



LET

EVERY HEART

*Prepare
Him
Room*

DEVOTIONAL
QUARTER 4

2024

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

[Day One | October 1](#)
[Day Two | October 2](#)
[Day Three | October 3](#)
[Day Four | October 4](#)
[Day Five | October 5](#)
[Day Six | October 6](#)
[Day Seven | October 7](#)
[Day Eight | October 8](#)
[Day Nine | October 9](#)
[Day Ten | October 10](#)
[Day Eleven | October 11](#)
[Day Twelve | October 12](#)
[Day Thirteen | October 13](#)
[Day Fourteen | October 14](#)
[Day Fifteen | October 15](#)
[Day Sixteen | October 16](#)
[Day Seventeen | October 17](#)
[Day Eighteen | October 18](#)
[Day Nineteen | October 19](#)
[Day Twenty | October 20](#)
[Day Twenty-One | October 21](#)
[Day Twenty-Two | October 22](#)
[Day Twenty-Three | October 23](#)
[Day Twenty-Four | October 24](#)
[Day Twenty-Five | October 25](#)
[Day Twenty-Six | October 26](#)
[Day Twenty-Seven | October 27](#)
[Day Twenty-Eight | October 28](#)
[Day Twenty-Nine | October 29](#)
[Day Thirty | October 30](#)

[Day Thirty-One | October 31](#)
[Day Thirty-Two | November 1](#)
[Day Thirty-Three | November 2](#)
[Day Thirty-Four | November 3](#)
[Day Thirty-Five | November 4](#)
[Day Thirty-Six | November 5](#)
[Day Thirty-Seven | November 6](#)
[Day Thirty-Eight | November 7](#)
[Day Thirty-Nine | November 8](#)
[Day Forty | November 9](#)
[Day Forty-One | November 10](#)
[Day Forty-Two | November 11](#)
[Day Forty-Three | November 12](#)
[Day Forty-Four | November 13](#)
[Day Forty-Five | November 14](#)
[Day Forty-Six | November 15](#)
[Day Forty-Seven | November 16](#)
[Day Forty-Eight | November 17](#)
[Day Forty-Nine | November 18](#)
[Day Fifty | November 19](#)
[Day Fifty-One | November 20](#)
[Day Fifty-Two | November 21](#)
[Day Fifty-Three | November 22](#)
[Day Fifty-Four | November 23](#)
[Day Fifty-Five | November 24](#)
[Day Fifty-Six | November 25](#)
[Day Fifty-Seven | November 26](#)
[Day Fifty-Eight | November 27](#)
[Day Fifty-Nine | November 28](#)
[Day Sixty | November 29](#)
[Day Sixty-One | November 30](#)

[Day Sixty-Two | December 1](#)
[Day Sixty-Three|December 2](#)
[Day Sixty-Four|December 3](#)
[Day Sixty-Five | December 4](#)
[Day Sixty-Six | December 5](#)
[Day Sixty-Seven | December 6](#)
[Day Sixty-Eight | December 7](#)
[Day Sixty-Nine | December 8](#)
[Day Seventy | December 9](#)
[Day Seventy-One|December 10](#)
[Day Seventy-Two|December 11](#)
[Day Seventy-Three|December 12](#)
[Day Seventy-Four | December 13](#)
[Day Seventy-Five|December 14](#)
[Day Seventy-Six | December 15](#)
[Day Seventy-Seven | December 16](#)
[Day Seventy-Eight|December 17](#)
[Day Seventy-Nine|December 18](#)
[Day Eighty | December 19](#)
[Day Eighty-One|December 20](#)
[Day Eighty-Two|December 21](#)
[Day Eighty-Three|December 22](#)
[Day Eighty-Four|December 23](#)
[Day Eighty-Five | December 24](#)
[Day Eighty-Six | December 25](#)
[Day Eighty-Seven | December 26](#)
[Day Eighty-Eight|December 27](#)
[Day Eighty-Nine|December 28](#)
[Day Ninety | December 29](#)
[Day Ninety-One | December 30](#)
[Day Ninety-Two | December 31](#)

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been designed for use in personal devotion time or as a guide for family worship. It contains a combination of the following elements: Opening Prayer, Devotional Thought, Scripture to Prayer, Scripture Reading, and Response.

The overall goal of this booklet is to encourage Christian spiritual formation; this is accomplished, with the help of the Holy Spirit, through reading Scripture, reading and praying the prayers and hymns of Christian fathers and other heroes of the faith, and actively responding to what has been read with the aid of written prompts. Blank space is provided for journaling, observations on the text, prayer requests, answered prayers, and noting “God-winks,” or themes and ideas God seems to be drawing your attention to. It is our prayer that hearts are transformed into the likeness of Christ as we read, pray, study, and respond to His Word.

Title of this Booklet

What does it mean to “Prepare Him Room?” Just like when we host someone at our house, we must make the space ready to have people come to stay, in the same way, we must make our hearts ready to receive the Lord, the incarnate Christ who came and dwelt among us and who will one day come again to take us to be with Him. Stories abound in scripture of those who are ready and prepared, and there are also sad stories of those who are not ready when the time comes. For this quarter of devotional material, as we seek to make ready our hearts for the Christmas season when we celebrate the miraculous incarnation of Christ and look forward to His return, devotional readings will be geared toward preparing room in our hearts for Christ as we seek to put off all the worldly diversions that compete for space, and make fertile the soil of our hearts to eagerly anticipate, receive, and worship the risen Lord.

Notes on Learning to Pray Scripture:

John Piper says, “Open the Bible, start reading it, and pause at every verse and turn it into a prayer.” This quarter, one of our prompts will be to take the given verses and turn those into prayer. Don Whitney in his book *Praying the Bible* instructs, “To pray the Bible, you simply go through the passage line by line, talking to God about whatever comes to mind as you read the text. See how easy that is? Anyone can do that. If you don’t understand the meaning of a verse, go on to the next verse. If the meaning of that one is perfectly clear but nothing comes to mind to pray about, go on to the next verse. Just speak to the Lord about everything that occurs to you as you slowly read his Word...We may bring ‘everything by prayer’ to God. Everything is something we may pray about. Every person, every object, every issue, every circumstance, every fear, every situation—everything in the universe is something we may bring before God. So every thought that enters your mind as you are reading a passage of Scripture—even if that thought has nothing to do with the text before you at the moment—is something you may bring to God.”¹

Please note: The title of this booklet, “Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room” is taken from a verse in the hymn “Joy to the World.” This hymn is the hymn associated with this quarter’s booklet. Though it is not an assigned element in any of the days, the hope is that, when you have time, you will sing this hymn as part of your devotional time with the Lord. The hymnal page is included in the back of this booklet.

¹ Donald S. Whitney, *Praying the Bible*. Crossway: Wheaton, IL (2015), 33-34.

“God always fills in all hearts all the room which is left Him there.”
F.W. Faber

“Your priorities must be God first, God second, and God third, until your life is
continually face to face with God.”
Oswald Chambers

“The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend everyday is to have my soul
happy in the Lord.”
George Muller

Day One | October 1

Opening Prayer

Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving you in the way you will and not as I choose. Let me die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself. Amen.

Theresa of Avila

Devotional Thought

Give yourselves anew to God and to God's service, and He will give you the desire and the power to open your treasures; to give to Him, it may be wealth, it may be time, it may be personal service, it may be life itself. In His store there is a place for all, for the tears of the penitent, the barley loaves of the child, the two mites of the widow, the savings of the Philippians' "deep poverty," as well as for Mary's ointment, for the land of Barnabas, for the gold and incense and myrrh of these Eastern sages. And if the vision of Christ be before his eyes, and the love of Christ be in his heart, the man of wealth will give his large offering, the man of learning his dear-bought knowledge, the man of business his hard-earned leisure, for the glory of God, for the benefit of his fellow-men, for the Church or for the poor; to feed the hungry, or to teach the ignorant, to help the struggling, or to guide the erring; and each gift will be welcomed by Him who gave Himself for us all, and who asks in return for ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him.

John Ellerton

From Scripture to Prayer

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 1

1 Corinthians 1

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Two | October 2

Opening Prayer

Then shall my days be Thine,
And all my heart be love;
And joy and peace be mine,
Such as are known above.
Come, Holy Spirit, quickly come,
And make my heart Thy lasting home.

Andrew Reed

Devotional Thought

Let us examine our capacities and gifts, and then put them to the best use we may. As our own view of life is of necessity partial, I do not find that we can do better than to put them absolutely in God's hand, and look to Him for the direction of our life-energy. God can do great things with our lives, if we but give them to Him in sincerity. He can make them useful, uplifting, heroic. God never wastes anything. God never forgets anything. God never loses anything. As long as we live we have a work to do. We shall never be too old for it, nor too feeble. Illness, weakness, fatigue, sorrow,-- none of these things can excuse us from this work of ours. That we are alive today is proof positive that God has something for us to do today.

Anna R.B. Lindsay

Scripture to Prayer

And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:38-39

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 2

1 Corinthians 2

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Three | October 3

Opening Prayer

Made for Thyself, O God!
Made for Thy love, Thy service, Thy delight;
Made to show forth Thy wisdom, grace, and might;
Made for Thy praise, whom veiled archangels laud;
O strange and glorious thought, that we may be
A joy to Thee.

F.R. Havergal

Devotional Thought

This way of seeing our Father in everything makes life one long thanksgiving and gives a rest of heart, and, more than that, a gaiety of spirit, that is unspeakable. Someone says, "God's will on earth is always joy, always tranquility." And since He must have His own way concerning His children, into what wonderful green pastures of inward rest, and beside what blessedly still waters of inward refreshment is the soul led that learns this secret. If the will of God is our will, and if He always has His way, then we always have our way also, and we reign in a perpetual kingdom. He who sides with God cannot fail to win in every encounter; and, whether the result shall be joy or sorrow, failure or success, death or life, we may, under all circumstances, join in the Apostle's shout of victory, "Thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ!"

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you." Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

2 Chronicles 20:14-19

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 3

1 Corinthians 3

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Four | October 4

Opening Prayer

Glad with Thy light, and glowing with Thy love,
So let me ever speak and think and move
As fits a soul new-touched with life from heaven;
That seeks but so to order all her course
As most to show the glory of that Source
By whom alone her strength, her life are given.

C.J.P. Spitta

Devotional Thought

Whatever the particular call is, the particular sacrifice God asks you to make, the particular cross He wishes you to embrace, whatever the particular path He wants you to tread, will you rise up, and say in your heart, “Yes, Lord, I accept it; I submit, I yield, I pledge myself to walk in that path, and to follow that Voice, and to trust Thee with the consequences”? Oh! but you say, “I don’t know what He will want next.” No, we none of us know that, but we know we shall be safe in His hands.

Catherine Booth

Scripture to Prayer

But as for me, I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.
My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And of Your salvation all day long;
For I do not know the sum of them.
I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD;
I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

Psalm 71:14-16

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 4

1 Corinthians 4

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Five | October 5

Opening Prayer

Teach me, O God, Thy holy way,
And give me an obedient mind;
That in Thy service I may find
My soul's delight from day to day.

William Tidd Matson

Devotional Thought

How shall we become lovely? By loving Him who is ever loving.

St. Augustine

Scripture to Prayer

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 5

1 Corinthians 5

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Six | October 6

Opening Prayer

Thee will I love, my Crown of gladness,
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness;
Not for the hope of high reward,--
For Thine own sake, O Light Divine,
So long as life is mine.

Johann Scheffler

Devotional Thought

Think not again the wells of life to fill,
By any conscious act of your own will;
Retire within the silence of your soul,
And let God's Spirit enter, and control.
The springs of feeling which you thought were stilled,
Shall so be deepened, sweetened, and refilled.

Anna J. Granniss

Scripture to Prayer

O love the LORD, all you His godly ones!
The LORD preserves the faithful
And fully recompenses the proud doer.
Be strong and let your heart take courage,
All you who hope in the LORD.

Psalm 31:23-24

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 6

1 Corinthians 6

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Seven | October 7

Opening Prayer

To be made with Thee one spirit,
Is the boon that I lingering ask,
To have no bar 'twixt my soul and Thine;
My thoughts to echo Thy will divine,
Myself Thy servant for any task.

Lucy Larcom

Devotional Thought

What comforts me is the thought that we are being shaped here below into stones for the heavenly temple,— that to be made like Him is the object of our earthly existence. He is the shaper and carpenter of the heavenly temple. He must work us into shape, our part is to be still in His hands; every vexation is a little chip; also we must not be in a hurry to go out of the quarry, for there is a certain place for each stone, and we must wait till the building is ready for that stone; it would put out the building if we were taken pell-mell.

Charles George Gordon

Scripture to Prayer

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:4-9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 7

1 Corinthians 7

Response

Does another passage come to mind as you read this passage?

What do we share in common with the people in this passage?

Is there a promise I should claim based on this text?

Day Eight | October 8

Opening Prayer

Forgive us, Lord, our little faith;
And help us all, from morn till e'en,
Still to believe that lot the best
Which is,--not that which might have been.

George Zabriskie Gray

Devotional Thought

Be content to go on quietly. When you discover somewhat in yourself which is earthly and imperfect, be patient while you strive to cast it out. Your perceptions will grow,--at first God will show you very obvious stumbling blocks;--be diligent in clearing these away, and do not aim at heights to which you are not yet equal. Leave all to God, and while you earnestly desire that He would purify your intention, and seek to work with Him to that end, be satisfied with the gradual progress He sets before you; and remember that He often works in ways unseen by us.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Scripture to Prayer

Do not fret because of evildoers,
Be not envious toward wrongdoers.
For they will wither quickly like the grass
And fade like the green herb.
Trust in the LORD and do good;
Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light
And your judgment as the noonday.
Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.
Cease from anger and forsake wrath;

Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.
For evildoers will be cut off,
But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.

Psalm 37:1-9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8

1 Corinthians 8

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Nine | October 9

Opening Prayer

Thus will I live and walk from day to day,
Contented, trustful, satisfied, and still;
What life so shielded, or what life so free,
As that within the center of Thy will!

Jane Woodfall

Devotional Thought

I am an instrument for His use; perhaps to bear burdens, as of pain, sorrow, or shame; perhaps to convey messages, writing, speaking, conversing; perhaps simply to reflect light, showing His mind in the commonest of all daily rounds. In only one way can I truly do anything of these; in the way of inner harmony with Him, and peace and joy in Him.

Handley C.G. Moule

Scripture to Prayer

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 9

1 Corinthians 9

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Ten | October 10

Opening Prayer

Let me Thy power, Thy beauty see;
So shall the hopeless labor cease,
And my free heart shall follow Thee
Through paths of everlasting peace.
My strength Thy gift—my life Thy care,—
I shall forget to seek elsewhere
The wealth to which my soul is heir.

Anna L. Waring

Devotional Thought

Did I but live nearer to God, I could be of so much more help.

George Hodges

Scripture to Prayer

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying,
“Do not fear, Abram,
I am a shield to you;
Your reward shall be very great.”

Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.” Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 10

1 Corinthians 10

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Eleven | October 11

Opening Prayer

Let me not seek out of Thee what I can only find in Thee, peace and rest and joy and bliss, which abide only in Thy abiding joy. Lift up my soul above the weary round of harassing thoughts to Thy eternal Presence. Lift up my soul to the pure, bright, clear, serene, radiant atmosphere of Thy Presence, that there I may breathe freely, there repose in Thy love, there be at rest from myself and from all things that weary me; thence return, arrayed with Thy peace, to do and bear what shall please Thee.

E.B. Pusey

Devotional Thought

When you find that weariness depresses or amusement distracts you, you will calmly turn with an untroubled spirit to your Heavenly Father, who is always holding out His arms to you. You will look to Him for gladness and refreshment when depressed, for moderation and recollection when in good spirits, and you will find that He will never leave you to want. A trustful glance, a silent movement of the heart towards Him will renew your strength; and though you may often feel as if your soul were downcast and numb, whatever God calls you to do, He will give you power and courage to perform. Our heavenly Father, so far from ever overlooking us, is only waiting to find our hearts open, to pour into them the torrents of His grace.

Francois de la Mothe Fenelon

Scripture to Prayer

I delight to do Your will, O my God;
Your Law is within my heart.

Psalms 40:8

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 11

1 Corinthians 11

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Twelve | October 12

Opening Prayer

Oh, let my thought, my actions, and my will
Obedient solely to Thy impulse move,
My heart and senses keep Thou blameless still,
Fixed and absorbed in Thine unbounded love.
Thy praying, teaching, striving, in my heart,
Let me not quench, nor make Thee to depart.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Let not cares, riches, pleasures of this world, choke the heart, which was formed to contain the love of God. Pray, and all is thine. Thine is God Himself, who teacheth thee to pray for Himself. To pray is to go forth from earth, and to live in Heaven.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-18

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 12

1 Corinthians 12

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Thirteen | October 13

Opening Prayer

The Lord preserve us near unto Himself, out of that which separates from Him and weakens; and nothing shall be able to interrupt our joy in the Lord, nor our delight and pleasure in His will.

Isaac Penington

Devotional Thought

It is a sign that the soul is living in God, if it maintain calmness within through the consciousness of His Presence, while working for Him in active ministrations. Such restfulness will show itself in the commonest ways, in doing common duties at the right time, in preserving a sweetness and evenness of temper in the midst of ordinary interruptions and disturbances, in walking to and fro quietly on the day's varied errands, in speaking gentle words, in sweetly meeting unexpected calls. A calm, restful temper grows as self is learning to lose itself in God. Such grace tells gradually on the daily life; even the minutest detail may be brought under the power of God, and carried out in union with Him.

T. T. Carter

Scripture to Prayer

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:3-8

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 13

1 Corinthians 13

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Fourteen | October 14

Opening Prayer

Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee;
Thou art my God, in Thee I live and move;
Oh, let Thy loving Spirit lead me forth
Into the land of righteousness and love.

J.B.S. Monsell

Devotional Thought

“Am I really what I ought to be? Am I what, in the bottom of my heart, I honestly wish to be? Am I living a life at all like what I myself approve? My secret nature, the true complexion of my character, is hidden from all men, and only I know it. Is it such as I should be willing to show? Is my soul at all like what my kindest and most intimate friends believe? Is my heart at all such as I should wish the Searcher of Hearts to judge me by? Is every year adding to my devotion, to my unselfishness, to my conscientiousness, to my freedom from the hypocrisy of seeming so much better than I am? When I compare myself with last year, am I more ready to surrender myself at the call of duty? Am I more alive to the commands of conscience? Have I shaken off my besetting sins?” These are the questions which this season...ought to find us putting fairly and honestly to our hearts.

Frederick Temple

Scripture to Prayer

When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Matthew 6:5-8

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 1

1 Corinthians 14

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Fifteen | October 15

Opening Prayer

Lift up our thoughts, lift up our songs,
And let Thy grace be given,
That while we linger here below,
Our hearts may be in heaven.

C.F. Alexander

Devotional Thought

Don't be unwise enough to think that we are serving God best by constant activity at the cost of headaches and broken rest. I am getting to be of the opinion that we may be doing too much. We want—at least this is my own want— a higher quality of work. Our labor should be to maintain unbroken communion with our blessed Lord; then we shall have entire rest, and God abiding in us; that which we do will not be ours, but His.

John Kenneth Mackenzie

Scripture to Prayer

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

Psalms 139:1-6

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 2

1 Corinthians 15

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Sixteen | October 16

Opening Prayer

Now, O my God,
My comfort, portion, rest!
Thou, none but Thou, shalt reign within my breast.
Call me to Thee! call me Thyself– oh, speak,
And bind my heart to Thee, whom most I seek!

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Do you think that the infinite God cannot fill and satisfy your heart?

Francois de la Mothe Fenelon

Scripture to Prayer

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 3

1 Corinthians 16

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Seventeen | October 17

Opening Prayer

Oh, let Thy wisdom be my guide,
Nor take Thy light from me away;
Thy grace be over at my side,
That from Thy path I may not stray;
But, feeling that Thy hand is o'er me,
In steadfast faith my course fulfill,
And keep Thy word, and do Thy will
Thy love within, Thy heaven before me!

Wolfgang C. Dessler

Devotional Thought

You little think how much the life of all your graces depends upon your ready and cordial obedience to the Spirit. When the Spirit urgeth thee to secret prayer, and thou refuseth obedience; when He forbids thee a known transgression, and yet thou wilt go on; when He telleth thee which is the way, and which not, and thou wilt not regard,—no wonder if heaven and thy soul be strange.

Richard Baxter

Scripture to Prayer

They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.” When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most

remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:3-11

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 4

2 Corinthians 1

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Eighteen | October 18

Opening Prayer

Thy will, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be!
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.
I dare not choose my lot;
I would not, if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God;
So shall I walk aright.

Horatius Bonar

Devotional Thought

The whole duty and blessedness of waiting on God has its roots in this, that He is such a blessed Being, full, to overflowing, of goodness and power and life and joy, that we, however wretched, cannot for any time come into contact with Him, without that life and power secretly, silently, beginning to enter into us and blessing us. God is Love! God's love is just His delight to impart Himself and His blessedness to His children. Come, and however feeble you feel, just wait in His presence. As a feeble invalid is brought out into the sunshine to let its warmth go through him, come with all that is dark and cold in you into the sunshine of God's holy, omnipotent love, and sit and wait there, with the one thought: Here I am, in the sunshine of His love. As the sun does its work in the weak one who seeks its rays, God will do His work in you.

Andrew Murray

Scripture to Prayer

Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:3-5

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 5

2 Corinthians 2

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Nineteen | October 19

Opening Prayer

Teach me Thy love to know;
That this new light which now I see,
May both the work and workman show:
Then by a sunbeam I will climb to Thee.

George Herbert

Devotional Thought

He only asks thee to yield thyself to Him, that He may work in thee to will and to do by His own mighty power. Thy part is to yield thyself, His part is to work; and never, never will He give thee any command which is not accompanied by ample power to obey it. Take no thought for the morrow in this matter; but abandon thyself with a generous trust to thy loving Lord, who has promised never to call His own sheep out into any path without Himself going before them to make the way easy and safe. Take each little step as He makes it plain to thee. Bring all thy life in each of its details to Him to regulate and guide. Follow gladly and quickly the sweet suggestions of His Spirit in thy soul. And day by day thou wilt find Him bringing thee more and more into conformity with His will in all things; moulding thee and fashioning thee, as thou art able to bear it, into a vessel unto His honor, sanctified and meet for His use, and fitted to every good work.

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

Then Hannah prayed and said,
“My heart exults in the LORD;
My horn is exalted in the LORD,
My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies,
Because I rejoice in Your salvation.
There is no one holy like the LORD,
Indeed, there is no one besides You,
Nor is there any rock like our God.
Boast no more so very proudly,
Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth;
For the LORD is a God of knowledge,

And with Him actions are weighed.
The bows of the mighty are shattered,
But the feeble gird on strength.
Those who were full hire themselves out for bread,
But those who were hungry cease to hunger.
Even the barren gives birth to seven,
But she who has many children languishes.
The LORD kills and makes alive;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up.
The LORD makes poor and rich;
He brings low, He also exalts.
He raises the poor from the dust,
He lifts the needy from the ash heap
To make them sit with nobles,
And inherit a seat of honor;
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S,
And He set the world on them.
He keeps the feet of His godly ones,
But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness;
For not by might shall a man prevail.
Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered;
Against them He will thunder in the heavens,
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
And He will give strength to His king,
And will exalt the horn of His anointed."

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 6

2 Corinthians 3

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Twenty | October 20

Opening Prayer

Let my life be hid in Thee,
Life of life and Light of light!
Love's illimitable sea,
Depth of peace, of power the height!

Let my life be hid in Thee
From vexation and annoy;
Calm in Thy tranquility,
All my mourning turned to joy.

John Bull

Devotional Thought

"I come to do Thy will, O God." That is what we are here for--to do God's will. That is the object of your life and mine,--to do God's will. Any of us can tell in a moment whether our lives are right or not. Are we doing God's will? We do not mean, Are we doing God's work?--preaching, or teaching, or collecting money,--but God's will. A man may think he is doing God's work when he is not even doing God's will. And a man may be doing God's work and God's will quite as much by hewing stones, or sweeping streets, as by preaching or praying. So the question means just this, Are we working out our common everyday life on the great lines of God's will?

Henry Drummond

Scripture to Prayer

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:28-33

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 7

2 Corinthians 4

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Twenty-One| October 21

Opening Prayer

Son of the living God! Oh, call us
Once and again to follow Thee,
And give us strength, whate'er befall us,
Thy true disciples still to be.

And if our coward hearts deny Thee,
In inmost thought, or deed, or word,
Let not our hardness still defy Thee,
But with a look subdue us, Lord.

Henry A. Martin

Devotional Thought

Act faithfully according to thy degree of light and what God giveth thee to see; and thou shalt see more clearly. Harken to the low whispers of His voice within thee, and thou shalt hear more distinctly. Above all, do not stifle any motions of conscience. Meditate daily on the things of eternity; and, by the grace of God, do something daily which thou wouldest wish to have done when that day cometh. Above all things, in all things, "look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of thy faith." If thou failest, look to Him to uphold thee; if thou stumblest, hold swift His hand to help thee; if thou fallest, lie not hopelessly there, but look to Him to raise thee; if, by His grace, thou doest well, look to Him in thanksgiving, that He has helped thee, and pray that thou mayest do better.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." They related Esther's words to Mordecai. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether

you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?” Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.” So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

Esther 4:10-17

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 8

2 Corinthians 5

Response

Does another passage come to mind as you read this passage?

What do we share in common with the people in this passage?

Is there a promise I should claim based on this text?

Day Twenty-Two|October 22

Opening Prayer

See, in Thy hands I lay them all—
My will that fails, my feet that fall;
My heart that wearies everywhere,
Yet finds Thy yoke too hard to bear.

Katharine T. Hinkson

Devotional Thought

The soul which gives itself wholly and without reserve to God, is filled with His own peace; and the closer we draw to our God so much the stronger and more steadfast and tranquil shall we become.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Scripture to Prayer

You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Matthew 12:34-38

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 9

2 Corinthians 6

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Twenty-Three|October 23

Opening Prayer

Lord, it is not life to live,
If Thy presence Thou deny;
Lord, if Thou Thy presence give,
'T is no longer death to die.
Source and giver of repose,
Singly from Thy smile it flows;
Peace and happiness are Thine;
Mine they are, if Thou art mine.

A.M. Toplady

Devotional Thought

Are we willing to give ourselves entirely to God; to let Him do with us whatever He pleases; to follow anywhere at His bidding; to renounce anything at His call; asking only, in return, that He will give us Himself, with all His infinite love, to be ours from this time forever? If we are thus willing, let us kneel down this moment and tell Him so. Alone with God, let us give Him ourselves, all we have and are and shall be, to be unreservedly His.

William R. Huntington

Scripture to Prayer

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 10

2 Corinthians 7

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Twenty-Four|October 24

Opening Prayer

But if distractions manifold prevail,
And if in this we must confess we fail,
Grant us to keep at least a prompt desire,
Continual readiness for prayer and praise,
An altar heaped and waiting to take fire
With the least spark, and leap into a blaze.

Richard Chenevix Trench

Devotional Thought

My son, thou art never secure in this life, but, as long as thou livest, thou shalt always need spiritual armor. Thou oughtest manfully to go through all, and to use a strong hand against whatsoever withstandeth thee. For to him that overcometh is manna given, and for the indolent there remaineth much misery. Dispose not thyself for much rest, but for great patience. Wait for the Lord, behave thyself manfully, and be of good courage; do not distrust Him, do not leave thy place, but steadily expose both body and soul for the glory of God.

Thomas a Kempis

Scripture to Prayer

After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand. It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man...Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

Matthew 15:10-11, 17-21

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 11

2 Corinthians 8

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Twenty-Five | October 25

Opening Prayer

Yes, take my heart, and in it rule;
Direct it as it pleaseth Thee;
I will be silent in Thy school,
And learn whate'er Thou teachest me.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Break off things which displease God, and whatever ye do, do it to please Him. Dedicate, morning by morning, the actions of the day to God; live in His Presence; offer to Him your acts beforehand; recall yourself, if the case admits, into His Presence, in the midst of them; give Him the glory with thy whole heart, if they be well done, since nothing good is our own; if they be amiss, grieve to Him. If we make God our end, He who gave us the grace thus to seek Him, will give us His love; He will increase our longing desire for Him; and whom in all we seek, whom in all we would please, whom in all we would love, Him shall we find, Him possess, here in grace and veiled, hereafter, in glory.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

Romans 1:15-17

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Daniel 12

2 Corinthians 9

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Twenty-Six | October 26

Opening Prayer

O Rest of rests! O peace serene, eternal!
Thou ever livest, and Thou changest never;
And in the secret of Thy presence dwelleth
Fullness of joy, for ever and for ever.

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Devotional Thought

It is wholly impossible to live according to divine order, and to make a proper application of heavenly principles, as long as the necessary duties which each day brings seem only like a burden grievous to be borne. Not till we are ready to throw our very life's love into the troublesome little things can we be really faithful in that which is least and faithful also in much. Every day that dawns brings something to do, which can never be done as well again. We should, therefore, try to do it ungrudgingly and cheerfully. It is the Lord's own work, which He has given us as surely as He gives us daily bread. We should thank Him for it with all our hearts, as much as for any other gift. It was designed to be our life, our happiness. Instead of shirking it or hurrying over it, we should put our whole heart and soul into it.

James Reed

Scripture to Prayer

Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 1

2 Corinthians 10

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Twenty-Seven | October 27

Opening Prayer

Enter my opening heart;
Fill in with love and peace and light from heaven;
Give me Thyself—for all in Thee is given;
Come—never to depart.

Thomas William Webb

Devotional Thought

Perfect in outward conduct consists not in extraordinary things; but in doing common things extraordinarily well. Neglect nothing; the most trivial action may be performed to ourselves, or performed to God. If love be in your heart, your whole life may be one continual exercise of it. Oh, if we did but love others! How easily the least thing, the shutting of a door gently, the walking softly, speaking low, not making a noise, or the choice of a seat, so as to leave the most convenient to others, might become occasions of its exercise.

Mere Angelique Arnauld

Scripture to Prayer

“Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;
Because I will do this to you,
Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.”
For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind
And declares to man what are His thoughts,
He who makes dawn into darkness
And treads on the high places of the earth,
The LORD God of hosts is His name.

Amos 4:12-13

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 2

2 Corinthians 11

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Twenty-Eight|October 28

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, whose mercy veileth all
That may our coming days befall,
Still hide from us the things to be,
But rest our troubled hearts in Thee.

Harriet McEwen Kimball

Devotional Thought

When over dizzy heights we go,
One soft hand blinds our eyes,
The other leads us, safe and slow,
O Love of God most wise!

Eliza Scudder

Scripture to Prayer

And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." Then he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:16-26

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 3

2 Corinthians 12

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Twenty-Nine | October 29

Opening Prayer

There's not a craving in the mind
Thou dost not meet and still;
There's not a wish the heart can have
Which Thou dost not fulfill.

Frederick W. Faber

Devotional Thought

We can never cling to a besetting sin with one hand, and grasp Jesus Christ with the other. Until thou art content to reckon thyself dead indeed to every known form of sin, whether thou thinkest it small or great, thou never canst follow Jesus.

William Aitken

Scripture to Prayer

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 3-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 4

2 Corinthians 13

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Thirty | October 30

Opening Prayer

We pray Thee, grant us strength to take
Our daily cross, whate'er it be,
And gladly for Thine own dear sake
In paths of pain to follow Thee.

W.W. How

Devotional Thought

You have trusted Him in a few things, and He has not failed you. Trust Him now for everything, and see if He does not do for you exceeding abundantly above all that you could ever have asked or thought, not according to your power or capacity, but according to His own mighty power, that will work in you all the good pleasure of His most blessed will. You find no difficulty in trusting the Lord with the management of the universe and all the outward creation, and can your case be any more complex or difficult than these, that you need to be anxious or troubled about His management of it?

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, "Son, go work today in the vineyard." And he answered, "I will not"; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, "I will, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him."

Matthew 21:28-32

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 5

Galatians 1

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Thirty-One | October 31

Opening Prayer

O Jesus Christ, grow Thou in me,
And all things else recede;
My heart be daily nearer Thee,
From sin be daily freed.

Make this poor self grow less and less,
Be Thou my life and aim;
Oh, make me daily, through Thy grace,
More worthy of Thy name.

J.C. Lavater

Devotional Thought

And if God knocks continually at the heart of man, desiring to enter in and sup there, and to communicate to him His gifts, who can believe that when the heart opens and invites Him to enter, He will become deaf to the invitation, and refuse to come in?

Lorenzo Scupoli

Scripture to Prayer

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Hebrews 4:12-13

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 6

Galatians 2

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Thirty-Two | November 1

Opening Prayer

Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving you in the way you will and not as I choose. Let me die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself. Amen.

Theresa of Avila

Devotional Thought

Give yourselves anew to God and to God's service, and He will give you the desire and the power to open your treasures; to give to Him, it may be wealth, it may be time, it may be personal service, it may be life itself. In His store there is a place for all, for the tears of the penitent, the barley loaves of the child, the two mites of the widow, the savings of the Philippians' "deep poverty," as well as for Mary's ointment, for the land of Barnabas, for the gold and incense and myrrh of these Eastern sages. And if the vision of Christ be before his eyes, and the love of Christ be in his heart, the man of wealth will give his large offering, the man of learning his dear-bought knowledge, the man of business his hard-earned leisure, for the glory of God, for the benefit of his fellow-men, for the Church or for the poor; to feed the hungry, or to teach the ignorant, to help the struggling, or to guide the erring; and each gift will be welcomed by Him who gave Himself for us all, and who asks in return for ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him.

John Ellerton

From Scripture to Prayer

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

To know wisdom and instruction,
To discern the sayings of understanding,
To receive instruction in wise behavior,
Righteousness, justice and equity;
To give prudence to the naive,
To the youth knowledge and discretion,
A wise man will hear and increase in learning,
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,
To understand a proverb and a figure,
The words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:1-7

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 7

Galatians 3

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Thirty-Three | November 2

Opening Prayer

Then shall my days be Thine,
And all my heart be love;
And joy and peace be mine,
Such as are known above.
Come, Holy Spirit, quickly come,
And make my heart Thy lasting home.

Andrew Reed

Devotional Thought

Let us examine our capacities and gifts, and then put them to the best use we may. As our own view of life is of necessity partial, I do not find that we can do better than to put them absolutely in God's hand, and look to Him for the direction of our life-energy. God can do great things with our lives, if we but give them to Him in sincerity. He can make them useful, uplifting, heroic. God never wastes anything. God never forgets anything. God never loses anything. As long as we live we have a work to do. We shall never be too old for it, nor too feeble. Illness, weakness, fatigue, sorrow,-- none of these things can excuse us from this work of ours. That we are alive today is proof positive that God has something for us to do today.

Anna R.B. Lindsay

Scripture to Prayer

And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

Mark 1:40-45

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 8

Galatians 4

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Thirty-Four|November 3

Opening Prayer

Made for Thyself, O God!
Made for Thy love, Thy service, Thy delight;
Made to show forth Thy wisdom, grace, and might;
Made for Thy praise, whom veiled archangels laud;
O strange and glorious thought, that we may be
A joy to Thee.

F.R. Havergal

Devotional Thought

This way of seeing our Father in everything makes life one long thanksgiving and gives a rest of heart, and, more than that, a gaiety of spirit, that is unspeakable. Someone says, "God's will on earth is always joy, always tranquility." And since He must have His own way concerning His children, into what wonderful green pastures of inward rest, and beside what blessedly still waters of inward refreshment is the soul led that learns this secret. If the will of God is our will, and if He always has His way, then we always have our way also, and we reign in a perpetual kingdom. He who sides with God cannot fail to win in every encounter; and, whether the result shall be joy or sorrow, failure or success, death or life, we may, under all circumstances, join in the Apostle's shout of victory, "Thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ!"

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them." So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them.

Exodus 1:17-21

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 9

Galatians 5

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Thirty-Five | November 4

Opening Prayer

Glad with Thy light, and glowing with Thy love,
So let me ever speak and think and move
As fits a soul new-touched with life from heaven;
That seeks but so to order all her course
As most to show the glory of that Source
By whom alone her strength, her life are given.

C.J.P. Spitta

Devotional Thought

Whatever the particular call is, the particular sacrifice God asks you to make, the particular cross He wishes you to embrace, whatever the particular path He wants you to tread, will you rise up, and say in your heart, “Yes, Lord, I accept it; I submit, I yield, I pledge myself to walk in that path, and to follow that Voice, and to trust Thee with the consequences”? Oh! but you say, “I don’t know what He will want next.” No, we none of us know that, but we know we shall be safe in His hands.

Catherine Booth

Scripture to Prayer

I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul will make its boast in the LORD;
The humble will hear it and rejoice.
O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 34:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 10

Galatians 6

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Thirty-Six | November 5

Opening Prayer

Teach me, O God, Thy holy way,
And give me an obedient mind;
That in Thy service I may find
My soul's delight from day to day.

William Tidd Matson

Devotional Thought

How shall we become lovely? By loving Him who is ever loving.

St. Augustine

Scripture to Prayer

“Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine. For all the firstborn are Mine; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, from man to beast. They shall be Mine; I am the LORD.”

Numbers 3:12-13

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 11

Ephesians 1

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Thirty-Seven | November 6

Opening Prayer

Thee will I love, my Crown of gladness,
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness;
Not for the hope of high reward,--
For Thine own sake, O Light Divine,
So long as life is mine.

Johann Scheffler

Devotional Thought

Think not again the wells of life to fill,
By any conscious act of your own will;
Retire within the silence of your soul,
And let God's Spirit enter, and control.
The springs of feeling which you thought were stilled,
Shall so be deepened, sweetened, and refilled.

Anna J. Granniss

Scripture to Prayer

I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces will never be ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,
And rescues them.

Psalms 34:4-7

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 12

Ephesians 2

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Thirty-Eight | November 7

Opening Prayer

To be made with Thee one spirit,
Is the boon that I lingering ask,
To have no bar 'twixt my soul and Thine;
My thoughts to echo Thy will divine,
Myself Thy servant for any task.

Lucy Larcom

Devotional Thought

What comforts me is the thought that we are being shaped here below into stones for the heavenly temple,— that to be made like Him is the object of our earthly existence. He is the shaper and carpenter of the heavenly temple. He must work us into shape, our part is to be still in His hands; every vexation is a little chip; also we must not be in a hurry to go out of the quarry, for there is a certain place for each stone, and we must wait till the building is ready for that stone; it would put out the building if we were taken pell-mell.

Charles George Gordon

Scripture to Prayer

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 13

Ephesians 3

Response

Does another passage come to mind as you read this passage?

What do we share in common with the people in this passage?

Is there a promise I should claim based on this text?

Day Thirty-Nine | November 8

Opening Prayer

Forgive us, Lord, our little faith;
And help us all, from morn till e'en,
Still to believe that lot the best
Which is,--not that which might have been.

George Zabriskie Gray

Devotional Thought

Be content to go on quietly. When you discover somewhat in yourself which is earthly and imperfect, be patient while you strive to cast it out. Your perceptions will grow,--at first God will show you very obvious stumbling blocks;--be diligent in clearing these away, and do not aim at heights to which you are not yet equal. Leave all to God, and while you earnestly desire that He would purify your intention, and seek to work with Him to that end, be satisfied with the gradual progress He sets before you; and remember that He often works in ways unseen by us.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Scripture to Prayer

I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I am not able to bear the burden of you alone. The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are this day like the stars of heaven in number. May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand-fold more than you are and bless you, just as He has promised you! How can I alone bear the load and burden of you and your strife? Choose wise and discerning and experienced men from your tribes, and I will appoint them as your heads.' You answered me and said, 'The thing which you have said to do is good.' So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and appointed them heads over you, leaders of thousands and of hundreds, of fifties and of tens, and officers for your tribes. Then I charged your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between a man and his fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.' I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.

Deuteronomy 1:9-18

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Hosea 14

Ephesians 4

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Forty | November 9

Opening Prayer

Thus will I live and walk from day to day,
Contented, trustful, satisfied, and still;
What life so shielded, or what life so free,
As that within the center of Thy will!

Jane Woodfall

Devotional Thought

I am an instrument for His use; perhaps to bear burdens, as of pain, sorrow, or shame; perhaps to convey messages, writing, speaking, conversing; perhaps simply to reflect light, showing His mind in the commonest of all daily rounds. In only one way can I truly do anything of these; in the way of inner harmony with Him, and peace and joy in Him.

Handley C.G. Moule

Scripture to Prayer

Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my groaning.
Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God,
For to You I pray.
In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;
In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

Psalms 5:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Joel 1

Ephesians 5

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Forty-One | November 10

Opening Prayer

Let me Thy power, Thy beauty see;
So shall the hopeless labor cease,
And my free heart shall follow Thee
Through paths of everlasting peace.
My strength Thy gift—my life Thy care,—
I shall forget to seek elsewhere
The wealth to which my soul is heir.

Anna L. Waring

Devotional Thought

Did I but live nearer to God, I could be of so much more help.

George Hodges

Scripture to Prayer

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Joel 2

Ephesians 6

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Forty-Two | November 11

Opening Prayer

Let me not seek out of Thee what I can only find in Thee, peace and rest and joy and bliss, which abide only in Thy abiding joy. Lift up my soul above the weary round of harassing thoughts to Thy eternal Presence. Lift up my soul to the pure, bright, clear, serene, radiant atmosphere of Thy Presence, that there I may breathe freely, there repose in Thy love, there be at rest from myself and from all things that weary me; thence return, arrayed with Thy peace, to do and bear what shall please Thee.

E.B. Pusey

Devotional Thought

When you find that weariness depresses or amusement distracts you, you will calmly turn with an untroubled spirit to your Heavenly Father, who is always holding out His arms to you. You will look to Him for gladness and refreshment when depressed, for moderation and recollection when in good spirits, and you will find that He will never leave you to want. A trustful glance, a silent movement of the heart towards Him will renew your strength; and though you may often feel as if your soul were downcast and numb, whatever God calls you to do, He will give you power and courage to perform. Our heavenly Father, so far from ever overlooking us, is only waiting to find our hearts open, to pour into them the torrents of His grace.

Francois de la Mothe Fenelon

Scripture to Prayer

O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes;
Make Your way straight before me.
There is nothing reliable in what they say;
Their inward part is destruction itself.
Their throat is an open grave;
They flatter with their tongue.
Hold them guilty, O God;
By their own devices let them fall!
In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out,
For they are rebellious against You.
But let all who take refuge in You be glad,
Let them ever sing for joy;
And may You shelter them,

That those who love Your name may exult in You.

Psalm 5:8-11

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Joel 3

Philippians 1

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Forty-Three | November 12

Opening Prayer

Oh, let my thought, my actions, and my will
Obedient solely to Thy impulse move,
My heart and senses keep Thou blameless still,
Fixed and absorbed in Thine unbounded love.
Thy praying, teaching, striving, in my heart,
Let me not quench, nor make Thee to depart.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Let not cares, riches, pleasures of this world, choke the heart, which was formed to contain the love of God. Pray, and all is thine. Thine is God Himself, who teacheth thee to pray for Himself. To pray is to go forth from earth, and to live in Heaven.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:1-12

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 1

Philippians 2

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Forty-Four | November 13

Opening Prayer

The Lord preserve us near unto Himself, out of that which separates from Him and weakens; and nothing shall be able to interrupt our joy in the Lord, nor our delight and pleasure in His will.

Isaac Penington

Devotional Thought

It is a sign that the soul is living in God, if it maintain calmness within through the consciousness of His Presence, while working for Him in active ministrations. Such restfulness will show itself in the commonest ways, in doing common duties at the right time, in preserving a sweetness and evenness of temper in the midst of ordinary interruptions and disturbances, in walking to and fro quietly on the day's varied errands, in speaking gentle words, in sweetly meeting unexpected calls. A calm, restful temper grows as self is learning to lose itself in God. Such grace tells gradually on the daily life; even the minutest detail may be brought under the power of God, and carried out in union with Him.

T. T. Carter

Scripture to Prayer

The LORD is King forever and ever;
Nations have perished from His land.
O LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble;
You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear
To vindicate the orphan and the oppressed,
So that man who is of the earth will no longer cause terror.

Psalms 10:16-18

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 2

Philippians 3

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Forty-Five | November 14

Opening Prayer

Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee;
Thou art my God, in Thee I live and move;
Oh, let Thy loving Spirit lead me forth
Into the land of righteousness and love.

J.B.S. Monsell

Devotional Thought

“Am I really what I ought to be? Am I what, in the bottom of my heart, I honestly wish to be? Am I living a life at all like what I myself approve? My secret nature, the true complexion of my character, is hidden from all men, and only I know it. Is it such as I should be willing to show? Is my soul at all like what my kindest and most intimate friends believe? Is my heart at all such as I should wish the Searcher of Hearts to judge me by? Is every year adding to my devotion, to my unselfishness, to my conscientiousness, to my freedom from the hypocrisy of seeming so much better than I am? When I compare myself with last year, am I more ready to surrender myself at the call of duty? Am I more alive to the commands of conscience? Have I shaken off my besetting sins?” These are the questions which this season...ought to find us putting fairly and honestly to our hearts.

Frederick Temple

Scripture to Prayer

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left.” But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to Him, “We are able.” He said to them, “My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.” And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:20-28

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 3

Philippians 4

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Forty-Six | November 15

Opening Prayer

Lift up our thoughts, lift up our songs,
And let Thy grace be given,
That while we linger here below,
Our hearts may be in heaven.

C.F. Alexander

Devotional Thought

Don't be unwise enough to think that we are serving God best by constant activity at the cost of headaches and broken rest. I am getting to be of the opinion that we may be doing too much. We want—at least this is my own want— a higher quality of work. Our labor should be to maintain unbroken communion with our blessed Lord; then we shall have entire rest, and God abiding in us; that which we do will not be ours, but His.

John Kenneth Mackenzie

Scripture to Prayer

I will extol You, my God, O King,
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.

Psalm 145:1-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 4

Colossians 1

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Forty-Seven | November 16

Opening Prayer

Now, O my God,
My comfort, portion, rest!
Thou, none but Thou, shalt reign within my breast.
Call me to Thee! call me Thyself– oh, speak,
And bind my heart to Thee, whom most I seek!

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Do you think that the infinite God cannot fill and satisfy your heart?

Francois de la Mothe Fenelon

Scripture to Prayer

“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.

Matthew 18:7-9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 5

Colossians 2

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Forty-Eight | November 17

Opening Prayer

Oh, let Thy wisdom be my guide,
Nor take Thy light from me away;
Thy grace be over at my side,
That from Thy path I may not stray;
But, feeling that Thy hand is o'er me,
In steadfast faith my course fulfill,
And keep Thy word, and do Thy will
Thy love within, Thy heaven before me!

Wolfgang C. Dessler

Devotional Thought

You little think how much the life of all your graces depends upon your ready and cordial obedience to the Spirit. When the Spirit urgeth thee to secret prayer, and thou refusest obedience; when He forbids thee a known transgression, and yet thou wilt go on; when He telleth thee which is the way, and which not, and thou wilt not regard,—no wonder if heaven and thy soul be strange.

Richard Baxter

Scripture to Prayer

The LORD is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
The LORD is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.
All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
And Your godly ones shall bless You.
They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom
And talk of Your power;
To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts
And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Psalm 145:8-13

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 6
Colossians 3

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Forty-Nine | November 18

Opening Prayer

Thy will, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be!
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.
I dare not choose my lot;
I would not, if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God;
So shall I walk aright.

Horatius Bonar

Devotional Thought

The whole duty and blessedness of waiting on God has its roots in this, that He is such a blessed Being, full, to overflowing, of goodness and power and life and joy, that we, however wretched, cannot for any time come into contact with Him, without that life and power secretly, silently, beginning to enter into us and blessing us. God is Love! God's love is just His delight to impart Himself and His blessedness to His children. Come, and however feeble you feel, just wait in His presence. As a feeble invalid is brought out into the sunshine to let its warmth go through him, come with all that is dark and cold in you into the sunshine of God's holy, omnipotent love, and sit and wait there, with the one thought: Here I am, in the sunshine of His love. As the sun does its work in the weak one who seeks its rays, God will do His work in you.

Andrew Murray

Scripture to Prayer

Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:10-13

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 7

Colossians 4

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Fifty | November 19

Opening Prayer

Teach me Thy love to know;
That this new light which now I see,
May both the work and workman show:
Then by a sunbeam I will climb to Thee.

George Herbert

Devotional Thought

He only asks thee to yield thyself to Him, that He may work in thee to will and to do by His own mighty power. Thy part is to yield thyself, His part is to work; and never, never will He give thee any command which is not accompanied by ample power to obey it. Take no thought for the morrow in this matter; but abandon thyself with a generous trust to thy loving Lord, who has promised never to call His own sheep out into any path without Himself going before them to make the way easy and safe. Take each little step as He makes it plain to thee. Bring all thy life in each of its details to Him to regulate and guide. Follow gladly and quickly the sweet suggestions of His Spirit in thy soul. And day by day thou wilt find Him bringing thee more and more into conformity with His will in all things; moulding thee and fashioning thee, as thou art able to bear it, into a vessel unto His honor, sanctified and meet for His use, and fitted to every good work.

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;
What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty!
You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,

Psalms 8:3-6

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 8

1 Thessalonians 1

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Fifty-One | November 20

Opening Prayer

Let my life be hid in Thee,
Life of life and Light of light!
Love's illimitable sea,
Depth of peace, of power the height!

Let my life be hid in Thee
From vexation and annoy;
Calm in Thy tranquility,
All my mourning turned to joy.

John Bull

Devotional Thought

"I come to do Thy will, O God." That is what we are here for--to do God's will. That is the object of your life and mine,--to do God's will. Any of us can tell in a moment whether our lives are right or not. Are we doing God's will? We do not mean, Are we doing God's work?--preaching, or teaching, or collecting money,--but God's will. A man may think he is doing God's work when he is not even doing God's will. And a man may be doing God's work and God's will quite as much by hewing stones, or sweeping streets, as by preaching or praying. So the question means just this, Are we working out our common everyday life on the great lines of God's will?

Henry Drummond

Scripture to Prayer

For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all

these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:25-34

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Amos 9

1 Thessalonians 2

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Fifty-Two | November 21

Opening Prayer

Son of the living God! Oh, call us
Once and again to follow Thee,
And give us strength, whate'er befall us,
Thy true disciples still to be.

And if our coward hearts deny Thee,
In inmost thought, or deed, or word,
Let not our hardness still defy Thee,
But with a look subdue us, Lord.

Henry A. Martin

Devotional Thought

Act faithfully according to thy degree of light and what God giveth thee to see; and thou shalt see more clearly. Harken to the low whispers of His voice within thee, and thou shalt hear more distinctly. Above all, do not stifle any motions of conscience. Meditate daily on the things of eternity; and, by the grace of God, do something daily which thou wouldest wish to have done when that day cometh. Above all things, in all things, "look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of thy faith." If thou failest, look to Him to uphold thee; if thou stumblest, hold swift His hand to help thee; if thou fallest, lie not hopelessly there, but look to Him to raise thee; if, by His grace, thou doest well, look to Him in thanksgiving, that He has helped thee, and pray that thou mayest do better.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.
I will be glad and exult in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
When my enemies turn back,
They stumble and perish before You.
For You have maintained my just cause;
You have sat on the throne judging righteously.

Psalm 9:1-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Obadiah
1 Thessalonians 3

Response

Does another passage come to mind as you read this passage?

What do we share in common with the people in this passage?

Is there a promise I should claim based on this text?

Day Fifty-Three | November 22

Opening Prayer

See, in Thy hands I lay them all—
My will that fails, my feet that fall;
My heart that wearies everywhere,
Yet finds Thy yoke too hard to bear.

Katharine T. Hinkson

Devotional Thought

The soul which gives itself wholly and without reserve to God, is filled with His own peace; and the closer we draw to our God so much the stronger and more steadfast and tranquil shall we become.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Scripture to Prayer

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Jonah 1

1 Thessalonians 4

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Fifty-Four | November 23

Opening Prayer

Lord, it is not life to live,
If Thy presence Thou deny;
Lord, if Thou Thy presence give,
'T is no longer death to die.
Source and giver of repose,
Singly from Thy smile it flows;
Peace and happiness are Thine;
Mine they are, if Thou art mine.

A.M. Toplady

Devotional Thought

Are we willing to give ourselves entirely to God; to let Him do with us whatever He pleases; to follow anywhere at His bidding; to renounce anything at His call; asking only, in return, that He will give us Himself, with all His infinite love, to be ours from this time forever? If we are thus willing, let us kneel down this moment and tell Him so. Alone with God, let us give Him ourselves, all we have and are and shall be, to be unreservedly His.

William R. Huntington

Scripture to Prayer

The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed,
A stronghold in times of trouble;
And those who know Your name will put their trust in You,
For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Psalms 9:9-10

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Jonah 2

1 Thessalonians 5

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Fifty-Five | November 24

Opening Prayer

But if distractions manifold prevail,
And if in this we must confess we fail,
Grant us to keep at least a prompt desire,
Continual readiness for prayer and praise,
An altar heaped and waiting to take fire
With the least spark, and leap into a blaze.

Richard Chenevix Trench

Devotional Thought

My son, thou art never secure in this life, but, as long as thou livest, thou shalt always need spiritual armor. Thou oughtest manfully to go through all, and to use a strong hand against whatsoever withstandeth thee. For to him that overcometh is manna given, and for the indolent there remaineth much misery. Dispose not thyself for much rest, but for great patience. Wait for the Lord, behave thyself manfully, and be of good courage; do not distrust Him, do not leave thy place, but steadily expose both body and soul for the glory of God.

Thomas a Kempis

Scripture to Prayer

After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

Matthew 14:23-33

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Jonah 3

2 Thessalonians 1

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Fifty-Six | November 25

Opening Prayer

Yes, take my heart, and in it rule;
Direct it as it pleaseth Thee;
I will be silent in Thy school,
And learn whate'er Thou teachest me.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Break off things which displease God, and whatever ye do, do it to please Him. Dedicate, morning by morning, the actions of the day to God; live in His Presence; offer to Him your acts beforehand; recall yourself, if the case admits, into His Presence, in the midst of them; give Him the glory with thy whole heart, if they be well done, since nothing good is our own; if they be amiss, grieve to Him. If we make God our end, He who gave us the grace thus to seek Him, will give us His love; He will increase our longing desire for Him; and whom in all we seek, whom in all we would please, whom in all we would love, Him shall we find, Him possess, here in grace and veiled, hereafter, in glory.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

I said, "I will guard my ways
That I may not sin with my tongue;
I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle
While the wicked are in my presence."
I was mute and silent,
I refrained even from good,
And my sorrow grew worse.
My heart was hot within me,
While I was musing the fire burned;
Then I spoke with my tongue:
"LORD, make me to know my end
And what is the extent of my days;
Let me know how transient I am.
"Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths,

And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;
Surely every man at his best is a mere breath.

Psalm 39:1-5

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Jonah 4

2 Thessalonians 2

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Fifty-Seven | November 26

Opening Prayer

O Rest of rests! O peace serene, eternal!
Thou ever livest, and Thou changest never;
And in the secret of Thy presence dwelleth
Fullness of joy, for ever and for ever.

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Devotional Thought

It is wholly impossible to live according to divine order, and to make a proper application of heavenly principles, as long as the necessary duties which each day brings seem only like a burden grievous to be borne. Not till we are ready to throw our very life's love into the troublesome little things can we be really faithful in that which is least and faithful also in much. Every day that dawns brings something to do, which can never be done as well again. We should, therefore, try to do it ungrudgingly and cheerfully. It is the Lord's own work, which He has given us as surely as He gives us daily bread. We should thank Him for it with all our hearts, as much as for any other gift. It was designed to be our life, our happiness. Instead of shirking it or hurrying over it, we should put our whole heart and soul into it.

James Reed

Scripture to Prayer

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 16:24-26

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 1

2 Thessalonians 3

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Fifty-Eight| November 27

Opening Prayer

Enter my opening heart;
Fill in with love and peace and light from heaven;
Give me Thyself—for all in Thee is given;
Come—never to depart.

Thomas William Webb

Devotional Thought

Perfect in outward conduct consists not in extraordinary things; but in doing common things extraordinarily well. Neglect nothing; the most trivial action may be performed to ourselves, or performed to God. If love be in your heart, your whole life may be one continual exercise of it. Oh, if we did but love others! How easily the least thing, the shutting of a door gently, the walking softly, speaking low, not making a noise, or the choice of a seat, so as to leave the most convenient to others, might become occasions of its exercise.

Mere Angelique Arnauld

Scripture to Prayer

Then He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet that I may speak with you!” As He spoke to me the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet; and I heard Him speaking to me. Then He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ As for them, whether they listen or not—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, neither fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions; neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house. But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious. Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you.”

Ezekiel 2:1-8

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 2

1 Timothy 1

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Fifty-Nine | November 28

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, whose mercy veileth all
That may our coming days befall,
Still hide from us the things to be,
But rest our troubled hearts in Thee.

Harriet McEwen Kimball

Devotional Thought

When over dizzy heights we go,
One soft hand blinds our eyes,
The other leads us, safe and slow,
O Love of God most wise!

Eliza Scudder

Scripture to Prayer

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you,
Reprove a wise man and he will love you.
Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser,
Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:8-10

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 3

1 Timothy 2

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Sixty | November 29

Opening Prayer

There's not a craving in the mind
Thou dost not meet and still;
There's not a wish the heart can have
Which Thou dost not fulfill.

Frederick W. Faber

Devotional Thought

We can never cling to a besetting sin with one hand, and grasp Jesus Christ with the other. Until thou art content to reckon thyself dead indeed to every known form of sin, whether thou thinkest it small or great, thou never canst follow Jesus.

William Aitken

Scripture to Prayer

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 20-25

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 4

1 Timothy 3

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Sixty-One | November 30

Opening Prayer

We pray Thee, grant us strength to take
Our daily cross, whate'er it be,
And gladly for Thine own dear sake
In paths of pain to follow Thee.

W.W. How

Devotional Thought

You have trusted Him in a few things, and He has not failed you. Trust Him now for everything, and see if He does not do for you exceeding abundantly above all that you could ever have asked or thought, not according to your power or capacity, but according to His own mighty power, that will work in you all the good pleasure of His most blessed will. You find no difficulty in trusting the Lord with the management of the universe and all the outward creation, and can your case be any more complex or difficult than these, that you need to be anxious or troubled about His management of it?

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

1 John 1:1-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 5

1 Timothy 4

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Sixty-Two | December 1

Opening Prayer

O Jesus Christ, grow Thou in me,
And all things else recede;
My heart be daily nearer Thee,
From sin be daily freed.

Make this poor self grow less and less,
Be Thou my life and aim;
Oh, make me daily, through Thy grace,
More worthy of Thy name.

J.C. Lavater

Devotional Thought

And if God knocks continually at the heart of man, desiring to enter in and sup there, and to communicate to him His gifts, who can believe that when the heart opens and invites Him to enter, He will become deaf to the invitation, and refuse to come in?

Lorenzo Scupoli

Scripture to Prayer

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 6

1 Timothy 5

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Sixty-Three|December 2

Opening Prayer

Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving you in the way you will and not as I choose. Let me die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself. Amen.

Theresa of Avila

Devotional Thought

Give yourselves anew to God and to God's service, and He will give you the desire and the power to open your treasures; to give to Him, it may be wealth, it may be time, it may be personal service, it may be life itself. In His store there is a place for all, for the tears of the penitent, the barley loaves of the child, the two mites of the widow, the savings of the Philippians' "deep poverty," as well as for Mary's ointment, for the land of Barnabas, for the gold and incense and myrrh of these Eastern sages. And if the vision of Christ be before his eyes, and the love of Christ be in his heart, the man of wealth will give his large offering, the man of learning his dear-bought knowledge, the man of business his hard-earned leisure, for the glory of God, for the benefit of his fellow-men, for the Church or for the poor; to feed the hungry, or to teach the ignorant, to help the struggling, or to guide the erring; and each gift will be welcomed by Him who gave Himself for us all, and who asks in return for ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him.

John Ellerton

From Scripture to Prayer

The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalms 1:4-6

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Micah 7

1 Timothy 6

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Sixty-Four|December 3

Opening Prayer

Then shall my days be Thine,
And all my heart be love;
And joy and peace be mine,
Such as are known above.
Come, Holy Spirit, quickly come,
And make my heart Thy lasting home.

Andrew Reed

Devotional Thought

Let us examine our capacities and gifts, and then put them to the best use we may. As our own view of life is of necessity partial, I do not find that we can do better than to put them absolutely in God's hand, and look to Him for the direction of our life-energy. God can do great things with our lives, if we but give them to Him in sincerity. He can make them useful, uplifting, heroic. God never wastes anything. God never forgets anything. God never loses anything. As long as we live we have a work to do. We shall never be too old for it, nor too feeble. Illness, weakness, fatigue, sorrow,-- none of these things can excuse us from this work of ours. That we are alive today is proof positive that God has something for us to do today.

Anna R.B. Lindsay

Scripture to Prayer

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nahum 1

2 Timothy 1

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Sixty-Five | December 4

Opening Prayer

Made for Thyself, O God!
Made for Thy love, Thy service, Thy delight;
Made to show forth Thy wisdom, grace, and might;
Made for Thy praise, whom veiled archangels laud;
O strange and glorious thought, that we may be
A joy to Thee.

F.R. Havergal

Devotional Thought

This way of seeing our Father in everything makes life one long thanksgiving and gives a rest of heart, and, more than that, a gaiety of spirit, that is unspeakable. Someone says, 'God's will on earth is always joy, always tranquility.' And since He must have His own way concerning His children, into what wonderful green pastures of inward rest, and beside what blessedly still waters of inward refreshment is the soul led that learns this secret. If the will of God is our will, and if He always has His way, then we always have our way also, and we reign in a perpetual kingdom. He who sides with God cannot fail to win in every encounter; and, whether the result shall be joy or sorrow, failure or success, death or life, we may, under all circumstances, join in the Apostle's shout of victory, 'Thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ!'

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nahum 2

2 Timothy 2

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Sixty-Six | December 5

Opening Prayer

Glad with Thy light, and glowing with Thy love,
So let me ever speak and think and move
As fits a soul new-touched with life from heaven;
That seeks but so to order all her course
As most to show the glory of that Source
By whom alone her strength, her life are given.

C.J.P. Spitta

Devotional Thought

Whatever the particular call is, the particular sacrifice God asks you to make, the particular cross He wishes you to embrace, whatever the particular path He wants you to tread, will you rise up, and say in your heart, 'Yes, Lord, I accept it; I submit, I yield, I pledge myself to walk in that path, and to follow that Voice, and to trust Thee with the consequences'? Oh! but you say, 'I don't know what He will want next.' No, we none of us know that, but we know we shall be safe in His hands.

Catherine Booth

Scripture to Prayer

Let love of the brethren continue.

Hebrews 13:1

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Nahum 3

2 Timothy 3

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Sixty-Seven | December 6

Opening Prayer

Teach me, O God, Thy holy way,
And give me an obedient mind;
That in Thy service I may find
My soul's delight from day to day.

William Tidd Matson

Devotional Thought

How shall we become lovely? By loving Him who is ever loving.

St. Augustine

Scripture to Prayer

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Habakkuk 1
2 Timothy 4

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Sixty-Eight | December 7

Opening Prayer

Thee will I love, my Crown of gladness,
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness;
Not for the hope of high reward,--
For Thine own sake, O Light Divine,
So long as life is mine.

Johann Scheffler

Devotional Thought

Think not again the wells of life to fill,
By any conscious act of your own will;
Retire within the silence of your soul,
And let God's Spirit enter, and control.
The springs of feeling which you thought were stilled,
Shall so be deepened, sweetened, and refilled.

Anna J. Granniss

Scripture to Prayer

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high!
May He send you help from the sanctuary
And support you from Zion!
May He remember all your meal offerings
And find your burnt offering acceptable!
Selah.
May He grant you your heart's desire
And fulfill all your counsel!

Psalms 20:1-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Habakkuk 2

Titus 1

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Sixty-Nine | December 8

Opening Prayer

To be made with Thee one spirit,
Is the boon that I lingering ask,
To have no bar 'twixt my soul and Thine;
My thoughts to echo Thy will divine,
Myself Thy servant for any task.

Lucy Larcom

Devotional Thought

What comforts me is the thought that we are being shaped here below into stones for the heavenly temple,— that to be made like Him is the object of our earthly existence. He is the shaper and carpenter of the heavenly temple. He must work us into shape, our part is to be still in His hands; every vexation is a little chip; also we must not be in a hurry to go out of the quarry, for there is a certain place for each stone, and we must wait till the building is ready for that stone; it would put out the building if we were taken pell-mell.

Charles George Gordon

Scripture to Prayer

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Habakkuk 3

Titus 2

Response

Does another passage come to mind as you read this passage?

What do we share in common with the people in this passage?

Is there a promise I should claim based on this text?

Day Seventy | December 9

Opening Prayer

Forgive us, Lord, our little faith;
And help us all, from morn till e'en,
Still to believe that lot the best
Which is,--not that which might have been.

George Zabriskie Gray

Devotional Thought

Be content to go on quietly. When you discover somewhat in yourself which is earthly and imperfect, be patient while you strive to cast it out. Your perceptions will grow,--at first God will show you very obvious stumbling blocks;--be diligent in clearing these away, and do not aim at heights to which you are not yet equal. Leave all to God, and while you earnestly desire that He would purify your intention, and seek to work with Him to that end, be satisfied with the gradual progress He sets before you; and remember that He often works in ways unseen by us.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Scripture to Prayer

Let those be ashamed and humiliated
Who seek my life;
Let those be turned back and dishonored
Who delight in my hurt.
Let those be turned back because of their shame
Who say, "Aha, aha!"
Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
And let those who love Your salvation say continually,
"Let God be magnified."

Psalm 70:2-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 1

Titus 3

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Seventy-One|December 10

Opening Prayer

Thus will I live and walk from day to day,
Contented, trustful, satisfied, and still;
What life so shielded, or what life so free,
As that within the center of Thy will!

Jane Woodfall

Devotional Thought

I am an instrument for His use; perhaps to bear burdens, as of pain, sorrow, or shame; perhaps to convey messages, writing, speaking, conversing; perhaps simply to reflect light, showing His mind in the commonest of all daily rounds. In only one way can I truly do anything of these; in the way of inner harmony with Him, and peace and joy in Him.

Handley C.G. Moule

Scripture to Prayer

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem. Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.' "

Ezra 1:1-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 2

Philemon

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Seventy-Two|December 11

Opening Prayer

Let me Thy power, Thy beauty see;
So shall the hopeless labor cease,
And my free heart shall follow Thee
Through paths of everlasting peace.
My strength Thy gift—my life Thy care,—
I shall forget to seek elsewhere
The wealth to which my soul is heir.

Anna L. Waring

Devotional Thought

Did I but live nearer to God, I could be of so much more help.

George Hodges

Scripture to Prayer

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

Exodus 2:5-9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 3

James 1

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Seventy-Three|December 12

Opening Prayer

Let me not seek out of Thee what I can only find in Thee, peace and rest and joy and bliss, which abide only in Thy abiding joy. Lift up my soul above the weary round of harassing thoughts to Thy eternal Presence. Lift up my soul to the pure, bright, clear, serene, radiant atmosphere of Thy Presence, that there I may breathe freely, there repose in Thy love, there be at rest from myself and from all things that weary me; thence return, arrayed with Thy peace, to do and bear what shall please Thee.

E.B. Pusey

Devotional Thought

When you find that weariness depresses or amusement distracts you, you will calmly turn with an untroubled spirit to your Heavenly Father, who is always holding out His arms to you. You will look to Him for gladness and refreshment when depressed, for moderation and recollection when in good spirits, and you will find that He will never leave you to want. A trustful glance, a silent movement of the heart towards Him will renew your strength; and though you may often feel as if your soul were downcast and numb, whatever God calls you to do, He will give you power and courage to perform. Our heavenly Father, so far from ever overlooking us, is only waiting to find our hearts open, to pour into them the torrents of His grace.

Francois de la Mothe Fenelon

Scripture to Prayer

I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

2 John 4-6

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Haggai 1

James 2

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Seventy-Four | December 13

Opening Prayer

Oh, let my thought, my actions, and my will
Obedient solely to Thy impulse move,
My heart and senses keep Thou blameless still,
Fixed and absorbed in Thine unbounded love.
Thy praying, teaching, striving, in my heart,
Let me not quench, nor make Thee to depart.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Let not cares, riches, pleasures of this world, choke the heart, which was formed to contain the love of God. Pray, and all is thine. Thine is God Himself, who teacheth thee to pray for Himself. To pray is to go forth from earth, and to live in Heaven.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Haggai 2

James 3

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Seventy-Five|December 14

Opening Prayer

The Lord preserve us near unto Himself, out of that which separates from Him and weakens; and nothing shall be able to interrupt our joy in the Lord, nor our delight and pleasure in His will.

Isaac Penington

Devotional Thought

It is a sign that the soul is living in God, if it maintain calmness within through the consciousness of His Presence, while working for Him in active ministrations. Such restfulness will show itself in the commonest ways, in doing common duties at the right time, in preserving a sweetness and evenness of temper in the midst of ordinary interruptions and disturbances, in walking to and fro quietly on the day's varied errands, in speaking gentle words, in sweetly meeting unexpected calls. A calm, restful temper grows as self is learning to lose itself in God. Such grace tells gradually on the daily life; even the minutest detail may be brought under the power of God, and carried out in union with Him.

T. T. Carter

Scripture to Prayer

...indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead...

2 Corinthians 1:9

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 1

James 4

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Seventy-Six | December 15

Opening Prayer

Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee;
Thou art my God, in Thee I live and move;
Oh, let Thy loving Spirit lead me forth
Into the land of righteousness and love.

J.B.S. Monsell

Devotional Thought

“Am I really what I ought to be? Am I what, in the bottom of my heart, I honestly wish to be? Am I living a life at all like what I myself approve? My secret nature, the true complexion of my character, is hidden from all men, and only I know it. Is it such as I should be willing to show? Is my soul at all like what my kindest and most intimate friends believe? Is my heart at all such as I should wish the Searcher of Hearts to judge me by? Is every year adding to my devotion, to my unselfishness, to my conscientiousness, to my freedom from the hypocrisy of seeming so much better than I am? When I compare myself with last year, am I more ready to surrender myself at the call of duty? Am I more alive to the commands of conscience? Have I shaken off my besetting sins?” These are the questions which this season...ought to find us putting fairly and honestly to our hearts.

Frederick Temple

Scripture to Prayer

Make me know Your ways, O LORD;
Teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day

Psalm 25:4-5

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 2

James 5

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Seventy-Seven | December 16

Opening Prayer

Lift up our thoughts, lift up our songs,
And let Thy grace be given,
That while we linger here below,
Our hearts may be in heaven.

C.F. Alexander

Devotional Thought

Don't be unwise enough to think that we are serving God best by constant activity at the cost of headaches and broken rest. I am getting to be of the opinion that we may be doing too much. We want—at least this is my own want— a higher quality of work. Our labor should be to maintain unbroken communion with our blessed Lord; then we shall have entire rest, and God abiding in us; that which we do will not be ours, but His.

John Kenneth Mackenzie

Scripture to Prayer

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:21-23

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 3

1 Peter 1

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Seventy-Eight|December 17

Opening Prayer

Now, O my God,
My comfort, portion, rest!
Thou, none but Thou, shalt reign within my breast.
Call me to Thee! call me Thyself– oh, speak,
And bind my heart to Thee, whom most I seek!

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Do you think that the infinite God cannot fill and satisfy your heart?

Francois de la Mothe Fenelon

Scripture to Prayer

Then it came about afterwards that David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up to one of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” So David said, “Where shall I go up?” And He said, “To Hebron.” So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. And David brought up his men who were with him, each with his household; and they lived in the cities of Hebron.

2 Samuel 2:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 4

1 Peter 2

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Seventy-Nine|December 18

Opening Prayer

Oh, let Thy wisdom be my guide,
Nor take Thy light from me away;
Thy grace be over at my side,
That from Thy path I may not stray;
But, feeling that Thy hand is o'er me,
In steadfast faith my course fulfill,
And keep Thy word, and do Thy will
Thy love within, Thy heaven before me!

Wolfgang C. Dessler

Devotional Thought

You little think how much the life of all your graces depends upon your ready and cordial obedience to the Spirit. When the Spirit urgeth thee to secret prayer, and thou refuseth obedience; when He forbids thee a known transgression, and yet thou wilt go on; when He telleth thee which is the way, and which not, and thou wilt not regard,--no wonder if heaven and thy soul be strange.

Richard Baxter

Scripture to Prayer

I waited patiently for the LORD;
And He inclined to me and heard my cry.
He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,
And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
Many will see and fear
And will trust in the LORD.

Psalms 40:1-3

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 5

1 Peter 3

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Eighty | December 19

Opening Prayer

Thy will, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be!
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.
I dare not choose my lot;
I would not, if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God;
So shall I walk aright.

Horatius Bonar

Devotional Thought

The whole duty and blessedness of waiting on God has its roots in this, that He is such a blessed Being, full, to overflowing, of goodness and power and life and joy, that we, however wretched, cannot for any time come into contact with Him, without that life and power secretly, silently, beginning to enter into us and blessing us. God is Love! God's love is just His delight to impart Himself and His blessedness to His children. Come, and however feeble you feel, just wait in His presence. As a feeble invalid is brought out into the sunshine to let its warmth go through him, come with all that is dark and cold in you into the sunshine of God's holy, omnipotent love, and sit and wait there, with the one thought: Here I am, in the sunshine of His love. As the sun does its work in the weak one who seeks its rays, God will do His work in you.

Andrew Murray

Scripture to Prayer

And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Luke 2:18-20

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 6

1 Peter 4

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Eighty-One|December 20

Opening Prayer

Teach me Thy love to know;
That this new light which now I see,
May both the work and workman show:
Then by a sunbeam I will climb to Thee.

George Herbert

Devotional Thought

He only asks thee to yield thyself to Him, that He may work in thee to will and to do by His own mighty power. Thy part is to yield thyself, His part is to work; and never, never will He give thee any command which is not accompanied by ample power to obey it. Take no thought for the morrow in this matter; but abandon thyself with a generous trust to thy loving Lord, who has promised never to call His own sheep out into any path without Himself going before them to make the way easy and safe. Take each little step as He makes it plain to thee. Bring all thy life in each of its details to Him to regulate and guide. Follow gladly and quickly the sweet suggestions of His Spirit in thy soul. And day by day thou wilt find Him bringing thee more and more into conformity with His will in all things; moulding thee and fashioning thee, as thou art able to bear it, into a vessel unto His honor, sanctified and meet for His use, and fitted to every good work.

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—
A time to give birth and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.
A time to search and a time to give up as lost;
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;
A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate;
A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 7

1 Peter 5

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Eighty-Two|December 21

Opening Prayer

Let my life be hid in Thee,
Life of life and Light of light!
Love's illimitable sea,
Depth of peace, of power the height!

Let my life be hid in Thee
From vexation and annoy;
Calm in Thy tranquility,
All my mourning turned to joy.

John Bull

Devotional Thought

"I come to do Thy will, O God." That is what we are here for—to do God's will. That is the object of your life and mine,—to do God's will. Any of us can tell in a moment whether our lives are right or not. Are we doing God's will? We do not mean, Are we doing God's work?—preaching, or teaching, or collecting money,—but God's will. A man may think he is doing God's work when he is not even doing God's will. And a man may be doing God's work and God's will quite as much by hewing stones, or sweeping streets, as by preaching or praying. So the question means just this, Are we working out our common everyday life on the great lines of God's will?

Henry Drummond

Scripture to Prayer

"So when you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.
Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.
Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good;
Seek justice,

Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:15-17

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 8

2 Peter 1

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Eighty-Three|December 22

Opening Prayer

Son of the living God! Oh, call us
Once and again to follow Thee,
And give us strength, whate'er befall us,
Thy true disciples still to be.

And if our coward hearts deny Thee,
In inmost thought, or deed, or word,
Let not our hardness still defy Thee,
But with a look subdue us, Lord.

Henry A. Martin

Devotional Thought

Act faithfully according to thy degree of light and what God giveth thee to see; and thou shalt see more clearly. Harken to the low whispers of His voice within thee, and thou shalt hear more distinctly. Above all, do not stifle any motions of conscience. Meditate daily on the things of eternity; and, by the grace of God, do something daily which thou wouldest wish to have done when that day cometh. Above all things, in all things, "look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of thy faith." If thou failest, look to Him to uphold thee; if thou stumblest, hold swift His hand to help thee; if thou fallest, lie not hopelessly there, but look to Him to raise thee; if, by His grace, thou doest well, look to Him in thanksgiving, that He has helped thee, and pray that thou mayest do better.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving
And pay your vows to the Most High;
Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."

Psalms 50:14-15

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 9

2 Peter 2

Response

Does another passage come to mind as you read this passage?

What do we share in common with the people in this passage?

Is there a promise I should claim based on this text?

Day Eighty-Four|December 23

Opening Prayer

See, in Thy hands I lay them all—
My will that fails, my feet that fall;
My heart that wearies everywhere,
Yet finds Thy yoke too hard to bear.

Katharine T. Hinkson

Devotional Thought

The soul which gives itself wholly and without reserve to God, is filled with His own peace; and the closer we draw to our God so much the stronger and more steadfast and tranquil shall we become.

Jean Nicolas Grou

Scripture to Prayer

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:1-4

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 10

2 Peter 3

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Eighty-Five | December 24

Opening Prayer

Lord, it is not life to live,
If Thy presence Thou deny;
Lord, if Thou Thy presence give,
'T is no longer death to die.
Source and giver of repose,
Singly from Thy smile it flows;
Peace and happiness are Thine;
Mine they are, if Thou art mine.

A.M. Toplady

Devotional Thought

Are we willing to give ourselves entirely to God; to let Him do with us whatever He pleases; to follow anywhere at His bidding; to renounce anything at His call; asking only, in return, that He will give us Himself, with all His infinite love, to be ours from this time forever? If we are thus willing, let us kneel down this moment and tell Him so. Alone with God, let us give Him ourselves, all we have and are and shall be, to be unreservedly His.

William R. Huntington

Scripture to Prayer

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1-2

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 11

1 John 1

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Day Eighty-Six | December 25

Opening Prayer

But if distractions manifold prevail,
And if in this we must confess we fail,
Grant us to keep at least a prompt desire,
Continual readiness for prayer and praise,
An altar heaped and waiting to take fire
With the least spark, and leap into a blaze.

Richard Chenevix Trench

Devotional Thought

My son, thou art never secure in this life, but, as long as thou livest, thou shalt always need spiritual armor. Thou oughtest manfully to go through all, and to use a strong hand against whatsoever withstandeth thee. For to him that overcometh is manna given, and for the indolent there remaineth much misery. Dispose not thyself for much rest, but for great patience. Wait for the Lord, behave thyself manfully, and be of good courage; do not distrust Him, do not leave thy place, but steadily expose both body and soul for the glory of God.

Thomas a Kempis

Scripture to Prayer

And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Luke 5:3-11

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 12

1 John 2

Response

Is there another biblical passage quoted in this passage? (If so, go look at it!)

What is God saying to his people in this passage?

What am I to do or to believe based on this passage?

Day Eighty-Seven | December 26

Opening Prayer

Yes, take my heart, and in it rule;
Direct it as it pleaseth Thee;
I will be silent in Thy school,
And learn whate'er Thou teachest me.

Gerhard Tersteegen

Devotional Thought

Break off things which displease God, and whatever ye do, do it to please Him. Dedicate, morning by morning, the actions of the day to God; live in His Presence; offer to Him your acts beforehand; recall yourself, if the case admits, into His Presence, in the midst of them; give Him the glory with thy whole heart, if they be well done, since nothing good is our own; if they be amiss, grieve to Him. If we make God our end, He who gave us the grace thus to seek Him, will give us His love; He will increase our longing desire for Him; and whom in all we seek, whom in all we would please, whom in all we would love, Him shall we find, Him possess, here in grace and veiled, hereafter, in glory.

Edward B. Pusey

Scripture to Prayer

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 13

1 John 3

Response

Are there any lists in this passage? What is the relationship of the items in the list? (Don't assume it is linear.)

What part of our sin nature is emphasized in this passage?

How does this text transform my actions for the coming week?

Day Eighty-Eight|December 27

Opening Prayer

O Rest of rests! O peace serene, eternal!
Thou ever livest, and Thou changest never;
And in the secret of Thy presence dwelleth
Fullness of joy, for ever and for ever.

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Devotional Thought

It is wholly impossible to live according to divine order, and to make a proper application of heavenly principles, as long as the necessary duties which each day brings seem only like a burden grievous to be borne. Not till we are ready to throw our very life's love into the troublesome little things can we be really faithful in that which is least and faithful also in much. Every day that dawns brings something to do, which can never be done as well again. We should, therefore, try to do it ungrudgingly and cheerfully. It is the Lord's own work, which He has given us as surely as He gives us daily bread. We should thank Him for it with all our hearts, as much as for any other gift. It was designed to be our life, our happiness. Instead of shirking it or hurrying over it, we should put our whole heart and soul into it.

James Reed

Scripture to Prayer

Praise the LORD!
Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in His mighty expanse.
Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Psalm 150:1-2

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 14

1 John 4

Response

Are there any metaphors or figurative language in this text? How does that language add to my understanding of the subject?

What characteristic of God is highlighted in this passage?

What change does God require of me in my life or in my heart?

Day Eighty-Nine|December 28

Opening Prayer

Enter my opening heart;
Fill in with love and peace and light from heaven;
Give me Thyself—for all in Thee is given;
Come—never to depart.

Thomas William Webb

Devotional Thought

Perfect in outward conduct consists not in extraordinary things; but in doing common things extraordinarily well. Neglect nothing; the most trivial action may be performed to ourselves, or performed to God. If love be in your heart, your whole life may be one continual exercise of it. Oh, if we did but love others! How easily the least thing, the shutting of a door gently, the walking softly, speaking low, not making a noise, or the choice of a seat, so as to leave the most convenient to others, might become occasions of its exercise.

Mere Angelique Arnauld

Scripture to Prayer

Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there. There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! Why then have you brought the LORD’S assembly into this wilderness, for us and our beasts to die here? Why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink.”

Numbers 20:1-5

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Malachi 1

1 John 5

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Ninety | December 29

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, whose mercy veileth all
That may our coming days befall,
Still hide from us the things to be,
But rest our troubled hearts in Thee.

Harriet McEwen Kimball

Devotional Thought

When over dizzy heights we go,
One soft hand blinds our eyes,
The other leads us, safe and slow,
O Love of God most wise!

Eliza Scudder

Scripture to Prayer

Then Job answered the LORD and said,
“I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
‘Hear, now, and I will speak;
I will ask You, and You instruct me.’
I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
But now my eye sees You;
Therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 42:1-7

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Malachi 2

2 John

Response

Are there any transition words in the passage? What is being demonstrated by those transition words?

Does this passage point to the Gospel in some way?

Is there a sin I need to avoid based on this text?

Day Ninety-One | December 30

Opening Prayer

There's not a craving in the mind
Thou dost not meet and still;
There's not a wish the heart can have
Which Thou dost not fulfill.

Frederick W. Faber

Devotional Thought

We can never cling to a besetting sin with one hand, and grasp Jesus Christ with the other. Until thou art content to reckon thyself dead indeed to every known form of sin, whether thou thinkest it small or great, thou never canst follow Jesus.

William Aitken

Scripture to Prayer

From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalm 61:2

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3

3 John

Response

How much space is given to this subject? What might the Lord be saying in how much space he gives to this?

Why did the Lord include this passage here?

Why do I need the truth of this text?

Day Ninety-Two | December 31

Opening Prayer

We pray Thee, grant us strength to take
Our daily cross, whate'er it be,
And gladly for Thine own dear sake
In paths of pain to follow Thee.

W.W. How

Devotional Thought

You have trusted Him in a few things, and He has not failed you. Trust Him now for everything, and see if He does not do for you exceeding abundantly above all that you could ever have asked or thought, not according to your power or capacity, but according to His own mighty power, that will work in you all the good pleasure of His most blessed will. You find no difficulty in trusting the Lord with the management of the universe and all the outward creation, and can your case be any more complex or difficult than these, that you need to be anxious or troubled about His management of it?

Hannah Whitall Smith

Scripture to Prayer

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

Now turn these verse(s) into a written prayer:

Scripture Reading

Malachi 4

Jude

Response

Are there any repeated words, phrases, clauses in this passage?

What insight might this passage give into God's mind?

How does this text apply to me?

Joy to the World

59

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sa - viour reigns: let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King! Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 ground: he comes to make his bless - ings
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heaven and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.
 Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742; arr. Lowell Mason 1836

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Sources and Notes:

- * All Bible verses cited from *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).
- **Text of hymn taken from Hymnary.org.
- ***"Opening Prayer" and "Devotional Thought" material taken from Mary W. Tileston, *Joy and Strength* (New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1993).