takes you there, and the more you go there, the easier it becomes, and it can be a blessed way to escape when things get too intense or your spirit needs respite.

Jesus

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast.
Here no fears alarm me,
Here can my soul find rest.

Fanny Crosby

Truly the light is sweet,
And a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to
behold the sun.

Ecclesiastes 11:7

AND LO! IN A FLASH OF CRIMSON SPLENDOR, WITH BLAZING, SCARLET clouds running before his chariot and heralding his majestic approach, God's sun rises upon the world.

William Makepeace Thackeray

The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the wide world's joy. So God sits ... in heaven, not for a favoured few, but for the universe of life.

Henry Ward Beecher

O God of love,
true light and radiance of our world,
shine into our hearts like the rising sun,
and banish the darkness of sin and the mists of error.

May we, this day and all our life,
walk without stumbling
along the way which you have set before us;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Desiderius Erasmus



WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;
 Where there is doubt, let me sow faith;
 Where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
 Where there is discord, let me sow unity;
 Where there is error, let me sow the truth;
 Where there is despair, let me sow hope;
 Where there is sadness, let me sow joy;
 Where there is darkness, let me sow the light.

O LORD, MAKE OF ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE.

O Master, that I may not seek
 To be consoled, but to console;
 Not to be understood, but to understand;
 Not to be loved, but rather to love;
 For it is in giving that we will receive;
 And in forsaking that we truly gain;
 By forgiving, that we are forgiven;
 And in dying, that we are born again to eternal life.

Author unknown, sometimes attributed to Francis of Assisi



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

He has put in his heart the ability to teach.

Exodus 35:34

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

Henry Brooks Adams

The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.

Author unknown

If we work marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving that upon tables which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity.

Daniel Webster

These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Dear God, be good to me;
the sea is so large,
and my boat is so small.

Traditional prayer of a Breton fisherman

THAT RUSHING FLOOD I HAD NO STRENGTH TO MEET,

No power to flee: my present, future, past,

My self, my sorrow, and my sin I cast

In utter helplessness at Jesu's feet;

Then bent me to the storm, if such His will.

He saw the winds and waves, and whispered, 'Peace, be still.'

AND THERE WAS CALM! O SAVIOUR, I HAVE PROVED

That Thou to help and save art *really* near!

How else this quiet rest from grief, and fear,

And all distress? The cross is not removed;

I must go forth to bear it as before,

But, leaning on Thine arm, I dread its weight no more.

Frances Ridley Havergal

I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand,

Saying to you, "Fear not, I will help you."

Isaiah 41:13



HAVE YOU NOT KNOWN?

Have you not heard?

The everlasting God, the LORD,

The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the weak,

And to those who have no might He increases strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

And the young men shall utterly fall,

But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces; let cheerfulness abound with industry.

Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep.

Prayer of Robert Louis Stevenson

He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Matthew 13:52

I HAVE FOUND IN THE BIBLE WORDS FOR MY INMOST THOUGHTS, SONGS for my joy, utterances for my hidden griefs and pleadings for my shame and feebleness.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The highest earthly enjoyments are but a shadow of the joy I find in reading God's word.

Lady Jane Grey

The best evidence that the Bible is the inspired word of God is to be found within its covers.—It proves itself.

Charles Hodge

The book of books, the storehouse, and magazine of life and comfort, the Holy Scriptures.

George Herbert

The Bible is a window in this prison-world, through which we may look into eternity.

Timothy Dwight

Thanks be to the Gospel, by means of which we also, who did not see Christ when he came into this world, seem to be with him when we read his deeds.

Ambrose

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You will revive me.

Psalms 138:7

I journey through a desert drear and wild,
Yet is my heart by such sweet thoughts beguiled,
Of him on whom I lean, my strength, my stay,
I can forget the sorrows of the way.

Author unknown

A rule I have had for years is: to treat the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal friend. His is not a creed, a mere doctrine, but it is he himself we have.

Dwight L. Moody

I am the thought in your mind. I am the deep dream in your heart. I am your constant companion, going with you wherever you go. You don't see Me, but sometimes you feel Me. And when you don't, I still see you and I feel you.

Jesus

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:7

I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD .

Psalm 71:16

THE STORY HAS OFTEN BEEN RETOLD: A FATHER WATCHES AS HIS CHILD struggles to lift a heavy object.

“You’re not using all your strength,” he remarks gently.

“But I’m doing the best I can!” insists his son.

“Not quite. You haven’t asked me to help you,” replies his father.

How often we struggle with the heavy burdens of life, when our Father stands by, willing and ready to help lift the load.

A. M.

He that takes his cares on himself loads himself in vain with an uneasy burden. I will cast my cares on God; he has bidden me; they cannot burden him.

Joseph Hall

Give me a task too big,
Too hard for human hands.
Then shall I come at length
To lean on You;
And leaning, find my strength.

Wilbur Humphrey Fowler

Then David danced before the LORD with all his might.

2 Samuel 6:14

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS IN PRAISE AND JUBILATION TO ME, AS KING DAVID of old did in the Psalms. His love was great and his praises were powerful, and he didn’t hold back. He even got so enthusiastic that he danced before Me in abandon; this proved how joyful and praiseful he was. When you are happy, praiseful, and excited in prayer, it touches My heart in a very deep way. I dwell in the praises of My people. Praise draws down My power and answers without restraint, and I can’t help but come to your rescue when you delight Me in this way.

Jesus

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Psalm 95:1–2



Out of weakness made strong.

Hebrews 11:34

BEETHOVEN WAS STONE DEAF WHEN HE COMPOSED SOME OF THE MOST beautiful music ever written, and Thomas Edison was deaf when he invented the phonograph. Alexander the Great was a hunchback. Homer was a blind minstrel. Renoir painted some of his finest masterpieces when his fingers were so twisted by rheumatism that his artist's brush had to be strapped to his hand. Handel's right side was paralysed when he composed his greatest work, "The Hallelujah Chorus."

Very often it's the people who have overcome difficulties who are in turn able to help others have the courage and faith to overcome theirs. Their personal examples are proof that it is possible to rise above seemingly impossible situations.

M. S. Fontaine

Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things.

Henry Ward Beecher

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

JESUS LAY IN THE BOAT SLEEPING. THE WAVES ROSE, THE WIND BLEW AND the storm battered about the small vessel. His disciples were afraid: afraid of the wind, afraid of the waves and fearful for their lives. They came to Jesus, woke him up, begging for his help. The answer lay in his power. He said, "Peace, be still," and there was peace. The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.¹ No matter the turmoil of our life, we too can find peace if we turn to Jesus for his help.

A. M.

Peace, peace!
Look for its bright increase,
Deepening, widening, year by year,
Like a sunlit river, strong, calm, and clear;
Lean on His love through this earthly vale,
For His word and His work shall never fail,
And 'He is our peace.'

Frances Ridley Havergal

¹ Mark 4:35-41

October 14



October 15



He rode upon a cherub, and flew;
He flew upon the wings of the wind.

Psalms 18:10

THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR YOUR LOVE. THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL cool breeze of your Spirit. When I stop and take time with you, I'm just like a little bird spreading her wings to the wind and soaring up into the sky. You pick me up, and I can fly up and away from all of the problems and cares that hold me down.

It's so beautiful to be up above everything, up with you and to see things as you see them. Everything is so much clearer and makes so much more sense when I am with you. I can even have peace about the things that I don't understand, because at least I know that they're all in your care, and you are in control. I love these times together, sailing on your breeze and being kissed with your wind. It feels so good and is so refreshing!

Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of
Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.
I have trusted in Your mercy;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalms 51:1; 13:5

AMONG THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ALL EQUAL, MERCY shines with even more brilliancy than justice.

Miguel de Cervantes

Justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is another matter.

There is a story of a woman who came before Napoleon begging the pardon of her son. It was his second offence, and according to justice, the penalty was death.

"I don't ask for justice," said the mother, "I plead for mercy."

"But," said the emperor, "he does not deserve mercy."

"Sir," cried the mother, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask."

"Well, then," said the emperor, "I will have mercy."

Her son was saved.

Retold by A. M.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13

October 16



October 17



Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.

Deuteronomy 5:24

IF YOU WOULD SPEAK OR HEAR OF GOD ARIGHT, LEAVE THE BODY AND your bodily senses, quit earth, quit sea, set air beneath you, outstrip the boundaries of time, the ordinances of the seasons, outsoar the stars, and all their wonders, their order, their harmony, their splendour, their relations and their motions. Overpass all with your mind.

Pass on! Let your mind mount up above every creature. Exalting your spirit higher still, consider the Divine Nature abiding, unalterable, unchangeable, impassable, simple, uncompounded, indivisible, light inaccessible, power unspeakable, greatness illimitable, glory exceeding, goodness most amiable, beauty inconceivable, enrapturing with mighty strength the wounded soul, but which words are inadequate even to shadow forth. There is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Nature uncreate, the Royal Majesty, the substantial Goodness.

Basil of Caesarea, adapted

Through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge.

Thomas Carlyle

Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hand that bestows them.

Chinese proverb

It pays to show courtesy to others, because it builds friendship, encourages loving interaction, strengthens unity, brings harmony, shows others appreciation and helps to lift their load. It makes life so much more beautiful.

Mottos for Success

All the love you give comes back to you an hundredfold. It doesn't always feel like it, and sometimes it seems that more is taken from you than given to you, but you'll see in the end that everything will settle just right, and you won't regret any giving you've ever done.

Jesus

IT'S WONDERFUL WHEN YOU COME TO ME FOR MY HELP IN TIME OF TRIAL. It's so beautiful to see you depend on Me. It makes Me want to come through for you like never before because you are leaning so fully on Me. This is just where I want you to be—totally dependent on Me for strength, focus and inspiration for your tasks. Keep looking to Me and I will keep working through you all the more, to make your way clear and the path ahead beautiful and glorious.

Jesus

My dearest Lord,
be now a bright flame to enlighten me,
a guiding star to lead me,
a smooth path beneath my feet,
and a kindly shepherd along my way,
today and for evermore.

Columba

Although we may need to make practical preparations for the future, we should not carry such preparations as weights, lest they turn into worries. "Be anxious for nothing,"¹ the Bible teaches.

A. M.

LET US THEN THINK ONLY OF THE PRESENT, AND NOT EVEN PERMIT OUR minds to wander with curiosity into the future. This future is not yet ours; perhaps it never will be. It is exposing ourselves to temptation to wish to anticipate God, and to prepare ourselves for things which he may not destine for us. If such things should come to pass, he will give us light and strength according to the need. Let us give heed to the present, whose duties are pressing; it is fidelity to the present which prepares us for fidelity in the future.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

Every day is a gift I receive from heaven; let us enjoy today that which it bestows upon me.

Marie de Mancroix

¹ Philippians 4:6



Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, just as God in Christ
forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

Loving-kindness is twice blessed; it blesses him who gives and him who
receives.

Author unknown

The power to be a force for good lies within everyone, even if it is only in
little ways. Make your part of the world a bit more heavenly by bringing a
touch of heaven in the way of love and kindness to those around you.

Scott MacGregor

If I can put one touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I
shall feel that I have worked with God.

George MacDonald

By cultivating the beautiful we scatter the seeds of heavenly flowers, as by
doing good we cultivate those that belong to humanity.

John Howard



There is a river whose streams shall make
glad the city of God.

Psalms 46:4

MOVE MY HEART WITH THE CALM, SMOOTH FLOW OF YOUR GRACE. LET
the river of your love run through my soul. May my soul be carried by the
current of your love towards the wide, infinite ocean of heaven.

Stretch out my heart with your strength, as you stretch out the sky
above the earth. Smooth out any wrinkles of hatred or resentment. Enlarge
my soul that it may know more fully your truth.

Prayer of Gilbert of Hoyland

October 22



October 23



Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face evermore.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Prayer is the wing wherewith the soul flies to heaven, and meditation the eye wherewith we see God.

Ambrose

All the troubles of life come upon us because we refuse to sit quietly for a while each day in our room.

Blaise Pascal

Prayer is a haven to the shipwrecked man, an anchor to them that are sinking in the waves, a staff to the limbs that totter, a mine of jewels to the poor, a healer of diseases and a guardian of health.

John Chrysostom

Lord Jesus Christ, you said that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life;¹ let us never stray from you, who are the Way; nor distrust you, who are the Truth; nor rest in any other but you, who are the Life, beyond whom there is nothing to be desired, either in heaven or on earth. We ask it for your name's sake.

Desiderius Erasmus

¹ John 14:6

God is a guest that requires the upper rooms,
that is, the head and the heart.

Edmund Calamy

I LONG TO HOLD YOUR HEART IN MY LOVING HANDS. I LONG TO SHOW you My infinite care in little and big ways throughout your day. And all I ask in return is that you love Me too, that you recognise My loving hand and accept it. It will make you happier and your life will be richer. Let My love come into your life every day and warm your heart and soul.

As you go further into your day now, look for Me and My love for you and you'll find Me everywhere. I'm here for you, to make you happy and whole, and warmed and loved.

Jesus

You in Your mercy have led forth
The people whom You have redeemed;
You have guided them in Your strength
To Your holy habitation.

Exodus 15:13

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits.

Psalms 103:2

IF ONE SHOULD GIVE ME A DISH OF SAND, AND TELL ME THERE WERE particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction.

The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings, only the iron in God's sand is gold!

Henry Ward Beecher

The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and cheerful heart.

Plutarch

Being justified by faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

A PERSON MAY GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT HEALTH, WITHOUT RICHES, without honours, without learning, without friends; but he can never go there without Christ.

John Dyer

Ah, Christians, ring the bells of your hearts, tire the salute of your most joyous songs, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given." Dance, O my heart, and ring out peals of gladness! Ye drops of blood within my veins dance every one of you! Oh! All my nerves become harp strings, and let gratitude touch you with angelic fingers! And thou, my tongue, shout—shout to his praise who hath said to thee—"Unto thee a child is born, unto thee a Son is given."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

October 26



Better is a little with the fear of the LORD,
Than great treasure with trouble.
Proverbs 15:16

WEALTH IS LIKE A VIPER, WHICH IS HARMLESS IF YOU KNOW HOW TO TAKE
hold of it; but, if you do not, it will twine round your hand and bite you.
Clement of Alexandria

“Simplicity is a very rare thing in our age” was perhaps surprisingly
spoken not in the twenty-first century, but in the first, by Publius Ovidius
Naso, better known as Ovid.
A. M.

Grant me, O Lord, to know what is worth knowing,
to love what is worth loving,
to praise what delights you most,
to value what is precious to you,
and to reject whatever is evil in your eyes.

Give me true discernment,
so that I may judge rightly between things that differ.

Above all, may I search out and do
what is pleasing to you;
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Thomas à Kempis

October 27



What a comfort to know that we have a
great Physician who is both able and willing
to heal us!

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

THEY BROUGHT TO HIM ONE WHO WAS DEAF AND HAD AN IMPEDIMENT IN
his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.

And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his
ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He
sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue
was loosed, and he spoke plainly. And [the people] were astonished
beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He makes both the
deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Mark 7:32–35, 37

There is healing in the Promise,
There is healing in the Blood,
There is strength for all our weakness
In the Risen Son of God.

And the feeblest of His children
All His glorious life may share,
He has better balm in Gilead;
He’s the Great Physician there.

Albert Benjamin Simpson

October 28



My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation,
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah 32:18

DEAR LORD,

Keep me from having my life so full of good things that I don't have time for the best. Help me not to be so pressured that I put off my time with you. Help me to bask in your spiritual sunshine, rest in your arms, drink deeply of your Word, and inhale of your Spirit. Help me to seek you most of all—more than any of the other things I enjoy. Help me to remember how you said that without you, I can do nothing,¹ so that I won't have misplaced priorities, but I will have you, your love and your values in the right place—first.

¹ John 15:5

October 29



[Daniel] kneeled upon his knees three times
a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before
his God.

Daniel 6:10

WE ARE TOLD THAT DANIEL, THE HEBREW CAPTIVE WHO BECAME ADVISOR to the Babylonian king, stopped to pray three times a day. Surely if Daniel could do this, as busy as he was, with as many responsibilities as he held, and with as many crises as he faced, we should likewise make time for God each day.

A. M.

A Christian will find his parenthesis for prayer, even through his busiest hours.

Richard Cecil

Lord, help me today to realise that you will be speaking to me through the events of the day, through people, through things, and through all creation.

Give me ears, eyes and heart to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be.

Give me insight to see through the exterior of things to the interior truth.

Give me your spirit of discernment.

O Lord, you know how busy I must be this day. If I forget you, do not forget me.

Jacob Astley, before the battle of Edgehill, 1642

While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

TAKE A LOOK AT NATURE AND THE PASSING OF THE SEASONS. WHEN winter comes, it seems like all plant life is dying out and all that is left is a cold wind blowing and a grey sky. But life is still present, only hidden in the warmth of the earth while the cold passes over. You can do the same when trials and difficulties arise. Come snuggle close to Me, bury yourself in My love and warmth, and let the problems and hardships of the moment pass over you. I will be like the warm earth all around you, protecting you and keeping you from all harm.

Jesus

When [the shepherd] brings out his own
sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep
follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:4

RUN THE STRAIGHT RACE THROUGH GOD'S GOOD GRACE,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

CAST CARE ASIDE, UPON THY GUIDE
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

FAINT NOT NOR FEAR, HIS ARMS ARE NEAR,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell

The more the soul looks upon Christ, the more it loves; and still, the more
it loves, the more it delights to look upon him.

Robert Leighton

ON THIS DAY ... WE CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS

Since you were precious in My sight,
You have been honored,
And I have loved you.

Isaiah 43:4

WHAT IS PRECIOUS TO GOD? WE MAY VALUE POSSESSIONS AND WEALTH, but it is people, not things, that are most precious to him—so precious indeed that he calls us saints. We may not feel like saints, ever conscious of our failings, but it is our very dependence on him that makes us those “in whom he delights.”¹

A. M.

The saints are God’s jewels, highly esteemed by and dear to him; they are a royal diadem in his hand.

Matthew Henry

A saint is a human creature devoured and transformed by love.

Evelyn Underhill

God creates out of nothing. Wonderful, you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners.

Søren Kierkegaard

The past cannot be changed,
but the future is still in your power.
Mottos for Success

The world is a book and every step turns a new page.
Alphonse de Lamartine

A story is told of an elderly woman who slipped and fell on a busy street. Several people quickly went to assist her, but she was already struggling to hoist herself up. “I’m all right,” she assured them. “I always fall forwards, never backwards.”

When we’ve “taken a fall,” instead of dwelling on the mistake or hurt, we need to make it a fall forward by learning from it and looking to the future.

A. M.

I am willing to go anywhere, anywhere, anywhere—so long as it’s forward.
David Livingstone

In every country the sun rises in the morning.
Traditional proverb

¹ Psalm 16:3



GOD IS TEACHING YOU BY HIS GREAT PICTURE BOOK OF NATURE TO WAIT, to sow your seed, and wait for the slow ripening of the harvest under the patient heavens. He does not give you perfect and full-formed things at once. He sows the seeds of things that will gradually grow and ripen and bear fruit. He gives buds first, and then full unfolded blossoms, and then perfect fruit. "Everything comes to him that has patience to wait for it" is a proverb the truth of which has often been proved.

Let your apple blossoms remain ungathered on the tree, and they will grow into apples in their own good time.

Hugh Macmillan, adapted

Though today may not fulfil
All your hopes, have patience still;
For perchance tomorrow's sun
Sees your happier days begun.

Unknown

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

James 5:7



FAITH LIGHTS THE WAY THROUGH THE DARKEST NIGHT, DIRECTS US through the fiercest storm, and sustains us when we falter or are weak.

Mottos for Success

Faith hath this privilege, never to be ashamed; it takes sanctuary in God, and sits and sings under the shadow of his wings.

Robert Leighton

Ever shine Thy face upon me
As I work and wait on Thee;
Resting beneath Thy smile, Lord Jesus,
Earth's dark shadows flee.

Jean Sophia Pigott

He comforts us in all our tribulation.

2 Corinthians 1:4

If we are faithless, He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

I KNOW THAT LIFE CAN BE PRETTY ROUGH, ESPECIALLY WHEN THINGS HAVE gone wrong, or you are discouraged and low. I know that it's not always easy to understand why things happen, and it's natural to question My love. It's hard to have faith that I am taking care of you, and it's difficult to fully trust that I'm going to work things out okay in the end.

My love is what will give you strength to make it through the tough times. Unconditional love in its purest form comes from Me. Even when you question My love for you, I still love you and I'm not going to give up on you. Even when you are blaming Me for something, I love you and do not condemn you.

I'll continue walking with you, talking with you, waiting for you to come to Me when you are ready. I'm still going to be right there beside you when you need counsel, when you need some company, when you are desperate for a listening ear, or when you need a friend to relax with.

Jesus

To get an idea of what heaven will be like,
take the happiest moment of your life and
multiply it by a million.

Mottos for Success

CHRIST HAS MANIFESTED MOST AMAZING LOVE TO BELIEVERS, IN preparing for their eternal abode, mansions of glory, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heaven is a prepared place for believers; prepared by Christ in his infinite love. The love of Christ will make heaven a glorious, happy abode indeed.

Octavius Winslow

Heaven is a place where all joy is enjoyed!

In heaven, there will be: mirth without sadness, light without darkness, sweetness without bitterness, life without death, rest without labour, plenty without poverty!

Oh, what joy enters into the believer—when the believer enters into the joy of his Lord!

William Dyer

His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

Matthew 25:21



I bless thee for thy peace, O God,
Deep as the unfathomed sea.
Which falls like sunshine on the road
Of those who trust in thee.

Author unknown

YOU HAVE PROMISED THAT YOU WILL KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE WHOSE mind is stayed on you. I need to focus my thoughts on you! The peace I'm seeking comes from trust in you; I won't get upset by bad news if I have my heart fixed. It all seems so simple! Help me to trust you. Amen.

Prayer based on Isaiah 26:3 and Psalm 112:7



Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

2 Corinthians 4:17

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD IS NEAR TO THE BROKENHEARTED¹ AND A VERY present help in times of trouble.² He's more than a shoulder to cry on or a hand to hold. He can reach into the deepest places of your heart. He can soothe the pain and suffering, and replace it with His love, peace, comfort, and yes, even joy. He can do all this through His word. When He shines the light of His word on your tears, they turn to rainbow hues. It's sunshine after the rain, light at the end of the tunnel.

Rafael Holding

In the hour of adversity be not without hope, for crystal rain falls from black clouds.

Persian proverb

¹ Psalm 34:18

² Psalm 46:1

Give, and it will be given to you: good
measure, pressed down, shaken together,
and running over will be put into your bosom.
For with the same measure that you use, it
will be measured back to you.

Luke 6:38

MAKE IT A RULE ... NEVER, IF POSSIBLE, TO LIE DOWN AT NIGHT WITHOUT
being able to say, "I have made one human being at least a little wiser, a
little happier, or a little better this day."

Charles Kingsley

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone
else.

Charles Dickens

Look up and not down; look forward and not back; look out and not in;
and lend a hand.

Edward Everett Hale

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates
profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

Lao-tzu

The door to happiness swings outward.

Søren Kierkegaard

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him.

Psalm 37:7

WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN TO "REST IN JESUS"? IT MEANS TRUSTING
that once you have asked Jesus to provide solutions to your problems
or to help you with the work at hand, He will take charge and do just
that. It means trusting that He will show you what you can do to help
the situation, that He will empower you to do your part, and that He will
do the rest, whatever you can't do. It means stepping back from your
problems or work, shutting out the world around you, and letting your
spirit be strengthened through communion with Him.

In short, resting in Jesus means turning matters over to Him and then
trusting Him for the outcome. That way, you're not under such pressure
because He is carrying the weight, not you. You're still busy, but most of
your "work"—and your most important work—is the spiritual part, the
praying, believing, and trusting. When you focus on that, you set wheels
in motion in the spiritual realm that have the potential to bring about far
greater results in the physical realm than would be humanly possible—
miraculous results.

M. S. Fontaine

The LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

1 Kings 19:11–12

LISTEN FOR MY STILL, SMALL VOICE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. REMEMBER the lesson I taught My servant Elijah in days of old. I was not in the tempest and winds as he stood on the mountain, nor in the earthquake and the fire, but in the still, small voice. Although you may feel as if you are going through tempests or earthquakes or fires on some days, or all three, you can listen for the still, small voice that follows—My voice—advising you how to calm the storm, ride out the earthquake, and quench the fire.

Jesus

This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:11

GREAT DISCOVERIES AND GRAND JOURNEYS OF EXPLORATION ARE STORIES of dedication and passion, determination and perseverance. The search goes on for cures and solutions; for hidden places above the stars, to hidden wonders of the deep.

There is another search, closer to home: The search within the self for peace of mind, contentment of heart, purpose for living, hope for eternity. Happy indeed are those who discover Christ, for he fills the gaping space in the human heart.

It has been said that discovering Christ is the greatest adventure of life.—And it is not a one-time discovery. Each day can bring another precious find. Getting to know him through prayer, reading and meditation can become our greatest treasure, as Paul wrote, “For me, indeed, to live is Christ.”¹

A. M.

I remember two things; that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Saviour.

John Newton

¹ Philippians 1:21

November 13



November 14



Put your trust in the LORD.

Psalms 4:5

Be happy in a moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need,
no more.

Mother Teresa

Live in peace without worrying about the future. Unnecessary worrying and
imagining the worst possible scenario will strangle your faith. ... The future
is not yet yours—perhaps it never will be. And when tomorrow comes it
will probably be different from what you had imagined. ... Above all, live in
the present moment and God will give you all the grace you need.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

Anticipated sorrows are harder to bear than real ones, because Christ does
not support us under them.

Edward Payson

Now to him who is able to keep [you] from stumbling, and to present you
faultless before the presence of his glory in great joy, to God our Saviour,
who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now
and forever. Amen.

Jude 24–25 (WEB)

DEAR LORD,

Let my mouth be filled with your praise
And with your glory all the day.
Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!
They walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance.
In your name they rejoice all day long,
And in your righteousness they are exalted.
For you are the glory of their strength.

I WILL HOPE CONTINUALLY,

And will praise you yet more and more.
My mouth shall tell of your righteousness
And your salvation all the day,
For I do not know their limits.
My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to you,
And my soul, which you have redeemed.
I give thanks to you, O God, I give thanks!
For your wondrous works declare that your name is near.

Prayer adapted from Psalm 71:8; 89:15–17; 71:14–15, 23; 75:1

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives
in me.

Galatians 2:20

TAKE HEED, DEAR FRIENDS, TO THE PROMPTINGS OF LOVE AND TRUTH IN your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life. Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Are you open to the healing power of God's love? Cherish that which is of God within you, so that this love may grow in you and guide you. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other. Treasure your experience of God, however it comes to you. Remember that Christianity is not a notion but a way.

"Advice and Queries," the Society of Friends

God's thoughts, his will, his love, his judgments are all man's home. To think his thoughts, to choose his will, to love his loves, to judge his judgments, and thus to know that he is in us, is to be at home.

George MacDonald

Prophecy never came by the will of man, but
holy men of God spoke as they were moved
by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21

THIS BOOK [THE BIBLE] HAD TO BE WRITTEN BY ONE OF THREE PEOPLE: good men, bad men, or God. It couldn't have been written by good men because they said it was inspired by the revelation of God. Good men don't lie and deceive. It couldn't have been written by bad men because bad men would not write something that would condemn themselves. It leaves only one conclusion. It was given by divine inspiration of God.

John Wesley

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

God is Spirit.

John 4:24

GOD IS LIKE THE AIR WE BREATHE—ALL AROUND US, INVISIBLE AND VITAL to our health and happiness. Just as we need to breathe clean, fresh air to be strong and healthy physically, we need to partake of God's Spirit to be strong and healthy spiritually. Under normal circumstances, breathing is an unconscious, involuntary act. God would like our relationship with him to be that natural, and he created us with all the necessary equipment. But unlike breathing, for most of us making that connection with God doesn't come so easily; it requires a conscious effort on our part. It is an effort that is worthwhile.

A. M.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Blend all my soul with Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch

The two disciples heard [John] speak,
and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned,
and seeing them following, said to them,
"What do you seek?"
They said to Him, "Teacher, where are
You staying?"
He said to them, "Come and see."

John 1:37-39

LIFE IS A MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY; WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT we're looking for. Within our hearts we search and do not find; yet there comes a moment when, looking up, we see him. He beckons. We can ignore his gentle invitation and carry on our journey alone, or we can heed his call, come and see him, come and receive what he offers.

A. M.

It is the invitation of Christ that gives you the right to approach him.

William Howells

Him therefore we accompany; him we follow; him have we for guide of our journey; source of light; author of salvation, who promises heaven and the Father to them that believe.

Cyprian of Carthage

If you would have God hear you when you
pray, you must hear him when he speaks.

Thomas Brooks

TALK TO ME AND I WILL TALK TO YOU. IT'S THAT SIMPLE. I'M HERE. I'M
always with you. If you want to talk to Me, I'm available anytime and
anywhere. I don't have office hours or office fees. I don't even have an
office. I am available for you whenever you need Me. If you will stop,
acknowledge Me, speak to Me, and wait, I will answer. I will never leave
you comfortless.¹ I will never leave you without an answer. I will never walk
away from you. I am here for you.

Jesus

O Lord, to be turned from you is to fall, to turn to you is to rise, and
to stand in your presence is to live for ever. Grant us in all our duties
your help, in all our perplexities your guidance, in all our dangers your
protection, and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Augustine of Hippo

¹ John 14:18 (KJV)

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Children are a blessing and
a gift from the Lord.

Psalms 127:3 (CEV)

THEY BROUGHT LITTLE CHILDREN TO HIM, THAT HE MIGHT TOUCH THEM;
but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it,
He was greatly displeased and said to them,

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such
is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive
the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and
blessed them.

Mark 10:13–16

When the voices of children are heard on the green
And laughing is heard on the hill,
My heart is at rest within my breast
And everything else is still.

William Blake

Blessed is the King who comes in the name
of the LORD! Peace in heaven and glory in
the highest!

Luke 19:38

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king."

John 18:37

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING! YOUR LORD AND KING ADORE;
Mortals give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

JESUS, THE SAVIOUR, REIGNS, THE GOD OF TRUTH AND LOVE;
When He had purged our stains He took His seat above;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

HIS KINGDOM CANNOT FAIL, HE RULES O'ER EARTH AND HEAV'N,
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Charles Wesley

Uphold my steps in Your paths,
That my footsteps may not slip.

Psalms 17:5

I HAVE CALLED UPON YOU, FOR YOU WILL HEAR ME, O GOD;
Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech.
Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand,
O You who save those who trust in You
From those who rise up against them.
Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
Hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

Psalms 17:6-8

O Lord our God, who has called us to serve you in the midst of the world's
affairs,
When we stumble, hold us; when we fall, lift us up.
When we are hard pressed with evil, deliver us.
When we turn from what is good, turn us back and bring us at last to
your glory.

Prayer of Alcuin

He is your praise, and He is your God, who
has done for you these great and awesome
things which your eyes have seen.

Deuteronomy 10:21

PART OF MEDITATING ON JESUS INVOLVES PRAISE. WE LEARN HIS MAJESTY
by praising Him, and His power by connecting with Him in spirit. And
praise is something that lifts us into His presence, that connects us to
Him, that puts us fully under His protection, and His blessing, and His
anointing, where we can feel His love and more easily see things the way
He sees them.

M. S. Fontaine

Giving God praise is a vital element in our prayers, as Merlin Carothers
describes: “Any form of sincere prayer opens the door for God’s power to
move into our lives, but the prayer of praise releases more of God’s power
than any other form of petition.”

A. M.

How sweet is his smile in whose countenance heaven lies.

Robert Fleming

[HANNAH] WAS IN BITTERNESS OF SOUL, AND PRAYED TO THE LORD AND
wept in anguish [because she was childless]. Now Hannah spoke in her
heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli [the
priest] thought she was drunk.

And Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I am a woman of
sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have
poured out my soul before the LORD.”

Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant
your petition which you have asked of Him.”

So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

1 Samuel 1:10–18, abridged

When Hannah had prayed, she had peace; she was no more troubled.
The soul tossed with a tempest prays, and puts into the will of God, as to
a harbour. Here she lies sheltered from every storm. The spirit that rides
by prayer into the haven of God’s will is fenced from violent blasts by the
power and wisdom of God, as high and protective rocks on each side.

Peter Sterry, adapted

November 25



November 26



Life is a flower of which love is the honey.

Victor Hugo

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE,

Because they have a good reward for their labor.

For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.

But woe to him who is alone when he falls,

For he has no one to help him up.

Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;

But how can one be warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.

And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

A solitary blessing few can find;

Our joys with those we love are intertwined;

And he, whose wakeful tenderness removes

Th' obstructing thorn which wounds

the friend he loves,

Smooths not another's rugged path alone,

But scatters roses to adorn his own.

Hannah More

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1 John 3:11

Let us run with patience the race

that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 (KJV)

PATIENCE. YOU NEED PATIENCE FOR MANY THINGS IN THIS LIFE, AND ONE very important thing that you need patience for is for resting in Me. Yes, it takes patience to allow yourself to rest fully in Me. It takes patience to let your worries and fears go, to place them in My hands, and then to let Me handle them fully in My time and in My way. I don't always give you the solutions instantly, so have patience. I don't always heal you the instant that you ask, so have patience. I don't always pour down My full blessing from heaven the very first time you ask, so have patience. Your patience in Me is a sign of your faith that you know I am in control. So have patience, and in the end you will see results greater than you ever even imagined.

Jesus

My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my
expectation is from Him.

Psalms 62:5

CAN YOU REMEMBER A TIME WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD AND YOU WANTED something so badly that it seemed that special something would never come?—And then when it finally did come, it wasn't what you had expected at all, but something far better? That's what our heavenly Father did with Christmas.

Since the beginning of time, people had longed for a special something to make their lives truly happy and complete. Who would have ever thought that that would come in the form of a tiny baby born in a barn in some faraway land? But that's exactly what happened.

God looked at every human heart He had created and every heart to come, and He knew just what each one needed. So He took a part of His own heart and fashioned the perfect answer. Then He sent the answer into the world. And He called the answer "Jesus."

Keith Phillips

Let this season be an advent of the heart. The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is never to forget the presence of Christ.

A. M.

Meditate within your heart on your bed,
and be still.

Psalms 4:4

HELP ME TO BE STILL, LORD. TEACH ME TO GET STILL, AND NOT ONLY TO get still, but also to stay still. To stay still for long enough that I can hear your voice. To stay still for long enough to meditate on what you tell me. To stay still for long enough to know how to weave your counsel into the fabric of my daily life.

Show me why it's good to be still. Convince me that there's more value in sitting quietly, in praying, in reaching out to touch you, in loving you, in praising you, in adoring you, than there is in trying to change the world with my own two hands. Help me learn this important lesson.

Don't let me get away with not being still. Tie me closely to you, and reshape my spirit so that I absolutely have to make time to be still. Reward me with your presence, and change my life in your stillness.

November 29

WINGS
of prayer
and praise

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning.

Psalm 92:1-2

IN THE MORNING, PRAYER IS THE KEY THAT OPENS TO US THE TREASURE OF God's mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under his protection and safeguard. Prayer, as the first, second and third element of the Christian life, should open, prolong and conclude each day.

The first act of the soul in early morning should be a draught at the heavenly fountain. It will sweeten the taste for the day. A few moments with God at that calm and tranquil season, are of more value than much fine gold. And if you tarry long so sweetly at the throne, you will come out of the closet ... suffused all over with the heavenly fragrance of that communion.

Henry Ward Beecher

An offering ... a sweet aroma to the LORD.

Leviticus 1:9

November 30

SEA
on the seashore

O LORD, our Lord,
How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained.

Psalm 8:1,3

WE SEE AS FINE RISINGS OF THE SUN AS EVER ADAM SAW; AND ITS RISINGS are as much a miracle now as they were in his day—and, I think, a good deal more, because it is now a part of the miracle, that for thousands and thousands of years he has come to his appointed time, without the variation of a millionth part of a second.

Daniel Webster

A star is beautiful; it affords pleasure, not from what it is to do, or to give, but simply by being what it is. It befits the heavens; it has congruity with the mighty space in which it dwells. It has repose; no force disturbs its eternal peace. It has freedom; no obstruction lies between it and infinity.

Thomas Carlyle

Taking time to observe the sky above
Reminds us of our Father's love;
He shines his light upon our way,
In night time just as well as day.

A. M.

Don't let mistakes of the past blur your vision
for the future. Focus on the good to come.

Mottos for Success

THE WHEELS OF NATURE ARE NOT MADE TO ROLL BACKWARD; EVERYTHING
presses on towards eternity; from the birth of time an impetuous current
has set in, which bears all the sons of man to that interminable ocean.

Robert Hall

Lord, when you call us to live and work for you,

give us the wisdom to remember
that it is not the beginning
but the faithful continuing of the task
that is most important in your eyes,
until we have completed it to the best of our ability;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who laid down his life for us
in order to finish your work.

Sir Francis Drake

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

Blessed be the LORD . . . There has not failed
one word of all His good promise.

1 Kings 8:56

MY WORD CONTAINS HUNDREDS OF PROMISES THAT ARE YOURS TO CLAIM.
As you read, absorb, and claim them, you will see answers to your prayers
that will thrill your soul and cause your faith to grow. And as you continue
to read and absorb and claim, I will continue to answer and inspire and
provide.

That is not to say that your faith will never ebb or that you will never
again go through difficult times. As long as you are in this present world
you will experience good times and hard times. Problems are a necessary
part of life, but your connection with Me and your faith in My love and
promises can make all the difference in the world!

Jesus

ON THIS DAY WE REMEMBER THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS

I pleaded with the Lord three times that [this affliction] might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:8–10

WE MAY NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH WE WOULD LIKE; OUR SIGHT MAY BE dimmed, or our hearing impaired; physical or mental challenges may impose very real limitations. But there is no design flaw. God, in his great love, has equipped each of us for our own particular life’s journey. It was a deaf Beethoven who composed some of our greatest music; a disabled Walter Scott and a blind Milton who gave us some of our greatest literature; the deaf Goya some of our greatest art. If one ability eludes us, let us seek another.

A. M.

To see God in everything makes life the greatest adventure there is.

Author unknown

FOR THIS REASON I BOW MY KNEES TO THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14–21

Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17–18

JONAH WAS THE MAN WHO RAN AWAY FROM GOD AND ENDED UP IN THE belly of a whale or great fish.¹ This part of the Bible story is well known, along with his subsequent escape and arrival in Nineveh, but we must turn our attention to Jonah while he was *inside* the fish's belly in order to grasp one of the key lessons: Jonah was not delivered as soon as he prayed. It took more than pleading with God to escape from this hell. It required *praise*. It was only when he declared, "I'll call out in thanksgiving!" that the God of salvation brought him out.² Praising God in the midst of trouble is the surest route to deliverance.

A. M.

¹ Jonah 2

² Jonah 2:9–10

Simple deeds of love and kindness go a long way and can make such a difference in someone's life.

M. S. Fontaine

NICHOLAS OF MYRA, IN PRESENT-DAY TURKEY, WAS BORN IN THE FOURTH century to wealthy parents who died when he was a child. As a young man, Nicholas dedicated his life to God, obeyed Jesus' admonition to "sell what you have and give to the poor," and used his inheritance to assist the needy and the suffering. He was eventually promoted to the office of bishop, and became known for his love and generosity.

His story is a reminder that love means going out of our way to help others; helping others in practical ways and showing kindness are our responsibilities to those we pass by on the road of life.

A. M.

During a long life I have proved that not one kind word ever spoken, not one kind deed ever done, but sooner or later returns to bless the giver, and becomes a chain binding men with golden bands to the throne of God.

Lord Shaftesbury

¹ Matthew 19:21



I will remember the works of the LORD ;
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
I will also meditate on all Your work,
And talk of Your deeds.

Psalm 77:11–12

YOUR WAY, O GOD, IS IN THE SANCTUARY;

Who is so great a God as our God?

You are the God who does wonders;

You have declared Your strength among the peoples.

You have with Your arm redeemed Your people.

When I remember these things,

I pour out my soul in me.

My heart rejoices in the LORD.

Psalm 77:13–15; 42:4; 1 Samuel 2:1

Thank you for always working everything out for my good, because I love you and you love me, and because you promised to. Help me to see your hand in everything, and help me to hold tight to your hand through everything, knowing that you know best and want only the best for me.



Seek the LORD while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

Isaiah 55:6

ETERNAL TRINITY, YOU ARE A DEEP SEA,

into which the more I enter the more I find,

and the more I find the more I seek.

THE SOUL EVER HUNGERS IN YOUR ABYSS, ETERNAL TRINITY,

longing to see you with the light of your light,

and as the deer yearns for the springs of water,

so my soul yearns to see you in truth.

Catherine of Siena

Two men please God—who serves him with all his heart because he knows him, who seeks him with all his heart because he knows him not.

Nikita Ivanovich Panin

If you seek Christ, carry nothing with you. All you need in life, in death, and for eternity, is to be found in him.

William Howells

Set your mind on things above,
not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:2

THE WORLD IS BUT A GREAT INN, WHERE WE ARE TO STAY A NIGHT OR TWO,
and be gone; what madness is it so to set our heart upon our inn, as to
forget our home?

Thomas Watson

The only way to get our values right is to see, not the beginning, but the
end of the way, to see things, not in the light of time, but in the light of
eternity.

William Barclay

Leave behind what is simply good in exchange for the eternal.

Spanish proverb

The love of heaven makes one heavenly.

William Shakespeare

Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures
to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the
Father has set His seal on Him.

John 6:27

Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek
the LORD!

1 Chronicles 16:10

GOD IS GREAT, AND THEREFORE HE WILL BE SOUGHT; HE IS GOOD,
and therefore he will be found.

John Jay

Blessed Saviour, let me find you,
Keep me close to you,
Cast me not behind you.
Life of life, my heart you still
Calm I rest upon your breast
All the void you fill.

Paul Gerhardt

None but God can satisfy the longing of the immortal soul; as the heart
was made for him, he only can fill it.

Richard Chenevix Trench

How can you expect God to speak in that gentle and inward voice which
melts the soul, when you are making so much noise with your rapid
reflections? Be silent, and God will speak again.

François de la Mothe-Fénelon

I will meditate on Your precepts,
And contemplate Your ways.

Psalms 119:15

Short is the little time which
remains to thee of life.
Live as on a mountain.

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

THE RUGGED CLIMB DOESN'T DISSUADE THE DETERMINED MOUNTAIN climber; he revels in the challenge. Nothing can stop him from pressing on until he reaches his goal. No adversity can cause him to turn back. When he looks at the steep cliffs ahead, he doesn't focus on the danger but on the toeholds and narrow rock ledges that will take him to the peak. He isn't held back by the harshness of his surroundings or the toll the climb is taking on his body; he is propelled onward and upward by the thought of triumph.

There are many obstacles to surmount in life, but each one you conquer is another one behind you. When the going gets tough, lean on Me. Let Me lead the way and guide you up the rugged cliffs. I know all the danger spots and how to get past them. Together we will surmount each obstacle, together we will reach the summit, and together we will plant the flag of victory!

Jesus

Let your great Physician heal you in his own way. Only follow his directions, and take the medicine which he prescribes, and then quietly leave the result with him.

Edward Payson

THE SON OF GOD CAME, AS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN OF THE SOUL, TO HEAL all who were diseased, to bind up the brokenhearted, to give sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are bruised, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.¹

My soul, do you know Jesus as your physician? Has he examined you in your illness and told you his diagnosis? And are you, through his mercy, restored to health? Have you heard him ask the tender question, "Will you be made whole?"² And have you rejoiced to come under his care?

What is more, has Jesus freely given you his remedies, without payment, without money and without price? Tell every poor soul, Jesus is the beloved Physician, who visits the poor and the needy, and heals every kind of sickness and all types of disease among the people, and he has healed me.

Robert Hawker, adapted

¹ Isaiah 61:1-2

² John 5:6

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

WE HAVE A FRIEND AND PROTECTOR, FROM WHOM, IF WE DO NOT ourselves depart from him, no power nor spirit can separate us. In his strength let us proceed on our journey, through the storms, and troubles, and dangers of the world. However they may rage and swell, though the mountains shake at the tempests, our rock will not be moved:¹ we have one friend who will never forsake us;² one refuge, where we may rest in peace and stand in our lot at the end of the days.³

Reginald Heber

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Helen H. Lemmel

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Mark 4:39

DROP THY STILL DEWS OF QUIETNESS,

Till all our strivings cease:

Take from our souls the strain and stress,

And let our ordered lives confess

The beauty of Thy peace.

BREATHE THROUGH THE HEATS OF OUR DESIRE

Thy coolness and Thy balm;

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;

Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,

O still small voice of calm!

John Greenleaf Whittier

¹ Psalm 46:2

² Hebrews 13:5

³ Psalm 46:1; Daniel 12:13

Give me understanding according
to Your word.

Psalm 119:169

WHEN YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS, THE LORD HAS ANSWERS, AND WHEN YOU have problems, He has solutions—and they're all in His Word. By reading God's recorded Word or hearing Him speak to your heart personally when you pray for guidance—His spoken Word—you can find the answer to every question and every problem you will ever have. Once you become familiar with the spiritual principles, divine wisdom, and practical counsel in the written Word, you will find that the Lord will show you how to apply it to questions and problems that come up in your own life. His Word will be like a light, illuminating the path ahead of you.

Jason Rae and Shannon Shayler

I will give you the treasures of darkness
And hidden riches of secret places,
That you may know that I, the LORD,
Who call you by your name,
Am the God of Israel.

Isaiah 45:3

Blessed [are] the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

THE MEEK MAN WILL ATTAIN A PLACE OF SOUL REST. AS HE WALKS ON IN meekness he will be happy to let God defend him. The old struggle to defend himself is over. He has found the peace which meekness brings.

Aiden Wilson Tozer

The meek have a special place in the Lord's heart and He makes special promises to them.

Author unknown

The meek shall eat and be satisfied. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation.

Psalm 22:26, 149:4, adapted

Lord, teach me the silence of love, the silence of wisdom, the silence of humility, the silence of faith, the silence that speaks without words. O Saviour, teach me to silence my heart that I may listen to the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit within me, and sense the depths that are God, today and always.

Frankfurt, sixteenth century

Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow
will worry about its own things. Sufficient for
the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:34

IF YOU'RE FEARFUL FOR TOMORROW, YOU LOSE SIGHT OF THE GOAL FOR today, and it makes today a double struggle, because you're carrying the cares of tomorrow as well as those of today. You cannot remedy tomorrow's difficulties today, so concerning yourself with them today is futile. Leave them for tomorrow, when they become the present and the challenge at hand. By doing that, you'll find that whatever it is you need to persevere through that day, it will be yours, for I always give you what you need to fight each battle. If you find that you don't have it in you to fight the next battle, perhaps it's because you're not in that battle yet and you need to stop fretting about it and face the obstacle that is in front of you now—not what awaits you up ahead.

Jesus

We must accept finite disappointment,
but we must never lose infinite hope.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

COLD WINDS HAVE WHIPPED THROUGH THE TREES, STRIPPING THEM OF their autumn foliage. Bare branches stand silhouetted against the grey sky; the outlook is bleak. But although “weeping may last all night ... joy comes in the morning.”¹ Despite outward appearances, life still remains in the heart of the tree; in the morning of springtime the sap will flow up through the branches, leaves will grow again. Even so, on occasions of disappointment when all seems lost, keep hope; in time, good things will come again.

A. M.

My life is like a faded leaf,
My harvest dwindled to a husk:
Truly my life is void and brief
And tedious in the barren dusk:
My life is like a frozen thing,
No bud nor greenness can I see,
Yet rise it shall—the sap of spring,
O Jesus, rise in me.

Christina Rossetti

¹ Psalm 30:5

My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
I lie awake,
And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.

Psalm 84:2; 102:7

CALM MY TROUBLED HEART; GIVE ME PEACE.

O Lord, calm the waves of this heart, calm its tempests!

Calm thyself, O my soul, so that the divine can act in thee!

Calm thyself, O my soul, so that God is able to repose in thee,

so that His peace may cover thee!

Yes, Father in heaven, often have we found that the world cannot give us peace, but make us feel that thou art able to give peace; let us know the truth of thy promise: that the whole world may not be able to take away thy peace.

Søren Kierkegaard

Peace be with you; do not fear.

Judges 6:23

If you fear, cast all your fear on God;
that anchor holds.

Lord Alfred Tennyson

THE FACT THAT THE EARLY CHRISTIANS OFTEN USED THE SYMBOL OF THE fish to signal their faith to fellow-believers is common knowledge; their use of an anchor is less well known. From ancient times, the anchor was viewed as a symbol of safety. For Christians, the anchor symbolised their hope in Christ, who would bring them to the safe harbour of his heavenly kingdom. Anchors adorn numerous tombs of early Christians buried in the catacombs beneath Rome.

We have hope in Christ; we can rest secure in the knowledge that he will hold us steady in the storms of life.

A. M.

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33



God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into
the midst of the sea;
Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

Psalms 46:1-3

O LORD, SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG OF THIS TROUBLOUS LIFE, UNTIL
the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is
hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, Lord, in
thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Attributed to John Henry Newman



Like valleys that stretch out,
Like gardens by the riverside,
Like aloes planted by the LORD,
Like cedars beside the waters.

Numbers 24:6

SURELY THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE UNRUFFLED CALM OF NATURE THAT
overawes our little anxieties and doubts: the sight of the deep-blue sky,
and the clustering stars above, seem to impart a quiet to the mind.

Jonathan Edwards

Nature is the living, visible garment of God.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Earth with her thousand voices praises God.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Nature is man's teacher. She unfolds her treasures to his search, unseals
his eye, illumines his mind, and purifies his heart; an influence breathes
from all the sights and sounds of her existence.

Alfred Billings Street

Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old.

Franz Kafka

Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

Job 37:14

December 23



December 24



Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

THANK ME FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO YOU THIS PAST YEAR.
Thank Me for the blessings, and thank Me for the tests and challenges
that strengthened your character. Thank Me for the love that you received
from others, and praise Me for opportunities to show love to others.
Thank Me for everything.

It brings Me joy to hear your thankful praises. They bond your heart
with Mine and draw us closer, and they can make this Christmas the
best you've yet experienced. And it doesn't have to stop after Christmas.
Whenever something happens that makes you happy or makes you feel
loved, thank Me for that gift. Then it will be a personal gift exchange
between you and Me. I give you blessings to make you happy, and you
make Me happy by giving Me thanks. As you continue to thank Me for
everything, I'll give you more, and every day will be like Christmas.

Jesus

ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE

Let us adore Him, and praise His great love;
To save us poor sinners He came from above.

Henry Ramsden Bramley

JOSEPH WENT UP [TO] BETHLEHEM, TO BE REGISTERED WITH MARY, HIS
betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there,
the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her
firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a
manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood
before them [and] said,

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will
be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe
wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

So it was, that the shepherds came with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2:1-16, abridged



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

LOVING GOD, HELP US TO REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF JESUS THAT WE MAY share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings. May our minds be filled with grateful thoughts and our hearts with forgiveness, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Phillip Brooks

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

Agnes M. Pharo

THERE IS A LOT GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS. BUT IT IS NOT IN THE SHOPS and the parties and the pulsating lights. To be part of it you need to find time to be quiet, to be silent and still, to contemplate his presence in your hearts and in your minds. He is there. He wants to embrace you. Let him.

And having discovered what is really going on at Christmas we cannot, in the end, keep quiet about it. We cannot live in a world that, in spite of the tragedies and sorrows, is still a world full of gifts, without saying "thank you." We cannot be part of what Christmas is really about without praising and glorifying God as Mary did. We cannot be fully human unless we let ourselves sing along with her those words of heaven-filled gratitude: "My soul glorifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name."¹

Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

¹ Luke 1:46–47, 49



DEAR JESUS,

You are God and man, king and servant. You left your throne of immortality and encased yourself in human flesh. You became one of us, so that you could save us. Joy floods my heart when I think of how you quietly and humbly came into our world and changed it forever. Who could have imagined the transformation that would come through a little baby, born to commoners, wrapped in rags, sleeping in a feeding trough?

Thank you for making the choice to experience both the joys and sorrows of our earthly life. Thank you for enduring the tears, pain, frustration, loneliness, exhaustion and finally death so that you could truly understand us. Never has there been a more perfect love than yours!

Please forgive my mistakes and shortcomings. You are the Saviour of the world—I want you to be my personal Saviour too. I invite you into my heart. Walk beside me all the days of my life, and when my time here draws to its close, please bring me to heaven to live forever with you. Amen.



Grow in grace.

2 Peter 3:18

WE ARE GIVEN A FRESH START NOT ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, but every morning when we wake up. We have the chance to start anew and make things right.

Mottos for Success

To improve the golden moment of opportunity and catch the good that is within our reach, is the great art of life.

Samuel Johnson

Look upon every day as the whole of life, not merely as a section; and enjoy and improve the present without wishing, through haste, to rush on to another.

Jean Paul Richter

Let us labour to be like unto angels, “strengthened with all might,” walking about the world as conquerors, able to do all things through Christ which strengthens us.¹

John Trapp

¹ Philippians 4:13

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also *ceased* from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest.

Hebrews 4:9–11

ALL WORK AND NO REST TAKES THE SPRING AND BOUND OUT OF THE MOST vigorous life.—Time spent in judicious resting is not time wasted, but time gained.

M. B. Grier

Through the week we go down into the valleys of care and shadow.—Our Sabbaths should be hills of light and joy in God's presence; and so as time rolls by we shall go on from mountain top to mountain top, till at last we catch the glory of the gate, and enter in to go no more out forever.

Henry Ward Beecher

Go in peace. The presence of the LORD be with you on your way.

Judges 18:6

LOVE—THIS IS MY SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU. LOVE THAT KNOWS NO boundaries. Love that does not judge you by the colour of your skin, the way you look, or how you speak. Love that gives. Love that shares. Love that cares. Love that is vibrant, warm and kind. Love that is unconditional and forever.

My love is always there for you—any place, any time, day or night. My love will descend to any depth to save, go any length to rescue. It knows no stopping place, no limit. I give you My love, infinite and true.

My love brings peace of mind when you are confused, rest when you are weary, and strength when you feel you cannot go on. My love will calm your fears and give you courage in the face of despair. My love can heal when your body is broken; it can soothe your heartaches and pain. My love will ease your mind when it is troubled and weary; it will melt away tension, worry and strain.

My love is My gift for you.

Jesus



ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE PROMISE OF A NEW YEAR

Here we have no continuing city,
but we seek the one to come.

Hebrews 13:14

THE ONLY WAY TO GET OUR VALUES RIGHT IS TO SEE, NOT THE BEGINNING,
but the end of the way, to see things, not in the light of time, but in the
light of eternity.

William Barclay

Jesus is “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First
and the Last.”¹ He is “the same, yesterday, today, and forever.”² And he
assures us he is with us always.³ On such a foundation we can stake our
future with confidence.

A. M.

O Lord, as the years change, may we find rest in your eternal
changelessness. Help us to meet this coming year bravely, in the faith
that, while life changes all around us, you are always the same, guiding us
with your wisdom and protecting us with your love; through our Saviour
Jesus Christ.

William Temple, adapted

¹ Revelation 22:13

² Hebrews 13:8

³ Matthew 28:20

SPECIAL DAYS, RECOGNISED INTERNATIONALLY

New Year's Day	January 1
Day of Languages	February 21
International Women's Day	March 8
World Health Day	April 7
International Labour Day	May 1
International Day of Families	May 15
World Environment Day	June 5
International Youth Day	August 12
International Literacy Day	September 8
International Day of Peace	September 21
International Day of Older Persons	October 1
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Universal Children's Day	November 20
International Day of Disabled Persons	December 3
Boxing Day	December 26
New Year's Eve	December 31

PRINCIPAL EVENTS ON THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

This is a guide to readings for events on the Christian calendar. (The dates of some of these
are consistent, but others differ year by year and/or by denomination.)

Epiphany	January 6
Palm Sunday	April 6
Good Friday	April 11
Easter Sunday	Easter (page 368)
Ascension	June 2
Pentecost	Pentecost (page 369)
All Saints' Day	November 1
First Sunday of Advent	November 27
Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

THE EASTER STORY

[Jesus] was buried, and He rose again
the third day.

1 Corinthians 15:4

Lift your voices in triumph on high
For Jesus is risen and man cannot die.

Henry Ware

The simple message that changed the world forever was this one: "He is
not here. He is risen."

Linda Bowles

Jesus departed from our sight that we might return to our heart and there
find him. For he departed and, behold, he is here.

Augustine of Hippo

Easter means hope prevails over despair. Jesus reigns as Lord of lords and
King of kings. ... Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary,
His will for us will prevail, love will prevail over hate, justice over injustice
and oppression, peace over exploitation and bitterness.

Desmond Tutu

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in
Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in
Me shall never die."

John 11:25-26

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD FULLY COME, THEY WERE ALL WITH
one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty
wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there
appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of
them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with
other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were
confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then
they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another,

"Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we
hear, each in our own language in which we were born?—We hear them
speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day
about three thousand souls were added to them.

Acts 2:1-4, 6-11, 41

ALPHA AND OMEGA

January 13, January 18, January 27, February 3, February 13, February 18, February 24, March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, March 31, April 6, April 11, April 19, April 30, May 9, May 18, May 27, June 2, June 6, June 15, July 13, July 17, July 20, July 23, July 25, July 31, August 3, August 6, August 10, August 15, August 22, August 29, September 9, September 16, September 19, September 26, October 9, October 15, October 25, October 31, November 12, November 18, November 21, November 27, December 4, December 8, December 13

FOUNDATIONS

January 11, January 26, January 31, February 9, March 13, March 29, April 2, April 22, May 10, May 17, May 26, June 17, June 29, July 9, August 8, August 11, August 18, September 5, September 18, September 29, October 8, November 16, December 15

HEARTS AND HANDS

January 15, February 17, February 27, March 15, March 20, April 9, May 19, June 3, June 19, June 26, August 16, September 30, October 4, October 17, October 20, November 9, November 25

MY PRAYER

January 7, January 14, January 21, January 28, February 7, February 15, February 22, February 28, March 6, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 8, April 14, April 21, April 28, May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28, June 7, June 14, June 21, June 28, July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28, August 7, August 14, August 21, August 28, September 7, September 14, September 20, September 28, October 7, October 14, October 21, October 28, November 7, November 14, November 22, November 28, December 7, December 14, December 21, December 27

ON THE SEASHORE

January 9, January 17, January 25, February 2, February 10, February 11, February 23, March 1, March 7, March 16, March 24, April 1, April 13, April 26, May 13, May 24, June 12, June 18, June 30, July 5, July 8, July 19, July 26, August 1, August 20, August 25, September 2, September 10, October 3, October 26, November 6, November 15, November 30, December 6, December 9, December 16, December 22, December 26

ON THIS DAY

December 25, May 15, November 20, October 5, November 1, February 21, April 7, December 3, December 24, September

8, March 8, August 12, February 14, March 17, October 1, September 21, January 1, December 31, January 6, May 1, June 5, The Day of Pentecost, Easter

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

January 2, January 22, February 1, March 3, March 30, April 17, May 3, June 1, July 1, August 2, September 1, October 19, November 2, December 1, December 28

RAINFOWS

January 8, January 19, January 24, February 4, February 8, February 26, March 11, March 25, April 5, April 10, April 20, April 25, May 6, May 12, May 23, June 8, June 13, June 23, July 3, July 11, July 16, July 22, July 27, August 9, August 24, September 3, September 11, September 15, September 23, October 6, October 12, October 27, November 3, November 8, November 13, November 24, December 12, December 18, December 20

RENEWAL

January 3, January 12, January 16, February 16, February 29, March 4, March 23, April 23, May 5, May 16, May 20, May 29, May 31, June 4, June 11, June 20, June 25, July 2, July 10, July 15, July 29, August 17, August 23, August 30, September 4, September 13, September 22, September 24, October 10, October 13, October 16, October 22, November 4, November 10, November 17, December 10, December 19, December 29

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

January 4, January 10, January 23, January 29, February 5, February 12, February 19, February 25, March 2, March 10, March 18, March 27, April 4, April 12, April 15, April 18, April 27, May 2, May 8, May 22, May 30, June 9, June 16, June 22, June 27, July 4, July 12, July 24, July 30, August 5, August 13, August 19, August 26, August 31, September 6, September 12, September 17, September 27, October 2, October 11, October 18, October 23, October 30, November 5, November 11, November 19, November 26, December 2, December 11, December 17, December 30, December 23

WINGS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

January 5, January 20, January 30, February 6, February 20, March 9, March 22, April 3, April 16, April 24, April 29, May 4, May 11, May 25, June 10, June 24, July 6, July 18, August 4, August 27, September 25, October 24, October 29, November 23, November 29, December 5

ABIDING IN JESUS: January 16, January 27, January 29, February 3, February 16, February 19, February 29, March 23, April 23, May 29, May 31, June 6, June 20, June 27, July 2, July 10, July 15, July 23, September 4, September 9, September 10, September 13, September 19, September 24, October 2, October 9, October 13, October 23, October 31, November 17, November 18, November 19, December 10

AFTERLIFE: March 16, April 13, November 6

ANGELS: January 9, June 19, December 24, December 25

ANIMALS: January 17

ANSWERS TO PRAYER: January 5, April 4, April 29, May 22, May 25, June 24, August 19, November 23, November 24, November 26, December 2

BIBLE, THE SCRIPTURES: January 11, January 31, February 9, April 2, May 17, May 26, June 29, August 8, August 18, September 29, October 8, November 16, December 15

BIBLE CHARACTERS: See People of the Bible

CARING IN ACTION: January 15, February 17, July 12, October 20, December 6

CHANGE: January 14, April 22, December 11

CHILDREN: November 20

CHRIST: See *Jesus Christ, God's Son*

CHRISTMAS: December 23, December 24, December 25, December 26

COMFORT IN SORROW: January 3, February 26, April 5, April 12, April 25, June 11, July 3, July 4, July 10, July 11, July 16, August 24, October 2, October 6, November 8, December 18, December 19

DEATH: See *Afterlife, Comfort in sorrow*

DISCOURAGEMENT: See *Take courage; Your value to God*

DOUBT: May 6, June 17, September 5

ENCOURAGEMENT: See *Take courage*

ETERNAL LIFE: See *Heaven and eternity; Salvation, mercy and everlasting life*

FAITH: January 11, January 26, March 29, May 10, June 17, July 22, August 11, September 5, September 12, September 18, November 4

FEAR: See *Worry*

FORGIVENESS: See *Salvation, mercy and everlasting life*

FUTURE: March 3, March 30, May 3, May 12, June 13, July 1, October 19, November 2, November 13, December 1, December 31

GOALS: January 22, March 3, April 17, July 1, August 2, September 1

GOD: March 19, June 15, June 18, September 13, September 26, October 3, October 16, November 17, December 4, December 8

GOD—

CARE AND HELP FROM: January 8, January 19, January 29, February 8, February 12, February 25, February 26, March 25, April 20, April 25, May 2, May 12, May 23, June 8, June 11, June 13, August 6, August 9, August 19, August 23, August 29, September 11, September 15, September 16, October 9, October 10, October 18, October 30, November 8, November 24, December 13, December 20

LOVE OF: January 3, January 18, January 23, February 13, February 25, February 29, March 18, April 12, April 23, April 27, May 8, May 9, May 18, June 20, June 22, July 4, July 13, July 20, July 25, July 31, August 3, August 6, August 10, August 15, September 6, September 19, October 15, October 23, November 5, November 15, December 30

PRESENCE OF: April 23, May 5, May 20, May 31, July 15, August 23, September 13, September 19, November 27, December 26, December 29

PROMISES OF: January 5, January 31, April 20, April 22, July 9, December 2

UNCHANGING NATURE OF: April 22, June 15, October 16, October 31, December 31

WILL OF: July 13, July 29, November 24

GRATITUDE: See *Thanksgiving; Praise*

GUIDANCE: February 19, February 20, March 13, April 2, April 4, June 27, June 29, August 8, August 31, September 27, September 29, December 15

HEALING: February 8, March 23, May 23, June 10, July 22, August 17, October 27, December 12

HEAVEN AND ETERNITY: January 9, February 18, March 16, March 31, April 13, April 19, May 27, June 12, July 23, November 6, December 9

HOPE: January 8, January 19, March 11, March 25, April 5, April 10, June 13, June 23, July 3, July 11, July 16, July 22, August 24, November 3, November 8, December 18

HUMILITY: February 11, July 8, September 17, December 16

JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON: January 27, February 2, February 24, March 12, March 24, April 6, April 11, April 30, May 9, May 23, June 2, June 6, July 13, July 17, July 25, August 22, August 29, September 9, September 24, September 26, October 25, October 27, October 31, November 12, November 18, November 21, November 27, December 4, December 8, December 12, December 13

JOY AND HAPPINESS: February 25, March 22, April 15, April 24, May 4, May 30, May 31, July 6, July 30, August 5, August 27, October 11, December 23

KINDNESS: January 15, March 20, May 19, June 3, June 19, June 26, August 16, October 17, October 20, November 9

LIGHT: February 2, April 26, July 19, August 25, October 3

LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE: January 10, February 20, March 10, May 11, June 4, June 22, June 27, July 12, July 24, August 26, August 31, September 27, November 11, November 19

LORD'S PRAYER: September 25

LOVE: February 14, February 17, February 27, March 15, April 9, May 19, June 19, August 16, September 30, October 4, October 17, November 25

LOVE OF GOD: *See God's love*

MEDITATION, MEDITATIVE PRAYER: May 5, May 16, May 29, October 16, October 22, November 23, December 10

MIND: *See Thoughts*

MIRACLES: February 23

MISTAKES AND SINS: April 15, April 20, May 3, June 16, July 26, September 3

MORNING PRAYER: January 12, June 4, July 15, July 24, August 26, August 31, September 4, November 29

MOTHERS: March 8, October 15

MYSTERIES: April 29, May 13, June 16, November 18

NATURE: January 9, January 17, February 6, February 23, April 26, May 4, May 8, May 12, May 13, June 18, June 22, July 3, July 4, July 5, July 19, August 1, August 30, September

6, September 10, October 30, November 30, December 22

NEW YEAR: January 1, January 4

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES: January 8, January 19, January 29, February 4, April 10, May 2, May 6, June 9, June 13, July 27, August 9, September 11, September 12, September 23, October 6, October 12, December 5, December 11, December 18

PATIENCE: July 11, July 22, September 23, November 3, November 26

PEACE: January 3, January 16, February 29, April 23, May 5, May 20, June 11, July 2, July 12, July 24, July 29, September 15, September 22, October 2, October 6, October 13, November 10, December 19

PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE—

DAVID: October 11

HANNAH: November 24

JESUS: *See Jesus Christ, God's Son*

MOSES: June 15

PAUL: January 27

PETER: May 6

PERSEVERANCE: February 10, May 24, July 1, July 27, August 20

PERSPECTIVES: January 25, February 11, March 1, March 3, March 11, March 24, March 25, April 1, April 24, June 8, June 30, July 3, July 8, July 18, July 26, August 4, November 15, December 6, December 16, December 22

POSITIVENESS: March 22, May 2, June 9, July 6, July 18, August 4, October 24

PRAISE: January 20, January 30, February 6, March 9, March 22, August 27, November 23, November 29, December 5

PRAYER: January 5, January 20, February 20, March 10, March 27, April 3, April 29, May 11, May 22, May 25, June 24, July 29, August 19, September 22, September 25, September 27, October 18, October 22, October 29, November 29

PRAYER, MEDITATIVE: *See Meditation, meditative prayer*

PRAYERS FOR—

DAILY LIFE: January 7, January 21, March 28, April 28, May 14, June 28, July 21, August 7, August 14, August 28, September 25, October 29, November 7, November 22

DAY, THE: February 22, March 14, May 28, July 15, September 4, October 7

GOD'S HELP: April 14, August 24, October 18, November 19, December 21, December 27

MORNING: *see Morning prayers*

OTHERS: May 25

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: January 14, January 28, February 15, March 4, April 3, April 21, May 21, June 14, June 25, July 28, August 23, September 13, September 14, September 20, September 24, October 21, October 22, October 28, November 28, December 14, December 19

THANKSGIVING: January 30, February 7, February 28, March 6, March 21, April 8, April 16, May 7, June 7, June 21, August 21, September 7, September 28, October 14, November 14, December 7

THANKSGIVING FOR NATURE: July 7, July 14

PRAYING FOR OTHERS: March 27

PRESENCE OF GOD: *See God, presence of*

PROMISES OF GOD: *See God, promises of*

QUIETNESS: March 4, May 11, May 16, May 20, December 29

RAINBOWS: January 24, April 5

REST: February 12, June 25, August 30, November 10, December 29

SALVATION, MERCY AND EVERLASTING LIFE: February 18, April 11, April 15, April 19, April 25, June 2, July 31, October 15, October 25

SEIZE THE DAY: January 2, January 22, February 4, March 7, April 17, June 1, November 2, December 1, December 28

SELF-ESTEEM: *See Your value to God*

SILENCE: April 3, May 31, September 4, December 16

SINGING, SONGS AND MUSIC: March 21, June 28, July 5, August 5, August 27, October 11

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: January 16, February 16, March 4, March 23, May 5, May 16, May 20, May 29, May 31, June 25, July 2, July 5, July 10, July 29, August 17, August 26, August 30, September 15, September 22, October 13, October 16, November 4, November 17, November 30, December 10, December 29, December 30

STARTING AGAIN: January 4, May 3, June 1, June 16, September 1, September 3, November 2, December 1, December 28

SUCCESS: February 10, March 1, March 7, May 24, August 2, August 20, September 2, November 3

TAKE COURAGE: January 8, January 19, January 24, February 4, February 26, March 2, April 10, May 6, June 13, June 23, July 27, August 9, August 23, September 11, September 15, September 17, October 6, October 12, November 4, November 11, November 13, November 24, December 20

THANKSGIVING: January 20, January 30, February 6, March 9, April 5, April 16, April 24, May 4, June 9, June 10, July 6, July 30, August 1, August 5, August 27, October 11, October 24, December 23, December 26

THOUGHTS: January 28, March 4, March 10, March 13, May 21, May 28, June 12, July 5, July 18, July 24, August 17, August 31, November 7

TODAY: January 12, February 1, May 30, November 13, December 17

TRINITY: March 17

TRUST IN GOD: January 4, January 24, February 1, February 5, February 12, March 2, March 29, April 3, April 4, April 22, May 6, May 10, May 12, May 22, May 30, June 8, June 24, July 9, July 11, July 16, July 27, August 9, August 11, September 12, September 18, October 10, October 30, November 5, November 10, November 13, November 26, December 5, December 11, December 17, December 20

UNSELFISHNESS: February 27, March 20, August 25

VALUES: January 2, April 1, June 12, August 4, September 2, October 26, December 9

WALK, THE WALK OF FAITH: March 16, June 4, June 27, July 21, September 18, October 3

WILL OF GOD: *See God, will of*

WISDOM: January 25, May 13, June 4, June 30, August 13, October 26

WORRY: January 21, March 2, December 17, December 20

YOUR VALUE TO GOD: January 13, January 23, February 5, February 13, March 5, March 26, April 12, April 18, April 20, April 27, May 18, June 16, July 20, August 15, September 3, September 17, December 30

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis

1:3–4 April 26
1:24 January 17
8:22 October 30
9:13 January 24
24:12 January 2
49:25 January 9

Exodus

3:13–14 June 15
9:5 September 1
15:13 October 23
24:7 September 8
33:14 September 19
33:17 July 20
35:34 October 5
35:35 February 10

Leviticus

1:9 November 29
19:18 April 9
26:4 March 11

Numbers

6:24–26 December 13
24:6 December 22

Deuteronomy

4:29 September 27
4:36 January 10
5:24 October 16
6:6–7 October 5
10:21 November 23
12:7 July 30
17:19 September 8
28:12 January 22
30:15 June 1
33:25 February 1
33:27 August 3

Judges

6 August 12
6:23 December 19
7 August 12
18:5 February 20
18:6 December 29

1 Samuel

1:10–18 November 24
2:1 December 7
3 March 13
3:9 June 4
6:14 October 11
7:28 August 18

10:3 August 2
14:6 August 12
22:29 March 25

2 Samuel

6:14 October 11
7:28 August 18
22:32 May 10
22:33 March 2
22:47 May 10
22:50 March 21
23:4 January 12
8:23 March 19
8:56 December 2
19:11–12 February 20,
March 13,
November 11

1 Chronicles

4:10 May 28
16:10 December 10
16:11 October 22
16:34 December 23
22:9 July 28
29:11 July 14

Nehemiah

8:5 September 8
8:8 September 8
8:10 April 21

Job

5:19 February 26
12:12 October 1
22:21 January 3
22:22 September 29
22:27 April 29
31:4 July 1
34:29 May 21
37:14 December 22

Psalms

4:4 November 28
4:5 November 13
4:6 March 25
4:8 September 15
5:1 May 16
5:3 February 22
5:8 July 21
5:11 September 10
8:1 November 30
8:3 November 30

8:4–5 March 26
8:9 March 26
9:7 June 15
13:5 October 15
16:3 November 1
16:11 May 31
17:5–8 November 22
18:10 October 14
18:28 August 25
18:35–36 September 28
19:1 September 6
22:26 December 16
23:1 March 28, July 25
25:5 July 21, August 8
26:6–7 April 16
27:4–6 September 14
28:7 March 9
30:4 December 7
30:5 December 18
31:3 July 21
31:8 July 17
31:24 May 20
32:7 August 23
33:4 April 2
33:12 April 20
34:14 September 21
34:15 January 18
34:18 November 8
36:5 July 3
36:9 April 26
37:3–4 January 7
37:7 November 10
37:34 April 4
37:39 September 15
38:9 March 26
40:1–2 July 11
40:5 August 10
42:1–5 February 15
42:4 December 7
42:8 September 24
43:5 July 16
44:8 May 30
44:18 September 1
46:1 November 8,
December 13
46:1–3 December 21
46:2 December 13
46:4 October 21
46:10 April 22
50:2 August 29

50:15 October 18
51:1 October 15
51:12 April 15
52:1 January 1
55:6 September 22
55:16–17 May 29
55:18 January 3
57:1 July 31
61:1–2 February 26
62:5 November 27
62:8 July 4
65:11–13 August 1
68:19 January 20
69:13 April 3
71:5 July 16
71:8 November 14
71:14–15 November 14
71:16 October 10
71:23 November 14
73:1 March 25
73:24 September 29
73:28 February 28
75:1 April 16,
November 14
77:1–14 January 19
77:11–15 December 7
79:13 March 28
84:2 December 19
84:3 February 25
85:8 February 29
86:10 April 16
86:11 July 21
88:13 January 12
89:15–17 November 14
90:2 March 6
90:12 March 7
92:1–2 November 29
95:1–2 October 11
100:1–2 August 5
100:4 March 9, August 5
102:7 December 19
103:2 October 24
103:2–5 March 18
104:23 May 1
106:1 June 10
107:9 May 16
107:29–30 May 27
112:7 November 7
113 June 21
116:1 April 25

116:1–2 June 21
118:8 January 25
118:19 May 14
118:21 May 14
118:24 May 4
118:28 May 14
119:15 December 10
119:33–35 June 29
119:41 February 29
119:88 June 28
119:169 December 15
121:1–2 May 2
121:5–8 April 14
126:6 February 17
127:3 November 20
128:2 May 1
130:1–2 August 21
136:3 July 20
138:7 October 9
139:1–4 July 21
139:7–10 May 7
139:14 January 23
139:23–24 July 21
143:8 June 4
143:10 July 21
144:15 June 6
145:3 May 13
145:5–6 April 8
145:15 September 24
146:2 August 27
147:4 July 19
147:5 July 19
147:7–8 April 5
148:7–10 January 9
148:7–13 February 6
149:4 December 16

Proverbs

2:6 June 30
3:17 July 17
4:18 March 3
8:11 January 25
12:10 January 17
14:23 September 2
14:26 July 2
15:16 October 26
15:17 January 25
16:8 January 25
16:16 January 25
16:19 January 25
17:1 January 25
19:1 January 25
24:16 June 16
25:2 May 17
25:11 February 21
27:1 May 30
30:5 August 18

Ecclesiastes

3:1–2 June 8
3:2 April 17
3:4–8 June 8
3:11 June 18
3:13 May 1
4:9–12 November 25
7:8 January 25
9:10 May 1
9:16 January 25
11:7 October 3

Song of Solomon

2:4 April 25
2:12–13 July 5
8:7 February 14

Isaiah

6:8 March 10
6:9 October 25
9:6 March 12,
October 25
26:3 July 29,
November 7
26:12 February 29
30:15 March 4,
August 30
30:21 June 27
32:2 July 10
32:18 October 28
35:8 July 17
40:8 January 11
40:28–31 October 7
41:10 June 7
41:13 October 6
41:17–18 November 4
43:2 June 13
43:4 November 1
45:3 December 15
46:3–4 October 1
53:12 April 11
54:8 March 18
54:10 February 29
55:6 December 8
55:12 July 2
57:15 June 6
58:8 April 7
58:11 March 13
61:6–12 December 12
63:9 September 19
Jeremiah
1:6–8 August 12

Mark

1:35 July 24
1:41 July 25
3:7 January 16
4:35–41 October 13
4:39 December 14
5:19 May 18

18:3–4 September 3
30:17 April 7
33:6 April 7, April 10
36:4 February 20
Lamentations
3:22–23 August 10
3:24 June 23
3:25 February 16
3:26 July 2
Ezekiel
12:8 July 15
Daniel
3:23–25 September 11
4:3 February 23
6:10 October 29
10:12 May 22
12:13 December 13
Joel
2:28 Key to Daily
Themes
Jonah
2:9–10 December 5
Habakkuk
2:4 August 11
3:17–18 December 5
Zephaniah
1:7 April 23
Haggai
2:4 September 17
Malachi
3:6 April 22
5:38–42 August 17
6:31 June 25
7:14 May 11
7:32–347 October 27
7:36 October 27
8:22–25 March 23
9:33–35 July 8
10:13–16 November 20
11:22 September 5
11:24 April 29
15:40–41 March 8
Luke
1:46–47, 49 December 26
2:1–16 December 24
4:17 September 8
5:16 January 16
6:38 November 9
7:2–10 September 16

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew

2:1–2 January 6
2:9–11 January 6
5:5 December 16
5:6 February 16,
June 30
5:7 June 3
5:8 February 16
5:9 July 12
5:16–17 August 25
5:45 June 22
5:46–47 February 17
6:9–13 September 25
6:10 July 23
6:25 February 5
6:28–30 May 12
6:34 March 30,
December 17

7:9–11 August 19
7:12 September 30
8:5–8 July 22
8:10 July 22
8:13 July 22
8:26 February 4
9:20–22 February 8
10:29–31 March 5
11:28–30 February 12,
July 10
13:45–46 May 17
13:52 October 8
14:22–31 May 6
14:34–36 May 23
17:20 June 17
18:3 August 13
18:4 February 11
18:11 August 15

19:21 December 6
21:22 June 24
22:37–40 Key to Daily
Themes
22:37 June 14
22:39 April 9
25:21 November 6
26:41 July 26
28:19 March 17
28:20 January 29,
December 31

8:22–24	August 9	17:11	September 20	5:17	January 4	11:34	October 12
10:39	June 20	18:9	August 15	12:8–10	December 3	12:1	November 26
10:39–42	August 26	18:10	October 14	12:9	April 20	12:2	May 6
11:1	January 14	18:11	August 15	13:11	September 21	13:5	April 27,
11:2	March 31	18:37	November 21	Galatians			December 13
12:7	March 26	18:38	April 2	2:20	March 2,	13:8	December 31
12:15	April 1	20:29	June 17		November 15	13:14	December 31
16:10	March 1	21:9	August 13	5:13	October 17	13:15	January 30
17:5	Key to Daily Themes	21:12	August 13	5:14	April 9	James	
		Acts		6:7	March 20	1:3	September 23
17:12–19	June 10	1:9	June 2	6:9	August 20	1:4	May 24
17:20–21	July 23	2:1–11	The Day of Pentecost	Ephesians		1:11	September 10
18:35–42	August 6			1:3	October 25	2:8	April 9
19:38	November 21	2:11	February 21	1:16	March 27	2:13	October 15
21:19	September 23	2:21	January 31	2:4–5	February 13	2:15–16	January 15
21:28	July 18	2:41	The Day of Pentecost	2:6–7	August 29	5:7	November 3
21:33	May 26			2:14	January 3	1 Peter	
John		9:34–5	January 27	3:14–21	December 4	2:23	May 20
1:1–2	February 9	10:38	April 30	3:18–19	May 9	5:5–6	July 8
1:12	January 27	12:12	March 8	4:32	October 20	5:7	June 11
1:14	February 9	15:31	September 8	5:8	March 16	2 Peter	
1:29	September 9	17:28	February 3	Philippians		1:4	July 9
1:37–389	November 18	17:25	July 29	1:21	November 12	1:21	November 16
3:16	March 26,	Romans		3:12–13	January 22	3:18	December 28
	April 11	1:7	October 9	3:14	December 1	1 John	
4:5–11	March 24	4:21	January 7	4:4	March 22	3:11	November 25
4:24	November 17	5:1	October 25	4:6	October 19	4:7	June 19
5:6	December 12	5:4–5	June 23	4:7	October 13	4:12	September 30
6:5–135	August 12	6:23	July 31	4:8	August 4	5:4	January 8
6:27	December 9	8:18	August 24	4:13	December 28	5:11	November 12
6:63	August 8	8:35	April 12	Colossians		5:14–15	January 5
8:12	January 27,	8:37	January 8	1:12	March 16	5:20	February 9,
February 2		8:38–39	January 7,	3:2	December 9		April 22
8:31–32	April 2		September 26	3:3	September 10	Jude	
10:3	July 20	10:17	January 11	3:15	July 2	1:21	July 25
10:4	October 31	11:29	April 18	1 Thessalonians		1:24–25	November 13
11:40	April 29	11:33	March 19	2:13	November 16	Revelation	
11:25–26	Easter	12:2	May 5	5:18	January 20	19:5	April 24
12:12–13	April 6	14:22	January 26	2 Thessalonians		19:7	July 6
14:2–3	April 19	15:13	June 23	2:16–17	February 3	21	March 16
14:3	April 13	1 Corinthians		2 Timothy		21:3	February 18
14:6	July 17,	2:9	February 18	2:13	November 5	21:6	February 24
	October 22	6:19	April 7	3:16	June 29	22:13	December 31
14:18	November 19	13:1–3	March 15	Titus		22:17	May 23
14:9	August 22	13:2	February 17	3:4	May 18	Hebrews	
14:14	January 31	13:4–8	May 19	3:6	July 11	3:6	July 11
14:23	May 26	13:12	April 13	3:13	July 26	4:9–11	December 29
14:27	June 11	13:13	March 15	4:12	March 26	5:9	April 30
15:4	September 13	15:4	Easter	6:19	March 29	11:1	May 10
15:4–5	August 28	2 Corinthians		11:8–10	September 18		
15:5	October 28	1:4	November 4				
15:16	August 19	4:6	April 28				
15:17	August 16	4:8–9	September 7				
16:23	January 5	4:17	November 8				
16:24	June 24	4:18	June 12				
16:33	December 20	5:7	September 18				
17:3	July 23						

You can't do much about yesterday—it's already past—and tomorrow is still out of reach. But you have today: roughly sixteen waking hours stretching before you, new and spotless. How better to begin your daily journey than by pausing for a few moments of spiritual inspiration?

Moments in the Morning is a unique anthology drawn from a range of sources, including both contemporary and classical writings. Each selection provides a spiritual boost to start your day. You will find anecdotes and proverbs, Bible passages, inspirational insights, prophetic messages, poems and prayers combined to create this uplifting devotional volume.



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