

COME YE
BEFORE HIM



AND
REJOICE

QUARTER I DEVOTIONAL
WINTER 2025

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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: Journal/Devotional Entry, 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.

This quarter's book contains devotional thoughts, letters, and journal entries from three heroes of the faith: John Newton, Elisabeth Elliot, and David Brainerd. For each of the three months, you will find an entire month's worth of entries from that particular person. The hope is that by repeatedly reading the same person's entries/letters, you will begin to feel that you know that person a little more, and you can be encouraged that, despite their own self-confessed ups and downs and struggles, they continually look to the God who walks alongside us and is sovereign over all struggles. May you be encouraged by their vulnerably raw words.

Please note: The title of this booklet, "Come Ye Before Him and Rejoice" is taken from a verse in the hymn known as the "Old Hundredth" or "All People That On Earth Do Dwell." 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.

“A rejoicing heart soon makes a praising tongue.”
Charles Spurgeon

“We all sin by needlessly disobeying the apostolic injunction to rejoice
as much as by anything else.”
C.S. Lewis

“There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world,
that is not intended to make us rejoice.”
John Calvin

Day One | January 1

Journal Entry

I well know that the little measure of knowledge I have obtained in the things of God has not been owing to my own wisdom and docility, but to his goodness. Nor did I get it all at once: he has been pleased to exercise much patience and long-suffering towards me, for about twenty-seven years past, since he first gave me a desire of learning from himself. He has graciously accommodated himself to my weakness, borne with my mistakes, and helped me through innumerable prejudices, which, but for his mercy, would have been insuperable hindrances: I have therefore no right to be angry, impatient, or censorious, especially as I have still much to learn, and am so poorly influenced by what I seem to know. I am weary of controversies and disputes, and desire to choose for myself, and to point out to others, Mary's part, to sit at Jesus' feet, and to hear his words. And, blessed be his name! So far as I have learned from him, I am favoured with a comfortable certainty; I know whom I have believed, and am no longer tossed about by the various winds and tides of opinions, by which I see many are dashed one against the other. But I cannot, I must not, I dare not, contend; only, as a witness for God, I am ready to bear my simple testimony to what I have known of his truth, whenever I am properly called to it.

John Newton

from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****, " Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
November 1775

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1-2

Psalm 19

Mark 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

*What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?
I learned/was reminded of this about God:*

Therefore I will:

Day Two | January 2

Journal Entry

But admitting what the Scripture teaches concerning the evil of sin, the depravity of human nature, the method of salvation, and the offices of the Saviour; admitting that God has purposed to glorify, not his mercy only, but his justice, in the work of redemption; that the blood shed upon the cross is a proper, adequate satisfaction for sin; and that the Redeemer is at present the shepherd of those who believe in him, and will hereafter be the judge of the world; that, in order to give the effectual help which we need, it is necessary that he be always *intimately with those* who depend upon him in every age, in every place; must know the thoughts and intents of every heart; must have his eye always upon them, his ear always open to them, his arm ever stretched out for their relief; that they can receive nothing but what he bestows, can do nothing but as he enables them, nor stand a moment but as he upholds them; admitting these and the like premises, with which the word of God abounds, reason must allow, whatever difficulties may attend the thought, that only he who is God over all, blessed for ever, is able or worthy to execute this complicated plan, every part of which requires the exertion of infinite wisdom and almighty power; nor am I able to form any clear, satisfactory, comfortable thoughts of God, suited to awaken my love or engage my trust, but as he has been pleased to reveal himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
November 1775

Scripture Reading

Genesis 3-5
Mark 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Three | January 3

Journal Entry

They who know His name will put their trust in Him: they who are rightly impressed with His astonishing condescension and love, in emptying himself, and submitting to the death of the cross for our sakes, will find themselves under a sweet constraint to love him again, and will feel a little of that emotion of heart which the Apostle expresses in that lively passage, Gal. 6:14.

John Newton

from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*

February 16, 1776

Scripture Reading

Genesis 6-8

Psalm 104

Mark 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Four | January 4

Journal Entry

That work of God upon the heart which is sometimes called a new birth, at others a new creation, is as distinct from the highest effects of natural principles or the most specious imitations which education or resolutions can produce, as light is from darkness, or life from death. Only he who made the world can either make a Christian, or support and carry on his own work. A thirst after God as our portion; a delight in Jesus, as the only way and door; a renunciation of self and of the world, so far as it is opposite to the spirit of the Gospel: these, and the like fruits of that grace which bringeth salvation, are not only beyond the power of our fallen nature, but contrary to its tendency; so that we can have no desires of this kind till they are given us from above, and can for a season hardly bear to hear them spoken of, either as excellent or necessary.

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*
February 16, 1776

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Five | January 5

Journal Entry

The Gospel addresses both head and heart; and where it has its proper effect, where it is received as the word of God, and is closed with the authority and energy of the Holy Spirit, the understanding is enlightened, the affections awakened and engaged, the will brought into subjection, and the whole soul delivered to its impression as wax to the seal. When this is the case, when the affections do not take the lead, and push forward with a blind impulse, but arise from the principles of Scripture, and are governed by them, the more warmth the better. Yet in this state of infirmity, nothing is perfect; and our natural temperament and disposition will have more influence upon our religious sensations than we are ordinarily aware. It is well to know how to make proper allowances and abatements upon this head, in the judgment we form both of ourselves and of others. Many good people are distressed and alternately elated by frames and feelings, which perhaps are more constitutional than properly religious experiences. I dare not tell you, Madam, what I am; but I can tell you what I wish to be. The love of God, as manifested in Jesus Christ, is what I would wish to be the abiding object of my contemplation; not merely to speculate upon it as a doctrine, but so to feel it, and my own interest in it, as to have my heart filled with its effects, and transformed into its resemblance; that, with this glorious Exemplar in my view, I may be animated to a spirit of benevolence, love, and compassion, to all around me; that my love may be primarily fixed upon him who has so loved me, and then, for his sake, diffused to all his children, and to all his creatures. Then, knowing that much is forgiven to me, I should be prompted to the ready exercise of forgiveness, if I have aught against any. Then I should be humble, patient, and submissive under all his dispensations; meek, gentle, forbearing, and kind to my fellow-worms. Then I should be active and diligent in improving all my talents and powers in his service, and for his glory; and live not to myself, but to him who loved me and gave himself for me.

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter III, *Cardiphonia*
September 17, 1776

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Six | January 6

Journal Entry

It is a comfortable consideration, that he with whom we have to do, our great High Priest, who once put away our sins by the sacrifice of himself, and now for ever appears in the presence of God for us, is not only possessed of sovereign authority and infinite power, but wears our very nature, and feels and exercises in the highest degree those tendernesses and commiserations, which I conceive are essential to humanity in its perfect state. The whole history of his wonderful life is full of inimitable instances of this kind. His bowels were moved before his arm was exerted: he condescended to mingle tears with mourners, and wept over distresses which he intended to relieve. He is still the same in his exalted state; compassions dwell within his heart. In a way inconceivable to us, but consistent with his supreme dignity and perfection of happiness and glory, he still feels for his people. When Saul persecuted the members upon earth, the Head complained from heaven; and sooner shall the most tender mother sit insensible and inattentive to the cries and wants of her infant, than the Lord Jesus be an unconcerned spectator of his suffering children. No, with the eye, and the ear, and the heart of a friend, he attends to their sorrows; he counts their sighs, puts their tears in his bottle; and when our spirits are overwhelmed within us, he knows our path, and adjusts the time, the measure of our trials, and every thing that is necessary for our present support and seasonable deliverance, with the same unerring wisdom and accuracy as he weighed the mountains in scales and hills in a balance, and meted out the heavens with a span. Still more, besides his benevolent, he has an experimental, sympathy. He knows our sorrows, not merely as he knows all things, but as one who has been in our situation, and who, though without sin himself, endured when upon earth inexpressibly more for us than he will ever lay upon us. He has sanctified poverty, pain, disgrace, temptation, and death, by passing through these states: and in whatever states his people are, they may by faith have fellowship with him in their sufferings, and he will by sympathy and love have fellowship and interest with them in theirs. What then shall we fear, or of what shall we complain; when all our concerns are written upon his heart, and their management, to the very hairs of our head, are under his care and providence; when he pities us more than we can do ourselves, and has engaged his almighty power to sustain and relieve us? However, as he is tender, he is wise also: he loves us, but especially with regard to our best interests. If there were not something in our hearts and our situation that required discipline and medicine, he so delights in our prosperity, that we should never be in heaviness. The innumerable comforts and mercies with which he enriches even those we call darker days, are sufficient proofs that he does not willingly grieve us: but when he sees a need-be for chastisement, he will not withhold it because he loves us; on the contrary, that is the very reason why he afflicts. He will put his silver into the fire to purify it; but he sits by the furnace as a refiner, to direct the process, and to secure the end he has in view, that we may neither suffer too much nor suffer in vain.

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter IV, *Cardiphonia*
November 29, 1776

Scripture Reading

Genesis 9-11
Mark 4

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seven | January 7

Journal Entry

The advantages of afflictions, when the Lord is pleased to employ them for the good of his people, are many and great. Permit me to mention a few of them; and the Lord grant that we may all find those blessed ends answered to ourselves, by the trials he is pleased to appoint us.

Afflictions quicken us to prayer. It is a pity it should be so; but experience testifies, that a long course of ease and prosperity, without painful changes, has an unhappy tendency to make us cold and formal in our secret worship; but troubles rouse our spirits, and constrain us to call upon the Lord in good earnest, when we feel a need of that help which we only can have from him.

They are useful, and in a degree necessary, to keep alive in us a conviction of the vanity and unsatisfying nature of the present world, and all its enjoyments; to remind us that this is not our rest, and to call our thoughts upwards, where our true treasure is, and where our conversation ought to be. When things go on much to our wish, our hearts are too prone to say, It is good to be here. It is probable, that had Moses, when he came to invite Israel to Canaan, found them in prosperity, as in the days of Joseph, they would have been very unwilling to remove; but the afflictions they were previously brought into made his message welcome. Thus the Lord, by pain, sickness, and disappointments, by breaking our cisterns and withering our gourds, weakens our attachment to this world, and makes the thought of quitting it more familiar and more desirable.

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter V, *Cardiphonia*
December 1776

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12-15

Psalm 148

Mark 5

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eight | January 8

Journal Entry

A child of God cannot but greatly desire a more enlarged and experimental acquaintance with his holy word; and this attainment is greatly promoted by our trials. The far greater part of the promises in Scripture are made and suited to a state of affliction; and, though we may believe they are true, we cannot so well know their sweetness, power, and suitableness, unless we ourselves are in a state to which they refer. The Lord says, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver." Now, till the day of trouble comes, such a promise is like a city of refuge to an Israelite, who, not having slain a man, was in no danger of the avenger of blood. He had a privilege near him, of which he knew not the use and value, because he was not in the case for which it was provided. But some can say, I not only believe this promise upon the authority of the speaker, but I can set my seal to it: I have been in trouble; I took this course for relief, and I was not disappointed. The Lord verily heard and delivered me. Thus afflictions likewise give occasion of our knowing and noticing more of the Lord's wisdom, power, and goodness, in supporting and relieving, than we should otherwise have known.

I have not time to take another sheet, must therefore contract my homily. Afflictions evidence to ourselves, and manifest to others, the reality of grace. And when we suffer as Christians, exercise some measure of that patience and submission, and receive some measure of these supports and supplies, which the Gospel requires and promises to believers, we are more confirmed that we have not taken up with mere notions; and others may be convinced that we do not follow cunningly devised fables. They likewise strengthen by exercise our graces: as our limbs and natural powers would be feeble if not called to daily exertion; so the graces of the Spirit would languish, without something was provided to draw them out to use. And, to say no more, they are honourable, as they advance our conformity to Jesus our Lord, who was a man of sorrows for our sake. Methinks, if we might go to heaven without suffering, we should be unwilling to desire it. Why should we ever wish to go by any other path than that which he has consecrated and endeared by his own example? especially as his people's sufferings are not penal; there is no wrath in them: the cup he puts in their hands is very different from that which he drank for their sakes, and is only medicinal to promote their chief good. Here I must stop; but the subject is fruitful, and might be pursued through a quire of paper.

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter V, *Cardiphonia*
December 1776

Scripture Reading

Genesis 16-18

Mark 6

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Nine | January 9

Journal Entry

Christian resignation is very different from that stoical stubbornness which is most easily practised by those unamiable characters whose regards centre wholly in self; nor could we in a proper manner exercise submission to the will of God under our trials, if we did not feel them. He who knows our frame is pleased to allow, that afflictions for the present are not joyous, but grievous. But to them that fear him he is near at hand, to support their spirits, to moderate their grief, and in the issue to sanctify it; so that they shall come out of the furnace refined, more humble, and more spiritual. There is, however, a part assigned us: we are to pray for the help in need; and we are not wilfully to give way to the impression of overwhelming sorrow. We are to endeavour to turn our thoughts to such considerations as are suited to alleviate it; our deserts as sinners, the many mercies we are still indulged with, the still greater afflictions which many of our fellow-creatures endure, and, above all, the sufferings of Jesus, that Man of Sorrows, who made himself intimately acquainted with grief for our sakes.

John Newton

from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter VI, *Cardiphonia*

August 1778

Scripture Reading

Genesis 19-20

Psalm 1

Mark 7

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Ten | January 10

Journal Entry

When the will of the Lord is manifested to us by the event, we are to look to him for grace and strength, and be still to know that he is God, that he has a right to dispose of us and ours as he pleases, and that in the exercise of this right he is most certainly good and wise. We often complain of losses; but the expression is rather improper. Strictly speaking, we can lose nothing, because we have no real property in anything. Our earthly comforts are lent us; and when recalled, we ought to return and resign them with thankfulness to him who has let them remain so long in our hands. But, as I said above, I do not mean to enlarge in this strain: I hope the Lord, the only comforter, will bring such thoughts with warmth and efficacy upon your mind. Your wound, while fresh, is painful; but faith, prayer, and time, will, I trust, gradually render it tolerable. There is something fascinating in grief: painful as it is, we are prone to indulge it, and to brood over the thoughts and circumstances which are suited (like fuel to fire) to heighten and prolong it. When the Lord afflicts, it is his design that we should grieve: but in this, as in all other things, there is a certain moderation which becomes a Christian, and which only grace can teach; and grace teaches us, not by books or by hearsay, but by experimental lessons: all beyond this should be avoided and guarded against as sinful and hurtful. Grief, when indulged and excessive, preys upon the spirits, injures health, indisposes us for duty, and causes us to shed tears which deserve more tears. This is a weeping world. Sin has filled it with thorns and briars, with crosses and calamities. It is a great hospital, resounding with groans in every quarter. It is as a field of battle, where many are falling around us continually; and it is more wonderful that we escape so well, than that we are sometimes wounded. We *must* have some share: it is the unavoidable lot of our nature and state; it is likewise needful in point of discipline. The Lord will certainly chasten those whom he loves, though others may seem to pass for a time with impunity. That is a sweet, instructive, and important passage, Heb. 12:5–11. It is so plain, that it needs no comment; so full, that a comment would but weaken it. May the Lord inscribe it upon your heart, my dear Madam, and upon mine.

John Newton

from "Seven Letters to Mrs. *****," Letter VI, *Cardiphonia*

August 1778

Scripture Reading

Genesis 21-23

Psalm 107

Mark 8

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eleven | January 11

Journal Entry

The Lord is so rich, and so good, that he can by a glance of thought compensate his children for whatever his wisdom sees fit to deprive them of. If he gives them a lively sense of what he has delivered them from, and prepared for them, or of what he himself submitted to endure for their sakes, they find at once light springing up out of darkness: hard things become easy, and bitter sweet. I remember to have read of a good man in the last century (probably you may have met with the story), who, when his beloved and only son lay ill, was for some time greatly anxious about the event. One morning he staid longer than usual in his closet: while he was there his son died. When he came out his family were afraid to tell him; but, like David, he perceived it by their looks; and when upon inquiry they said it was so, he received the news with a composure that surprised them. But he soon explained the reason, by telling them, that for such discoveries of the Lord's goodness as he had been favoured with that morning, he could be content to lose a son every day. Yes, Madam, though every stream must fail, the fountain is still full and still flowing. All the comfort you ever received in your dear friend was from the Lord, who is abundantly able to comfort you still; and he is gone but a little before you. May your faith anticipate the joyful and glorious meeting you will shortly have in a better world. Then your worship and converse together will be to unspeakable advantage, without imperfection, interruption, abatement, or end. Then all tears shall be wiped away, and every cloud removed; and then you will see, that all your concernments here below (the late afflicting dispensation not excepted), were appointed and adjusted by infinite wisdom and infinite love.

John Newton
from "Four Letters to Mrs. T****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
March 12, 1774

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twelve | January 12

Journal Entry

For if I am redeemed from misery by the blood of Jesus; and if he is now preparing me a mansion near himself, that I may drink of the rivers of pleasure at his right hand for evermore; the question is not (at least ought not to be), how may I pass through life with the least inconvenience? but, how may my little span of life be made most subservient to the praise and glory of Him who loved me, and gave himself for me? Where the Lord gives this desire he will gratify it; and as afflictions, for the most part, afford the fairest opportunities of this kind, therefore it is, that those whom he is pleased eminently to honour are usually called, at one time or another, to the heaviest trials; not because he loves to grieve them, but because he hears their prayers, and accepts their desires of doing him service in the world. The post of honour in war is so called, because attended with difficulties and dangers which but few are supposed equal to; yet generals usually allot these hard services to their favourites and friends, who on their parts eagerly accept them as tokens of favour and marks of confidence. Should we, therefore, not account it an honour and a privilege, when the Captain of our salvation assigns us a difficult post? since he can and does (which no earthly commander can) inspire his soldiers with wisdom, courage, and strength, suitable to their situation. 2 Cor. 12:9, 10. I am acquainted with a few who have been led thus into the fore-front of the battle: they suffered much; but I have never heard them say they suffered too much; for the Lord stood by them and strengthened them. Go on, my dear madam: yet a little while Jesus will wipe away all tears from your eyes; you will see your beloved friend again, and he and you will rejoice together for ever.

John Newton
from "Four Letters to Mrs. T****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*
April 8, 1775

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirteen | January 13

Journal Entry

You seem sensible where your most observable failing lies, and to take reproof and admonition concerning it in good part; I therefore hope and believe the Lord will give you a growing victory over it. You must not expect habits and tempers will be eradicated instantaneously; but by perseverance in prayer, and observation upon the experiences of every day, much may be done in time. Now and then you will (as is usual in the course of war) lose a battle; but be not discouraged, but rally your forces, and return to the fight. There is a comfortable word, a leaf of the tree of life, for healing the wounds we receive, in 1 John 2:1. If the enemy surprises you, and your heart smites you, do not stand astonished as if there was no help, nor give way to sorrow as if there was no hope, nor attempt to heal yourself; but away immediately to the Throne of Grace, to the great Physician, to the compassionate High Priest, and tell him all. Satan knows, that if he can keep us from confession, our wounds will rankle; but do you profit by David's experience, Psal. 32:3–5. When we are simple and open-hearted in abasing ourselves before the Lord, though we have acted foolishly and ungratefully, he will seldom let us remain long without affording us a sense of his compassion; for he is gracious; he knows our frame, and how to bear with us, though we can hardly bear with ourselves, or with one another.

John Newton

from "Five Letters to Mr. *****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*

June 7, 1767

Scripture Reading

Genesis 24-25

Psalm 4

Mark 9

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fourteen | January 14

Journal Entry

The main thing is to have *the heart right with God*: this will bring us in the end safely through many mistakes and blunders; but a double mind, a selfish spirit, that would halve things between God and the world, the Lord abhors. Though I have not yet had many opportunities of commending your *prudence*, I have always had a good opinion of your *sincerity* and *integrity*: if I am not mistaken in this, I make no doubt of your doing well. If the Lord is pleased to bless you, he will undoubtedly make you humble; for you cannot be either happy or safe, or have any probable hope of abiding usefulness, without it. I do not know that I have had any thing so much at heart in my connections with you, as to impress you with a sense of the necessity and advantages of an humble frame of spirit: I hope it has not been in vain. O! to be little in our own eyes! this is the ground-work of every grace; this leads to a continual dependence upon the Lord Jesus; this is the spirit which he has promised to bless; this conciliates us good-will and acceptance amongst men; for he that abaseth himself is sure to be honoured. And that this temper is so hard to attain and preserve, is a striking proof of our depravity. For are we not sinners? Were we not rebels and enemies before we knew the Gospel? and have we not been unfaithful, backsliding, and unprofitable ever since? Are we not redeemed by the blood of Jesus? and can we stand a single moment except he upholds us? Have we any thing which we have not received: or have we received any thing which we have not abused? Why then is dust and ashes proud?

John Newton
from "Five Letters to Mr. *****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*
June 7, 1767

Scripture Reading

Genesis 26-27
Mark 10

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifteen | January 15

Journal Entry

We sail upon a turbulent and tumultuous sea; but we are embarked on a good bottom, and in a good cause, and we have an infallible and almighty Pilot, who has the winds and weather at his command, and can silence the storm into a calm with a word whenever he pleases. We may be persecuted, but we shall not be forsaken; we may be cast down, but we cannot be destroyed. Many will thrust sore at us that we may fall, but the Lord will be our stay.

John Newton
from "Five Letters to Mr. C****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
January 16, 1775

Scripture Reading

Genesis 28-29

Mark 11

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixteen | January 16

Journal Entry

I am glad you have found some spiritual acquaintance in your barren land. I hope you will be helpful to them, and they to you. You do well to guard against every appearance of evil. If you are heartily for Jesus, Satan owes you a grudge. One way or other he will try to cut you out work, and the Lord may suffer him to go to the length of his chain. But though you are to keep your eye upon him, and expect to hear from him at every step, you need not be slavishly afraid of him: for Jesus is stronger and wiser than he; and there is a complete suit of armour provided for all who are engaged on the Lord's side.

John Newton
from "Five Letters to Mr. *****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*
June 7, 1767

Scripture Reading

Genesis 30-31
Psalm 11
Mark 12

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventeen | January 17

Journal Entry

I advise you, therefore, to keep close to the Bible and prayer: bring your difficulties to the Lord, and entreat him to give you and maintain in you a simple spirit. Search the Scripture. How did Peter deal with Simon Magus? We have no right to think worse of any who can hear us, than the Apostle did of him. He seemed almost to think his case desperate, and yet he advised him to repentance and prayer. Examine the same Apostle's discourse, Acts 3, and the close of St. Paul's sermon, Acts 13. The power is all of God; the means are likewise of his appointment; and he always is pleased to work by such means as may shew that the power is his. What was Moses's rod in itself, or the trumpets that threw down Jericho? What influence could the pool of Siloam have, that the eyes of the blind man, by washing in it, should be opened? or what could Ezekiel's feeble breath contribute to the making dry bones live? All these means were exceedingly disproportionate to the effect; but He who ordered them to be used accompanied them with his power. Yet if Moses had gone without his rod; if Joshua had slighted the rams' horns; if the prophet had thought it foolishness to speak to dry bones, or the blind man refused to wash his eyes, nothing could have been done. The same holds good in the present subject: I do not reason, expostulate, and persuade sinners, because I think I can prevail with them, but because the Lord has commanded it. He directs me to address them as reasonable creatures; to take them by every handle; to speak to their consciences; to tell them of the terrors of the Lord, and of his tender mercies; to argue with them what good they find in sin; whether they do not need a Saviour; to put them in mind of death, judgment, and eternity, &c. When I have done all, I know it is to little purpose, except the Lord speaks to their hearts; and this to his own, and at his own time, I am sure he will, because he has promised it.

John Newton

from "Five Letters to Mr. *****," Letter III, *Cardiphonia*

October 20, 1767

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32-34

Psalm 145

Mark 13

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighteen | January 18

Journal Entry

I ENDEAVOUR to be mindful of you in my prayers, that you may find both satisfaction and success, and that the Lord himself may be your light to discover to you every part of your duty. I would earnestly press you and myself to be followers of those who have been followers of Christ; to aim at a life of self-denial; to renounce self-will, and to guard against self-wisdom. The less we have to do with the world the better; and, even in conversing with our brethren, we have been, and unless we watch and pray shall often be, ensnared. Time is precious, and opportunities once gone are gone for ever. Even by reading, and what we call studying, we may be comparatively losers. The shorter way is to be closely waiting upon God in humble, secret, fervent prayer. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in his hands; and he gives bountifully, without upbraiding. On the other hand, whatever we may undertake with a sincere desire to promote His glory, we may comfortably pursue: nothing is trivial that is done for Him. In this view, I would have you, at proper intervals, pursue your studies, especially at those times when you are unfit for better work. Pray for me, that I may be enabled to break through the snares of vanity that lie in my way; that I may be crucified with Christ, and live a hidden life by faith in him who loved me, and gave himself for me.

John Newton

from "Eight Letters to Rev. Mr. *****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
June 29, 1757

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Nineteen | January 19

Journal Entry

And thus I have found it in my own experience: things which I had forgotten a long while have been brought to my mind by providential dispensations which I little expected; but the first rise of which I have been able to trace far back, and forced to confess, that the Lord is indeed He that judgeth the heart and trieth the reins. I hint this for your caution: you know best upon what grounds you have proceeded; but if (though I do not affirm it, I hope otherwise), I say, if you have acted too much in your own spirit, been too hasty and precipitate; if you have not been sufficiently tender of your people, nor thoughtful of the consequences which your departure will probably involve them in; if you were impatient under the Lord's hand, and, instead of waiting his time and way of removing the trials and difficulties you found, you have ventured upon an attempt to free and mend yourself: I say, if any of these things have mixed with your determinations, something will fall out to shew you your fault: either you will not find the success you hope for, or friends will grow cold, or enemies and difficulties you dream not of will present themselves, or your own mind will alter, so as what seems now most pleasing will afford you little pleasure. Yet, though I write thus, I do not mean (as I said before) to discourage you, but that you may be forewarned, humble, and watchful.

John Newton

from "Eight Letters to Rev. Mr. *****," Letter VIII, *Cardiphonia*
February 15, 1762

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty | January 20

Journal Entry

I think you would likewise find advantage in using your pen more: write short notes upon the Scriptures you read, or transcribe the labours of others; make extracts from your favourite authors, especially those who, besides a fund of spiritual and evangelical matter, have a happy talent of expressing their thoughts in a clear and lively, or pathetic manner: you would find a continued exercise in this way would be greatly useful to form your own style, and help your delivery and memory; you would become insensibly master of their thoughts, and find it more easy to express yourself justly and clearly. What we only read we easily lose; but what we commit to paper is not so soon forgot. Especially remember (what you well know, but we cannot too often remind each other), that frequent secret prayer is the life of all we do. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, and it shall be given; but all our diligence will fail, if we are remiss in this particular. I am glad it is not thought necessary for you to go to London on this occasion. I hope you will not think it necessary upon any other account. Rather keep close to the work you have undertaken; and endeavour to avoid any thing that looks like ostentation, or a desire to be taken notice of. You see I advise you with the freedom of a friend who loves you, and longs to see your work and your soul prosper.

John Newton

from "Eight Letters to Rev. Mr. *****," Letter VIII, *Cardiphonia*
February 15, 1762

Scripture Reading

Genesis 35-37

Psalms 12

Mark 14

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-One | January 21

Journal Entry

I hope I shall be always mindful to pray, that the Lord may guide, bless, and comfort you, and give you such a manifestation of his person, power, and grace, as may set you at liberty from all fear, and fill you with abiding peace and joy in believing. Remember that Jesus has all power, the fulness of compassion, and embraces with open arms all that come to him for life and salvation.

John Newton
from "Four Letters to Mrs. P****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
May 1774

Scripture Reading

Genesis 38-40
Mark 15

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Two|January 22

Journal Entry

How is it that the truths of which I have the most undoubted conviction, and which are, of all others, the most weighty, should make so little impression upon me? O I know the cause! It is deeply rooted. An evil nature cleaves to me; so that when I would do good, evil is present with me. It is, however, a mercy to be made sensible of it, and in any measure humbled for it. Ere long it will be dropped in the grave; then all complaints shall cease. That thought gives relief. I shall not always live this poor dying life: I hope one day to be all ear, all heart, all tongue: when I shall see the Redeemer as he is, I shall be like him. This will be a heaven indeed, to behold his glory without a veil, to rejoice in his love without a cloud, and to sing his praises without one jarring or wandering note, for ever. In the mean time, may He enable us to serve him with our best. O that every power, faculty, and talent, were devoted to him! He deserves all we have, and ten thousand times more if we had it; for he has loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. He gave himself for us. In one sense we are well suited to answer his purpose; for if we were not vile and worthless beyond expression, the exceeding riches of his grace would not have been so gloriously displayed. His glory shines more in redeeming one sinner, than in preserving a thousand angels.

John Newton
from "Four Letters to Mrs. P****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
May 1774

Scripture Reading

Genesis 41-42
Mark 16

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Three|January 23

Journal Entry

I will tell you then, though you know it, that the Lord reigns. He who once bore our sins, and carried our sorrows, is seated upon a throne of glory, and exercises all power in heaven and on earth. Thrones, principalities, and powers, bow before him. Every event in the kingdoms of providence and of grace are under his rule. His providence pervades and manages the whole, and is as minutely attentive to every part as if there were only that single object in his view. From the tallest archangel to the meanest ant or fly, all depend on him for their being, their preservation, and their powers. He directs the sparrows where to build their nests, and to find their food. He over-rules the rise and fall of nations, and bends, with an invincible energy and unerring wisdom, all events; so that while many intend nothing less, in the issue their designs all concur and coincide in the accomplishment of his holy will. He restrains with a mighty hand the still more formidable efforts of the powers of darkness; and Satan with all his hosts cannot exert their malice a hair's-breadth beyond the limits of his permission. This is he who is the head and husband of his believing people. How happy are they whom it is his good pleasure to bless! How safe are they whom he has engaged to protect! How honoured and privileged are they to whom he is pleased to manifest himself, and whom he enables and warrants to claim him as their friend and their portion! Having redeemed them by his own blood, he sets a high value upon them; he esteems them his treasure, his jewels, and keeps them as the pupil of his eye. They shall not want; they need not fear: his eye is upon them in every situation, his ear is open to their prayers, and his everlasting arms are under them for their sure support. On earth he guides their steps, controls their enemies, and directs all his dispensations for their good: while in heaven he is pleading their cause, preparing them a place, and communicating down to them reviving foretastes of the glory that shall be shortly revealed. O how is this mystery hidden from an unbelieving world! Who can believe it, till it is made known by experience, what an intercourse is maintained in this land of shadows between the Lord of glory and sinful worms! How should we praise him that he has visited us! for we were once blind to his beauty, and insensible to his love, and should have remained so to the last, had he not prevented us with his goodness, and been found of us when we sought him not.

John Newton

from "Four Letters to Mrs. P****," Letter IV, *Cardiphonia*
1776

Scripture Reading

Genesis 43-44

Psalm 24

Galatians 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Four|January 24

Journal Entry

We are called to an honourable service; but it is arduous. What wisdom does it require to keep the middle path in doctrines, avoiding the equally dangerous errors on the right hand and the left! What steadiness, to speak the truth boldly and faithfully in the midst of a gainsaying world! What humility, to stand against the tide of popularity! What meekness, to endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may be saved! "Who is sufficient for these things?" We are not in ourselves, but there is an all-sufficiency in Jesus. Our enemy watches us close; he challenges and desires to have us, that he may sift us as wheat: he knows he can easily shake us if we are left to ourselves; but we have a Shepherd, a Keeper, who never slumbers nor sleeps. If he permits us to be exercised, it is for our good; he is at hand to direct, moderate, and sanctify every dispensation: he has prayed for us that our faith may not fail; and he has promised to maintain his fear in our hearts, that we may not depart from him. When we are prone to wander, he calls us back; when we say, my feet slip, his mercy holds us up; when we are wounded, he heals; when we are ready to faint, he revives.

John Newton

from "Six Letters to Mr. B****," Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
September 14, 1765

Scripture Reading

Genesis 45-46

Psalms 108

Galatians 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Five | January 25

Journal Entry

The work you are engaged in is great, and your difficulties many; but faithful is he that hath called you, who also will do it. The weapons which he has now put into your hands are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong-holds. Men may fight, but they shall not prevail against us, if we are but enabled to put our cause simply into the Lord's hands, and keep steadily on in the path of duty. He will plead our cause, and fight our battles; he will pardon our mistakes, and teach us to do better.

John Newton
from "Six Letters to Mr. B****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*
November 2, 1765

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Six | January 26

Journal Entry

Another point in which I aim at a medium, is in what is called *prudence*. There is certainly such a thing as Christian prudence, and a remarkable deficiency of it is highly inconvenient. But caution too often degenerates into cowardice; and if the fear of man, under the name of prudence, gets within our guard, like a chilling frost it nips every thing in the bud. Those who trust the Lord, and act openly, with an honest freedom and consistence, I observe he generally bears them out, smooths their way, and makes their enemies their friends, or at least restrains their rage; while such as halve things, temporize, and aim to please God and man together, meet with double disappointment, and are neither useful nor respected. If we trust to Him, He will stand by us; if we regard men, He will leave us to make the best we can of them.

John Newton

from "Six Letters to Mr. B****," Letter II, *Cardiphonia*

November 2, 1765

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Seven | January 27

Journal Entry

Oh, it is a great thing to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus! but it is a hard lesson: it is not easy to understand it in theory; but, when the Lord has taught us so far, it is still more difficult to reduce our knowledge to practice. But this is one end he has in view in permitting us to pass through such a variety of inward and outward exercises, that we may cease from trusting in ourselves, or in any creature or frame or experiences, and be brought to a state of submission and dependence upon him alone.

John Newton
from "Six Letters to Rev. Mr. B****," Letter IV, *Cardiphonia*
December 12, 1767

Scripture Reading

Genesis 47-48
Psalm 25
Galatians 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Eight|January 28

Journal Entry

My experiences vary as well as yours: but possibly your sensations, both of the sweet and of the bitter, may be stronger than mine. The enemy assaults me more by sap than storm; and I am ready to think I suffer more by languor than some of my friends do by the sharper conflicts to which they are called. So likewise, in those seasons which comparatively I call my best hours, my sensible comforts are far from lively. But I am in general enabled to hold fast my confidence, and to venture myself upon the power, faithfulness, and compassion of that adorable Saviour to whom my soul has been directed and encouraged to flee for refuge. I am a poor, changeable, inconsistent creature; but he deals graciously with me: he does not leave me wholly to myself; but I have such daily proofs of the malignity and efficacy of the sin that dwelleth in me, as ought to cover me with shame and confusion of face, and make me thankful if I am permitted to rank with the meanest of those who sit at his feet. That I was ever called to the knowledge of his salvation, was a singular instance of his sovereign grace; and that I am still preserved in the way, in defiance of all that has arisen from within and from without to turn me aside, must be wholly ascribed to the same sovereignty: and if, as I trust, he shall be pleased to make me a conqueror at last, I shall have peculiar reason to say, Not unto me, not unto me, but unto thy name, O Lord, be the glory and the praise!

How oft have sin and Satan strove
To rend my soul from thee, my God!
But everlasting is thy love,
And Jesus seals it with his blood.

John Newton

from "Six Letters to Rev. Mr. B****," Letter V, *Cardiphonia*
March 14, 1775

Scripture Reading

Genesis 49-50
Galatians 4

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Twenty-Nine | January 29

Journal Entry

I HOPE the Lord has contracted my desires and aims almost to the one point of study, the knowledge of his truth. All other acquisitions are transient, and comparatively vain. And yet, alas! I am a slow scholar; nor can I see in what respect I get forward, unless that every day I am more confirmed in the conviction of my own emptiness and inability to all spiritual good. And as, notwithstanding this, I am still enabled to stand my ground, I would hope, since no effect can be without an adequate cause, that I have made some advance, though in a manner imperceptible to myself, towards a more simple dependence upon Jesus as my all in all. It is given me to thirst and to taste, if it is not given me to drink abundantly; and I would be thankful for the desire. I see and approve the wisdom, grace, suitableness, and sufficiency of the Gospel salvation; and since it is for sinners, and I am a sinner, and the promises are open, I do not hesitate to call it mine. I am a weary, laden soul; Jesus has invited me to come, and has enabled me to put my trust in him. I seldom have an uneasy doubt, at least not of any continuance, respecting my pardon, acceptance, and interest in all the blessings of the New Testament. And, amidst a thousand infirmities and evils under which I groan, I have the testimony of my conscience, when under the trial of his word, that my desire is sincerely towards him, that I choose no other portion, that I allowedly serve no other master. When I told our friend — — lately to this purpose, he wondered, and asked, “How is it possible, that, if you can say these things, you should not be always rejoicing?”

John Newton

from “Six Letters to Rev. Mr. B****,” Letter VI, *Cardiphonia*
April 16, 1772

Scripture Reading

Exodus 1-3
Galatians 5

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty | January 30

Journal Entry

I CAN truly say, that I bear you upon my heart and in my prayers. I have rejoiced to see the beginning of a good and gracious work in you; and I have confidence in the Lord Jesus, that he will carry it on and complete it; and that you will be amongst the number of those who shall sing redeeming love to eternity. Therefore fear none of the things appointed for you to suffer by the way; but gird up the loins of your mind, and hope to the end. Be not impatient, but wait humbly upon the Lord. You have one hard lesson to learn, that is, the evil of your own heart: you know something of it, but it is needful that you should know more; for the more we know of ourselves, the more we shall prize and love Jesus and his salvation. I hope what you find in yourself by daily experience will humble you, but not discourage you: humble you it should, and I believe it does. Are not you amazed sometimes that you should have so much as a hope, that, poor and needy as you are, the Lord thinketh of you? But let not all you feel discourage you; for if our Physician is almighty, our disease cannot be desperate; and if he casts none out that come to him, why should you fear? Our sins are many, but his mercies are more: our sins are great, but his righteousness is greater: we are weak, but he is power. Most of our complaints are owing to unbelief, and the remainder of a legal spirit; and these evils are not removed in a day. Wait on the Lord, and he will enable you to see more and more of the power and grace of our High Priest. The more you know him, the better you will trust him: the more you trust him, the better you will love him; the more you love him, the better you will serve him. This is God's way: you are not called to buy, but to beg; not to be strong in yourself, but in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. He is teaching you these things, and I trust he will teach you to the end. Remember, the growth of a believer is not like a mushroom, but like an oak, which increases slowly indeed but surely. Many suns, showers, and frosts, pass upon it before it comes to perfection; and in winter, when it seems dead, it is gathering strength at the root. Be humble, watchful, and diligent in the means, and endeavour to look through all, and fix your eye upon Jesus, and all shall be well. I commend you to the care of the good Shepherd, and remain, for his sake...

John Newton
from "Seven Letters to *****, " Letter I, *Cardiphonia*
March 18, 1767

Scripture Reading

Exodus 4-6
Galatians 6

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-One | January 31

Journal Entry

THE GLORY OF GOD'S NAME

Old Testament writers made much of the name of God. Israel was a nation specifically set apart as a place for God to put His name. Appeals were made on the basis of the name. "For thy name's sake lead me, and guide me," the psalmist prayed. Not because of who I am, not in recognition of my reputation, but because of who You are. "And his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor.'" "The Lord is my banner." "Lord God of Hosts." No questions of merit can arise with regard to that name. It is above every name. Therefore I can come today on the ground of that name's merit.

The prayer that Jesus taught His disciples begins with the petition, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." Whatever our requests may be that bring us to His feet, they should begin with a careful consideration of the meaning of this form of address. If we say the words slowly and thoughtfully, they cannot help but color the rest of the prayer. If it is guidance we are asking, we may be very wrong in our hopes as to the direction it will take. We may be ill-prepared in heart for the road God will choose for us. But, as George MacDonald wrote: "The thought of Him to whom that prayer goes will purify and correct the desire."

If we did not have God's unequivocal promise, the words, "Guide me, for the sake of Your name" would sound outrageously presumptuous. But the truth is that God said He would do just this. There is nothing presumptuous or precarious about it. The validity of the divine word is at stake, and that is a very sure foundation.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 13–15.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 7-9

Psalm 105

Ephesians 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Two | February 1

Journal Entry

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, OUR CHOICE

There are those who do not want to receive Christ. Those who do however, are given not an “instant kingdom” but the “right to become children of God.” Here is the truth of divine sovereignty and human responsibility wrapped up in a single verse. To those who will He gives. There are many levels of meaning here that we cannot explore. It does not say God makes them instant children of God. It says He gives them the right to become. To those who receive Him, to those who have yielded to Him their allegiance, He gives the right to become children of God. If we hold back our obedience until we have plumbed the theological depths of this mystery, we shall be disobedient. There are truths that cannot be known except by doing them. The Gospels show many cases of those who wished to understand rather than to obey. Jesus had scathing words for them. On one occasion He turned from them to those who had already believed in Him and said, “If you dwell within the revelation I have brought, you are indeed my disciples; you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

The Bible does not explain everything necessary for our intellectual satisfaction, but it explains everything necessary for our obedience and hence for God's satisfaction.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 15–17.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Three | February 2

Journal Entry

MEETING GOD

The Bible is God’s message to everybody. We deceive ourselves if we claim to want to hear His voice but neglect the primary channel through which it comes. We must read His Word. We must obey it. We must live it, which means rereading it throughout our lives.

We read that our Heavenly Father actually looks for people who will worship Him in spirit and in reality. Imagine! God is looking for worshipers. Will He always have to go to a church to find them, or might there be one here and there in an ordinary house, kneeling alone by a chair, simply adoring Him?

When I stumble out of bed in the morning, put on a robe, and go into my study, words do not spring spontaneously to my lips—other than words like, “Lord, here I am again to talk to You. It’s cold. I’m not feeling terribly spiritual.” Who can go on and on like that morning after morning, and who can bear to listen to it day after day?

I need help in order to worship God. Nothing helps me more than the Psalms. Here we find human cries—of praise, adoration, anguish, complaint, petition. There is an immediacy, an authenticity, about those cries. They speak for me to God—that is, they say what I often want to say, but for which I cannot find words.

Surely the Holy Spirit preserved those Psalms in order that we might have paradigms of prayer and of our individual dealings with God. It is immensely comforting to find that even David, the great king, wailed about his loneliness, his enemies, his pains, his sorrows, and his fears. But then he turned from them to God in paeans of praise.

He found expression for praise far beyond my poor powers, so I use his and am lifted out of myself, up into heights of adoration, even though I’m still the same ordinary woman alone in the same little room.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 17–19.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Four|February 3

Journal Entry

RECOGNIZING WHO GOD IS

We have ample evidence that the Lord is able to guide. The promises cover every imaginable situation. All we need to do is take the hand He stretches out. But it is here that the hardest question arises for me. How, exactly, do I take His hand? Isn't this an extreme oversimplification of the conditions of the promises?

I know He has said over and over, "I will guide you." I know the words, "It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you, he will not fail you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed (Deut. 31:8 RSV). But there are so many promises with conditions attached, conditions that seem impossible to fulfill for us who are not far along the road to sainthood. Often I have prayed to God for light, and He has shown me some promise in the Bible that indicates He will certainly give me the light I am asking for, if—and then I have found, to my despair, that a great deal is asked of me in exchange. Who does God think I am, that I can meet such demands before He will answer my prayer?

The first condition is the recognition of God Himself. It is not who does He think I am, but who do I think He is. I confess that after many years I am still having to go back often to this, to Lesson One in the school of faith. I forget what I learned. I started out on false premises: who I am, what I need, why my case is special, what I'm hoping for, what I pray for, or something—anything but the thing that matters most: who God is.

I have called this—the recognition of who God is—the first condition. Perhaps it would be better to call it the primary condition, for it is not one we can fulfill once and for all and then move beyond. The recognition of who God is is a lifetime process. Nor does it end with our earthly life. "This is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3 RSV).

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 20–22.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 10-12

Ephesians 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Five | February 4

Journal Entry

HOW GOD WORKS

When I am looking for the right direction, I ought to take into account what experience I have had, what gifts or propensities are mine, and what the direction of my life heretofore seems to have prepared me for.

It is a scriptural principle that the divine energy acts upon the stuff of this world. Jesus had the servants fill the stone jars that happened to be standing there when He made wine from water at the marriage in Cana. He used a boy's lunch, instead of starting from nothing, to feed five thousand people. His own spittle and the dirt at His feet were the remedies for a blind man's eyes. Common things taken into the divine hands accomplished eternal purposes.

The nature of the thing in question is obviously important. Jesus does not by any means disregard the sort of person we are when He calls us to do His will. He knows our frame and remembers that we are dust. He knows the weaknesses and strengths, the tastes and fears and prejudices and ignorance and experience of each of us. What He wants to make of us, if we are willing to be made over, is sure to bear a relationship to what we are when we first come to Him. It is within His power to transform. It is for us to submit to the transformation.

I have said earlier that God often isolates a man in order to reveal Himself. It is when alone that a man most clearly recognizes God for who He is. But it is in relationship with his fellowmen that he comes to know himself. Seeking the will of God as though it had nothing to do with anybody else leads to all kinds of distortions.

What is in my hand? What is my function in the Body of Christ? Have I something to give? Can I see a place where it is needed now? These questions will help me to know what I ought to do.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 22–24.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 13-15

Psalm 114

Ephesians 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Six | February 5

Journal Entry

GOD'S CALL

We need never ask the question, “How do I know I’m called?” We ought rather to ask, “How do I know I am not called?” We are required to take the risk, move, trust God, make a beginning. This is what Jesus always asked of those who came to Him for help of any kind. Sometimes He asked them to state their case (“What do you want Me to do?”), to affirm their desire (“Do you want to be healed?”), and often to do something positive (“Stretch out your hand”) before He could do His work. There had to be evidence of faith, some kind of beginning on their part. The first baby step of faith is followed by a daily walk of obedience, and it is as we continue with Him in His Word that we are assured that we were, in fact, called and have nothing to fear.

The most common fear of the true disciple, I suppose, is his own unworthiness. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, a group of Christians who had made some terrible messes even inside the church itself, he still never doubted their calling; for they were prepared to hear the Word and to be guided and corrected. It was not the perfection of their faith that convinced him they were called. They had made a beginning. In that beginning, Paul found evidence of faith: “It is in full reliance upon God, through Christ, that we make such claims. There is no question of our being qualified in ourselves: we cannot claim anything as our own. The qualification we have comes from God” (2 Cor. 3:4-5).

Desire and conviction both play a part in vocation. Often the desire comes first. There may be a natural inclination or an interest aroused by information or perhaps an unexplained longing. If these sometimes-deceptive feelings are offered to the Master and subjected to the test of His Word, they will be confirmed by various means and become a conviction. Sometimes the conviction comes first, accompanied not always by desire but by fear or dread, as in the case of the Old Testament prophets who were given very hard assignments. The only thing to do then is arise and go.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 24–27.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16-18

Ephesians 4

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Seven | February 6

Journal Entry

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

When Mary went to the garden tomb on the first Easter morning, she did not know the Lord right away. She took Him to be the gardener until He spoke her name. That brought recognition. Instantly she responded, "Master!" (And we know by those two forms of address, "Mary" and "Master," something important about their relationship.)

In Isaiah we read, "Thus saith the LORD that created thee,. . . I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine" (43:1 KJV).

How shall we hear that call? Some in our own day have heard voices, we are told, but I am not one of them. There has never come to me anything audible. But I have found that the Lord knows how to call us. (Strange that I should be surprised at that!) He knows the best way to get our attention, and if we are ready to listen or to be shown, we will hear or see whatever it is He has chosen as His means.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 27–28.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 19-21

Psalm 33

Ephesians 5

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?
I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Eight | February 7

Journal Entry

GOD'S TIMING

It is reasonable to expect that God will use whatever means may be appropriate at the time. The time I refer to is God's time, not ours. We will know when we need to know, not before.

When I review "all the way which the Lord my God hath led me"—those segments of the way I can remember because they seemed to me significant—I realize that nearly all of my trouble with finding out the will of God came because I wanted it too soon. I like to plan. I like to have things mapped out well in advance, and uncertainty of any sort puts me on edge. Perhaps it is for this very reason God has often asked me to wait until the last minute, right up to what looked like the screaming edge, before I found out what He wanted me to do.

My acceptance of His timing was a rigorous exercise in trust. I was tempted to charge the Lord with negligence and inattention, like the disciples in the boat in a storm. They toiled frantically until the situation became impossible, and then instead of asking for Jesus' help they yelled, "Master, don't you care that we're drowning?" They weren't perishing, they were panicking. It was not too late. Jesus got up and merely spoke to the wind and sea.

On that other occasion, many centuries earlier, when the power of God to command water was what was needed to lead His people, the priests of Israel actually had to get their feet wet before God did anything. Why does He put us to this kind of test? Probably to give us the chance to make a conscious act of faith, often a specific, physical act, a move of some kind toward Him. "And when . . . the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water . . . the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap."

Sometimes we are in a quandary because we have already been shown what we ought to do and we are not satisfied with it. We are saying, "Lord, when are You going to tell me?" and the truth is that He has told us.

Sometimes the word comes very slowly. In Psalm 112:4 we read, "Light rises in the darkness for the upright" (RSV). It may be a gradual thing, imperceptible at first as the coming of the dawn, but long before we see it, the cock crows and there are stirrings. There is no question at all that the dawn will come. We have only to wait.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 28–31.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 22-24

Psalm 109

Ephesians 6

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Thirty-Nine | February 8

Journal Entry

QUESTIONING GOD

There are those who insist that it is a very bad thing to question God. To them, “why?” is a rude question. That depends, I believe, on whether it is an honest search, in faith, for His meaning, or whether it is a challenge of unbelief and rebellion. The psalmist often questioned God and so did Job. God did not answer the questions, but He answered the man—with the mystery of Himself.

He has not left us entirely in the dark. We know a great deal more about His purposes than poor old Job did, yet Job trusted Him. He is not only the Almighty—Job’s favorite name for Him. He is also our Father, and what a father does is not by any means always understood by the child. If the father loves the child, however, the child trusts him. It is the child’s ultimate good that the father has in mind. Terribly elementary. Yet I have to be reminded of this when, for example, my friend suffers, when a book I think I can’t possibly do without is lost, when a manuscript is worthless.

In all three I am reminded that God is my Father still, that He does have a purpose for me, and that nothing is useless in the fulfillment of that purpose—if I’ll trust Him for it and submit to the lessons.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 32–34.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

*What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?
I learned/was reminded of this about God:*

Therefore I will:

Day Forty | February 9

Journal Entry

WHAT TO DO WITH LONELINESS

Be still and know that He is God. When you are lonely, too much stillness is exactly the thing that seems to be laying waste your soul. Use the stillness to quiet your heart before God. Get to know Him. If He is God, He is still in charge.

Remember that you are not alone. Jesus promised His disciples, “Lo, I am with you always” (Matt. 28:20). Never mind if you cannot feel His presence. He is there, never for one moment forgetting you.

Give thanks. In times of my greatest loneliness I have been lifted up by the promise of 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, “For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.” This is something to thank God for. This loneliness itself, which seems a weight, will be far outweighed by glory.

Refuse self-pity. Refuse it absolutely. It is a deadly thing with power to destroy you. Turn your thoughts to Christ who has already carried your griefs and sorrows.

Accept your loneliness. It is one stage, and only one stage, on a journey that brings you to God. It will not always last.

Offer up your loneliness to God, as the little boy offered to Jesus his five loaves and two fishes. God can transform it for the good of others.

Do something for somebody else. No matter who or where you are, there is something you can do, somebody who needs you. Pray that you may be an instrument of God’s peace, that where there is loneliness you may bring joy.

The important thing is to receive this moment’s experience with both hands. Don’t waste it. “Wherever you are, be all there,” Jim once wrote. “Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.”

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 34–36.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-One | February 10

Journal Entry

WHAT IS FAITH?

Dr. James I. Packer, in his book *God's Words*, says "The popular idea of faith is of a certain obstinate optimism: the hope, tenaciously held in face of trouble, that the universe is fundamentally friendly and things may get better."

I would have had to be an optimist of the most incorrigible obstinacy to have held on to that sort of faith in the dark times of my own life. It has been another faith that has sustained me—faith in the God of the Bible, a God, as someone once put it, not small enough to be understood but big enough to be worshiped.

If we believe that God is God, our faith is not a deduction from the facts around us. It is not an instinct. It is not inferred from the happy way things work. Faith is a gift from God, and we must respond to Him with a decision: The God of the universe has spoken, we believe what He says, and we will obey. We must make a decision that we will hold in the face of all opposition and apparent contradiction.

The powers of hell can never prevail against the soul that takes its stand on God and on His Word. This kind of faith overcomes the world. The world of today must be shown. We (you and I) must show people what Jesus showed the world on that dark day so long ago—that we love the Father and will do what He says.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 39–41.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 25-27

Psalm 90

Philippians 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Two | February 11

Journal Entry

THE TYRANNY OF CHANGE

There are many things we want to be liberated from, many kinds of tyranny from which we would like to escape, but one of the inescapable ones is the tyranny of change. (I didn't make up that idea. I got it from Paul, reading the Phillips' translation of Romans 8:20-21.)

Most of us are ambivalent about change. We say, "Let's do this for a change," and in the next breath moan, "Oh dear, how things have changed! They're just not the same anymore." Lots of people do things purely for the sake of doing something different. And one of the ironies is that things don't necessarily turn out to be all that fresh and original after all.

I don't like change very much. I am not always moving the furniture around. I don't want any "bright new taste surprises" for breakfast. I want the sofa where it was yesterday and the black coffee just the way I always make it.

It was reassuring to me to learn that C. S. Lewis also liked monotony and routine. Urged time and again to journey abroad to lecture, he stayed home and smoked his pipe and lectured where he felt he belonged. He also wrote wonderful things and remained content with familiar surroundings, able to draw on deep inner resources.

We need not be always seeking something different, something other, out of mere restlessness. There are enough changes we cannot stop, which are of the essence of this life and are meant to be. They are meant to drive us to God.

The world of creation, said Paul, has, in God's purpose, been given hope. "And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God."

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 41–43.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 28-31

Philippians 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Three | February 12

Journal Entry

THE MYSTERY OF EVIL

Evil men have often been permitted to do what they please. We must understand that divine permission is given for evil to work. To know the God of the Bible is to see that He who could have made automatons of all of us made instead free creatures with power and permission to defy Him.

There is a limit, of course. Let us not forget this. The Tower of Babel was stopped. God has set limits on what man is allowed to do, but one day He put Himself into men's hands. Jesus had sat in the temple teaching and nobody touched Him, but the time came when the same people who had listened to Him barged into Gethsemane with swords and cudgels. Jesus did not flee. He walked straight up to them. He was unconcerned about physical safety. His only safety was the will of the Father. "This is your moment," He said, "the hour when darkness reigns" (Luke 22:53).

Why did God make room for that moment? Why should there ever be an hour when darkness is free to rule?

When Jesus refused to answer Pilate the next morning, Pilate said, "Surely you know that I have authority to release you, and I have authority to crucify you." Jesus' reply embraces the mystery of evil: "You would have no authority at all over me if it had not been granted you from above" (John 19:10-11).

Every man and woman who chooses to trust and obey God will find his or her faith attacked and life invaded by the power of evil. There is no more escape for us than there was for the Son of Man. The way Jesus walked is the way we must walk.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 43–45.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 32-34

Philippians 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Four | February 13

Journal Entry

FLESH BECOMES WORD

Words are inadequate, we say. So they often are. But they are nonetheless precious. “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” In a time of crisis we learn how intensely we need both flesh and word. We cannot do well without either one. The bodily presence of people we love is greatly comforting, and their silent companionship blesses us. “I know I can’t say anything that will help, but I wanted to come,” someone says, and the word they would like to speak is spoken by their coming. Those who can’t come send, instead of their presence, word. A letter comes, often beginning, “I don’t know what to say,” but it is an expression, however inadequate, of the person himself and what he feels toward us.

Before Eve heard the voice of the serpent summoning her to the worst possibility of her being, before Adam heard the voice of God summoning him to his best, the Word was. The Word was at the beginning of things, the Word was with God, the Word was God. That Word became visible in the flesh when the man Christ came to earth. Man saw Him, talked with Him, learned from Him, and when His flesh was glorified and He returned once more to His Father, men declared what they had seen. “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life. . . we proclaim also to you” (1 John 1:1, 3 RSV). That eternal Word had become flesh, and through those who knew Christ that flesh had become once more Word. Those who hear that Word today and believe it begin to live it, and again it becomes flesh.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 45–48.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 35-37

Psalm 26

Philippians 4

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Five | February 14

Journal Entry

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING

In this world," Jesus said, "you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 NIV). None of us likes pain. All of us wish at times that we need not "go through all this stuff." Let's settle it once and for all: We cannot know Christ and the power of His resurrection without the fellowship of His suffering.

Often with that thought arises another: Can my sufferings have anything to do with His? Because my fickle feelings bring turmoil and sorrow in my life, can I nevertheless hope for some small share in that divine fellowship? The apostle Paul helps us here. He had known many kinds of severe suffering that were directly related to his work for God (and few of our afflictions, I suppose, would fall into that category), yet even he says, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14 NIV).

By the grace of God, we can will to do His will. Forget the past. Press toward the goal.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 48–50.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 38-40

Hebrews 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Six | February 15

Journal Entry

TAKING UP YOUR CROSS

All our problems are theological ones, William Temple said. All of them have to do with our relationship to God and His to us, and this is precisely why it makes sense to come to God with them.

The taking up of the cross will mean sooner or later saying no to self. But it is also a resounding yes. It means saying yes when everything in us says no. To decide to do the thing that we (and, it will seem, everybody else in the world) do not want to do because it is not “natural.” And in our giving of wholehearted assent, we find to our amazement that the impossible becomes possible and the things we were sure were beyond us are now within reach, for God’s command is His enabling. Never has He given an assignment that was not accompanied by the power to accomplish it.

The cross entails sacrifice, too. There is no getting around this. Christianity has been criticized and rejected by many as an “unnatural” religion, a life that denies living, a negation and not an affirmation. Jesus never tried to make it look easy. The principles He taught cut across the grain of human nature: lose your life in order to find it; be poor in spirit if you want to be happy; mourn if you want to rejoice; take the last place if you want the first. The corn of wheat must first fall into the ground and die if it is ever to produce anything.

What we must not forget is that He traveled this road before us. “He himself endured a cross and thought nothing of its shame”—not because He had a particular liking for self-denial and suffering but “because of the joy he knew would follow his suffering . . . Think constantly of him enduring all that sinful men could say against him, and you will not lose your purpose or your courage” (Heb. 12:2-3 PHILLIPS).

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 50–52.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Seven | February 16

Journal Entry

THE GLAD SURRENDER

As a child in a Christian home, I did not start out with an understanding of the word discipline. I simply knew that I belonged to people who loved me and cared for me. That is dependence. They spoke to me, and I answered. That is responsibility. They gave me things to do, and I did them. That is obedience. It adds up to discipline. In other words, the totality of the believer's response is discipline.

While there are instances where the words discipline and obedience seem to be interchangeable, I am using the first as comprehending the second and always presupposing both dependence and responsibility. We might say that discipline is the disciple's "career." It defines the very shape of the disciple's life. Obedience, on the other hand, refers to specific action.

Discipline is the believer's answer to God's call. It is the recognition, not of the solution to his problems or the supply of his needs, but of mastery. God addresses us. We are responsible—that is, we must make a response. We may choose to say yes and thus fulfill the Creator's glorious purpose for us, or we may say no and violate it. This is what is meant by moral responsibility. God calls us to freedom, fulfillment, and joy—but we can refuse them. In a deep mystery, hidden in God's purposes for man before the foundation of the world, lies the truth of man's free will and God's sovereignty. This much we know: A God who is sovereign chose to create a man capable of willing his own freedom and therefore capable of answering the call. Jesus, in response to the will of the Father, demonstrated what it means to be fully human when He took upon Himself the form of a man and in so doing voluntarily and gladly chose both dependence and obedience. Humanity for us, as for Christ, means both dependence and obedience.

The unwillingness on the part of men and women to acknowledge their helpless dependence is a violation of our "creatureliness." The unwillingness to be obedient is a violation of our humanity. Both are declarations of independence and, whether physical or moral, are essentially atheistic. In both, the answer to the call is no.

Discipline is the wholehearted yes to the call of God. When I know myself called, summoned, addressed, taken possession of, known, acted upon, I have heard the Master. I put myself gladly, fully, and forever at His disposal, and to whatever He says my answer is yes.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 52–56.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Eight | February 17

Journal Entry

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Hearts do break. The same hearts are breakable over and over again.

Is there anywhere to turn but to Him who “heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds” (Ps. 147:3 NIV)? Broken hearts are not new to Him, and His power is limitless, for He is the One who numbers the stars and calls them all by name (v. 4). Have you noticed these two verses that juxtapose God’s concern for the wounded and His numbering and naming the stars? His compassion and His power are mentioned together that we might understand that the Lord of the Universe is not so preoccupied with the galaxies that He cannot stoop to minister to our sufferings.

He has a glorious purpose in permitting the heartbreak. We find many clues for this in Scripture. For example:

- that we may be shaped to the likeness of Christ (Rom. 8:29)
- that we may learn to trust (2 Cor. 1:8-9)
- that we may learn to obey (Ps. 119:67, 71)
- that we may bear fruit (John 15:2)
- that we may reach spiritual maturity (James 1:4)

Our sufferings are not for nothing. Never. However small they may be, we may see them as God’s mercy in giving us the chance to unite them with His own sufferings. Christ suffered for our sins and we suffer because of the sins of others (and they suffer because of ours). There is a mystery here, far deeper than our understanding, but we may take it on faith, on the authority of the Word, and believe it will not go for nothing.

A broken heart is an acceptable offering to God. He will never despise it. We do not know what unimagined good He can bring about through our simple offering. Christ was willing to be broken bread for the life of the world. He was poured out like wine.

This means He accepted being ground like wheat and crushed like the grape. It was the hands of others who did the grinding and crushing. Our small hurts, so infinitely smaller than His, may yet be trustfully surrendered to His transforming work. The trial of faith is a thing worth much more than gold.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 57–60.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 1-3

Psalm 27

Hebrews 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Forty-Nine | February 18

Journal Entry

THE DISCIPLINE OF WAITING

Is there a harder discipline than that of waiting, especially when one's desires seem as wild and uncontrollable as a prairie fire?

Without real trust in who God is—trust in His never-failing love and wisdom, we set ourselves up for disappointment. Is He a good God? Will He give what is best? If the answer is yes to both questions, it follows that He will withhold many things that look attractive to us. It is His mercy to withhold them. Shall we accuse Him of failure to get “His act” together or shall we echo the psalmist's word, “I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD” (Ps. 27:13-14 NIV).

If we imagine that happiness is to be found by furious pursuit, we will end up in a rage at the unsatisfying results. If, on the other hand, we set ourselves to pursue the wise and loving and holy will of our Heavenly Father, we will find that happiness comes—quietly, in unexpected ways, and surprisingly often, as the by-product of sacrifice.

Waiting is a form of suffering—the difficulty of self-restraint, the anguish of unfulfilled longing, the bewilderment of unanswered prayer, flesh and heart failing, soul breaking. These are indeed tribulations, and tribulation is the curriculum if we are to learn patience. We want answers now, right now, but we are required at times to walk in darkness.

Nevertheless, God is in the darkness.

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him” (Ps. 62.5 KJV). In Him alone lie our security, our confidence, our trust. A spirit of restlessness and resistance can never wait, but one who believes he is loved with an everlasting love and knows that underneath are the everlasting arms will find strength and peace.

God is in the waiting.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 60–62.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 4-7

Hebrews 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty | February 19

Journal Entry

OVERCOMING FEAR

One particular spot where I lived as a missionary became like a “place of dragons.” It was full of things I was afraid of and did not know how to cope with. Once in a while I felt as though I were about to be devoured. “Sore broken” is the psalmist’s expression, and I thought I knew how he felt. I was on my way back to that place one night, camping where we usually did at the junction of two rivers. The Indians had made me a reed hut to sleep in and had finished their own hut-building, fishing, eating, and talking. Everything was quiet except for the night birds and tree frogs. There was nothing especially distinct about this journey back home. I had made it before. But as I lay in my blanket I began to feel something like what fell on Abraham: “a horror of great darkness.” How could I go back to those “dragons”? My heart was about to turn back.

Then I thought of Jesus’ words to His disciples: “Lo, I am with you all the days.” If He was with me then I was certainly with Him. The place of dragons was the place He was taking me, and I was still following—I had not gotten off the track. I was with Him still, sharing in a small measure His cross.

Never for a second does God lose sight of His objective. It is we who forget what it is. We are distracted by immediate circumstances, and it is no wonder we want to give up the whole thing. It was the “joy that was set before Him” that enabled Jesus to endure the cross.

Without a clear understanding of the ultimate objective, the intermediate objectives make no sense to us. “Why this, Lord?” we keep asking. But if we bear in mind that we shall, beyond any doubt whatsoever, finally dwell in the house of the Lord, settle down to stay in His presence, then the intermediate pastures and waters, even the valley of the shadow or the place of dragons, are understood. They are stations and landings along the journey, and they will not last long.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 65–68.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 8-11

Psalm 110

Hebrews 4

Response

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What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-One | February 20

Journal Entry

OVERCOMING WORRY

Frustration is not the will of God. Of that we can be quite certain. There is time to do anything and everything that God wants us to do. Obedience fits smoothly into His given framework. One thing that most certainly will not fit into it is worry. Here are six reasons why:

1. Worry is totally fruitless. Have you ever succeeded in adding an inch where you wanted it, or subtracting one where you didn't want it, merely by being anxious? If you can't accomplish that by worrying, what can you accomplish?

2. Worry is worse than fruitless: it is disobedience. Note these commands: Fret not; fear not; let not your hearts be troubled; be not dismayed; be of good cheer.

3. Worry is taking the not-given—for example, tomorrow. We are allowed to plan for tomorrow, but we are not allowed to worry about it. Today's troubles are enough of a burden. Jesus knew exactly what He was talking about when He said that.

4. Worry is refusing the given. Today's care, not tomorrow's, is the responsibility given to us, apportioned in the wisdom of God. Often we neglect the thing assigned for the moment because we are preoccupied with something that is not our business just now. How easy it is to give only half our attention to someone who needs us—friend, husband, or little child—because the other half is focused on a future worry.

5. Worry is the antithesis of trust. You simply cannot do both. They are mutually exclusive.

6. Worry is a wicked squandering of time (as well as energy).

Direct your time and energy into worry, and you will be deficient in things like singing with grace in your heart, praying with thanksgiving, listening to a child's account of his school day, inviting a lonely person to supper, sitting down to talk unhurriedly with wife or husband, writing a note to someone who needs it.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 67–70.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 12-14

Psalm 111

Hebrews 5

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Two | February 21

Journal Entry

DEALING WITH DOUBT

Be still, and know that I am God.”

If we have once kept silent long enough to know this, we have, at least in that moment, been ready to obey. But it is the being still that is so hard for us. It often takes illness, loss, suffering of some kind, isolation, and loneliness. Only when we have come to the end of our own resources, when few distractions are left to us, does it become possible to be quiet.

But if, in the providence of God, we have not yet had to weather a real crisis, we may “be still” on purpose. We may choose to obey the command, stop all activity, turn aside in stillness, and know. The best kind of beginning, when we are wanting to know the will of God, is to concentrate first on God Himself. And of course, the briefest effort to do this will humble us, for we will learn how poorly we are in control of our thoughts. For me, there is nothing like the printed word to help me corral my scattered thoughts. Simply looking at a verse in the Bible that tells me something of God and reading through a hymn or a prayer are aids to discipline, and I need all the aids I can get.

I have been told that in one of the China Inland Mission homes in China there was a motto on the wall that said, “The sun stood still. The iron did swim. This God is our God for ever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death.” This God, the One who, in answer to the prayer of an ordinary man, stopped the sun in its course, the God who suspended His own law of gravity and made an ax head float, this is the God to whom I come. This is the God whose will and direction I am asking. This God is the One whose promises I am counting on. Whatever my predicament may be, as soon as I compare it with the circumstances surrounding the miracles of the sun and the ax, my doubts seem comical.

God knows all about those comical doubts. He knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust, and it is to us, knowing all this better than we know it ourselves, that He made those promises.

God is, according to Isaiah 43, our Creator, our Redeemer, the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior. Would we ask Him to be anything more than this, before we admit in our hearts that He can be trusted?

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 70–73.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 15-18

Psalm 31

Hebrews 6

Response

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What does this text tell me about me?

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What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Three | February 22

Journal Entry

TAKING RISKS

An ancient longing for danger, for challenge, and for sacrifice stirs in us. We have been insulated from having to watch others suffer by putting them where somebody else will do the watching and from guilt by calling any old immorality a “new morality.” We don’t risk involvement if we can help it. We try not to turn around if somebody screams. Responsibility for others we’d rather delegate to institutions, including the government, which are supposed to make it their business to handle it.

I saw a man on television telling us that what America needs is a little more honesty. Because of technology, the man said, people have to be more dependent on each other than they used to be (Oh?) and therefore we need more honesty (Oh). Probably, he allowed, our standards have never been quite what they ought to be and it’s time to hike them up a notch or two.

How do we go about this? Take a deep breath and—all together now—start being honest? Ah, the man had a plan. I waited, tense and eager, to hear what it might be. Popularization was what he proposed. Make honesty the In Thing. If everybody’s doing it, it will be easy. In fact, it would take the risk out of it.

Funny, I always thought righteousness was supposed to be risky. I was taught it wasn’t easy, and I found it hard when I tried it. It’s never likely to be either easy or popular.

I’m for civilization. I’m all for certain kinds of progress and I accept quite gladly most of today’s means of avoiding the risks, but to imagine that we shall whip off the dishonesty that is characteristic of fallen human nature everywhere as painlessly as we whip off one garment and put on another, to imagine that by simply taking a different view we shall come up with a no-risk brand of honesty, is a piece of self-deception and fatuity to make the mind reel.

Plato, three hundred years before Christ, predicted that if ever the truly good man were to appear, the man who would tell the truth, he would have his eyes gouged out and in the end be crucified.

That risk was once taken, in its fullest measure. The man appeared. He told the world the truth about itself and even made the preposterous claim “I am the Truth.” As Plato foresaw, that man was crucified.

He calls us still to follow Him, and the conditions are the same: “Let a man deny himself and take up his cross.”

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 73–77.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Four | February 23

Journal Entry

THE RISKS OF WITNESSING

Witnessing means obedience. Every time you do what God says to do or refuse to do what He says not to do you witness to the truth. And witnessing to the truth is a very risky business—risky in the world’s terms. You’re likely to be arrested, Jesus predicted, handed over to prison, brought before governors and kings. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Corrie ten Boom, and thousands of others knew what He meant. They also understood what He said next: “Hold on, and you will win your souls. In the world you’ll have tribulation, but cheer up, I have overcome the world.”

Witnessing conquers the world, but it doesn’t exempt you from suffering. Witness enables others to see what they could not otherwise have seen. It changes the picture. Think of Stephen. He never minced any words. Standing before the highest civil and religious court of the Jewish nation, called the Sanhedrin, he witnessed. He spoke the plain truth about Israel’s history.

If miracles didn’t persuade them, what would Stephen’s defiance do? They ground their teeth at him in a rage and stoned him to death. But while the rocks were flying, Stephen saw something. He saw heaven opened, he saw the glory of God and Jesus Himself standing at His right hand. That’s witness. It conquers the world. It makes truth visible. It changes the picture.

When we see Stephen we see not the fury of the religious Jews, not the rain of stones falling on his head, but a man beholding the Lord. Faith stands in the midst of suffering and sees glory. The Church is here not to deliver us from suffering. The Church will make witnesses, those who see the promises of God, the angel in the lions’ den, the Son of Man in the flames, Jesus standing up to welcome His beloved Stephen.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 77–80.

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Five | February 24

Journal Entry

HEROES

Of the many young people who tell me that Jim Elliot's life has inspired their lives, it is surprising how many carefully preface their remarks with disclaimers such as, "I don't mean he's a hero or anything."

Well, what is a hero, anyway? "Any man admired for his courage, nobility, or exploits, the central figure in any important event, honored for outstanding qualities." Wasn't Jim a hero? We badly need heroes. How else shall we grasp the meaning of courage or strength or holiness? We need to see such truth made visible in the lives of human beings, and Jim did that, it seems to me.

Heroes are paradigms. They show us what strength or courage or purity actually looks like. Jesus was a hero in that sense. Consider His last night before the Crucifixion. After praying the great prayer of John 17 He had gone with the disciples to the garden. Judas arrived with the guard and officers. They came with lanterns and torches and weapons. A man's natural instinct would be to flee.

"Jesus, fully realizing all that was going to happen to him, went forward and said to them, 'Who are you looking for?'" (John 18:4 PHILLIPS). It was a demonstration of quiet courage, born of the knowledge that He was held by the sovereign will of His Father.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 80–82.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 19-20

Hebrews 7

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how

should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Six | February 25

Journal Entry

CHOOSING THE HARDER PATH

Most of us avoid crises when we can. It is far more comfortable to sit in the back row than to stand up and be counted. To take up the cross and follow, to walk in the light, to climb “the steep ascent of heaven” are not options that have a strong popular appeal.

But we are speaking of those who actually want to do the will of God. What we are concerned with now is the business of choice when both alternatives seem equally moral.

Choose the harder of the two ways. If you have eliminated all other possibilities and there still seem to be two that might please God, choose the more difficult one. “The way is hard, that leads to life,” Jesus said, so it is likely that He is asking us to will against our will.

But what if He isn’t asking that? The more sincerely we seek the will of God, the more fearful we will be that we may miss it. If it made little difference to us, obviously we would not worry very much about it, so there ought to be a measure of reassurance for us in the very fact of our fear. Jesus is in the boat with us, no matter how wild the storm is, and He is at peace. He commands us not to be afraid.

The supreme example, outside that of our Lord Himself, of a man willing against his own will, in obedience to God, is Abraham. He was asked to sacrifice Isaac, his only son—and this, in the face of all God’s promises about descendants. Abraham was to tie the boy down on top of a pile of kindling on an altar. This he did (with what anguish we can only imagine), and only then, when with the knife poised he had triumphantly passed the hardest test of faith, did God show him that his son’s death was not finally required.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 82–84.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 21-23

Hebrews 8

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Seven | February 26

Journal Entry

FINDING JOY IN WORK

The Christian attitude toward work is truly revolutionary. Think what it would do to the economy and the entire fabric of life if the question were asked daily: “Who is your Master?” and the answer were given: “Christ is my Master, whose slave I am.” It would transform in a stroke not only the worker’s attitude toward the boss, but his attitude toward those who work with him. He would not be seeking ways to evade work that he doesn’t like. It would change his attitude toward the work itself because he would do it with singlemindedness, for Christ. It would change the quality of the work, for he has a master who sees every detail of the work done and the intentions of the heart.

Think of the brightness there will be in the place where work is done for God. Think of the peace in the heart of the workman who lifts it up to Him. We will finish our course with joy if we stick to the assignment. We will be able to say as Jesus did, “I have finished the work you gave me.”

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 84–86.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 24-25

Psalm 81

Hebrews 9

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Eight | February 27

Journal Entry

HONORING GOD WITH OUR WEALTH

Few of us are well acquainted with the extremes that the apostle Paul knew: “I know what it is to be brought low, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have been very thoroughly initiated into the human lot with all its ups and downs, fullness and hunger, plenty and want.” In whatever measure we have experienced these, the Lord has given us opportunity to learn the vital disciplines of possessions.

The first lesson is that things are given by God. “He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all; and with this gift how can he fail to lavish upon us all he has to give?” (Rom. 8:32).

The second lesson is that things are given us to be received with thanksgiving. Faith looks up with open hands. “You are giving me this, Lord? Thank you. It is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The third lesson is that things can be material for sacrifice. This is what is called the eucharistic life. The Father pours out His blessings on us; we receive them with open hands, give thanks, and lift them up as an offering back to Him, thus completing the circle.

This lesson leads naturally to the fourth, which is that things are given to us to enjoy for a while. Nothing has done more damage to the Christian view of life than the hideous notion that those who are truly spiritual have lost all interest in this world and its beauties. The Bible says, “God...endows us richly with all things to enjoy.” It also says, “Do not set your hearts on the godless world or anything in it.” It is altogether fitting and proper that we should enjoy things made for us to enjoy. What is not at all fitting or proper is that we should set our hearts on them. Temporal things must be treated as temporal things—received, given thanks for, offered back, but enjoyed. They must not be treated like eternal things.

And there is a fifth lesson: All that belongs to Christ is ours. As Amy Carmichael wrote, “All that was ever ours is ours forever.”

We often say that what is ours belongs to Christ. Do we remember the opposite: that what is His is ours? That seems to me a wonderful truth, almost an incredible truth. If it is so, how can we really “lose” anything? How can we even speak of His having the “right” to our possessions? “Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine,” the Father says to us. That is riches.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 86–88.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 26-27

Psalm 112

Hebrews 10

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?
I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Fifty-Nine | February 28

Journal Entry

HOPE, A FIXED ANCHOR

Christian hope is a different sort of thing from other kinds. The real essence of the word is trust.

When Lazarus died, the hopes of his two loving sisters, Mary and Martha, were dashed. Jesus, hearing the news, did not hurry to the house but stayed where He was for two more days. When He finally got to Bethany both sisters greeted Him with the same words: “If only You had been here, Lord!”

Jesus said, “I Myself am the resurrection.” This is our hope. It is a living thing. It is, in fact, Christ Himself. It is also something to live by. When our hopes for healing or success or the solution to a problem or freedom from financial distress seem to come to nothing, we feel just as Mary and Martha did. Jesus might have done something about it, but He didn’t. We lie awake thinking about all the “if onlys.” We wonder if it is somehow our fault that the thing didn’t work. We doubt whether prayer is of any use after all. Is God up there? Is He listening? Does He care?

Mary and Martha had envisioned His coming and raising a sick man from his bed. He came too late. Unfortunately Lazarus was dead—so dead, Martha pointed out, that decomposition would have set in. It had not crossed their minds that they were about to see an even more astonishing thing than the one they had hoped for—a swaddled corpse answering the Master’s call and walking, bound and muffled, out of the tomb.

The truth of the story is that God knew what was happening. Nothing was separating the grieving women from His love. He heard their prayers, counted their tears, held His peace. But He was faithful and He was at work. He had a grand miracle in mind.

The duration of my suffering may be longer than that of Lazarus’s sisters, but if I believe, trust, flee to God for refuge, I am safe even in my sorrow. I am held by the confidence of God’s utter trustworthiness. He is at work, producing miracles I haven’t imagined. I must wait for them.

Elisabeth Elliot

Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021), 89–92.

Scripture Reading

Numbers 1-2

Psalm 64

Hebrews 11

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty | March 1

Journal Entry

Saturday, October 18. In my morning devotions, my soul was exceedingly melted, and bitterly mourned over my exceeding sinfulness and vileness. I never before had felt so pungent and deep a sense of the odious nature of sin, as at this time. My soul was then unusually carried forth in love to God, and had a lively sense of God's love to me. And this love and hope, at that time, cast out fear. Both morning and evening I spent some time in self-examination, to find the truth of grace, as also my fitness to approach to God at his table the next day; and through infinite grace, found the Holy Spirit influencing my soul with love to God, as a witness within myself.

David Brainerd

The Life and Diary of David Brainerd

Edited by Jonathan Edwards. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2022).

Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-One | March 2

Journal Entry

Lord's day, October 19. In the morning I felt my soul hungering and thirsting after righteousness. In the forenoon, while I was looking on the sacramental elements, and thinking that Jesus Christ would soon be "set forth crucified before me," my soul was filled with light and love, so that I was almost in an ecstasy; my body was so weak, I could scarcely stand. I felt at the same time an exceeding tenderness and most fervent love towards all mankind; so that my soul and all the powers of it seemed, as it were, to melt into softness and sweetness. But during the communion, there was some abatement of this life and fervor. This love and joy cast out fear; and my soul longed for perfect grace and glory. This frame continued till the evening, when my soul was sweetly spiritual in secret duties.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Two | March 3

Journal Entry

Tuesday, October 21. I had likewise experience of the goodness of God in “shedding abroad his love in my heart,” and giving me delight and consolation in religious duties; and all the remaining part of the week, my soul seemed to be taken up with divine things. I now so longed after God, and to be freed from sin, that when I felt myself recovering, and thought I must return to college again, which had proved so hurtful to my spiritual interest the year past, I could not but be grieved, and I thought I had much rather have died; for it distressed me to think of getting away from God. But before I went, I enjoyed several other sweet and precious seasons of communion with God, (particularly October 30, and November 4) wherein my soul enjoyed unspeakable comfort.

I returned to college about November 6, and, through the goodness of God, felt the power of religion almost daily, for the space of six weeks. November 28. In my evening devotion, I enjoyed precious discoveries of God, and was unspeakably refreshed with that passage, Heb. 12:22–24. My soul longed to wing away for the paradise of God; I longed to be conformed to God in all things. A day or two after, I enjoyed much of the light of God’s countenance, most of the day; and my soul rested in God.

David Brainerd

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Edited by Jonathan Edwards. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2022).

Scripture Reading

Numbers 3-5

Hebrews 12

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today’s reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Three|March 4

Journal Entry

Tuesday, December 9. I was in a comfortable frame of soul most of the day; but especially in evening devotions, when God was pleased wonderfully to assist and strengthen me; so that I thought nothing should ever move me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord. Oh one hour with God infinitely exceeds all the pleasures and delights of this lower world.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 6-7

Hebrews 13

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Four|March 5

Journal Entry

Thursday, April 1, 1742. I seem to be declining, with respect to my life and warmth in divine things; had not so free access to God in prayer as usual of late. O that God would humble me deeply in the dust before him! I deserve hell every day, for not loving my Lord more, who has, I trust, loved me, and given himself for me; and every time I am enabled to exercise any grace renewedly, I am renewedly indebted to the God of all grace for special assistance. Where then is boasting? Surely it is excluded, when we think how we are dependent on God for the being and every act of grace. Oh, if ever I get to heaven, it will be because God will, and nothing else; for I never did anything of myself, but get away from God! My soul will be astonished at the unsearchable riches of divine grace, when I arrive at the mansions, which the blessed Savior is gone before to prepare.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 8-11

Colossians 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Five | March 6

Journal Entry

Friday, April 2. In the afternoon I felt, in secret prayer, much resigned, calm, and serene. What are all the storms of this lower world, if Jesus by his Spirit does but come walking on the seas! Some time past, I had much pleasure in the prospect of the heathen being brought home to Christ, and desired that the Lord would employ me in that work: but now, my soul more frequently desires to die, to be with Christ. O that my soul were wrapped up in divine love, and my longing desires after God increased! In the evening, was refreshed in prayer, with the hopes of the advancement of Christ's kingdom in the world.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 12-14

Psalm 28

Colossians 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

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What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Six | March 7

Journal Entry

Lord's day, April 4. My heart was wandering and lifeless. In the evening God gave me faith in prayer, made my soul melt in some measure, and gave me to taste a divine sweetness. O my blessed God! Let me climb up near to him, and love, and long, and plead, and wrestle, and stretch after him, and for deliverance from the body of sin and death. Alas! my soul mourned to think I should ever lose sight of its beloved again. O come, Lord Jesus, Amen.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 15-18

Psalm 113

Colossians 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Seven | March 8

Journal Entry

Tuesday, April 6. I walked out this morning to the same place where I was last night, and felt as I did then; but was somewhat relieved by reading some passages in my diary, and seemed to feel as if I might pray to the great God again with freedom; but was suddenly struck with a damp [depressed, dejected], from the sense I had of my own vileness. Then I cried to God to cleanse me from my exceeding filthiness, to give me repentance and pardon. I then began to find it sweet to pray; and could think of undergoing the greatest sufferings, in the cause of Christ, with pleasure; and found myself willing, if God should so order it, to suffer banishment from my native land, among the heathen, that I might do something for their salvation, in distresses and deaths of any kind. Then God gave me to wrestle earnestly for others, for the kingdom of Christ in the world, and for dear Christian friends. I felt weaned from the world, and from my own reputation amongst men, willing to be despised, and to be a gazing-stock for the world to behold. It is impossible for me to express how I then felt: I had not much joy, but some sense of the majesty of God, which made me as it were tremble. I saw myself mean and vile, which made me more willing that God should do what he would with me; it was all infinitely reasonable.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Eight | March 9

Journal Entry

Thursday, April 8. Had raised hopes today respecting the heathen. O that God would bring in great numbers of them to Jesus Christ! I cannot but hope I shall see that glorious day. Every thing in this world seems exceeding vile and little to me: I look so on myself. I had some little dawn of comfort today in prayer; but especially tonight, I think I had some faith and power of intercession with God. I was enabled to plead with God for the growth of grace in myself; and many of the dear children of God then lay with weight upon my soul. Blessed be the Lord! It is good to wrestle for divine blessings.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Sixty-Nine | March 10

Journal Entry

Friday, April 9. Most of my time in morning devotion was spent without sensible sweetness; yet I had one delightful prospect of arriving at the heavenly world. I am more amazed than ever at such thoughts; for I see myself infinitely vile and unworthy. I feel very heartless and dull; and though I long for the presence of God, and seem constantly to reach towards God in desires; yet I cannot feel that divine and heavenly sweetness that I used to enjoy. No poor creature stands in need of divine grace more than I, and none abuse it more than I have done, and still do.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 19-21

Colossians 4

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy | March 11

Journal Entry

Saturday, April 10. Spent much time in secret prayer this morning, and not without some comfort in divine things; and, I hope, had some faith in exercise: but am so low, and feel so little of the sensible [perceivable] presence of God, that I hardly know what to call faith, and am made to possess the sins of my youth, and the dreadful sin of my nature. I am all sin; I cannot think, nor act, but every motion is sin. I feel some faint hopes, that God will, of his infinite mercy, return again with showers of converting grace to poor gospel-abusing sinners; and my hopes of being employed in the cause of God, which of late have been almost extinct, seem now a little revived. O that all my late distresses and awful apprehensions might prove but Christ's school, to make me fit for greater service, by teaching me the great lesson of humility!

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 22-25

Luke 1

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-One|March 12

Journal Entry

Lord's day, April 11. In the morning I felt but little life, excepting that my heart was somewhat drawn out in thankfulness to God for his amazing grace and condescension to me, in past influences and assistances of his Spirit. Afterwards, I had some sweetness in the thoughts of arriving at the heavenly world. O for the happy day! After public worship God gave me special assistance in prayer; I wrestled with my dear Lord, with much sweetness; and intercession was made a delightful employment to me. In the evening, as I was viewing the light in the north, I was delighted in contemplation on the glorious morning of the resurrection.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 26-29

Luke 2

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Two|March 13

Journal Entry

Monday, April 12. This morning the Lord was pleased to lift up the light of his countenance upon me in secret prayer, and made the season very precious to my soul. And though I have been so depressed of late, respecting my hopes of future serviceableness in the cause of God; yet now I had much encouragement respecting that matter. I was especially assisted to intercede and plead for poor souls, and for the enlargement of Christ's kingdom in the world, and for special grace for myself, to fit me for special services. I felt exceedingly calm, and quite resigned to God, respecting my future employment, when and where he pleased. My faith lifted me above the world, and removed all those mountains, that I could not look over of late. I wanted not the favor of man to lean upon; for I knew Christ's favor was infinitely better, and that it was no matter when, nor where, nor how Christ should send me, nor what trials he should still exercise me with, if I might be prepared for his work and will. I now found revived, in my mind, the wonderful discovery of infinite wisdom in all the dispensations of God towards me, which I had a little before I met with my great trial at college; every thing appeared full of divine wisdom.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 30-33

Psalms 35

Luke 3

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Three|March 14

Journal Entry

Tuesday, April 13. I saw myself to be very mean and vile; and wondered at those that showed me respect. Afterwards I was somewhat comforted in secret retirement, and assisted to wrestle with God, with some power, spirituality, and sweetness. Blessed be the Lord, he is never unmindful of me, but always sends me needed supplies; and, from time to time, when I am like one dead, he raises me to life. O that I may never distrust infinite goodness!

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Numbers 34-36

Luke 4

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Four | March 15

Journal Entry

Wednesday, April 14. My soul longed for communion with Christ, and for the mortification of indwelling corruption, especially spiritual pride. O there is a sweet day coming, wherein the weary will be at rest! My soul has enjoyed much sweetness this day in the hopes of its speedy arrival.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?
I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Five|March 16

Journal Entry

Thursday, April 15. My desires apparently centered in God, and I found a sensible attraction of soul after him sundry times today. I know I long for God, and a conformity to his will, in inward purity and holiness, ten thousand times more than for anything here below.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?
I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Six | March 17

Journal Entry

Friday and Saturday, April 16, 17. I seldom prayed without some sensible joy in the Lord. Sometimes I longed much to be dissolved, and to be with Christ. O that God would enable me to grow in grace every day! Alas! my barrenness is such, that God might well say, "Cut it down." I am afraid of a dead heart on the Sabbath now begun: O that God would quicken me by his grace!

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 1-3

Psalm 36

Luke 5

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Seven | March 18

Journal Entry

Lord's day, April 18. I retired early this morning into the woods for prayer; had the assistance of God's Spirit, and faith in exercise; and was enabled to plead with fervency for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in the world, and to intercede for dear absent friends. At noon, God enabled me to wrestle with him, and to feel, as I trust, the power of divine love in prayer. At night I saw myself infinitely indebted to God, and had a view of my shortcomings: it seemed to me, that I had done, as it were, nothing for God, and that I never had lived to him but a few hours of my life.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 4-5

Luke 6

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Eight|March 19

Journal Entry

Monday, April 19. I set apart this day for fasting, and prayer to God for his grace; especially to prepare me for the work of the ministry, to give me divine aid and direction in my preparations for that great work, and in his own time to send me into his harvest. Accordingly, in the morning I endeavored to plead for the divine presence for the day, and not without some life. In the forenoon, I felt the power of intercession for precious, immortal souls; for the advancement of the kingdom of my dear Lord and Savior in the world; and withal, a most sweet resignation, and even consolation and joy in the thoughts of suffering hardships, distresses, and even death itself, in the promotion of it; and had special enlargement in pleading for the enlightening and conversion of the poor heathen. In the afternoon, God was with me of a truth. O it was blessed company indeed! God enabled me so to agonize in prayer, that I was quite wet with perspiration, though in the shade, and the cool wind. My soul was drawn out very much for the world; for multitudes of souls. I think I had more enlargement for sinners, than for the children of God; though I felt as if I could spend my life in cries for both. I enjoyed great sweetness in communion with my dear Savior. I think I never in my life felt such an entire weanedness from this world, and so much resigned to God in every thing. O that I may always live to and upon my blessed God! Amen, Amen.

David Brainerd

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 6-9

Luke 7

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Seventy-Nine|March 20

Journal Entry

Tuesday, April 20. This day I am twenty-four years of age. O how much mercy have I received the year past! How often has God caused his goodness to pass before me! And how poorly have I answered the vows I made this time twelvemonth [last year], to be wholly the Lord's, to be forever devoted to his service! The Lord help me to live more to his glory for the time to come. This has been a sweet, a happy day to me: blessed be God. I think my soul was never so drawn out in intercession for others, as it has been this night. Had a most fervent wrestle with the Lord tonight for my enemies; and I hardly ever so longed to live to God, and to be altogether devoted to him; I wanted to wear out my life in his service, and for his glory.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 10-14

Psalm 5

Luke 8

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty | March 21

Journal Entry

Wednesday, April 21. Felt much calmness and resignation, and God again enabled me to wrestle for numbers of souls, and had much fervency in the sweet duty of intercession. I enjoyed of late more sweetness in intercession for others, than in any other part of prayer. My blessed Lord really let me come near to him, and plead with him.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 15-18

Psalms 115

Luke 9

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-One|March 22

Journal Entry

Lord's day, April 25. This morning I spent about two hours in secret duties, and was enabled more than ordinarily to agonize for immortal souls; though it was early in the morning, and the sun scarcely shined at all, yet my body was quite wet with sweat. I felt much pressed now, as frequently of late, to plead for the meekness and calmness of the Lamb of God in my soul; and through divine goodness felt much of it this morning. O it is a sweet disposition, heartily to forgive all injuries done us; to wish our greatest enemies as well as we do our own souls! Blessed Jesus, may I daily be more and more conformed to thee. At night I was exceedingly melted with divine love, and had some feeling sense of the blessedness of the upper world. Those words hung upon me, with much divine sweetness, Psalms 84:7. "They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God." O the near access that God sometimes gives us in our addresses to him! This may well be termed appearing before God: it is so indeed, in the true spiritual sense, and in the sweetest sense. I think I have not had such power of intercession these many months, both for God's children and for dead sinners as have had this evening. I wished and longed for the coming of my dear Lord: I longed to join the angelic hosts in praises, wholly free from imperfection. O the blessed moment hastens! All I want is to be more holy, more like my dear Lord. O for sanctification! My very soul pants for the complete restoration of the blessed image of my Savior; that I may be fit for the blessed enjoyments and employments of the heavenly world.

*Farewell, vain world; my soul can bid adieu;
My Savior's taught me to abandon you.
Your charms may gratify a sensual mind;
Not please a soul wholly for God design'd.
Forbear to entice, cease then my soul to call;
'Tis fix'd through grace; my God shall be my all.
While he thus lets me heavenly glories view,
Your beauties fade, my heart's no room for you.*

The Lord refreshed my soul with many sweet passages of his word. O the new Jerusalem! my soul longed for it. O the song of Moses and the Lamb! And that blessed song, that no man can learn, but they who are redeemed from the earth! and the glorious white robes, that were given to the souls under the altar!

*Lord, I'm a stranger here alone;
Earth no true comforts can afford;
Yet, absent from my dearest one,
My soul delights to cry,
My Lord Jesus, my Lord, my only love,
Possess my soul, nor thence depart;
Grant me kind visits, heavenly Dove;*

My God shall then have all my heart.

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Two|March 23

Journal Entry

Monday, April 26. Continued in a sweet frame of mind; but in the afternoon felt something of spiritual pride stirring. God was pleased to make it an humbling season at first; though afterwards he gave me sweetness. O my soul exceedingly longs for that blessed state of perfect deliverance from all sin! At night, God enabled me to give my soul up to him, to cast myself upon him, to be ordered and disposed of according to his sovereign pleasure; and I enjoyed great peace and consolation in so doing. My soul took sweet delight in God; my thoughts freely and sweetly centered in him. O that I could spend every moment of my life to his glory!

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Three|March 24

Journal Entry

Tuesday, April 27. I retired pretty early for secret devotions; and in prayer God was pleased to pour such ineffable comforts into my soul, that I could do nothing for some time but say over and over, "O my sweet Savior! O my sweet Savior! whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee." If I had had a thousand lives, my soul would gladly have laid them all down at once to have been with Christ. My soul never enjoyed so much of heaven before; it was the most refined and the most spiritual season of communion with God I ever yet felt. I never felt so great a degree of resignation in my life. In the afternoon I withdrew to meet with my God, but found myself much declined, and God made it an humbling season to my soul. I mourned over the body of death that is in me. It grieved me exceedingly, that I could not pray to and praise God with my heart full of divine heavenly love. O that my soul might never offer any dead, cold services to my God! In the evening had not so much divine love as in the morning; but had a sweet season of fervent intercession.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 19-22

Psalm 6

Luke 10

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Four|March 25

Journal Entry

Wednesday, April 28. I withdrew to my usual place of retirement in great peace and tranquillity, spent about two hours in secret duties, and felt much as I did yesterday morning, only weaker and more overcome. I seemed to depend wholly on my dear Lord; wholly weaned from all other dependences. I knew not what to say to my God, but [could] only lean on his bosom, as it were, and breathe out my desires after a perfect conformity to him in all things. Thirsting desires, and insatiable longings, possessed my soul after perfect holiness. God was so precious to my soul, that the world with all its enjoyments was infinitely vile. I had no more value for the favor of men than for pebbles. The Lord was my all; and that he overruled all, greatly delighted me. I think, my faith and dependence on God scarce ever rose so high. I saw him such a fountain of goodness, that it seemed impossible I should distrust him again, or be any way anxious about anything that should happen to me. I now enjoyed great sweetness in praying for absent friends, and for the enlargement of Christ's kingdom in the world. Much of the power of these divine enjoyments remained with me through the day. In the evening my heart seemed to melt, and, I trust, was really humbled for indwelling corruption, and I mourned like a dove. I felt, that all my unhappiness arose from my being a sinner. With resignation I could bid welcome to all other trials; but sin hung heavy upon me; for God discovered to me the corruption of my heart. I went to bed with a heavy heart, because I was a sinner; though I did not in the least doubt of God's love. O that God would purge away my dross, and take away my tin, and make me seven times refined!

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 23-26

Luke 11

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to “one-another” in today’s reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today’s reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Five | March 26

Journal Entry

Thursday, April 29. I was kept off at a distance from God; but had some enlargement in intercession for precious souls.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 27-31

Luke 12

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Six | March 27

Journal Entry

Friday, April 30. I was somewhat dejected in spirit: nothing grieves me so much, as that I cannot live constantly to God's glory. I could bear any desertion or spiritual conflicts, if I could but have my heart all the while burning within me with love to God and desires of his glory. But this is impossible; for when I feel these, I cannot be dejected in my soul, but only rejoice in my Savior, who has delivered me from the reigning power, and will shortly deliver me from the indwelling of sin.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 32-34

Psalms 13

Luke 13

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Seven | March 28

Journal Entry

Saturday, May 1. I was enabled to cry to God with fervency for ministerial qualifications, that he would appear for the advancement of his own kingdom, and that he would bring in the heathen, etc. Had much assistance in my studies. This has been a profitable week to me; I have enjoyed many communications of the blessed Spirit in my soul.

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Scripture Reading

Joshua 1-4

Psalm 143

Luke 14

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Eight|March 29

Journal Entry

Lord's day, May 2. God was pleased this morning to give me such a sight of myself, as made me appear very vile in my own eyes. I felt corruption stirring in my heart, which I could by no means suppress; felt more and more deserted; was exceeding weak, and almost sick with my inward trials.

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Eighty-Nine|March 30

Journal Entry

Monday, May 3. Had a sense of vile ingratitude. In the morning I withdrew to my usual place of retirement, and mourned for my abuse of my dear Lord: spent the day in fasting and prayer. God gave me much power of wrestling for his cause and kingdom; and it was a happy day to my soul. God was with me all the day, and I was more above the world than ever in my life.

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Scripture Reading

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

Day Ninety | March 31

Journal Entry

Lord's day, May, 9. I think I never felt so much of the cursed pride of my heart, as well as the stubbornness of my will, before. Oh dreadful! what a vile wretch I am! I could submit to be nothing, and to lie down in the dust. O that God would humble me in the dust! I felt myself such a sinner, all day, that I had scarce any comfort. O when shall I be delivered from the body of this death greatly feared, lest through stupidity and carelessness I should lose the benefit of these trials. O that they might be sanctified to my soul! Nothing seemed to touch me but only this, that I was a sinner. Had a fervency and refreshment in social prayer in the evening.

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Scripture Reading

Joshua 5-8

Psalm 14

Luke 15

Response

How has God revealed Himself to me in today's reading?

How is God teaching me about how to "one-another" in today's reading? (In other words, how should I relate to fellow believers based on today's reading?)

What does this text tell me about me?

What of the fruit of the Spirit is highlighted in this reading?

What commitment will I make based on what God has taught me?

I learned/was reminded of this about God:

Therefore I will:

100B All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. ¹All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
 2. ²Know that the LORD is God in - deed; he
 3. ³O en - ter then his gates with joy, with -
 4. ⁴Be - cause the LORD our God is good, his

to the LORD with cheer - ful voice. ²Serve him with joy, his
 formed us all with - out our aid. We are the flock he
 in his courts his praise pro - claim! Let thank - ful songs your
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure. His faith - ful - ness at

prais - es tell, come now be - fore him and re - joice!
 sure - ly feeds, the sheep who by his hand were made.
 tongues em - ploy. O bless and mag - ni - fy his name!
 all times stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

William Kethe, 1561; alt.

GENEVAN 134 (OLD HUNDREDETH) L.M.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551**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.

***Newton quotes taken from: Newton, J., & Cecil, R. (1824). [The Works of John Newton](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 1–255). Hamilton, Adams & Co.

****Elliot quotes taken from: Elisabeth Elliot, *Faith That Does Not Falter: Selections from the Writings of Elisabeth Elliot* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2021).

*****Brainerd quotes taken from: Jonathan Edwards, *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2022).