



Corrie ten Boom

L I B R A R Y

The End Battle

VOLUME IV

*This
Day Is
the
Lord's*



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GUIDEPOSTS

*The
End
Battle*

The End Battle



Corrie ten Boom

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Contents



Preface	9
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Part 1: Marching Orders

1	Stimulation to Militancy	13
2	Be Prepared	17
3	Hope for Sinners	20
4	Training	23

Part 2: Conquerors

5	Victory over Sins in Daily Life	31
6	Victory through Decreasing	35
7	Victory through the Blood of Jesus	40
8	Victory through the Name of Jesus	42
9	Victory through the Holy Spirit	45
10	Victory through Yielding	53

Part 3: Equipment for Active Service

11	Love	59
12	Fellowship of the Saints	67
13	Devotion in Service	72
14	Faithfulness	76

15	Faith	81
16	Joy	86

Part 4: Life in the End-Time

17	Signs of the Times	91
18	Guidance	95
19	Sanctification	104
20	Martyrdom	108
21	Jesus Is Victor	117

Part 5: Defeated Enemies

22	The Conflict	121
23	Battle against the Powers of Darkness	128
24	Resist the Devil	133
25	Demon Obsession	137
26	The Sword of the Spirit	144
27	The Power of Jesus' Name	149

Preface



In Vietnam I met a man from the jungle: Tsau. He came to me after I had spoken five times to his Chil tribe. He said, "Double old grandmother." Just imagine being called such a thing when you are only seventy-five years old, but to be old is the greatest honor in the Chil tribe; he wanted to say something really flattering. "You came from far, far away to tell us about Jesus. You traveled long, very long; you are old, very old. Will you thank your tribe in the name of our Chil tribe that they allowed you to come to us? We will establish a covenant, a covenant of prayer. You pray for us, we pray for you."

"Tsau, have you a special message for our tribe?" He waited a moment; I believe he prayed. "Yes, tell the people of your tribe that they have to turn away from their sins and repent, so that they may see Jesus when He comes again."

Was Tsau right? Sure, we have to repent and be converted, but we must also prepare for Jesus' coming again.

We believe that in our day we can clearly see the outlines of biblical prophecies in world history. It is good to compare the newspapers with the Bible at this time. Then we understand that Jesus may come very soon. Before His return there will be a hard battle, and therefore it is good to prepare ourselves and to gird our loins

with power. Every Christian is called to take his place in the army of King Jesus and to wrestle as a fellow conqueror with Him. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers . . . against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

This battle is more violent than ever before. The devil knows that his time is short. Everything is heading toward the great and final battle which John describes in the Book of Revelation, and that battle has started already. But we know:

Jesus was Victor.

Jesus is Victor.

Jesus will be Victor.

Part 1



*Marching
Orders*



Stimulation to Militancy

God's plans for the victory are perfect. He knows the Enemy and the reactions of the enemy before the foundation of the world and He does not need to fear any unexpected attack. He also knows His men. He knows their need for food and clothing. He provides the equipment and He launches them at the right time and the right place, for He leads them to victory. Those who fight on our side are greater and stronger than those who stand against us: We have a mighty High Priest and legions of angels. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. At the cross of Calvary He has already won the victory. There He crushed the head of the serpent. Above all things we need to know our position in this battle. The Bible speaks of this position: to be hid with Christ in God. What a comfort to know that we belong to the victorious army of God, when we look at the seemingly superior forces of the enemy. Nowadays there are many atheistic ideologies. The enemy also uses Marxism in the form of communism to persuade mankind that God does not exist. There are many people who are fervent communists.

Once I read a testimony of a communist. He wrote:

We are fanatics. Our lives are absorbed by one tremendous all-important factor: the battle for world-communism. We communists would not spend any money on concerts or other pleasures. We have set a clear aim before our eyes. We have an ideal to fight for. We dedicate ourselves and our personal lives and possessions in the service of a great movement. What does it matter that our personal lives, our own egos have to suffer for the sake of the party? We are fully rewarded at the thought that every one of us is co-operating a little in the creation of something new, something better for mankind. There is only one thing for which I will die: communism. That is my life. That is my faith, my hobby, my love, my beloved; that is my master, my food and my drink.

During the day I work for it and during the night I dream about it. As time goes on, its influence on me gets stronger and stronger. That's why I cannot make friends, why I cannot love, or even hold a conversation without touching on all this, and this force that stimulates and leads me. I have been in prison for the sake of my ideas, my ideals, and I am willing, if need be, to stand in front of the firing squad.

I know for myself, that it is not just one or a few who think and feel like that. There are hundreds of thousands who have perhaps never said it, but who live in the same manner. We must realize this very clearly. When you take the map of the world, you can see how many countries are under the control of communism and the influence of atheism which is connected with it. When I look at world history in the light of God's Word, then I do not believe that we can expect better times. Politics have no

answer for this progress of atheism. Someone has said: “We have reached in our history of civilization the point where the most serious crisis starts that mankind has ever experienced.”

That is true; there is a great battle going on in the invisible world. It is easy to believe what Peter writes; it seems to be an even greater reality now than in those days: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (1 Peter 5:8–9).

Every Christian is involved in this battle, whether he wants it or not. The enemy will try with all his might to alienate us from God, to destroy our faith in Jesus Christ, and to make us rebellious against God. We can shut our eyes to the danger and not see where the course of world history will lead us. But Jesus says in Luke 21:36: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

In this time there are two sorts of people who are important: the fully dedicated children of God and the fully dedicated atheists. Every Christian is called to be involved in this fight. You can decide for yourself if you will be a good, a mediocre, or a bad wrestler. Jesus Himself transforms everyone who surrenders fully to Him into a warrior led by the Holy Spirit, a warrior who looks forward to the final victory when Jesus comes again. Such a person has a strong case against the enemy and is never ashamed of his King. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. He gives us a vision of the final victory of Jesus Christ. “That is why God has now lifted him so high, and has

given him the name beyond all names, so that at the name of Jesus ‘every knee shall bow,’ whether in Heaven or earth or under the earth. And that is why, in the end, ‘every tongue shall confess’ that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9–11 PHILLIPS).

The Holy Sprit will prepare us: “He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

2



Be Prepared

Atheism is expanding. The kingdom of God is going on quietly. Now it is either-or; Christ or Antichrist. Nobody can serve two masters; either the one or the other. The divisions are becoming clear-cut. We have this great comfort, that God has shown us that He has a plan for this world. He has no problems, only plans. That is why there is never a panic in heaven. Knowing the future gives us strength and security.

For God has allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in him. And here is the staggering thing—that in all which will one day belong to him we have been promised a share (since we were long ago destined for this by the one who achieves his purposes by his sovereign will).

Ephesians 1:9–11 PHILLIPS

An abundant richness of strength is at our disposal. We need this strength. Let us then be conscious of it in

our way of living. This richness does not depend on circumstances. We must realize this fully, because circumstances will be difficult in the final battle. But we shall never lack anything.

Bishop Dzao of China sounded a warning to us when he spoke in the Congress of Evangelists in Berlin. He said: "China now experiences what probably will come over the whole world. Yes, there will come a time when nobody can buy or sell without the mark of the Antichrist" (Revelation 13:17).

The Bishop has confessed that the church in China had not prepared the Christians for the terrible trials they have to face now. "We gave them everything we could—the gospel, churches, yes, food and clothing where poverty reigned. But one thing we did not do. We neglected to teach them how to pass on the gospel to other people. Now all the preachers and bishops have gone—the church practically does not exist anymore. Yes, an invisible church is going on, but how few Christians were strong enough to strengthen others!" This bishop appealed to us to do our utmost to prepare the children of God in this time and to show them the special task for this time, so that they will be strong enough in the time of oppression. Is it possible that weak little people can be ready for that? Yes, everyone can be ready. I mean what I say. The Lord has given us all we need for the end-time.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This was a promise for the time when the church of Jesus Christ came into existence, but these words have never lost their power. Especially in the final battle this promise will be a

source of strength for the children of God so that they can lead a victorious life. This power is available, because the Holy Spirit has come and He longs to fill our hearts as the light flows into a room when it is opened to let the daylight in. Be filled with the Holy Spirit! Give room to the Holy Spirit! That means: Surrender!

3



Hope for Sinners

Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). I spoke on this text in a prison. Perhaps you think it is a strange text for murderers and thieves, but I have seen that God can use “good” and “bad” people. I know many evangelists who are still serving their time in prison. The Holy Spirit has convicted them of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and in His love for sinners the Lord Jesus has saved them, and made them children of God. I know many who have become real soul-winners, who have led many of their fellow prisoners to the Lord. When I had finished my address, one of the prisoners got up and said: “Friends, today I read in the Bible about three murderers; one was Moses, one was David, one was Paul. We know them all as heroes of faith, but still they have been murderers. What God can do with a murderer who surrenders fully to Him! Fellows, there is also hope for us.”

Yes, there is hope for every decent and indecent sinner, when he surrenders to Jesus, when he confesses his sins, when he gets converted by His strength, when he is cleansed by the blood of Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. Then he will become the light of the world. There is no sin too great to bring to Jesus. He said: “Come unto

me, all.” And those who come to Jesus, He will never cast out. The very beginning is this: to come to Jesus and in His strength to turn away from sin. Then one is cleansed and sanctified. And thus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, one becomes through Jesus Christ more than conqueror. Then all fear for the future goes. Then we know that what Paul says in Romans 8:31–39 (PHILLIPS) is true. I have experienced it:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not shield his own Son but gave him up for us all—can we not trust such a God to give us, with him, everything else that we can need?

Who would dare to accuse us, whom God has chosen? The judge himself has declared us free from sin. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us!

Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? Indeed some of us know the truth of that ancient text:

For thy sake we are killed all the day
long;
We were accounted as sheep for the
slaughter.

No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through him who has proved his love for us.

I have become absolutely convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of Heaven nor

monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God's whole world has any power to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord!

Hallelujah!

4



Training

A soldier must obey. He cannot serve the king and the nation if he does his own will. Jesus was obedient. He, the Creator of the world, always submitted to His Father's will. He set His face toward Jerusalem to be crucified. He was obedient unto the death of the cross. That was His way to the resurrection. This is also the way for His followers, for only the way of obedience, the way of crucifixion, leads to the resurrection. Cross-bearing in the form of martyrdom has become unknown in Western Europe; in Eastern Europe it is not. Nevertheless it is of great importance nowadays, for the opposition against God and the cross is increasing. What can we expect, when atheism will find its climax in the coming and the revelation of the Antichrist?

That day will not come before there arises a definite rejection of God and the appearance of the lawless man. He is the product of all that leads to death, and he sets himself up in opposition to every religion.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 PHILLIPS

Will God be defeated? No. After this period of darkness, His trumpet will sound and His Son Jesus Christ

will come. Then it will be very clearly manifested that the gospel is brought indeed to all nations. “Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations” is the command.

Once a woman read in her Bible during the morning hour from 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (PHILLIPS):

One word of command, one shout from the Archangel, one blast from the trumpet of God and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven! Those who have died in Christ will be the first to arise, and, we who are still living on the earth will be swept up with them into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And after that we shall be with Him forever.

God has given me this message on the matter, so by all means use it to encourage one another.

When she read this, her thoughts were fixed particularly on the seriousness of this passage. The signs of the times are clear and everyone knows that great events are coming. Not only Bible readers know this, but also the people who read the newspapers. She was so completely taken up in meditating about Jesus’ coming, that she did not hear the doorbell ring. After some time she suddenly heard it and opened the door quickly, her Bible still in her hand.

“It seems as if you are becoming deaf, lady! I had to ring the bell three times!” the milkman said.

“Oh, I am so sorry. No, I am not deaf, but I was reading something in the Bible that was so great, that I forgot everything around me. Do you know, it is possible that one day you will come to my door and I will not be here?

And everywhere you ring the bell where Christians used to live, you will find the houses empty. I just read that when Jesus comes again, we will meet Him in the air. Then we shall be suddenly changed and we shall see Him face to face. You would not understand why so many people had suddenly disappeared. Later on you would hear what had happened and then you would ask why that old lady had not told you that before. And that's why I tell you now. Listen, milkman, when you accept Jesus as your Savior, then you will become a child of God too, and will belong to those who will meet Him in the air."

Whether we agree with the point of view of this old lady or not, we notice that she really meant what she said, and that she looked forward to the coming again of Jesus. It is not at all important whether we have much money at this time. But it is very important that at that moment other people will go with us to meet the Lord, people to whom we showed the way of salvation.

The armor of God in Ephesians 6 is not solely described as the armor of the soldiers of Jesus Christ in the victorious final battle, but also for the time of Paul as well as for this time. Because we know that the great final battle will start soon, this armor and absolute obedience to the marching orders in these last days are very important. Jesus said in Luke 21:8 that these days would come, and we can see already from the newspapers that they are upon us. Let us not be afraid; these things must happen first.

It is so kind of the Lord to tell us this beforehand. We are, strictly speaking, the only people in the whole world who know the future and who understand the present time. This knowledge does not need to make us down-

hearted, because the Lord has spoken many comforting words in view of the future: “But there shall not a hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls. . . . And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. . . . So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand” (Luke 21:18–19, 28, 31).

It is important to persevere in this time; then we can go through life with uplifted head, our eyes fixed on Jesus. The moment comes that we shall see the Son of man coming on a cloud with great power and glory. All these perspectives we know through God’s Word. “I will hasten my word to perform it” (Jeremiah 1:12). “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass . . .” (Luke 21:36). “Be on your guard—see to it that your minds are never clouded by dissipation or drunkenness or the worries of this life, or else that day may catch you like the springing of a trap” (Luke 21:34 PHILLIPS).

Worries of this life, we all know them! Is that, then, wrong? No, but they can occupy us, and that day would come upon us as a terrible surprise, because we forgot to be vigilant and had not prepared ourselves for it. So it was also in the time of the deluge:

For just as life went on in the days of Noah so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage until the very day that

Noah went into the Ark, and knew nothing about the Flood until it came and destroyed them all. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24:37–39 PHILLIPS

Everywhere in the world there are children of God who have difficulties, especially those who really mean business with the Word of God and with their call to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Very often their fellow Christians make it hard for them because they do not agree with some biblical truths and because they cannot accept the total surrender with all its consequences. In these difficulties, one must practice patience and love. The devil likes it when we, like iconoclasts, ruthlessly throw away old truths and traditions. “If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all” (1 Corinthians 13:2 PHILLIPS).

When the devil cannot keep us back, he tries to push us so fast that we exaggerate. Then we are in danger of forgetting to love. It is very important for us to understand that all these temptations and trials belong to training for the final battle. The “trainer,” the Holy Spirit, gives us what we need. He teaches us to be patient, to look at the Lord, to pay attention to our fellow warriors, and not to burden ourselves with superfluous luggage. This is all a part of the victorious life; while He trains conquerors, He comforts us with His bountiful promises.

Part 2



Conquerors



Victory over Sins in Daily Life

We must have clear vision, but our sins often hinder us. They confuse our sight. Therefore it is so important that we are obedient to the command of the Lord: “Everyone who has at heart a hope like that keeps himself pure, for he knows how pure Christ is” (1 John 3:3 PHILLIPS).

He who waits for Jesus’ coming again becomes sensitive to every shadow that comes between his Master and himself, and he does not rest until the vision is clear again. We must understand clearly that this text does not mean a striving to make ourselves better and better. We must look at Jesus, our hope. He is the Lord, who sanctifies us. The Holy Spirit gives us what we need.

“The Spirit . . . produces in human life fruits such as these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, tolerance and self-control” (Galatians 5:22 PHILLIPS).

The devil accuses us night and day. He likes to push us into dismay, because then we cannot be strong. But the Word of God says to us: “Be strong in the Lord.” He can give us this command, because He Himself gives us His strength. As soon as we realize that there is a sin in our hearts, we must bring it to the Lord, because that sin

makes us insecure and weak. We must know that it is really true that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins we bring to Him. When we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins (1 John 1:7, 9). When we confess our sins to the Lord and ask for forgiveness, He will cast them into the depths of the sea. “He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19).

He will forgive and forget, and I believe that He sometimes must put up a little sign: “No fishing allowed!” This is necessary, because sin confessed to the Lord is gone. At the cross Jesus finished everything. “For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual” (Ephesians 6:12 PHILLIPS). “Your enemy the devil is always about, prowling like a lion roaring for its prey” (1 Peter 5:8 PHILLIPS).

When we think of the future, when the great final battle takes place, we can very well imagine roaring lions and evil spirits, but we must not forget that these are now already mobilized in the battle and it is part of our training that we recognize them and become firm. The devil is like a lion, but he is chained up. When we do not come too close, we are not in danger. I remember a friend who had to fight against a bad temper. Having tempers is in the eyes of many people a decent sin, but in reality it is a horrible sin, which gives the people around us very much sorrow and suffering. That friend longed with all his heart for victory over that sin. Then someone gave him this advice: “You must take care that you do not come too close to the lion! Don’t forget that he is chained up!” Jesus tied him to a chain: He came to conquer the devil and to break the works of the devil. Yes, the children of God are

attacked much at this very time and it is good to know our enemy; that is why it is necessary to be victor now in daily life and to surrender completely to the Lord Jesus. Jesus is always Conqueror! All we have to do is to see to it that we remain in good contact with Him and then His life of victory will flow through us and touch the people around us. Our everyday life is our battle place. A part of God's strategy is to appoint the place where we have to fight. We cannot escape the war by looking for another front line. Our place with Him is here, under His banner of the cross! Jonah was disobedient and wanted to run away from his call, but one can never hide himself from God (Jonah 1:3).

Are you sure that you are in the place where you are called? In the office, at the engine, at the side of your husband or wife? Jesus gives you your place. "Abide in me," He says, "and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4). Your place is in Him. There is no room and no time for our own plans to do private battle with the evil one, for a game with the chained-up lion, for coquetting with great or small sins of everyday life. With Jesus hid in God! Can we find a safer hiding place? The devil will have to go first through God and Jesus before he reaches us! When soldiers are trained, they receive their training in barracks together with others. The training in the victorious army of God for the last great battle does not take place under unusual circumstances, but in the midst of the common daily life. Here is the place of training—and everything we experience belongs to that training. So do our contacts with our fellow men. In the first letter of Peter we read that all difficulties and temptations work together to get us prepared:

This means tremendous joy to you, I know, even though at present you are temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials and temptations. This is no accident—it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold, and gold as you know, even though it is ultimately perishable, must be purified by fire. This proving of your faith is planned to bring you praise and honor and glory in the day when Jesus Christ reveals himself.

1 Peter 1:6–7 PHILLIPS

You are encouraged when you see the temptations of everyday life in that light. It can be difficult, but when you see it from God's point of view, then you know that the greatest power of God's love and joy, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, is at our disposal in daily life. What a mystery! When things are seen from the viewpoint of eternity, it makes you patient, for you know: "I am like gold that must be purified." Then you will fix your eyes upward—and you do this again and again.



Victory through Decreasing

Do you ever have days when everything goes wrong? You try to do your utmost, but you do not succeed at all. I remember one week in which every day was more mixed up than the day before. First everything seemed to go so well. I was to work eight days in a town in Australia. A minister there had invited me as his guest in his home. Although he had many children, he could make room for me.

When you travel a great deal, it is always difficult if you have nowhere to unpack your suitcase. It was a very dark small room in which I would have to live that week. I could not hang up my clothes. I had no table to write at. But you get used to these difficulties. When things are very bad I always say: "Lord Jesus, You have had times when You had nowhere to lay Your head. I am in Your service. This is just a little bit of cross-bearing."

But the little room was not the worst problem. The minister was difficult to work with. When we talked about the plans for the week, I was not allowed to make any decision by myself. He just dictated everything I had to do; and I did try to be obedient. When he told me that he had to preach the gospel in a mental hospital, I

became quite enthusiastic. "Can I go with you and work there too?"

"Oh," he said, and looked at me very unkindly, "you, a woman? Well, all right; why not? If you would like to do that, we can organize something." But after the first meeting in his church, I felt that we did not form a team at all. His ideas were so different from mine, it was difficult to cooperate with him.

After three days, I became frightened to go with this man, with whom I was not united in spirit at all, to a place where so often there are many powers of darkness. I decided to speak to him about this. I went to his study and said: "Pastor, I believe that I cannot go to that institution. We ought to be closely united as a team and we are not."

He became angry. "You have said that you wanted to go, and now you must go!" I refused. "You must; you have to do what I tell you."

I got up and went to the garden. I had a real, inward struggle. I was offended. I was afraid. What right had this man to dictate what I had to do? But then I understood; I had to decrease still more. Someone who has lost his life for Jesus' sake cannot be offended! I prayed: "Lord, You know that I cannot do this, but I will go the lowest way. Must I do what this man says and go with him to the institution? I am afraid of it, Lord! But I will go the way of obedience."

It took a full hour before peace came into my heart. Then I went back to the study. "Pastor, if you say that I have to go, then I will do it."

His answer settled the matter. "Oh no; it is not necessary to go. I phoned the director of the institution and told him that you would not come."

“Oh, Pastor, how glad I am!”

“Yes, it was not difficult at all. I simply said to him: ‘This Corrie ten Boom has been in a concentration camp for a time. Now she is not quite normal; we must just accept that!’”

I turned away and went to my little room. Yes, it was a relief that I did not have to go to that mental hospital, but how offended I was!

And so I had to be on the platform with this man for another four days. People came to visit me, but they were not allowed to do so. I almost lost courage, and I was afraid that it would become a lost week.

There was always a young Baptist minister with members of his congregation in the meetings. He always listened with an open heart. It is a joy to have someone in a meeting who by the expression on his face gives you a “real answer.” That gave me a bit more confidence. The last evening was perhaps the most difficult of all. I spoke about full surrender, about walking in the light as Jesus is in the light, so that we can have fellowship one with the other—but I felt that I had no fellowship with my host, and also that I did not walk in the light with him. The Baptist pastor said to me: “I can take you to your next place tonight by car. It is about three hundred miles away from here, but I am used to driving by night. When I was a student I worked for my brother as a driver on his truck, and always had to drive during the night. While I am taking you there, we can be talking. Will you be sure that your luggage is ready?”

That was a lovely suggestion. That evening I felt I spoke with authority, although everything was difficult. I humbled myself before the people without telling them what had been my greatest problem during the whole

week. When I told my host I would leave at eleven o'clock that night and that the Baptist pastor would take me to the next place, he was furious. "I will take you myself tomorrow!" he said. But I knew that I had to do my own will now.

At eleven o'clock I went out of the front door with my luggage and I found the Baptist minister there. That nocturnal journey was a joy. It was a present from the Lord. The minister told me what had happened in his congregation: "There were so many disagreements, so much hatred, that the Holy Spirit must have been very grieved with such a congregation, but almost all the members of my church have been in your meetings every evening and the Lord has worked! Tonight everything was altered. After the meeting we all stood outside, because we were not allowed to stay inside, and there we prayed together. People who have not been speaking to each other for years have now been reconciled. They have confessed their sins, and they have put everything right. What happened there in front of the church was such a blessing that we know we can now start afresh with our whole congregation. We praise and thank the Lord that He brought you here. He used the whole week."

So it had not been wrong as I had feared. It had been difficult, but not for nothing! We had a joyful journey that dark night. From time to time he stopped the car and we had a time of prayer. I confessed my sin before the Lord. I wanted to start the work in the next place cleansed and sanctified. I had to confess to the Lord that I had been hurt in my pride, that I had had self-pity, that I was discouraged and had a critical spirit in my heart. The spirit of sorrow had been on the throne. What a joy to bring everything to the Lord, because when we confess our

sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins! This experience had been an exercise to get smaller. I had made a mistake when, in my enthusiasm, I offered too quickly to go to that mental institution. We must not make plans if we are not in the presence of the Lord. That is why prayer time gives the best atmosphere to plan a program.

Once I read a legend: Peter and the other disciples of Jesus went with the Lord on a long journey. Everything went too slowly for Peter and he walked on alone. Then he came to a road where it was dangerous because of wild animals and robbers. Peter found himself in danger. He hid behind a rock and waited until the others came. Then he said to Jesus: "I was afraid; I was in danger. There are wild animals and robbers here." Jesus looked at him very kindly and said: "Peter, you must never go ahead of Me. You must always remain by My side, then you are safe."



Victory through the Blood of Jesus

Now they have conquered him through the blood of the Lamb, and through the Word to which they bore witness. They did not cherish life even in the face of death!" (Revelation 12:11 PHILLIPS). Yes, the blood of Jesus Christ has great power!

There is perhaps not a word in the Bible that is so full of secret truths as the blood of Jesus. It is the secret of His incarnation, when Jesus took our flesh and blood; the secret of His obedience unto death, when He gave His blood at the cross of Calvary; the secret of His love that went beyond all understanding, when He bought us with His blood; the secret of His victory over the enemy; and the secret of our eternal salvation. Why does the devil hate this word? Because it reminds him of his defeat on Calvary by the death of Jesus who gave His blood for us, but also because it reminds him of Jesus, the resurrected One, to whom we always may come with our sins. That is why the devil is afraid of it. The blood of Jesus Christ has great power.

Once I visited a big prison in Manila. It was a hotbed of sin. There were seven thousand prisoners. I had an

opportunity to speak there during three afternoons and when I entered I noticed that above the door was written: "Security limit." I asked what that meant and was told that when anyone entered this prison he had to go at his own risk in the midst of a big group of criminals, because there were only a very few guards. I looked into my heart to see if I was afraid—and yes, I must admit that indeed there was much fear! But, what could I do? I knew that I was in the way of the Lord, so I had to obey! When I came to the inner court, a great surprise was waiting for me: There was a band of musicians of about ninety men! When they saw me, they started to play: "There is power, power, wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb!" All my fear disappeared. There is no reason to be afraid when a child of God is under the protection of the blood of the Lamb, the blood of Jesus. God gave us a very great blessing. Three times I reached seven thousand men with the help of a loudspeaker. I reached them with the rich gospel, the glad tidings for sinners.



Victory through the Name of Jesus

The name of Jesus is wonderful! Once I heard a story of a sick lady in Germany. A friend asked her: "Do you know it is written in the Bible that Jesus said: 'They will lay their hands upon the sick and they will recover'?" Then he read Mark 16 and asked: "Do you believe the Bible?"

"Yes," she said, "I believe the whole Bible."

Then he simply did it. In the name of Jesus he laid his hands on her and she was healed.

She was so happy that she went to her pastor and said: "Did you know that that text in Mark 16:18 is in the Bible?"

The pastor's answer was: "I am so sorry, but I must tell you that that part of Mark 16 was added to the Bible long, long afterwards."

One moment she was very disappointed, but suddenly her eyes started to beam with joy and she said: "What a wonderful Book is the Bible, that even an added promise has so much power that I was healed!"

Yes, when we believe the rich treasures of the Bible, we experience that God, who gave us all these promises,

really keeps them. The name of Jesus is a wonderful name. The Bible does not only teach us that we *can* pray in this name, but that we *should* pray in Jesus' name. Once I heard a very good example of this from my friend William Nagenda, an African brother. He told me about a letter that his wife wrote him when he was abroad. Their little boy, age three, asked: "Mummy, what are you doing?"

"I am writing a letter to daddy."

"I will write a letter to daddy too."

She gave him a piece of paper and a pencil and then he made all kinds of scrawls. "This is my letter to daddy," the boy said. The mother wrote under all these scrawls: "This is Christopher's letter to his daddy."

When William took this letter from the envelope, he first wanted to throw it away, but then he saw what was written on it: "This is Christopher's letter to his daddy." Suddenly he felt very proud and he asked his friend: "Have you a boy of three?"

"Yes."

"Has he ever written you a letter?"

"No, of course not."

"My son has written me a letter," and he showed him the paper with all the scrawls. He was very proud. Why did he set so much value on that letter? Because his wife had explained what those scrawls meant.

When we pray, it doesn't matter whether it is a beautiful prayer, or a prayer from our prayer book, or perhaps just a cry of distress directed to the Lord. It is never good enough for the holy God; but when we say: "In the name of Jesus," then it is just as if Jesus says: "Father, this is a prayer from your child, Mary, John, Charles . . .," and then the heavenly Father is delighted with our prayer! That

prayer is sanctified by the name of Jesus. Therefore, use this name! Not the name “Christ”; that is His title. The name that is above every name in heaven or on earth is the name Jesus, Savior! He is our strength. “In no one else can salvation be found. For in all the world no other name has been given to men but this, and it is by this name that we must be saved!” (Acts 4:12 PHILLIPS).

That name brings heaven and earth together. One cannot overestimate the value of that name in the great final battle.



Victory through the Holy Spirit

You are to be given power when the Holy Spirit has come to you. You will be witnesses to me, not only in Jerusalem, not only throughout Judaea, not only in Samaria, but to the very ends of the earth!" (Acts 1:8 PHILLIPS). This power of the Holy Spirit is of tremendous value to us. The Bible says: "Be filled with the Spirit!" In Haarlem lives a woman who started a prayer meeting in her room. Her brother had not much faith about it and said: "You will never succeed!" But the day after, she told him: "My room was full up!"

"All right, but just wait and see what happens next week!"

But the next time she said: "My room was even fuller." And the third time: "Now it was fuller still!"

Her brother said: "That is impossible; when your room is full, it cannot be fuller."

"Oh, yes," she said. "Every week we took some more furniture out of the room."

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, then another step may be necessary. It is possible that some furniture must be removed from the heart: television, some books,

friendships, personal hobbies, everything that can hinder us from following Jesus Christ. We can clear out still more for Jesus, so that we can give more room to the Holy Spirit. My glove cannot do anything by itself, but when my hand is in the glove, it can do a great deal. It can even cook, write, and do many things! I know that it is not the glove, but the hand in the glove. When I put only one finger in the glove, then it cannot do anything! So it is with us. We are gloves; the Holy Spirit is the hand which can do everything, but we must give Him room right into the outer corners of our lives. Then we can expect that He can do a lot in and through us. In John 14:17 it is written: "He is with you now and will be in your hearts" (PHILLIPS). "So, if you, for all your evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more likely is it that your Heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13 PHILLIPS).

John the Baptist had said already: "The one who comes after me . . . will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matthew 3:11 NEB). Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit and therefore the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the birthright of every child of God.

Gifts of the Spirit

A missionary in China had to endure brainwashing. He resisted and fought against it, but the moment came when he felt he was at the end of his strength. Then he started to pray in tongues. That fellowship with the Lord, in absolute relaxation, was his salvation. The enemy could not influence his mind any longer. I believe that the Lord has given this gift at this time to many of His children in

many different churches and groups, because it is a strong weapon and will prove to be so in the final battle. It is a fact that nothing has received so much criticism and opposition, even among believing Christians, as has this gift, which is described so clearly in the Word of God. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:5: "I should indeed like you all to speak with 'tongues'" (PHILLIPS). The "God is dead" theology and occultism, which are practiced even by Christians, receive less criticism and resistance, yes, and even enmity, than this gift from the Spirit. Mother Basilea, the leader of the "Sisters of Mary" in Darmstadt, has said:

"We need the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the end-time, which is the period in which the promise for the Church will be more fully realized. The Church needs in a much stronger degree the powers and the gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in the battle against the satanic powers, against the Antichrist himself. That is why there is given a special promise of the Holy Spirit for the end-time. In the prophecies of the Old Testament, the coming of the Holy Spirit on earth and for the people of Israel was a special sign of the end-time. Of this time it is written: 'Until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high . . .' (Isaiah 32:15). 'And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh' (Joel 2:28). We cannot comprehend how the Holy Spirit works and acts. He even gives gifts to people who have only just accepted Jesus as their Savior. He continues to work in their hearts and He sees to it that these gifts will be used in the right way by bringing them into a healthy inward attitude, step by step, until the image of Jesus Christ is formed in us. He equips us with gifts and power. He also sees to it, as we read in the Book of Acts, that we humble ourselves

over and over again and fight against sin. He creates burning desire within us, to follow after *agape* love more and more, and to achieve the full power of Jesus Christ through this inner attitude of the Spirit, in love. All this we owe to the Holy Spirit, who in His grace grants us these gifts; who leads us, admonishes us and convinces us; who wages war in us against the flesh; who prays and pleads. He is the life-giving Spirit, who renews us and fills our lives with prayer, and with fire to be His witnesses and to confess Jesus Christ.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit in This Time

“In the Acts of the Apostles we see that the kingdom of God, the Church of Jesus Christ, was built through the work of the Holy Spirit, His fruit and His gifts. The Word of God shows us that there is no substitute for the gifts of the Spirit. They were not only for that time, but also for today. The good Shepherd will give to His own a life which reveals His Spirit and power. For this equipment is necessary for the life of the Church, in her battle against the powers of darkness now, as in those days. Through the gifts, the Head of the Body gives power to its members, to resist deceiving spirits in every form. Also at this time, He gives her the gift of discernment of spirits, when new and deceiving powers are threatening the Church. He also gives her the gift of faith and of the working of miracles, when we stand today threatened by nuclear war. When the evidence of the unfolding of the power of the Antichrist becomes visible, then the Lord gives to His Church, through the gift of wisdom, the right word for this situation. The first Christian church, which was brought to life in an unusual way through the creating

power of the Holy Spirit, needed the gifts of the Spirit to be built up. How much more do we need the gifts of the Spirit in this time in our churches and groups, where life is so often absent! One appeals to tradition and habits and refuses to acknowledge the truth which the Bible teaches us: 'The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life' (2 Corinthians 3:6). But this Spirit does not reveal Himself apart from the gifts of grace. The 'letter,' as the apostle writes, that is to say, pious human effort to understand and grasp the Word of God, cannot be a substitute for these. Only the Spirit can give light. Only He can touch the heart. Only He can lead us to repentance, humility and reconciliation. The Spirit alone makes us understand the signs of the times and He shows us that we have to stand in the gap for a world that is doomed to destruction.

"Only the life-giving Spirit who gives His gifts can prepare the Church for the coming of the Lord. Real church life, as we see it in the Book of Acts, is inconceivable without the work of the Holy Spirit and His gifts. For the believers in the first church this was self-evident, because they had all received the Holy Spirit. And why should it be any different today? The New Testament considers the functioning of the gifts of the Spirit as an organic result and a self-evident phenomenon accompanying the receiving and working of the Holy Spirit. In the Bible you cannot find one single place that gives us any indication that the gifts of the Spirit were only necessary for the apostolic times. The slow 'drying up' of the stream of the gifts of the Spirit in the post-apostolic period (there has always been a little trickle) is not in accordance with the biblical and historical plan of God's salvation. We must seek the reason for this in lack of faith and in the

backsliding of the Church. Lack of alertness, obedience and faith can make it impossible for Christ to speak as intimately and as wonderfully as ‘in the days of her youth’ (Hosea 2:15).

“The gifts of the Spirit have a function which cannot be replaced by anything else. The gifts are a sign of a further penetrating work of Christ, out of the matchlessness of eternity into this poor world. Since the triune God has been declared dead by some, we need evidence that He lives! People must be confronted today with the reality of the Holy Spirit, who in truth glorifies the Father and the Son, when He gives people His gifts, such as the gifts of faith, of working miracles and of healing, in love; for through these the greatness and the omnipotence of God shines as a light. Testimonies of the life of the Holy Spirit in the Church of Jesus Christ are very necessary today. Therefore we need men and women who are full of the Spirit, in whom the gifts of grace are active. Such people can show the world that God is alive. Also through the gifts of healing, Jesus glorifies Himself today. Jesus once performed miracles of healing to show that the power and the works of the devil are destroyed, and that His kingdom is coming: ‘He went about doing good and healing all who suffered from the devil’s power—because God was with him’ (Acts 10:38 PHILLIPS).

“This gift of healing is promised to all who believe in Him (Mark 16:18), and particularly to the elders. We must always be prepared to lay on hands (James 5:14), because as a matter of fact every sick person in the church has to be brought first to Jesus, for He says: ‘Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden.’

“So we must measure the value of the gifts in accordance with what is written in Holy Scripture, where they

are shown to be important. We must not measure their value incorrectly, or underestimate their importance, because in some cases they have been misused. There have also been false prophets, and sometimes there has been the misuse of the gifts of healing and of tongues. To question or deny their value would be denying the evidence of the Bible. When the Holy Scripture says: 'Desire spiritual gifts' (1 Corinthians 14:1), then we cannot substitute for it 'Keep away from the gifts of the Spirit,' or 'Fight against them,' simply because there have been false prophets and prophecies which have possibly been straight from the devil. We can only fight against the misuse, never against the gifts themselves.

"What a responsibility! God offers to His Church these gifts, but on condition that we must pray for them. Very often we do not do that, and therefore we are so poor and in want. So we become guilty of the lives of many people who perhaps could have found the way to Jesus, if the gifts had been active. For God uses not only the preaching of the Word, but He also uses today all the gifts which the Word of God promises us, so that He will be glorified by them, the Church built up, and those who stand far off come to believe in Him. This also applies to the gift of speaking in tongues. Should the Holy Spirit, who is still the same, suddenly let one of His gifts of grace disappear, when Jesus Himself mentioned it as one of the signs that should follow believers? It is just this gift, which gives us words to worship Him, when the words of our human language are not sufficient, because the glory and the love of God are so great, that our mother tongue does not have the words to express it. But the Holy Spirit Himself 'maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered' (Romans 8:26). He, who is the only

One who can fathom the depths of God, gives us words of adoration of the all-mighty, holy, eternal God, whose Being we can never understand. We praise Him in these new tongues, languages which are given through the Spirit.”

Thus Mother Basilea has spoken. And what joy that the Holy Spirit gives us even God’s own love in our hearts (Romans 5:5), for gifts without love are nothing.

If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no love, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 PHILLIPS



Victory through Yielding

Are you prepared for the coming of Jesus? Am I prepared for the coming of Jesus? It is so wonderful that it is written so clearly in the Bible—it is only by full surrender that we are made ready for His coming again. If it depended on us, then one day we would be successful, but the next day just the opposite. William Nagenda, an evangelist from Uganda, has given us a very good example of what surrender means. He told that one day he arrived home after a long trip. There his little son of three stood at the station waiting for him.

“Daddy, I will carry your suitcase,” he said.

William did not want to disappoint him and said: “All right, put your hand on my hand.”

So they went on their way and the little boy kept his weak little hand on the strong hand of his father. They came home and the little boy said: “Mummy, I carried Daddy’s suitcase.”

So it is with us. Our hands are not strong enough, but when we lay our weak hand on the strong hand of Jesus, then He Himself prepares us for His coming again. We must not forget “that the One who has begun his good work in you will go on developing it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6 PHILLIPS).

We shall not be so ignorant as the little boy and say: "I carried the suitcase!" We shall honor the Lord for all this. We shall see Jesus face to face, and it is important whether we shall see Him as our Judge or as our Redeemer. Have you put your weak hand on the strong hand of your Savior? Do you believe that Jesus can help you? Paul says: "For I know the one in whom I have placed my confidence, and I am perfectly certain that the work he has committed to me is safe in his hands until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12 PHILLIPS).

There is still a tremendous struggle and fight, but the moment comes when our sanctification is complete. In 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13 it is written that this will really happen: "May the Lord give you the same increasing and overflowing love for each other and toward all men as we have toward you. May he establish you, holy and blameless in heart and soul, before himself, the Father of us all" (PHILLIPS). Yes, the best is yet to be! One day there will be an end to the battle. Then there will be the victory, victory through Jesus Christ! "May the God of peace make you holy through and through. May you be kept in soul and mind and body in spotless integrity until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23 PHILLIPS).

Full surrender also includes our mistakes and errors. Once, somebody visited a weavers' school. He asked one of the pupils: "What do you do when you have made a mistake? Can you cut it out, or must you start again from the very beginning?"

The pupil said: "No, our teacher is such a great artist that when we make a mistake, he uses that to increase the beauty of the pattern."

That is what Jesus does with us! Our feeling of inferiority is really pride, because we will not accept that

our ability is limited. We want to be better than we really are.

But it is so wonderful that when we acknowledge our mistakes, the Lord sometimes uses them to His honor. I remember that when I was in Japan the first time, I had the problem that to me most Japanese looked alike. That lasted about a month. One finds that when a Japanese comes to our country, he thinks the same. But I found it difficult. Once I had to lead a Bible study group for students. During the meeting I saw someone entering the room. I thought: "Oh, that is the director of the Bible school!" But he was not; he was a professor of a non-Christian university. When I had finished my talk I asked this man: "Will you close this meeting with prayer?"

The professor was startled: "I have never prayed before."

Then I saw my mistake. I recognized him and said: "Oh, that does not matter; I will do it, Professor."

But Japanese people are very polite and after the meeting he came to me, bowed very deeply, and said: "I am so sorry that I could not comply with your request, but I do not know how to pray."

"I have a great deal of respect for you, Professor, because you have not done it. If you had been a superficial man, then perhaps you might have said a prayer without believing it. It was very good that you did not do it." Then I asked: "But why are you not a Christian?"

"Then I should first have to study Christianity."

"It is not written in my Bible: 'To him who studies Christianity God gives power to become a child of God,' but rather 'As many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God' (John 1:12)."

Then I started to show him the way of salvation. But

while I preached the gospel to him, I prayed quietly in my heart. Someone who is counseling must always have at the same moment the horizontal and the vertical connections at work. After half an hour this professor came to the decision that made the angels in heaven rejoice, the decision for Jesus! Here you see how the Lord used the mistake of foolish Corrie ten Boom to give this man the opportunity to be saved for eternity. This professor had a strategically important position in the University of Tokyo. Of course, we cannot make a system of this. Not everyone who goes to India discovers America! But by all means we must lay our failures in the hands of the Lord. When there is total surrender, then we walk relaxed at the hand of the Savior.

Part 3



*Equipment for
Active Service*

11



Love

When I was in a concentration camp during the last war, we had to stand every day for two or three hours for roll call, often in the icy cold wind. That was something terrible. Once a woman guard used these hours to demonstrate her cruelty. I could hardly bear to see and hear what happened in front of me. Suddenly a skylark started to sing high in the sky. We all looked up, and when I looked to the sky and listened to its song, I looked still higher and thought of Psalm 103:11: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him" (RSV). Suddenly I saw that this love of God was a greater reality than the cruelty that I experienced myself and saw around me. "Oh, the love of God, how deep and great, far deeper than man's deepest hate." God sent that skylark every day for three weeks, just at the time of roll call, to give us an opportunity to turn away our eyes from the cruelty of men to the ocean of God's love. This love is a protection as well as a weapon. It guards us against impatience, against zeal without sense, against annoyance, against bitterness, against gloating. It is a very strong weapon in the battle to win souls, for it never gives in. It is slow to lose patience, it looks for a way of being constructive, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails. Love knows no limit to its

endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen (1 Corinthians 13).

How do we get that strong love? It is the Holy Spirit who gives us that love (Romans 5:5).

The First Love

When I had been wandering around the world as a “tramp for the Lord” for twenty years, I suddenly fell ill. The doctor said to me: “If you continue with this work, then you will stand it only for one more year; but if you go on furlough for a year, then you can perhaps work for another ten years.” I consulted my “Employer,” my Savior, and He said very clearly that this advice of the doctor was in His plan. I could live during that “Sabbath year” in Lweza, a beautiful house in Uganda. It is a house with a nice park around it. The climate is ideal. Nature is so matchless. There one has a view from the garden over Lake Victoria. I could work there a little bit. There are many universities, churches, prisons, and groups in Kampala, the nearby town. So, with two or three meetings every week, my spirit remained active. But sleeping every night in the same bed gave me a great rest during that time. During these last twenty years I have slept perhaps in more than a thousand different beds.

In November the “Sabbath year” had gone by. Conny, my fellow worker, and I put the world map on my bed to make plans for a whole year. Our method is always the same; first we listen to what God’s plan is and then we sign it. We will be “planned” by Him. It became a very good program: three months in different countries in Africa, two months in America, three months in Eastern

Europe behind the Iron Curtain. But my heart did not rejoice. When I was alone I said to the Lord: "I prefer to stay here. There is so much to do in Kampala and Entebbe, the two nearest cities. I will work for You, I am willing to have meetings every day, pastoral care, writing books, but please, let me sleep every night in the same bed. Everyone can understand that I, at my age, should take it a bit easier." I was then seventy-three. This new plan of mine made me really happy.

Then Conny called me; there was a visitor. It was an African minister from Rwanda. He started immediately to welcome me: "We are so glad that you are willing to come to Rwanda again. Five years ago you helped us so marvelously when you told what the Lord had been to you in your great need. You said at that time: 'It was not my faith that helped me through three prisons. My faith was weak and was often wavering. It was the Lord Himself who carried me through. He promised: "I am with you all the days." I have always believed, but now I know from experience that Jesus' light is stronger than the deepest darkness. It is good that I can tell you that. If you should meet great difficulties, then you could say: "I have not Corrie ten Boom's faith," but when it is Jesus, then you can trust that the same Savior who helped Corrie ten Boom will also carry you through.'"

The African brother continued: "That was all very interesting to me, but I had never been in prison. For many of us it was just a bit of theory, but in these five years there has been civil war in our country. Many of us have been in prison. I myself was for two years in a cell. Then we remembered everything you had said and it was a great comfort to us. That is why we are so happy that you are now coming again to Rwanda."

But I was not happy at all. His words were different from what I wanted. It is always good in such a situation to ask a question yourself. Then you can lead the conversation in another direction. That is why I asked: “How is the church in Rwanda? What kind of message do they need now?” Without hesitating one moment the brother opened his Bible and read:

Write this to the angel of the Church in Ephesus:

These words are spoken by the one who holds the seven stars safe in his right hand, and who walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know what you have done; I know how hard you have worked and what you have endured. I know that you will not tolerate wicked men, that you have put to the test self-styled “apostles,” who are nothing of the sort, and have found them to be liars. I know your powers of endurance—how you have suffered for the sake of my name and have not grown weary. But I hold this against you, that you do not love as you did at first. Remember then how far you have fallen. Repent and live as you lived at first. Otherwise, if your heart remains unchanged, I shall come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation 2:1–6 PHILLIPS

This arrow penetrated my heart. Not only Rwanda, not only the church of Ephesus, but also Corrie ten Boom needed this message! I had lost my first love. Twenty years before I had come out of a concentration camp, starved, weak, but in my heart there was a burning love; love for the Lord, who had carried me through so

faithfully; love for the people around me, a longing to tell them—Jesus is a reality, He lives, He is Victor, I know it from experience! I went to Germany and lived in the midst of ruins. I was interested in winning souls for eternity, to glorify the Lord, so that everyone should hear: We can never fall so deeply, always deeper are the everlasting arms that carry us.

Yes, that was at that time, and now? Now I was interested in my bed. I had lost my first love. Then I read Revelation 2:5, “. . . except thou repent.” Suddenly joy came in my heart. I saw that the door to repentance was wide open! I could bring my sin, my cold heart, to Him who is faithful and just (1 John 1:7, 9). I did it; I confessed my sins and asked for forgiveness. And then happened what always happens when we bring a sin to God in the name of Jesus: He forgave me. Jesus cleansed my heart with His blood, and a heart which is cleansed by the blood of Jesus, He fills with the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love! Not my first love, but a much greater love; God’s love was poured out into my heart. I went again on my journeys. What a great joy it was to experience the love of God, who gave me rivers of living water for the thirsty world of Africa, America, and Eastern Europe. Of course, it can be the will of God that old people retire from their work, and in great thankfulness to the Lord enjoy their pensions, but for me the way of obedience is to travel on, although not as much as before.

The doctor has allowed me to work for seventy percent of the time. In this time we must be vigilant. Jesus has warned us in Matthew 24:12 that the love of most men waxes cold, because iniquity abounds. It is very easy to belong to the “most men,” but the gate of conversion is wide open. Hallelujah!

Love for the Enemy

When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, He Himself gives us the love that He demands from us.

In Africa I visited the cell of a young man who was sentenced to death. His hands were chained and his dark skin had many red wounds, caused by lashes. Behind me stood three soldiers. The cell was absolutely empty; only a plank on the floor and high up in the wall a very little window. The prisoner looked very healthy and strong. The tragedy that this man had to die overwhelmed me.

I sat down beside him and prayed for a word from the Lord. "Have you ever heard of the cross of Jesus Christ, where He carried the sins of the whole world, also your sins?" He nodded. "Do you believe in Jesus Christ, that He will be your Savior too?"

"Yes, I love Him, but I have not always been faithful. Politics have taken up my time and attention completely, but now I have brought all my sins to Jesus. He has forgiven me. If I may live any longer, then I will serve Him with all my life."

"Have you forgiven the people that have brought you here, who have your death on their conscience?"

"No, I hate them."

"I can understand that. I will tell you one of my experiences. During the war in Holland, I helped to save Jewish people, because Hitler wanted to kill them. One day a man came to me who told me that his wife had also helped the Jews and that now she had been arrested. 'She is in the police station and probably she will be put to death. Now there is a policeman who is willing to let her escape, if we pay him six hundred guilders, but I have no money,' he told me. 'I can help you,' I said. 'Come back

in an hour.' In the meantime I collected all the money from my friends and all I had myself, and it was exactly six hundred guilders. I gave it to him to save the life of his wife. But he was a betrayer. His wife was not arrested at all. The enemy had told him to find out whether I helped Jewish people. So this man thought that at the same time he could make some money out of this situation. He went home with six hundred guilders in his pocket. But five minutes later the enemy came and my whole family was arrested. Later, when I heard that this man had betrayed us, hatred came into my heart, just as it happened with you. I had given him the last money that I had. But then I read in the Bible that hatred is really murder in God's eyes (Matthew 5:21–22).

"How glad I was that I knew what I could do against hatred. 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. . . . If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:7, 9). I brought my hatred to Jesus. He forgave me and cleansed my heart with His blood. After the war this betrayer was sentenced to death. I wrote to him: 'What you have done through your betrayal caused the death of my eighty-four-year-old father, my brother, his son, and my sister in prison. I myself have terribly suffered through your fault, but I have forgiven you everything. This is just a very little example of the forgiveness and love of Jesus. He lives in my heart; that is why I can forgive you. Jesus will also come into your heart and will make you a child of God. Confess your sins to Him. On the cross of Calvary He has finished all for your sins and mine.' Later he wrote me: 'I have prayed: "Jesus, when You can give such a love for the enemy in the heart of someone who follows You, then

there is hope for me.” I have indeed confessed my sins to Him. Now I know that I am a child of God, cleansed by the blood of Jesus.’

“So you see that Jesus used me to save the soul of this same man I had hated so much. Do you know that if you do not forgive, you yourself do not receive forgiveness? Jesus said: ‘For if you forgive other people their failures, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you will not forgive other people, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive you your failures’ (Matthew 6:14–16 PHILLIPS). You cannot do that, neither can I, but Jesus can!” The same day the prisoner sent a message to his wife: “Forgive my murderers. You are not able to do it, I am not able, but Jesus is able. If we are not willing, then we ourselves do not receive forgiveness.”

When Jesus comes and we have bitterness, yes, even hatred in our hearts, then we are not ready to meet Him with a clean heart: “Everyone who has at heart a hope like that keeps himself pure, for he knows how pure Christ is” (1 John 3:3 PHILLIPS).

In the time of the final battle, many will be filled with hatred. If we are not cleansed from bitterness, then we do not stand on victory ground. It is very easy to belong to the masses of people. It is one of the laws of the kingdom of God that men receive peace only if they are always ready to forgive unreservedly. We never touch the love of God so much as when we love our enemies. “The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5). He does the job. Hallelujah!



Fellowship of the Saints

Make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ. So that . . . I may know that you are standing fast in a united spirit, battling with a single mind for the faith of the Gospel” (Philippians 1:27 PHILLIPS). When there is no unity in an army, one cannot expect victory. We need the fellowship of the saints. The fruit of the Spirit of Galatians 5:22 makes the fellowship of the children of God a joyful possibility. In this battle it is very essential that we are one in spirit with the other soldiers in the army of Jesus Christ.

We do not need to agree with each other about all doctrines, but through the gift of discernment of the spirits we can find out with whom we can be united in the battle and with whom we cannot. I believe that the Lord is willing to give at this time the discernment of the spirits to his children, because it is a necessary part of our armor. We *must* be able to discern the spirits. That is why the Holy Spirit equips us with this power. The Bible tells us that in this time many will try to deceive us, yes, if it were possible, even the very elect (Matthew 24:24).

I am so glad that there is written: “If it were possible.” Yes, the Lord protects us from the great danger of being deceived. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the love and

the wisdom to have discernment of the spirits instead of criticism. Criticism is a great danger in our country. Loveless criticism by a believer nearly ruins the other believer being criticized. But on the other hand, we must clearly discern what is from the devil and what is from the Holy Spirit. We have to exercise ourselves. The devil is not always a roaring lion; he can also be very “pious,” and then it is difficult to discern. But it is such a joy that we have a “blank check.” In James 1:5 is written: “And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God—who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty—and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him” (PHILLIPS). He gives it. So we can go through life as wise people, because His wisdom gives us open ears and eyes.

By the fruit we know the tree. If there is confusion and lovelessness and a spirit of criticism, then we know that the enemy has been busy. But if there is love, if there is a longing to save souls, if there is spiritual activity and joy in prayer and Bible reading, then we know that the Holy Spirit has been at work. “If we really are living in the same light in which he eternally exists, then we have true fellowship with each other” (1 John 1:7 PHILLIPS).

As soon as we come in contact with other people, we detect the weak points of ourselves and of the others, and then it is such a joy that at the end of this text is written: “The blood which He shed for us keeps us clean from any and every sin.” The finished work at the cross is our salvation. When Jesus died there, He carried the sins of the whole world. That is why we can bring our sins directly to Him and He cleanses us. When the blood of Jesus cleanses us, He does it completely. We can walk in light

because He is in the light, and not because we have the light in ourselves.

You and I can walk in the light because Jesus lives, because Jesus is Victor, and because we can expect all from Him. We are like the moon, not like the sun. The sun has light from itself, the moon only reflects the light. God educates us through our fellowship with others.

Sometimes we need a little grindstone to polish our character. By nature my heart is proud. Besides this, all over the world so much love is shown to me and I am held in high esteem by so many everywhere, that there is a great danger of becoming "somebody." Then I must decrease, and therefore the Lord uses fellow Christians. I had started a work for which I had a great love in my heart, but my friends, who in fact carried out this work for me because I was always traveling, could not agree with the aim and with my way of bringing the gospel. Then they asked me to withdraw and to give them free hand. I became angry and bitterness came into my heart. I confessed it immediately to the Lord and He took it away; I could forgive my friends. But during the night I awoke and my first thought was how had it been possible that my friends had been so unkind, had behaved almost like enemies. Then I saw that in fact my heart was not yet free. Again I immediately confessed it to the Lord. I thought I had the victory, but the next night it came again. Is this because one does not carry the armor of God consciously during the night? Does the enemy know that when we are asleep we are not ready for battle? It is necessary that in the evening before we go to sleep our whole being and also our subconsciousness is cleansed and that we fully surrender to Him so that there is not a single starting point left for the enemy.

I complained about it to the Lord: “Why am I still so angry? I have experienced that You gave me grace to forgive even those who murdered my family during the war. I have always been able to preach to other people that when You tell us to love our enemies, You give us the love that You require from us. Why is there still bitterness in my heart? Lord, when I remember how often You have forgiven me in more than seventy years of life, why is it difficult for me to forgive this? Lord, this is a problem, for I know that if I do not forgive, You will not forgive me.” Then I became quiet.

That same day I heard a good illustration. When someone has been ringing the church bells—bim-bam, bim-bam—there comes the moment when he stops, no matter whether it is done electrically or by hand. But after that there often comes another bim-bam, then again a bim, then again a bam, and perhaps still a few times more. But he does not worry about that, because he knows that there has come an end to the bell-ringing, and very soon the bim-bams will stop. So it is also with the bitterness one has brought to the Lord. Bim-bams can come back, but then we must simply bring them again to the Lord. He is Victor, and soon He makes it possible by the Holy Spirit that instead of being annoyed, we love those who have sinned against us. When other people make it hard for us, then we must pray that the Lord will use this for our sanctification. Pray for them and love them as the Holy Spirit in us loves them. Then this becomes a practical training for the victory of the final battle. This experience has helped me to counsel many other people who had to resist the same temptations. I was not able to do it, but Jesus was Victor. He gave it to me. That helped them to turn their eyes in the right

direction to look on high. I have learned still more. I have seen that my heart was too much tied to this work. I would not give in because my sister Betsie had inspired me to start it, for what God had told her at that time in the concentration camp had become my mission later on.

So I had to learn not to live out of the past, but to be obedient to the vocation I had to fulfill now. The Lord also sets us free from the bonds of the good past. If we will follow Jesus in all things, then we go the way of the cross and this includes too that very often we are not understood even by our own friends. The Lord gives grace to be able to accept fully this being misunderstood. When I get bitter feelings against my friends, then I pray to the Lord Jesus to take up my thoughts. In my imagination I have a talk with Him and my friends together. Then He gives His love and peace, and all bitterness disappears out of my heart. This experience has made me richer and stronger.

When Jesus was arrested there were three reactions among the disciples. Peter struck out and the ear of Malchus was cut off; several disciples ran away; John remained behind with Jesus and suffered with Him. Cross-bearing means to suffer with Jesus. So we may fill up in our daily lives “that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in [our] flesh” (Colossians 1:24). It is not my job to persuade my friends, only the Holy Spirit convicts of sins. We have only to deal with our own sins and we must pray: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23–24).



Devotion in Service

The time of training is a time of active service. When we know that we are in an important battle and also know that this battle will be victorious, then there is a radiance on all our daily adventures. These experiences need not be extraordinary, but one sees all kinds of work as a part of the victory and the building of the kingdom of God.

My father often said: “My name is on the shop, but it would be proper to have God’s name on the window. I am a watchmaker by the grace of God. It is God’s watchmaker’s shop.” When we start to see more or less everything from God’s point of view, then we always seek and find opportunities to help others.

In Brazil lives a very simple woman. She loves the Lord. Her friends went every week to a women’s prison to take the gospel through preaching, singing, and counseling. She could not take part in this for she could not do such things, but she had love in her heart! One thing she knew very well—baking cakes. She suggested to her friends that she go with them and take a cake with her. I got an invitation to speak there and I will never forget it. All the women in this prison came. The beginning was not pleasant. We were searched by the guards, our bags were

opened, they fingered our clothes in case we had hidden something. But after that the women who had come with me started to sing hymns and I brought the Word. Then, when we were through with everything the moment came that seemed to be the climax for the prisoners.

Our friend brought in the cake she had made. She had taken a knife with her and cut the cake in many little pieces. Then she had also brought along little pieces of paper in many different colors. Every piece of cake was nicely packed and offered to the women. In the love of her heart she had understood what colors mean for prisoners. It was a feast, a real feast; everyone was happy. People laughed, everyone was kind to one another and when we went, we left these women with a blessing in their hearts. Poor stranded lives, murderesses and thieves, but they had heard the Word of God and they had experienced the love of God through the kindness of this simple woman! Every week she does that and the women know and count on it, that after the preaching of the gospel this little treat comes too. Yes, everyone can work in this training time. This simple, faithful woman will one day hear: "I was in prison and you came to Me and gave Me cake."

Chain Reactions

In Australia I was at a very big meeting and at the end I invited the people who wanted to be saved to come forward. The first who came were two little girls. I had told the people that they could go to a room behind the altar, but these children had not understood that. They stopped in front of me, and one asked with a very clear little voice,

so that everyone in the church heard: “Am I too small to ask Jesus to come into my heart?”

“No, not at all. Jesus was interested even in sparrows and you are much bigger than a sparrow! Jesus said: ‘Let the little children come unto me!’ I myself was five years old when I asked Jesus to come into my heart and He came in and He has never left me.”

Then the little girl said aloud, so that the whole church could hear it: “Lord Jesus, I have been very naughty. Will You come into my heart and cleanse it with Your blood?” And Jesus came in.

That is what He said in Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him.” And it is just as certain that He will come in, when you, who read this, open your heart’s door to Him. He does not ask: “What is your age?”

I said to the other girl: “Will you do the same?”

Then the little one said: “I did it three weeks ago, and after that I prayed every day for Betty, and now Betty has done it!”

“Then you must pray together for a third girl.”

They looked at each other very thoughtfully and said at the same moment: “Anne. That must be Anne!” And then they promised to pray for Anne, until the Lord would knock at her heart and when Anne had opened her heart for Jesus, they would pray together with Anne for a fourth girl and so on.

This is the chain reaction of the gospel which started in the hearts of two little girls, who were perhaps not yet eight years old. This chain reaction of intercession can start in everyone’s heart, and so everyone can cooperate to prepare the coming of the Lord Jesus, now today!

Then there was the youth group in Invercargill to which I spoke. It was a tremendously blessed evening; the Holy Spirit worked in hearts. There were about thirty young people. A year later I came back. I met the minister and asked how his youth group was going on.

“Oh,” he said, “it goes very well. Will you please speak to them again? They meet tonight.”

I went, but when I entered the hall, I said: “I will be very happy to bring a message here, but I had meant a different group. There are about two hundred young people here. I meant that group of thirty, but it does not matter at all.”

“But this *is* the same group,” they said. “When the Holy Spirit began to work in our hearts, we got a real longing to win souls. One evening a week we came together for Bible study and intercession. Everyone could mention a name of a friend or someone who did not know the Lord yet. But then they had to speak to them about the Lord Jesus in the course of that same week. When that other person came to know the Lord, then he or she was invited to come also. But this person had sometimes three or four other people to pray for, and so it worked like a snowball that became bigger and bigger. Now there are more than two hundred. Several of them have gone to Bible school!”

What God can do with the life of one person who understands that he is a little part of the kingdom of God, at a time in which we can expect that Jesus comes soon! God has a plan. The “fullness of the Gentiles” must come. And when the last of them comes to faith, then it is the fullness of time. Everyone who is used by the Lord to bring other people to Him cooperates to prepare the second coming of the Lord and to hasten it.



Faithfulness

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools" (Ecclesiastes 5:4). To be a conqueror it is very important to remain faithful. It is good to ask yourself: "Did I ever vow to God, and then not keep it?" Have you ever been singing with your whole heart after an inspiring talk: "Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my silver and my gold; take my moments and my days . . ."?

Have you ever said to the Lord: "I will go to the place where you send me, even to the mission field"? Did you then go to your work again without paying any attention to the marching orders of the Master? Did you then allow that promise just to disappear out of your heart?

Have you ever promised to give your tithes to the Lord? Did you ever tell Him that you would never speak negatively about other people and never exaggerate? Have you ever said any of these things to the Lord and not done them? Then you are not faithful.

In Revelation 2:10 is written: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (RSV).

In Judges 6 the story of Gideon begins. He was really very small even in his own eyes, but he received a mission

from God and he did not dare do it. In verse 13 we read that there was rebellion in his heart. He complained and was without courage. He did not go at all. Then God said to him: "Go in this thy might." Gideon had feelings of inferiority. He made excuses. "My family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Did you know that feeling inferior is pride, and that you are not willing to accept your limitations? God's answer was: "I am with you." Gideon had very little faith and said: "Show me a sign." He received it. Gideon was afraid and the Lord said: "Peace be unto you."

In Revelation 21 the fearful people are mentioned together with unbelievers, murderers, whoremongers, idolaters, etc. Cowardice is a sin that deserves judgment. When we continue to read the story of Gideon, we see that this little man destroyed the idol of his father, a very dangerous thing to do, as his fellow townsmen could kill him for it. Then God commanded him to attack the enemy and his faith was tried. "But the spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet" (Judgments 6:34). Gideon obeyed, and finally he overcame a whole army with a gang of three hundred men. How did that happen? Gideon had not a great faith, but he had faith in a great God.

The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness. And for those who are in training for the final battle, the encouragement stands that God's faithfulness is for us. "Great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:23).

Our faithfulness to God is the fruit of the Spirit. That becomes a quality in us only when we give room to the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives. Be filled with God's Spirit, and faithfulness, the fruit of the Spirit, will be your portion.

God said to Gideon: "Go in this thy might." It is wonderful that God gives us His strength and that God's strength is demonstrated in our weakness.

I was in Argentina. One day I was asked to visit some patients in a hospital. There had been a terrible polio epidemic. For the first time in my life I saw people lying in iron lungs. The tragedy so overcame me that I could hardly bear it. A nurse asked me: "Will you speak with that Jewish man there?" He was not in an iron lung, but lay on a bed that went up and down. When his legs went up, his midriff pushed against his lungs and he could breath out. When his legs went down, he could breathe in. He was fed by a little tube in his nose. He could not speak but he could write. When I looked at him I said in despair: "Oh, Lord, I cannot do this. Please let me go somewhere else, so that I can cry in a little corner. I am not able to speak to this man." When I say to the Lord: "I cannot do this," I always receive the answer: "I have known that for a long time, but it is good that you know it too, for now you can let Me do it."

And I said: "Now Lord, then you do it." And He did. I could speak to this man. I showed him an embroidery, that on one side shows only a tangle of threads, but on the other a beautiful crown. I said: "When I see you lying on this bed I think of this embroidery. There has been a time in my life when it seemed like the tangled side of this crown. I saw no pattern, no beauty, no harmony. I was in prison, where my sister died before my eyes. But all that time I knew that God has no problems, only plans. There is never panic in heaven. Later on I saw God's side of the pattern. Because I have had to go through deep suffering in that prison, I was able to comfort people afterwards, because I could tell them: Jesus' light is stronger than the

deepest darkness. When you have experienced the darkness of a concentration camp, you know how deep that darkness can be!”

Then I spoke to him about the Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins. It seemed that when He died the whole plan of His life was broken, but just there He has given the answer to the problem of the sin of the whole world, for He has carried our punishment. And this Jesus did not only *die* for us, but he lives, for He is risen from the dead and He has said: “Lo, I am with you all the days . . . to the [very] close and consummation of the age” (Matthew 28:20 ANT). He will even live in our hearts. We may use His name and pray in His name. And so I told him the happy message of Jesus’ death and life. The man took a piece of paper and wrote: “I see already the beautiful side of the embroidery of my life.”

What a victory it was for him to lie there, not being able to move, or speak, or breathe, and in spite of all this, to see God’s side. That was really a very great miracle. We had a good time together and I was so thankful. I could pray and then thank the Lord with him. The next day I went again to the hospital and asked the nurse: “May I speak with him again?” She told me that he had beckoned her when I had left, and then wrote on his little writing pad: “For the first time in my life I have prayed in Jesus’ name.” Then he closed his eyes and died. This Jewish man had found Jesus in the last moment of his life. And God had used me for that when I was not able to do it. Yes, God’s strength is demonstrated in our weakness.

When the marching orders of our King are given and seem very exacting, then we need not fear, for He Himself gives us the courage, the faithfulness, and the

strength to obey Him. “Go in this thy might,” He says when He has given us, through the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, faithfulness and strength. “If we are faithless He always remains faithful. He cannot deny his own nature” (2 Timothy 2:13 PHILLIPS).

*Faith*

We are often in danger when we look at our own faith. But in Hebrews 12:2 is written: “Let . . . our eyes [be] fixed on Jesus the source and the goal of our faith” (PHILLIPS). Before the war I had a watchmaker’s shop. Sometimes it happened that a new watch I had in the shop did not run well. Then I did not repair it, but sent it back to the factory. When the manufacturer had repaired the watch it went exactly right.

When my faith does not work, when I am too busy with myself, then something is not right. But I do not think about repairing my faith myself. I do the same as I did with the watch. I send it back to the manufacturer. He only, the Lord who made my faith, can renew it. When He has repaired it, then my faith works again. Here again we need to change the direction of our looking, away from our faith, unto Jesus.

Hudson Taylor, a great hero of faith, has said: “We do not need a great faith, but we need faith in a great God.” And this we have! The almighty God! Jesus speaks about a faith as small as a mustard seed and yet so dynamic that it can remove mountains. The Pharisees showed their faith; they carried it to the marketplace, to the corners of

the street, into the temple, so that everyone could see it, but their faith had no power, it was empty.

As we are ourselves, so our faith also is hidden with Jesus in God. That is what we have to learn. We are like fighters who are sent into the world, as into an arena, to fight in the strength of our faith and to conquer. Perhaps there is no other place where the change of direction of our looking is so necessary than just here. Look away from yourself and your faith; look to Him, the Author and Finisher of our faith. He gives you all the faith you need today. It does not help you to look at the petrol in your tank. Invisible, a source of power, ready for use, the petrol is in the tank. And so it is with faith. It is given to you not to admire, but to experience its working.

Faith works to protect us against the fiery arrows of the enemy.

The Shield of Faith

The enemy shoots his fiery arrows out of invisible, unexpected positions. Therefore, this shield is so important. David said: "The Lord is my . . . shield" (Psalm 28:7). God said to Abraham: "I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1).

Not only is faith our shield; the Lord Himself is our shield also. A soldier who handles a shield does not put it behind him, but in front of him. Then he is covered. That is the right position. When the Lord is our shield, He must go before us, and we must remain behind Him. Many are willing to work for the Lord, but they walk in front of Him, and thus the fiery arrows of the evil one can reach them without difficulty.

No, the Lord says: "Follow Me!" He will go before us.

Our position demands that we work only on His instructions and go where He calls us. Sometimes we have to wait until the Lord tells it to us very clearly. If we work out of our own enthusiasm, we can expect defeat. Even a small service must be inspired by the Lord. Our prayer should be: "Lord, what do You want me to do? Where must I go?" We can then remain in the center of the will of God, and there it is safe. If the direction is not yet quite clear, we must wait on the Lord, and this waiting can be a blessing. When we follow Him, we live in the attitude of faith. It is this attitude of faith that keeps us close to the Lord, to Him who gives us the power of faith. When the enthusiasm comes from ourselves, we can be very active, but without instruction from the Master we go unprotected in front of Him, so that the fiery arrows of the devil can do their horrible work unhindered.

When the Lord tells us: "Do this!" He also gives us the faith to do it, and that is why we can obey. Then we will not be ashamed and miracles will happen in our lives. Then we do not work in our own strength, but in the strength we receive from the Lord.

"It is His business, His honor, the cause for which we stand."

Do not begin a work when you are not quite sure that the Lord has instructed you to do it. When fellow Christians tell you that they have had guidance for you, then you may quietly say: "As long as the Lord has not said it to me personally, I will not do it." Paul is an example for us in this matter. He always let the Holy Spirit guide him. If the Holy Spirit said to him: "Do not go there," then he did not go. He really longed to go to all these heathen places in Asia Minor, but the Spirit did not let him do it (Acts 16:6). But once he received a very

clear revelation from the Lord that he had to go to Macedonia, he obeyed, and the result was great blessing and miracles. Paul had the true missionary method: obedience.

With the instruction, the Lord gives grace, strength, faith, and courage to carry out the instructed task.

“Where the Lord guides, He provides.”

Likewise, when the Holy Spirit gives us special gifts, we may not use these riches according to our own discretion. Again and again, we must look up in faith unto Jesus and say: “Lord, only behind You!” If at this moment the Lord tells you to lay hands on a blind person, then you may not say: “Yes, Lord, but I do not have the gift of healing.” When the Lord calls us, then He gives also the courage of faith and everything that we need to carry out the task. When He sends us, then He gives the strength and the grace to obey. The point is to have the right attitude of faith. In the beginning it may be difficult, but by faith we receive strength to reach our goal. If we should have to work up this faith ourselves, then the whole enterprise would become rather doubtful. Today we may be very strong in faith, and tomorrow this may not be so. Today we may feel fine and healthy; tomorrow we may feel ill and weak. So it is with everything that we have from ourselves. Today we may feel like being able to remove mountains; tomorrow we may be without any courage. But when the Lord gives us His faith, it is “eternity faith” that never wavers. It is grounded on God’s Word. All these things we must exercise and learn. “Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace” (Job 22:21).

A missionary who worked in a dangerous place was once asked: “Are you never afraid?” His answer was: “Yes,

sometimes I am, but the rock on which I stand never shakes.” He knew that he worked on the instructions of his Master and that was sufficient. His starting point was not his own faith and strength, but the courage of faith that he received from God.

In Galatians 2:20 Paul says: “Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Not his own faith, but Jesus’ faith was his life.

Even those among us who have a strong faith can waver. For instance, look at the disciples. Often Jesus had to say to them: “You of little faith!” How was it with Peter when he was empowered by the Lord to walk on the water? When he saw the waves he doubted and began to sink. As long as we look unto Jesus, He gives us faith. That is why a soldier must always remain behind the shield of faith. So he gets the vision from a safe hiding place. Then the impossible becomes possible.

*Joy*

The joy of the LORD is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). It is so important to know that in the final battle the joy of the Holy Spirit is available for us in all circumstances.

Once a prisoner wrote me a letter. “It is Christmas Eve. I am alone in my cell. There are no Christmas presents for me on the table. There is nothing that reminds me of Christmas. On the empty walls there are no Christmas decorations. But in my heart is Christmas joy, because Jesus lives there, and that is the greatest joy a human being can have. I could not send Corrie ten Boom a present, but I went on my knees and prayed for you for two hours. That was my Christmas present for you and it made my own heart still more joyful.”

I remember a dark day in Ravensbrück. Betsie and I talked much with the Lord. Horrible things happened around us. There were days that we said to each other: “More terrible than today it can never be.” But the next day was still more terrible. Despair was on all faces, for there was no salt in any of the meals that day. When you are slowly starving, salt is very important. Several women died that day, one of them as a result of a cruel beating. The electric light had failed, and after sunset we were in

the deepest darkness. I put my arm around Betsie. She spoke about heaven and told me that shortly before we were arrested she had read about heaven in a booklet by the Sadhu Sundar Singh. We had a talk with the Lord. He spoke and we listened; then He listened while we spoke. Then we went to sleep under the dirty coat that we used as a blanket, and Betsie said: "What a wonderful day we have had. The Lord has shown us so much of Himself."

Joy in a Prison in Africa

When it rains in tropical countries, then it really pours. I visited a prison in Rwanda. It was only a small building, but many prisoners were sitting outside on the ground.

"Where do you sleep at night?" I asked.

"Half of us sleep inside, the others must stay outside, because there are too many prisoners."

Some had a banana leaf, others had a branch or an old newspaper to sit on. The uniforms were grey, and the faces of the Negroes were dark and angry. It was all so sad. Could I bring *here* the gospel, the tidings of great joy? No, I could not, but the Holy Spirit could. I prayed: "Lord, the fruit of the Spirit is joy. Give me an ocean of joy to share with these poor fellows."

He did what I asked. I could almost shout for joy. I told them of a Friend whose name is Jesus, who is good and so full of love, who never leaves you alone, who is strong and has the answer for all the great problems of sin and death. I said: "Perhaps you think, 'That is not for us, our lives are too terrible.' But fellows, I was in a prison where it was worse than here, where ninety-five thousand women were killed or died, including my own sister.

There I experienced that Jesus is always with me. He lives in my heart; He has never left me alone."

I felt in my heart a great joy that imparted itself to the men who were sitting in the pouring rain. Then I saw that the joy of the Holy Spirit can be experienced in all circumstances. "This Friend and Savior, Jesus, will live in your hearts. Who will open the door of his heart to Him?" They all, including the guards, put up their hands, and their faces beamed.

Jesus came as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes on Him should not abide in darkness (John 12:46).

When I said good-bye, all the prisoners accompanied me to the car. The guards did not seem to be afraid that someone would run away. They came with us and stood around the car.

"What do they say?" I asked my interpreter. She laughed and said: "Old woman, come back, come back, and tell us more about Jesus."

My interpreter, a missionary, said: "I have been here once, but thought it was so hopeless that I stopped my visits. Now I have seen what the Holy Spirit can do. I will come here every week." She has done so, and the feast is going on!

Part 4



*Life in
the End-Time*



Signs of the Times

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:13). We live now in those days of which Jesus spoke. People are ready to know all about the weather conditions (e.g., when the sun goes down red, it will be nice weather the next day), but what about the signs of the times?

“Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Jesus says (Luke 12:56).

The end-time has started already. Those who pay attention to the signs of the times will not doubt this at all. If we watch the events in the Middle East, in Israel and the Arab States, then we cannot do anything else but look expectantly for the coming of the Lord. Every day, every hour brings us nearer to His coming. We see many more signs of the times than ever before. We can see them in the newspapers. It is a command of the Lord that we must mind the signs of the times. I believe everything that is written in the Bible about the coming again of Jesus. Everything that was written about the first coming of Jesus happened exactly as foretold, so that which is written about His coming again will happen likewise.

This does not mean that I understand everything, but

that is not necessary. For instance, in Ezekiel 38 is written that there will be a mighty army coming on horseback. These days soldiers do not go on horseback; they use tanks and airplanes! But now I read in a newspaper that Russia has bought seventy percent of all the horses of the world for its army. What I do not understand of the Bible, I do not throw away, but hang it on a hook, as it were. Later I read or hear more about it, and then, when I understand it, it is added to my knowledge of God's Word, and I just take it off the hook. So it is with Ezekiel 38. What Jesus Himself said in Matthew 24 and in Luke 21 is happening in our days: wars, rumors of wars, one nation against the other, earthquakes, famines, persecution. All this is happening in a far greater measure than ever before.

The clearest sign is Israel, which has returned to its own land. It has, with its six million people, beaten off the threat of a superior force of forty-five million people in the six-day war in June 1967. Many who were concerned about the "apple of God's eye" saw the baffling reality of a swift victory of Israel as a very clear sign of the times.

We do not know the day, neither the hour, in which Jesus will come again. But neither do we know a day nor an hour in which He could not come. The whole world lives now in this expectation; something must happen by which the great problems will be solved. When we look at world history in the light of the Bible, we can find many clear signs: Luke 21:26: "men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world" (RSV). Everywhere in the world are people who are in great fear of an atomic war, and they are rightly afraid. There will be earthquakes, epidemics, and famines. "And because

iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” (Matthew 24:12).

“Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Daniel 12:4). Just look at the development of space travel!

Mother Basilea Schlink says in her book *The End Is Coming*, “It may be true that this end-time has started, so that on the one side many things begin to be outlined on a larger scale, while on the other hand certain things about which we have been in the dark until now, become more clear, though on a smaller scale. Nevertheless, this does not alter the fact that very many details are still secret to us, and we have to wait for the hour that they will be brought to light.”

The only thing we have to do is what the Holy Scriptures teach us. We need to raise our voices like the voice of a trumpet so that as many people as possible will awake—first of all those who belong to the church of Christ. We have to proclaim loudly that the end is near, so that people will be startled out of their everyday rest and security by this godly message, as through the roaring of the lion (Amos 3:8); that they will fear and get ready to meet their God. We urgently need such a “blowing of the trumpet,” since the day of the Lord draws near, as the prophet Joel says: “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly” (Joel 2:15). For we need to prepare ourselves for all that soon will come to pass.

When we think of the last great battle, we must realize that not only is the future at stake, but that in this present time we are engaged in a warfare. Already we are standing in the midst of the battle. If we have our eyes and ears open, we see how the enemy is marching on

from all sides. We do not have to battle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12).

The armor is not only necessary for the battle which we have to fight in the future, but also for this time. The devil is a refined psychologist. He has been studying in practice for over six thousand years how to seduce men. He knows our weak spots. He is just like a good cattle dealer who has to go around a cow only once to see all its weak spots. The devil is not omnipresent, but he has an exceptionally good, active secret service at his disposal in his army of demons.

But praise the Lord! "They that be with us are more than they that be with them" (2 Kings 6:16). The Syrian army that the servant of Elisha saw was a terrible, forbidding reality, but when his eyes were opened, he saw something far more important; the angels, a heavenly host with horses and chariots of fire, that had come to protect Elisha. And when we look at this invisible reality, then we know that we stand on victory ground.

In the concentration camp, where I was so often confronted with death, the Lord often gave me grace to see the whole situation more or less in the light of eternity, and then everything was so simple, so uncomplicated. It was as if I saw myself; I stood there, and there stood the devil. The devil was much, much stronger than I, but Jesus stood at my side, and He is far stronger than the devil. And because I stood at Jesus' side, I was more than conqueror. That is reality.

It is essential that we realize in these days that Jesus is Conqueror! To stand at His side, to follow Him, to be hidden with Him in God; that is the safe position for every soldier of Jesus in this time and in the coming final battle.



Guidance

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity" (Romans 12:2 PHILLIPS). A soldier has to know his marching orders. He must know where he has to go and especially it is so important at this time that we see the leading of the Lord very clearly. People often ask me: "How can I know the will of God? How does the Lord lead His children?"

We often make the words "surrender" and "leading" too complicated. When we discover what causes our view to be so dim, the meaning of these words becomes clear. There can be a fog around us, caused by the temptations of the enemy, but it is also possible that the "window" has become dirty on the inside by our sins. It can also happen that God puts His hand on the window, but especially then He is very close to us. We must get accustomed to and train ourselves to be guided by God.

The Holy Spirit makes us sensitive to His guidance. Often we must wait quietly, but waiting on the Lord can be a blessing in itself. We must learn to make our decisions in the presence of the Lord, when we are conscious

of His nearness. Often God leads through the Bible, therefore, we must know the Bible well. The better we know the Bible, the more His Word gives light on our path. The Lord also leads us by our feelings. However, when we rely too much on our feelings, we can become too subjective, but it is not necessary that the leading of the Lord has nothing to do with our feelings. Just imagine someone telling you: "I have been married now for six months, but for some weeks I have not felt that I am married." Then there is something wrong with that marriage.

God also uses our feelings to control our relationships with Himself. The fruit of the Spirit is peace and joy, and that does not go without our feelings. Harmony with God goes together with harmony with Spirit-filled believers. Also in this we can find guidance. When God calls us His children, will He then not guide us safely as our Father? "All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons" (Romans 8:14 PHILLIPS).

These things we cannot understand with our logical thinking. We must not forget that all leading of God belongs to the "foolishness of God," which is the highest wisdom, and can only be understood by faith. "We do, of course, speak 'wisdom' among those who are spiritually mature, but it is not what is called wisdom by this world, not by the powers-that-be, who soon will be only the powers that have been. The wisdom we speak of is that mysterious secret wisdom of God which He planned before the Creation for our glory today" (1 Corinthians 2:6–7 PHILLIPS).

God wants to take the lead in our lives. He longs for hidden fellowship with His children. In the Bible we read that this fellowship was broken through the fall, but that it is restored again through Jesus Christ. He wants to

teach us so that we get to know Him better. He will conform us to His image, and will reach other people through us. But we can only bring His light to others when we are set apart for Him, sanctified. Sanctification means that God separates in our hearts light from darkness. The Holy Spirit brings us nearer to God and makes us conformable to Christ. He convicts us of sin, but He is also the Comforter and He shows us Jesus. Then the separation between light and darkness comes into being. The devil accuses us to discourage us. Every feeling of guilt in our hearts we must confess immediately to the Lord, so that the vision gets clear again. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

The Holy Spirit makes the Bible a love letter from God to His children. When we do not read the Bible often we get confused ideas about God. It is good to pray first before reading the Bible: "Lord, show me my sins." For the Word of God says: "Your sins have hid his face from you" (Isaiah 59:2). When we confess our sins, the Lord forgives and His blood cleanses us (1 John 1:7–9).

It is not sufficient to pray: "Lord, help me not to sin." We must humble ourselves, confess our sins, and ask forgiveness. Then He forgives. Let this be our prayer: "Lord, give me today a clear vision of Your leading through the reading of the Bible. Help me also to tell others about what I read in Your Word." Then you will experience that what you read can help you, and also others through you.

The devil does his utmost to turn our eyes away from Jesus. He tries to get us so far away that we explain everything by our intellect and argue God's Word. We must never forget that the Bible belongs to the plane of God's foolishness. We can never bring the things of foolishness

of God down to the lower level of human wisdom, without losing a blessing. But through the Holy Spirit we can bring the wisdom of the wise up to the higher plane of the foolishness of God. His Spirit will use our limited language to reveal to us His divine ordinances, His commandments, and the knowledge of His being. Then we take our position in God's strategy: We have the outlook from a safe, hidden place.

The foolishness of God can only be understood by faith; the wisdom of men through our senses and intellect. The Bible gives us many clear promises that the Lord leads us and always will lead us: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8). "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21). "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul" (Isaiah 58:11).

The Lord leads us through His Word, through feelings, and through circumstances, and mostly through all three together. It is such a wonderful experience when the Lord speaks through our feelings and our thinking when we pray and listen to the Lord. The prayer becomes then a conversation from both sides. We on our side must also learn to expect that the Lord acts according to His promises and leads us on His way. "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you" (Jeremiah 7:23).

The Lord is really a good Shepherd, and a good Shepherd leads His sheep. Nevertheless again and again I hear Christians say that they do not get any guidance.

When we do not know the will of the Lord, the cause is often doubt and disobedience.

After my time in the concentration camp all the cruelties of the Gestapo left such an impression on me, and I was so confused, that I said to my friends: “I will work anywhere in the whole world, wherever the Lord sends me, but there is one country where I hope He will never send me, and that is Germany. I never want to hear one word of German again.”

That was disobedience. Obedience says: “Yes, Father.” Disobedience says: “Yes, but . . .”

I went to America and there came a shadow over my prayer life. When I asked God for guidance, I did not get any answer. Then I said: “Lord, why is this? I know that you are my good Shepherd, so I must be the cause. Have I been disobedient in any way?” Then the Lord said very clearly: “Germany.”

“Then I will go to Germany too, Lord.”

As soon as I was willing for this, the light came back to my prayer life. I knew again where the Lord wanted to send me. I received from my good Shepherd direct guidance in the little things of daily life and also for my future plans. You must understand that a “tramp for the Lord,” as I am, not only needs guidance for one day, but often for many months ahead, to be able to prepare the working program. I went to Germany later on. After all, the Germans are not my enemies; my best friends live in Germany. But I also found there the enemies who had been so cruel to my sister Betsie and me. But then I have learned a very valuable lesson that when Jesus tells us that we have to love our enemies, He also gives us all the love that He demands from us. In the center of the will

of God is rest. Our times are in God's hands: all our wheres, whens, whys, and hows. Although we do not underestimate the power and the urge for destruction of the devil, we have nothing to fear, for we are under the protection of the Victor over all powers of darkness. We experience that we are with Jesus hidden in God. There is nothing better than that. Just as there is quietness and peace in the center of a hurricane, so there is also quietness and peace in the center of the will of God. Yes, with Jesus hidden in God—there is quietness and peace. Then there can be a storm around us, but we are safe.

I have experienced that in America. There was a terrible hurricane, and a thundering roar. Suddenly it was quiet, absolutely quiet. Nothing moved. I asked what had happened. I was told: "Now we are in the center of the hurricane. There is quietness and rest."

So it is when one totally surrenders to the strong hands of Jesus. Then one need not be afraid, even "though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Psalm 46:2).

God Does Perform Miracles

On my trip to the Far East, I was once in Formosa. The Lord told me very clearly that I had to work in several countries and that I therefore should buy an air ticket. But I had no money. The Lord is not only my Shepherd, He is also my Treasurer and He is very wealthy. Sometimes He tries my faith, but when I am obedient then the money comes just in time. "The cattle upon a thousand hills" belong to Him (Psalm 50:10). Sometimes, when I need money, I say: "Father, I believe that you

must sell a cow from the cattle on one of your mountains." And then He answers my prayer.

When I went to the travel agency I said to the girl at the desk: "Will you write down the names of the places for which I need an air ticket? First to Hong Kong, then to Sydney in Australia, Oakland in New Zealand, back again to Sydney, then to Cape Town in South Africa, Tel Aviv in Israel and then to Amsterdam in Holland."

She wrote it down and then asked: "What is your end destination?"

"Heaven."

"How do you write that?"

I spelled "H-E-A-V-E-N."

When she had written it down, she understood what I had said and answered: "Oh, but I do not mean that."

"But I meant it, but you do not need to write it down, because I have already got my ticket."

"How did you receive it?"

"About two thousand years ago there was One who bought my ticket for heaven and I had only to accept it from Him. That was Jesus when at the cross He carried my sins and so made the way to heaven free for me."

A Chinese clerk, who also worked in the agency and had listened to our conversation, passed by. He said: "Yes, that is true."

I asked him: "Have you a reservation in heaven?"

"Yes, I have. I have received Jesus as my Savior and Lord and He has made me a child of God. And a child of God has a place in heaven in the house of the Father."

I said to him: "Brother, will you see to it that this girl will not be too late with her reservation for a place in heaven?"

Then I turned to the girl: "When you do not have a reservation for a seat in a plane, you get into great difficulties, but when you do not have a place in heaven, you will end up in far greater difficulties."

"Brother, you must take care that she is not too late."

Was that a joke? No, I meant it and I mean it also for you who are reading this. Have you made your reservation for a place in heaven? If you are not certain of your salvation, then make a decision now. "As many as received him [Jesus], to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12).

When the ticket for the journey was ready, the Lord had given me exactly all the money I needed. Thankfully I looked in the booklet with all the different tickets. Sydney–Oakland–Sydney. But then I saw that not Cape Town followed, but Tel Aviv. And then the tickets were written out for Tel Aviv–Cape Town–Amsterdam. I phoned the travel agency and asked the girl: "Why have you changed my schedule? My Chief has told me that I must go first to Cape Town and after that to Tel Aviv. Now you have changed the sequence, first Tel Aviv and after that Cape Town. God is my Master and I must obey Him."

"But that is impossible," the girl said. "There is not a direct airline from Australia to Africa. There is no island in the Indian Ocean for the plane to land to be refueled. That is why you must first go to Tel Aviv."

"No, I must do what my Chief has told me. Perhaps I must pray for an island in the Indian Ocean. But my schedule has to remain as He had told me."

An hour later the girl phoned: "Did you really pray for an island in the Indian Ocean? I just received a telegram

from Qantas, the Australian airline. They have begun to use the Cocos Islands, and now there is a direct route from Australia to Africa, via the Cocos Islands and Mauritius."

"Now you see, Miss, that God does not make mistakes in His plans!"

There is nothing too great for God's power, and nothing too small for His love.



Sanctification

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still” (Revelation 22:11). These days more than ever before, it is one or the other. The command “Let him be righteous still” is the training, the battle, and the victory in reality, all at the same time and all in view of the coming end-time. Our little “decent” sins are victories for the enemy. That is why we ought to walk very carefully. In this time of preparation—or perhaps we can speak of a breathing space—the longing to get the prophetic armor must be the most serious prayer for the church of believers. What we need for the battle is to be ready and armed. Therefore, be filled with the Spirit! Fight and bring forth fruit! I cannot help but think of the Israelites who kept their weapons with them when they worked in the fields.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (Galatians 5:22–23). What an armor! There is not written “fruits,” but “fruit.” Not like an apple, a pear and a banana, but like several grapes in a bunch. It all belongs together.

He who is filled with the Holy Spirit goes relaxed through life, for he knows that it is not a matter of trying but of trusting, and yielding to Him, “who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:8).

It is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who by His Spirit makes us live sanctified lives, He makes us obedient to what the Bible says:

But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ. So that whether I do come and see you, or merely hear about you from a distance, I may know that you are standing fast in a united spirit, battling with a single mind for the faith of the Gospel and not caring two straws for your enemies.

Philippians 1:27–28 PHILLIPS

Jesus is Victor! He has conquered Satan, the power of sin, and the world. He that is in you, in me, is Victor! We cannot overcome the enemy. We are powerless in ourselves. We are crucified with Christ, but also resurrected with Him unto a new life, here and now. It is the Lord Himself who accomplishes this. When we know this, we can see God’s way, even when we have to go the hard way. “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28).

It is by the grace of God that we can be conquerors. To be a conqueror, one must allow God to live His life in and through us. Again and again He has to break us; that is to say, He breaks the things in us that protect and maintain “self.” We must surrender totally to Him, and let Him do all that is necessary. Thus He gets more and more

room in us. He does not want only a part of us, but to fill our whole heart with His power, to fill us more and more with Himself. That means a closer fellowship with Him. That is glory!

The promises in the Book of Revelation are for all overcomers, from the beginning until the end.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:6–7

When we are totally emptied of ourselves, we can be full of the Holy Spirit. Then we are conquerors, and are able to accept all things from His hand. Besides this, we are being prepared to inherit all things. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:3). The contrasts between the Holy Spirit and self become more and more acute. But the Bible has a mighty answer: It is possible to be cleansed. No trying, no striving, but trusting in Him, looking unto Him in His Word, in our prayers, in our fellowship with Him. Then he cleanses us through His Word, that we bring forth more fruit as a branch on the vine. Jesus said: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit” (John 15:1–2). We cannot direct the knife with which He is going to purge us. It is to no purpose when we ourselves cut off a bit here and purge

some there. The knife is in His hand, in the hand of the husbandman. He will cleanse and sanctify us.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:22–26

Sanctification is being filled with the Holy Spirit!

*Martyrdom*

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:13). Peter, who himself died as a martyr, tells us in his letters what it means to be one. Perhaps there have never been so many children of God who died as martyrs as in our day. Probably many more will follow. That is said quite clearly in the Book of Revelation.

I remember as a child saying to my father: "I am afraid that I will never be strong enough to die as a martyr."

But he said: "When you have to go on a journey, when do I give you the money for the fare—two weeks before?"

"No, Daddy, on the day I am leaving."

"Precisely, and that is what the Savior does also."

He does not give us grace now for something we may have to pass through later on. If He thinks we are worthy to die as a martyr, He gives us the strength for it at that moment. Once I was in Burundi. A civil war had broken out there. Every day people were imprisoned, including Christians. At night we heard shooting when many were killed. The children of God were in uncertainty. What would the future bring? On Sunday morning I spoke in a

church. One could really feel the tension. Who would be arrested this week and killed? Who would be still alive next Sunday?

Then I spoke on 2 Corinthians 4:17, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” I told them of an experience I had gone through myself. It has been recorded in my book *A Prisoner and Yet . . .*

When I was in a concentration camp during the war—Ravensbrück—the Bible was called there “das Lugenbuch” (The Book of Lies). It was a miracle that I still had my Bible. The room in which we lived with seven hundred women was so dirty that we were all full of lice. The guards and the other officers would never enter our room, because they were afraid to get vermin from us. God can use even lice, for that is why I could bring a message of God’s Word twice a day.

One day we got a new supervisor whose name was Lony. She was a fellow prisoner, a cruel woman; she told the guards everything we did. One day I opened my Bible. A friend of mine said: “Don’t do it today. Lony is sitting behind you. If she knows that you have a Bible, she will see to it that you will be killed in a cruel way.” I prayed: “God, give me the strength even now to bring Your Word.” He answered that prayer. I read the Bible, brought the message, prayed, and then we sang a hymn: “Commit thy ways unto the Lord.” When the song had finished, we heard someone call: “Another song like that!” It was Lony; she had enjoyed the singing. Afterwards I got a chance to explain the gospel to her, to show her the way of salvation. I am not a hero. When you know that what you are saying can mean a cruel death, then every word is

as heavy as lead. But I have never had such a joy and peace in my heart as when I gave that message, neither before that time, nor afterwards.

God gave me grace to be a martyr. Now I know from experience that, when God demands it of us, when He thinks we are worthy to be martyrs, He will also give us grace. When I told the church this story, a great joy came into the hearts of these people. Perhaps I must say it was a sad joy. Everyone knew it could be the last time that they were assembled. But I felt as one does when one is at the deathbed of a child of God. Suddenly one sees the things of this world from God's point of view, the light of eternity. It gives a feeling of a certain freedom. One sees the great things great, the small things small. The things that are important in everyday life suddenly become very unimportant.

When a child of God is entering into the presence of the Lord, then one does not ask: "What's the time? When do we have dinner? How much money do we have in hand? What kind of dress shall I wear?" No, all these things fall away; they are no longer important. What, then, is important? The important things are the texts of God's Word, especially those that speak of heaven; for instance, where Jesus says: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you" (John 14:2).

Important is what is written about the glory of heaven: "O death, where is thy sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). I thank my God for the victory through Jesus Christ! "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

I could also tell them that, when we are found worthy to die as martyrs, martyrs' crowns are awaiting us. Eternity is long, but time is short. In that same week, many members of that church were arrested and martyred.

It is necessary, when we prepare ourselves for the end-time, also to be prepared to die for Jesus.

A missionary went back to China. It was still possible then, but very dangerous. Someone asked her: "Are you not afraid to go back?" She said: "There is but one thing I am afraid of, that I would not be willing to be like the grain of wheat that has to die in the ground." Did not Jesus say that following Him means to lose our lives for Him? And that is really to find our lives.

What Does the Word of God Say about Martyrdom?

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:12–13

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit. . . . For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Philippians 1:27, 29–30

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

Yes, the finished work at the cross of Calvary, the power of the blood of Jesus, is our great victory. We can take this into account in our battle, now and in the future. But the word of our testimony also is a power to gain the victory. We must always be ready to confess the gospel of Jesus Christ before devil and people. If we don't do it, then there is something wrong. When we are ready to confess, then we are also ready to suffer. How is it with you? Are you ready to tell everyone who is willing to listen? It is settled for all eternity that Jesus is Victor; that the whole world belongs to Him!

Also, we must not love our lives unto the death. In Kampala there is a cross by the wayside, where once the "martyrs of Kampala" passed by. They were young men, almost children, who served a very wicked king about a hundred years ago. He was a homosexual and wanted to use them. But these boys were Christians and did not want this. Then they were warned: "You will be burned alive." In spite of this threat they did not want to be guilty of such a sin. So they were all chained together and had to walk a long way to the place where they would be burned alive. As they walked they sang hymns. They knew: Now we must die, because we are faithful to Jesus and His commandments. The Lord gave them grace and joy! When the chains got mixed up and they almost fell over each other, they laughed joyfully. Then one after the other was burned alive, and when one had his turn, the others who were waiting for the same cruel death

encouraged him: “Only a few minutes and then you are with the Lord. We are allowed to do this because we follow Him who carried His cross for us. It is an honor to die as a martyr.” They could even sing. Thus the Lord was honored by these awful events. Those fifteen-year-old boys did not love their lives unto the death. The Lord gave them grace for it. He will also give us grace should we be counted worthy to suffer martyrdom.

By His resurrection power the Lord gives us now, and even more so in the end-time, all we need to be strong in Him. “Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by his Resurrection: now I long to share his sufferings, even to die as he died, so that I may perhaps attain, as he did, the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10 PHILLIPS).

When we die with Jesus, then we also may be resurrected with Him into a new life. By this I do not only mean the resurrection to life after death, but to experience His resurrection power so that “being made conformable unto his death” can be a reality even now.

In *A Prisoner and Yet . . .* I tell what I once experienced in Ravensbrück. We had to stand for “naked roll call.” I never felt so miserable and so ashamed. They took away all our clothing and so we had to stand in the icy cold. I said to my sister Betsie: “This is the very worst thing the enemy has ever done to us. I can hardly bear it.” Suddenly I saw Jesus on the cross. The Bible says: “They parted His garments among them.” Then I understood through my own experience a little bit of His suffering: He hung naked on the cross for me! When I realized this I understood a little of the ocean of love which Jesus has for us that He carried such a punishment for our sins. That made me so thankful that I was more able to bear

my own suffering. When we die with Him, then He also gives us the resurrection power and all the grace we need to live for Him. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31).

God never lets the dominion go out of His hands. When we are in the midst of the battle, sometimes it seems to be one great chaos. Then suddenly the Lord shows us: "I am still here!"

I have experienced this in Africa at a time when the devil had broken loose and so many terrible things were happening. In the newspapers one could read of all sorts of cruelty, but when I listened to what the children of God had to say, I was glad to hear that God had never left His children in Africa alone and that the devil could not go any further than God allowed. We do not always understand this, but some day we shall.

A troop of rebels in the Congo came into a village. The leader asked: "What is that house?"

"That is the house of God."

He took a stone to throw into it, but at that same moment he was killed by a bullet. The bullet must have been misfired by one of his own people. In another village the rebels decided to kill all the Christians. They had come together in a hut to discuss this inhuman plan. At that moment lightning struck the hut and all were killed.

When the rebels advanced on a school where two hundred children of missionaries lived, they planned to kill both children and teachers. In the school they knew of the danger and therefore went to prayer. Their only protection was a fence and a couple of soldiers, while the enemy, who came closer and closer, amounted to several hundred. When the rebels were close by, suddenly something happened: They turned around and ran away! The

next day the same thing happened, and again on the third day. One of the rebels was wounded and was brought to the mission hospital. When the doctor was busy dressing his wounds, he asked him: "Why did you not break into the school as you planned?"

"We could not do it. We saw hundreds of soldiers in white uniforms and we became scared." In Africa soldiers never wear white uniforms, so it must have been angels. What a wonderful thing that the Lord can open the eyes of the enemy so that they see angels! We, as children of God, do not need to see them with our human eyes. We have the Bible and faith, and by faith we see invisible things.

In Havana, Cuba, I was once a guest in a boarding school for girls. There were children from two to seventeen years old. "May I tell the girls something?" I asked after dinner.

"No, they still have to do all their home-work for tomorrow. You may speak for five minutes, no longer!" After four minutes the lights suddenly went out. "Please will you continue until the lights go on again? The children cannot work in the dark!"

I told about all sorts of adventures, my journeys, meetings with children, happy and sad stories. So I was able to tell about the Lord Jesus, who He was and what He is to us in our want and joy. He had said: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). After an hour the lights came on again. The children started their homework. A little girl came to me, put her arms around my neck, and whispered: "I believe that Jesus broke the lights so that you could tell us about Him." In days to come we shall often have to fix our eyes upon the Lord. Often it will seem a lost cause.

Often Jesus will have to break the lights, so that we can listen to Him.

In Hong Kong there was a terrible situation among the refugees. So many people came over the border that there was simply no room left. Although the authorities very much regretted this, the frontier had to be closed. Once a day policemen searched the no-man's-land, where the refugees tried to find a hiding place in the mountains and hills. The rest of the day they could move around freely. Now, some missionaries had found out that there was lack of food among these people. They took baskets of bread and drinks and went out to the refugees when the police were not there. They did not only give them food, but also the Bread of Life. Many of these people accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior. They received a Bible and a Bible correspondence course. Later many of them were found by the police and sent back to Red China. But many also became real missionaries there. In Hong Kong many letters were received for the Bible correspondence course. So these people were used to bringing the gospel to a country where it is impossible for Christians to meet together. So many were in despair, but the angels have rejoiced about what happened. God never makes a mistake! Often we shall have to fix our eyes upon Jesus to see that God has no problems; only plans. There is never a panic in heaven.



Jesus Is Victor

The Lord Jesus demands much of us. He said: "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20).

Nowadays people are inclined to belittle God. It is as if they look through the wrong end of a telescope. Their knowledge seems to be unlimited. God is far away and small, for many no longer to be seen. The possibilities for man are indeed unlimited, but only when he does not limit the promises of God through his unbelief. As the mountains and the stars of heaven are unshakable, so the works of Jesus are standing firm as a rock, and even more so, because they bear the stamp of eternity.

Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior.

Isaiah 43:1-3

The presence of the Lord is our great comfort. With Jesus hidden in God. He invites us: “Abide in me, and I in you.” Be strong against a world full of unbelief, without being ashamed for your King. We must be spirit-filled soldiers and must fight to gain the victory, until Jesus comes. He is our strength now, and also in the last battle. “In all these things we win an overwhelming victory through him who has proved his love for us” (Romans 8:37 PHILLIPS).

Hallelujah!

Jesus was Victor!

Jesus is Victor!

Jesus will be Victor!

He humbled himself by living a life of utter obedience, even to the extent of dying, and the death he died was the death of a common criminal. That is why God has now lifted him so high, and has given him the name beyond all names, so that at the name of Jesus “every knee shall bow,” whether in Heaven or earth or under the earth. And that is why, in the end, “every tongue shall confess” that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:8–11 PHILLIPS

That is why we stand with Jesus through the Holy Spirit on victory ground. When *you* kneel before Him, will He be your Judge or your Savior?

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Part 5



*Defeated
Enemies*



The Conflict

Having faced fights not “against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world” (Ephesians 6:12 LB), in prisons during the war, and later when traveling over the world; and having met so many people—even dear servants of the Lord—who, though surrounded by the powers of darkness, the devil and the demons, do not recognize them, and do not know how to deal with them, I decided, at the request of a missionary friend, to write down what I have learned, as a help for other children of God.

Someone asked my opinion of the missionaries in a certain country. My answer was, “They have given all, but they have not taken all. They have given homeland, time, money, luxury, and more, but they have not taken all the riches abundant that the Word gives us from the boundless resources of God’s promises. Many do not know about two precious weapons: the power of the cross and blood of Jesus and every Christian’s legal right of the use of the wonderful name of Jesus.”

Jessie Penn-Lewis wrote in *War on the Saints*, “When the existence of evil spirits is recognized by the heathen, it is generally looked upon by the missionary as ‘superstition’

and ignorance; whereas the ignorance is often on the part of the missionary, who is blinded by the prince of the power of the air to the revelation given in the Scriptures, concerning the satanic powers” (page 21).

We need to recognize the enemy, in order to overcome him. But let us beware of the mistakes that C. S. Lewis describes in *The Screwtape Letters*. He says: “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence, the other is to believe and to feel an unhealthy interest in them! They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and they hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight” (page 3).

We have a good safeguard and guide, the Bible, God’s Word. Here we find not only the necessary information about Satan and demons, but also the weapons and the armor that we need for this battle, so that, through Jesus Christ, we may be more than conquerors.

Let us keep in mind that God wants and expects us to be conquerors over the powers of darkness—not only for the sake of personal victory, and for the liberation of other souls from the chains of Satan (though this is very important—see Isaiah 49:24–25), but for His glory, so that His triumph and victory over His enemies may be demonstrated (Ephesians 1:20–23; 3:10; Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8)!

First, then, let us see what the Bible says about the powers of darkness. The devil or Satan is introduced to us as a person who opposes God and His work (Genesis 3:1). He is the “god of this world,” who blinds the minds of the people to the truths of God’s Word (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). Having rebelled against God, he was cast

out of heaven; then he caused man's fall in paradise. Jesus calls him the father of lies, a liar, a murderer (John 8:44). He works often as an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14), seeking the ruin of the elect! (1 Peter 5:8). But he was cursed of God. Jesus triumphed over him at the cross of Calvary (1 John 3:8) and in His resurrection, and he will finally be condemned and destroyed (Revelation 20). There are many kinds of demons, and they afflict people in various ways (Matthew 12:22; 17:15–18; Luke 13:16). Also, they bring false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1–4), trying to seduce the elect (Matthew 24:24), oppressing (Acts 10:38), obsessing, and possessing people. They know Jesus, and recognize His power and tremble (Matthew 8:29). For them, hell is the final destination, as it is for Satan.

Secondly, let us consider some references in the Bible concerning the stand we have to take against these powers! It is most important to realize that ours is the position *in Christ*, "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion . . ." (Ephesians 1:21). We are called to resist the devil (James 4:7) in the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:13–18), by virtue of the blood of Jesus (Revelation 12:11), by faith, prayer, and fasting (Matthew 17:20–21). Jesus cast out demons (Matthew 12), and He commands and expects His disciples to do the same (Matthew 28:20; Mark 16:17; Luke 9–10). In Acts, we learn how the disciples exercised their authority by casting out demons, thus magnifying the name of Jesus (Acts 8:7)!

Let us remember that God's Word stands forever and that His commandments mean for us today exactly the same as for the disciples two thousand years ago! Those who act on them, in obedience, will in the same way

prove God's almighty power. Jesus said, "In my name shall they cast out devils!" (Mark 16:17).

Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up.

But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God.

Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.

Ephesians 6:10–18 LB

Have you heard the name of Pastor Blumhardt? Eighty years ago, in Germany, in a place called Möttlingen, he had to face a grim fight with the powers of

darkness. One of his faithful parishioners, Gottliebin Dittus became demon possessed, and a battle started which ended victoriously eighteen months later when the last demon went out of the girl. With a loud voice heard over the whole town, he shouted, "Jesus is victor!" After this, God gave great blessings in Möttlingen. The little town became a center where many Christians received special gifts of healing and of casting out demons (1 Corinthians 12:28)!

On his deathbed, Pastor Blumhardt prophesied, "Fifty years from now God will give to Möttlingen a man more gifted than I, and greater things will happen than in my time." This is what happened when Father Stanger started his work and opened "Die Arche," a home where many people found spiritual help, many sick were healed, and many were set free from demon influence. Both of my sisters went yearly to that place and told me much about what they learned. Thus I was not altogether unprepared when I came myself into contact with the powers of darkness.

Now, let me tell you about my own experiences, and how I have proved the wonderful power of the blood of Jesus, and of the name of Jesus, and the trustworthiness of His promises! I have already written down some facts in my books, *A Prisoner and Yet . . .*, *Amazing Love, Not Good if Detached*, and so I will add passages from these books that refer to our subject.

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.

Deuteronomy 18:10–13

After the war in Germany there was among many people great uncertainty about the soldiers that were missing. Were they still in Russian concentration camps, or had they died during the fighting? This uncertainty caused great suffering among their relatives, and many people went to fortunetellers, to find out about their loved ones. I don't know whether they got any real information, but this I know, many came to me and told me about permanent darkness in their hearts and an urge to commit suicide. This symptom is always a sure evidence of demon influence!

A child of God need not remain in darkness, Jesus said. "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

After I had frequently had such confidences, I decided to speak against the sins of occultism, and so in every series of meetings I spoke once on this subject. I used to read Deuteronomy 18:10–13, showing how these sins are an abomination in the sight of God, because they show how one, instead of depending on His power, asked help from the enemy. Then I showed the help that the Bible gives. It is wonderful that the Bible provides an answer to this serious problem! Jesus came to undo the works of Satan. "God openly displayed to the whole world Christ's triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away" (Colossians 2:15 LB).

In the same way that in 2 Kings 6:5–6 the “son of the prophets” was sent back by Elisha to the place where he had lost the ax and the miracle happened, so I tell people to go back to the place where by their sins they have opened their hearts to the influence of demons, and ask the Lord Jesus to close the door where they have opened it. First, it is necessary to persuade people that they have sinned! Deuteronomy 18:10–13 shows that very clearly. Confession is necessary, and then we may claim the precious promises (1 John 1:7–9) for cleansing. How many I saw liberated instantly when they acted in obedience to this word!



Battle against the Powers of Darkness

It is wonderful to have an answer to this problem. Jesus came to undo the works of Satan. The Bible says, “They overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony . . .” (Revelation 12:11). Ours is the victory through the blood of the Lamb and the testimony of our witness.

Those that are with us are greater than those that are against us. We need not remain in the dark. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). We possess the authority of His name.

What a joy it was to bring the good news of Jesus’ victory into the darkness! But whenever I gave this message, I was so tired I could hardly reach my bed. My heart beat irregularly, and I felt ill.

One evening I had a long talk with my heavenly Father. “I cannot continue like this, dear Lord. Why must I give this message, why must I testify against this particular sin? So many of your faithful servants never mention it! I can’t go on like this much longer, and live! Perhaps another month or two, and then my heart will give out!”

Then in the *Losungsbuch*, a daily devotional book in German, I read, “Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee . . .” (Acts 18:9–10). A short poem follows:

Though all the powers of hell attack,
Fear not, Jesus is Victor!

Joy filled my heart. This was God’s answer! I prayed, “Lord, I will obey, I will not fear and be silent. But with my hands on this promise I ask you to protect me with your blood, that the demons cannot touch me.”

At that moment something happened to my heart; it beat regularly. I knew that I was healed. After this, when having spoken against sorcery and witchcraft, I felt as well as ever before. Jesus is Victor! The fear of demons comes from the demons themselves. We have nothing to fear! He who is with us is greater than those who are against us! Hidden with Christ in God; what a refuge! The mighty High Priest and His legions of angels are on our side!

Challenge

In my book *Amazing Love*, I tell about May, an intelligent girl in England, who told me that she longed for peace in her heart, but always when she would make a decision to accept Jesus, there was something that kept her back from this step! I said to her, “Listen, May. Think back over the events of your life, and tell me if you have ever been to a fortune-teller. Do you know that when you do such a thing you fall under the curse of it, so that the way

to God becomes blocked for you? Yes, even the way to conversion! Such a spell may ensnare you even if you have just allowed yourself to be treated by a mesmerist. Very often such people are also on the wrong side and that may be a great danger.”

May laughed in a mocking way. “As a matter of fact, I did allow myself to be persuaded to go to a fortune-teller years ago,” she said. “But I did not believe in it, I did it only for fun. Afterwards, we had a real good laugh about it. I had completely forgotten about it, but now, as you ask me, I remember it very well. But surely, there’s no harm done, I did not believe it a bit.”

“May, suppose you were a soldier during war, and you had to reconnoiter certain terrain. By mistake you fell into the enemy’s hands by entering his territory. Do you think that it would help if you then said, ‘O excuse me, please, it was not my intention to come here, I just came by mistake’? Once you are on their terrain, you are at their mercy. Though you did not know it, a demon has taken possession of your heart, and your life has fallen under his spell. When you want to be converted, he comes in between. You don’t understand the significance of it, and that’s why it is so dangerous. Paul says in Ephesians 6:12: ‘For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers. . . .’”

The look of amusement had left May’s face, and fear was there instead.

“I’m not telling you these things to make you afraid, May. If I had no more to say than this, it would have been better to keep silent, but the first step toward victory is to know the enemy’s position. And the wonderful thing about it is that Jesus is victor. *He* is far stronger than all the powers of hell. What you have to do is to close the

door exactly where you opened it. I mean this; think of some Scripture passages which speak of forgiveness.”

May thought for a moment, and then said, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14).

“That is right. Now ask the Lord Jesus to go back with you to that very moment when you committed that sin. Confess your sin, ask forgiveness, and give thanks for it, because the text which you quoted is true. Then the door is closed, and you are free. Then you are no longer at the demon’s mercy.

“I myself once had the opportunity of showing the way of salvation to a fortuneteller. It was in Germany. The whole day long she was busy ‘closing doors.’ Then she came back to me and said, ‘I feel happier, but I know that there are sins which I have forgotten. I am not completely free yet.’

“Just tell the Lord Jesus about it as you did me, and give thanks for forgiveness.’ I replied.

“Two days later she returned and said, ‘This morning I awoke singing. I am completely free.’ She was full of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

“Will you do it too, May? I know for a certainty that you will be victorious. I’ll leave you to yourself now. Fight it out the rest of the way without me.”

I left her alone and walked back to the conference grounds. The surf was pounding against the cliffs. A storm was coming up, and it was a tremendous sight. Near the shore a steep rock rose abruptly out of the sea. It was as if two powers fought against each other, but the rock stood unmoved amidst the waves.

On the last night of the conference the leader asked if any would tell what they had learned and experienced

these weeks. May stood up and she said, “I have learned and experienced here that Jesus is victor.”

A sick woman was sitting in a dirty, messy little kitchen. There was hardly room for my stool. I was eager for a quiet talk with her because she had twice called on a fortuneteller who claimed magic healing power. I told her what a great sin this is in God’s sight, because it really means that we run away from God and ask the devil for help. That is why God calls this sin an abomination (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).

A great compassion came into my heart for this woman. I told her about the longing father-heart of God who loves us so much, and who brought us into contact with an ocean of love through Jesus Christ. That is why God thinks it so terrible when we seek help from the enemy.

I noticed that she was now listening attentively. When I warned her earnestly, she defended herself and resisted. Now as I told her with joy about that great love of God, she listened intently. I read to her what Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Before I left, she prayed and asked forgiveness for going to the fortuneteller, and then she praised and thanked God for the great riches she has in Jesus Christ.

*Resist the Devil*

In a small town in Germany a group of students planned a weekend. Ten Christians each brought an outsider. Though I was the speaker, I felt we were a team, these ten and I! There was much prayer and discussion between the meetings, and when Sunday evening came, eight students had accepted Jesus as their personal Savior!

Trudy, a medical student, followed me that evening as I, tired but grateful, went to my room. "Corrie, thank you so much for all you have done for Heinz. He is my fiancé. He is so different today! Before, he was all gloom; now he is truly happy!"

"What a joy, Trudy! Let us thank the Lord, for He has done it. I am only a branch of the vine, a channel for His blessing. But tell me, Trudy, what about yourself?"

"I haven't come to speak about myself. I wish only to speak about Heinz."

"Just as you like, then we will speak of the great change in Heinz, who has come out of darkness into God's marvelous light."

Suddenly I turned to Trudy and addressed the demons in her. In Jesus' name I bade them leave and go

back to hell, where they belong. I saw immediately a great change in Trudy's face. Astounded, she asked, "Is there hope for me?" Then she fell on her knees and cried, "I am free, thank you, Lord, I am free."

With deep joy Trudy praised the Lord, then confessed she had contemplated committing suicide the next day. Looking into her eyes, I could see she was not entirely free, but she left my room praising the Lord. My legs were trembling. I had known nothing about the girl, and all this seemed to have happened outside of myself. What a victory! Though it was late, I went downstairs to find someone to join me in prayer. In the meeting room I found all the students on their knees.

"I've come to tell you that Trudy is free."

"Yes, we know!"

"What do you know? Who told you?"

"We knew she was under the influence of demons. When we saw her go to your room we all knelt in prayer and asked God to use you to deliver her. Suddenly our prayer became praise, and we knew she was free."

"She is not entirely free. Keep on praying for her until she is completely liberated."

Three days later I spoke at the university which Trudy attends, but she hid behind others. The boys asked me to speak to her, but I had no guidance. A week later, she looked me up in a town where I was working, and God used me to finish the work He had begun in her.

I am well aware I do not possess any special gift for casting out demons, but in times of emergency we must dare to lay hold on the promise of Mark 16:17, "In my name shall they cast out devils."

More Than Psychology

Psychology is profitable, even necessary, but not enough. I recall a conversation with a German pastor. It had been a busy and difficult counseling session. Six people had complained about great inner darkness and thoughts of suicide. Some I had been able to help, but not all.

“Can’t you help me?” I asked the pastor. “In cases like these, working together is so much better! One can pray, while the other casts out demons.”

The pastor answered me with a discourse on the defense mechanism of the subconscious. That was no help to me! How dangerous to try to solve great problems with small answers.

A theological professor was asked, “Do you teach your students to cast out demons?”

“Hardly,” was the answer. “I can’t do that myself.”

“But you dare to send your students to congregations that are filled with sorcery? Do you think their knowledge of the Jahwist and the Elohist manuscripts of Genesis will help them when they are struggling with the demons that have entered so many people of our day?”

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through His eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of hosts
And in His mighty power:
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

Leave no unguarded place,
 No weakness of the soul;
Take every virtue, every grace,
 And fortify the whole.
From strength to strength go on,
 Wrestle and fight and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down
 And win the well-fought day.

Charles Wesley



Demon Obsession

There are mental diseases to which men are subject but you can find them described in other books. I will confine myself to speaking of the influence that demons exercise on human beings. E. Flöring, a medical doctor, writes about what she learned:

We can distinguish between demon possession and demon obsession. The distinction refers more or less to the intensity with which demoniac forces have invaded or befallen a person, and with which they stick to that person, or whether they come and go, staying only for certain periods, in between which the person seems to be free and quite normal. According to the number and stickability of the demons, the symptoms of the befallen person will vary from occasional abnormal behavior and subjective abnormal sensations (such as strange voices and thoughts—for example, the urge for murder or suicide, or ever recurring fear of various forms and different types) to more abiding, constant expressions of demoniac character: such as abhorring the name of Jesus, and cursing, and negative reaction when the blood of Jesus is men-

tioned, and strong dislike of the Bible, expressions of hatred when confronted with the gospel, seemingly unchangeable hardness of heart towards the appeal for repentance, in spite of others' prayers—together with physical symptoms, such as grotesque movements (even dances), strange voices speaking through the person, often with a sound that differs from the person's normal voice, sometimes shrieking; or paralysis of one or more parts of the body, or convulsions and cramps of various kinds, the person sometimes being thrown on the ground. Allergic signs are often present, such as skin alterations, or asthma of various grades of severity. Also, there may be a strange expression of the eyes which looks wild or fearful. Heart sensations of varying character, as well as strong smell, are often found—either one or the other of these symptoms, or more of them combined.

In the prehistory of the person, there has mostly been some connection, either personally or through a member of the family, with witchcraft, or sorcery, or magic (black and white), or fortunetelling, wearing of charms or amulets, or contact with false doctrines, or with persons who exercise demoniac influence, such as witch doctors and medicine men and fortune-tellers, or "wise women," or spiritists and radiesthetists, or people who foretell the future from cards or from the lines of one's hand. All these are spiritual influences that make a person's heart receptive to the powers of evil.

Careless dealing with the sin of others, and with demon-befallen persons, can lead to being attacked by demons! Not in vain does Paul exhort Timothy to keep himself diligently.

In practice it may often not be possible to discern between a demon obsession and a demon possession, as the border line cannot be strictly drawn. This does not matter, as far as the method of help is concerned, because the approach to the demon-befallen person will be the same: in the name of Jesus, in the power of His precious blood, by faith and prayer, and, if necessary, fasting, casting out the demons. However, the intensity of the fight will be harder, the enemy more resistant in the case of a possessed person, the battle may last a longer time, until victory is won.

In my own experience, I have heard a demon-possessed human being speaking with a voice different from his own. It can be that a woman speaks with a male voice the moment she is possessed. The expression of the eyes can be terrible! Often demons spread a smell around them! In Berlin, I had to throw open all the windows when a mother who had accepted the Lord as her Savior the day before, brought her demon-possessed daughter to me. After the demons had left the girl, the atmosphere was absolutely clear, the smell had disappeared, along with the demons.

The words "demon possessed" must not be used more frequently than it is actually true! When, for example, someone has to suffer from a difficult mother-in-law, she is often too quickly, and perhaps quite unjustly, described as demon-possessed.

Both demon obsession and demon possession are often the result of occult sin, even those from years ago, and now nearly forgotten, and even entered into "just for fun." This includes contact with hypnotism and all the disobedience spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:10–13.

Remember that Gottliebin Dittus was a girl from a Christian home, but had dealt with magic! (See page 125.) And she became possessed by many demons. Her liberation took one and a half years of faithful wrestling and praying by Blumhardt, assisted by many praying Christians. In Matthew 17:21 the Lord Jesus speaks about a kind of demon that “goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

In Ravensbrück, the prison camp where my sister Betsie and I were in 1944, we had very little to eat. Betsie once said, “Let us dedicate this involuntary fasting to the Lord, that it may become a blessing.” After that, we had experiences of victory over the demons around us.

I am so glad that God does not ask us to give a clear diagnosis. We may simply act on His Word, and we experience that God watches over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). What a joy to see an immediate victory through Jesus Christ’s power as with the girl in Berlin! Sometimes, the Lord performs the miracle later. In Switzerland, a time of waiting was clearly in God’s plan, for it worked out for the opening of the eyes of a minister.

In my book *Amazing Love*, I write:

Callers arrive to see me; a mother and her fifteen-year-old daughter. The child was a pitiful sight, for she cringed in fear at the slightest sound and buried her face in her mother’s arm. The mother’s face was full of sorrow as she looked at me pleadingly.

“You spoke last night on the reality of the promises of God,” she said. “Do you believe that, yourself?”

“Yes, I do,” I answered instantly. “God’s promises are a greater reality than our problems.”

“Then for Christ’s sake, cast out this demon,” she said vehemently.

I shrank back as though she had struck me. Anything, but not that! That was a terrain on which I did not want to venture. Other people might be able to do so, but not I.

I prayed silently and asked, “Lord, you know that I cannot and will not do this.”

The Lord answered me clearly and unmistakably. “But you must do it, because there is even more truth in what you just said to the woman than you yourself realize. My promises are true.”

The mother and I read Mark 16, and then we prayed together and asked Jesus Christ to cover us with His blood, and give safe protection in every struggle against, or attack of the devil.

I asked the child, “Do you know the Lord Jesus?”

“Yes, she said, “but I wish He would make me happy. I want to be happy.”

Then I spoke to the demon in the name of the Lord Jesus, who has gained the victory on the cross and has cleansed us with His blood. In His name I commanded the demon to come out of the girl and to go back to hell, where he belonged. I forbade him to enter anyone else or to possess the child again.

The poor girl left the manse as much possessed as when she came, and I was profoundly unhappy. How weak I was in faith, and how lacking in power! Was it only theory that I had been preaching, theory that failed when I tried to put it into practice?

I knocked on the door of the minister’s study. He received me kindly. “I need your help,” I said. “My

faith was too small, and now you will have to do it," and I told him about my experience.

He looked up at me, startled, and said, "Oh, that is a sphere I refuse to enter."

"But who must do it then? You are the shepherd of this flock, and you have God's promises. Please read St. Mark 16:17."

He took his Bible and read, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils . . ." And verse 20: "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

The minister buried his face in his hands. His reading changed to prayer, and I heard him whisper, "Forgive me, Lord, for I have neglected my duty."

Great joy entered my heart. This was the reason I had to experience the failure of my own attempt. This shepherd had to learn something, and God used me as His instrument.

When I left in the evening there was no darkness, but only gratitude in my heart. There was still much that I didn't understand, but everything was all right.

Jesus is Victor.

Two days later I received a letter from the manse.

"Corrie, something wonderful has happened. When the mother and her daughter crossed the threshold of their home the demon went out of the child. This morning both of them came to me full of praise and thanksgiving to Him who was so faithful about the promises He made to us in the Scripture. My husband wants to know if you will come again, and this time stay longer than three days."

But I knew that this would not be necessary. Jesus is Victor, and He uses everyone who is willing to obey Him.

“Whate’er the love of God would do
Is never by His power denied.”

Several times I experienced seeming defeat. They are the darkest moments of my life. I am not called to stay long in one place, and so I must often stop my efforts too early. I always hand the cases over to faithful Christians, if they are available. What I always do in such moments is, that I pray God may search my heart and show me if somewhere is an unconfessed sin (Psalm 139:23–24). If we are disobedient in anything, we ally ourselves with the enemy! This prayer for heart searching, and—after God has shown us sin—immediately confessing and claiming forgiveness on the grounds of 1 John 1:7–9, is necessary in every battle with the enemy where he demonstrates his power in demon-possessed and demon-obsessed people. We are on dangerous ground, and anything of trust in ourselves, love of money, pride, fear, resentment, or any other sin that blocks the channel, makes us powerless and must therefore instantly be brought under the cleansing blood of Jesus. This is also absolutely necessary for Christians who assist. Whenever it is possible, I like to be together with another child of God. One can be in prayer during the whole process, while the other deals with the sinner.



The Sword of the Spirit

As I said before there is much witchcraft in Germany. One of the forms with which I came in contact was "the letter from Heaven." This contains strange words and sentences, preceded by an introduction that says that the letter comes straight from the Lord Jesus Himself. It promises good luck and protection from danger.

In Berlin I saw an old man in the audience who hungrily listened to my talk. After the meeting I spoke to him and asked, "Did you ever receive Jesus as your Savior?"

"No," was the answer.

"I am sure you want to do it," I said. "I read in your eyes a longing for peace of heart! Jesus can and will give you that, when you ask *Him* to come in. He has knocked at the door, you have heard His voice, and He will come in, when you open your heart. Revelation 3:20 says, 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him.'"

"It is not necessary for me," he said. "I have a letter from Heaven!" And he showed me a very old paper; it appeared to be a letter, starting with the words, "I, Jesus, write this letter; it will protect you against every danger." Then followed many words which I could not understand! The man told me, "I tied this paper to a dog during

a bombardment in Berlin and sent the dog into the street. The bombs were falling around him, and not one touched him."

"You have to make a choice between this letter and accepting Jesus. This letter is not from Him, but from the devil," I told him.

I looked around and called a girl with a counselor's badge on her dress. I explained the situation to her and said, "Stay with me; one must pray, while the other speaks to this man."

Immediately the girl went to him and quoted by heart the warning words of Deuteronomy 18:10–13. She was a "Navigator" and had followed the Scripture Memorizing Course, and knew immediately how to handle the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. I saw again how useful it is to know Scripture by heart, thus being prepared for the warfare with Satan! Wherever I go, I see how by this method Christians get practical Bible knowledge! It is used in the campaigns of many evangelists.

I had to leave for the next meeting, so I told the leader of the place about the situation, and advised, "Try to persuade that man to give you the letter for a week. During that time you must try to bring him to the Lord." He did this very thing. First he got in contact with the man, persuaded him to give him the letter, and then showed him the way of salvation. He then accepted the Lord, and wholeheartedly agreed that the letter should be destroyed.

The devil can be a good healer of the body! If he can destroy a soul by healing a body, he is willing to give the temporary blessing of health!

Witchcraft is not only found in heathen lands! I was reading recently of a little girl in Germany who was

constantly ill. Someone gave her a charm (amulet), a little box which she had to wear around her neck. Immediately she was healed. Her health was perfect after that, but there was darkness in her heart. She seldom smiled, and at the age of twelve tried to commit suicide. An evangelist was asked to help. He inquired whether perhaps she was wearing some amulet. It took some persuasion before she was willing to hand it over to him, and she said, "Never open it. The one who gave it to me said it would be very dangerous to do so." In spite of this warning, the evangelist opened the amulet and found a little paper, with these words on it, "I command you, Satan, to keep this body healthy, till you get the soul to hell!" They destroyed the amulet and the child was liberated, but instantly became very ill. Later she was healed by the laying on of hands in the name of Jesus.

In Germany, a well-known evangelist had a dreadful experience. A lady came to him in great agony. The expression of her eyes was terrible. The minister had the discernment to see that she was demon-possessed, and in his longing to help her, he laid his hands on her for healing. At the moment when he touched her, he fell backward on the floor and was unconscious for a whole hour! After recovering, he found that the woman had drowned herself in the river!

When I asked him, "Did you not know that you may never touch a person who is demon-possessed?" he confessed that he had not known that it was dangerous.

Here was a man with a thorough theological training, much Bible knowledge, and a heart full of love to help people, but he failed for lack of knowledge.

Jesus said, "Cast out devils . . . lay hands on the sick"

(Mark 16:17–18). He did not say: “Lay hands on the demon-possessed.”

We should never deal with people who are under the direct influence of a demon, without claiming the protection or covering of the blood of Jesus! We overcome by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11). Though we don’t understand this, we experience that God meant His promises if we, in obedience, act on the Word of God! The foolishness of God is so much wiser than the wisdom of the wise (1 Corinthians 1–2). Only “faint-knowledge” can grasp these things!

We must also remember that the normal and safe position for every believer is “crucified with Christ” (Romans 6:6).

If in the conflict with satanic powers the children of God claim the shelter of the blood upon the uncrucified flesh, they remain open to the workings of the spirits of evil.

Mrs. Penn-Lewis writes: “To speak of the blood cleansing the heart from sin and protecting, and not to understand as the correlative truth, the believer ‘crucified together with Christ,’ is failing to apprehend the full power of the work of redemption at Calvary.”

How much we need the discernment of the Holy Spirit, that we may discern the spirits and not be fooled! In Matthew 24:24 we read, concerning these last days, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

The enemy, when he appears as an angel of light, is more dangerous than when he rages as a roaring lion (2 Corinthians 11:14)!

A pastor's wife once told me that there was darkness in her soul. She was a dear child of God, knowing that witchcraft sins are an abomination in the sight of God. But once, when she was ill, she consulted a doctor in order to find the right treatment. In her absence, he used radiesthesia over several drugs; he took a ring fastened to a hair and kept it swinging over a drug. When the ring went to and fro, it was to be the right drug, if the ring went round, it was not the right drug. I am not quite sure whether this was the procedure, or whether it worked vice versa. This really does not matter; but it is important that after the minister's wife used the drug thus selected, she came into darkness; so even this subtle use of witchcraft is a great sin.

But Jesus is Victor! *He* liberated her from the darkness. The power of the precious blood and the use of the wonderful name of Jesus were stronger than the power of the enemy. The Christian life is often a battlefield! And the devil has about six thousand years of experience in laying traps for the saints.

Jesus used the Word. There was nothing complicated about it! He just drew the sword of the Spirit and used it, then the devil left Him, first, for a season (Matthew 4), then fully, until the final scene on Calvary, when all the powers of hell were beaten (Colossians 2:15).



The Power of Jesus' Name

(Excerpts from Not Good if Detached)

Christ, God's Son, holds [the true child of God] securely and the devil cannot get his hands on him" (1 John 5:18 LB).

How difficult it is to become used to speaking through interpreters! It is like trying to reach people "round the corner." As the listener's eyes are on the interpreter, the speaker is more or less out of touch with his audience. There is, however, one good thing about it—one has time for prayer while speaking!

Today I have an especially fine interpreter. He loves the Lord with all his heart, and it is pure delight to work together—such a contrast to indifferent interpreters! We are guests in the same home, and since we must speak again in the evening, there is time to chat together! Suddenly I ask, "Why is there so much darkness in you?"

"What do you mean?"

"There is no joy of the Lord in your eyes. In the parable of the vine and the branches, the Lord says, 'That my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.' Where is that joy?"

"I don't know!"

“I think perhaps I know! May I speak? When you were converted from Shintoism to the Lord, you turned your back on the demons, but the demons have not turned their back on you!”

In surprise he answers, “That is true! But please don’t tell the missionaries. They may think I have gone back to Shintoism.”

“Demons are no ‘ism.’ They are realities as well as angels, and as you, and as I am! You lack a knowledge of the riches that are yours in Jesus! You need not remain in darkness any longer. In the name of Jesus and through the blood of the Lamb we have the victory. In His name you can drive out the demons and withstand Satan.”

Together we read and obey the glorious promise and command in Mark 16:15–18, and then the Lord performs the miracle and completely liberates His child.

A few weeks later, we meet again. “Not only am I free,” he says, “but my wife and my children also!” All hail the power of Jesus’ name. His wonderful name is all powerful in heaven and on earth—that name above every name!

Many missionaries have given their all—money, family, and homeland—but they do not take all the riches offered to them in God’s Word. Theologically their training has often been basic; but would not a study of God’s Word teach them that to cast out demons and heal the sick would make them more fruitful, and should glorify Jesus?

How many dark powers there are in the world! Yet we have nothing to fear. The fear of demons is from the demons themselves. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and His blood protects us. And what joy it is that we have the authority of the name of Jesus!

Those who are with us are far more than those who

are against us! At our side is our mighty High Priest and His legions of angels.

At a conference of Bible school students it was necessary to have somebody to interpret for me, and this was done by a girl who found it difficult to understand my English. When I used an illustration involving radar in ships, she became quite mixed up, as she had never heard of radar before! I tried to help her, and said: "It doesn't matter, we will try something else. A captain of a ship stood on a bridge." But she never had heard of a bridge of a ship, and did not say a word! I told her, "Read James 1:5, 'If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it' (LB). You lack the wisdom to interpret for Corrie ten Boom, and this is the address where you can get it!"

But it was too late. She burst into tears. A Japanese who "loses face" is lost. You cannot do anything with him! I asked the leader of the conference if there was another interpreter, but he told me there was not! So here I was, with a message for the young people before me! Some of them had problems, and the answers could be found in the Bible that I had in my hand. For what reason was I unable to bring God's message to them? Here was the devil at work! The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy. The devil is a conquered enemy, and we have the privilege and the authority to fight him in the name of Jesus! I turned to the girl and said:

"Dark power, that hinders that girl from interpreting God's message . . . I command you in the name of Jesus to leave her alone! She is meant to be a temple of the Holy Spirit, not your temple!"

As I spoke, the girl was set free! She was able to interpret fluently, and we had a meeting that was greatly blessed. So, what the devil had meant to be an illustration of his victory, became a boomerang and showed the power of Jesus Christ and His name.

Years ago when Dr. Torrey Johnson from the U.S.A. came to Holland to start Youth for Christ work, there was much opposition, and in the newspapers appeared the dirtiest articles about him! Cartoons were printed and the meanest accusations against him were published! When Torrey Johnson arrived, there were no buildings large enough for his meetings. The best advertisement had been made by the enemy! We can learn from such an experience, and we must be careful not to advertise the devil by talking too much about him and his devices!

Some time ago I heard that in India there was a man who had all the symptoms and powers that the Antichrist or his helper will have in the last days! I decided to find out more details to be able to warn more people about him, but when I asked the Lord to guide me and help me to find out, He said, "Don't speak about the Antichrist, speak about Me!" I learned a great lesson! Although we must know and warn each other about the enemy, because lack of knowledge can mean danger, we must not give too much time and words to such warning. The Holy Spirit is on earth to glorify Jesus! We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and so our task is to be used by Him as channels of streams of living water, for the glorification of Jesus.

"Go ye and teach all nations!" We have a story to tell to the nations, and that is the story of light and love! "We preach Christ . . . the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24).

In South Africa, I received a telephone call, "Corrie, will you help us? There is a demon-possessed girl here and we don't know what to do!"

I was not happy. I have no special gift to cast out demons. Nevertheless I believe that we must never refuse when God calls us! If we don't cast out demons, who must do it? Beelzebub perhaps? Why don't I like it? There is no real fear! Fear of demons is from the demons themselves. But it is always a terrible thing to see a demonstration of the powers of darkness in a human being. I called a friend who had a car, and told her the situation, but she answered, "You know, Corrie, I am always available with my car, but today I can't come! This whole day I must make pies for the church party tomorrow!"

I was angry and put down the receiver. The telephone was in a room where three pastors were visiting. I turned to them and said, "There are too many pies and too many demons in your churches!"

What did I mean? I have nothing against the pies and cakes in the church parties. The only danger for me is that, after some time of working in British countries, there is often "too much Corrie ten Boom," and I have to go on a diet! But how much time is wasted by making the finest and most delicious cakes and pies, when so many people have never heard the gospel! Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, but how many do not know that He died for them?

It can happen that in the house just next to the kitchen, where many hours are spent to bake pies for the church, live people who have a soul to save or be lost for eternity. "Let us redeem the time, the days are evil!"

There are too many demons in our churches! What do people do with a person who is obsessed or possessed?

They go to a psychiatrist who gives shocks! That means solving a great problem in a small way, and that is always dangerous!

One of the pastors took me to the demon-possessed girl. However, there was defeat that day! I never understood why! Was there perhaps anger or resentment in my heart? That could have been the reason! For if we give room to any sin, we ally ourselves with the enemy, and we stand powerless in the battle!

In New Zealand, I told a group of ladies who came regularly together for prayer some of the experiences described in this book. One said, "Now I understand what is the matter with my neighbor's little girl! I fear that she is demon-possessed! Does distance exist for God, or can we cast out the demons from here?"

We all went on our knees, and in the name of Jesus commanded the demons in the little girl to leave her alone! When the lady came home, her neighbor came to her and told her, "My little girl is healed, she is quite normal." How they rejoiced! But an hour later, another neighbor came to her and said, "My little girl has the same disease as the neighbor's child!"

The lady understood that we had partly failed, because we had not forbidden the demons to go into anyone else! Together with other Christians they cast out the demons from the second child, and told them to go to hell, where they belong!

I am not quite sure whether we may do this last thing. A missionary in Africa told me that this must be said by the Lord Himself! In Jude we read that even the archangel Michael said to the devil: "The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 9). But since I had that warning I have forbidden the demons in Jesus' name to come back to the

same person, or into anyone else, and told them to go to that place to which God commanded them to go. How we need wisdom! But in James 1:5 we read the joyful promise: “If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it” (LB).

What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else?

But despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us. For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are—high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.

Romans 8:31–32, 37–39 LB

*This
Day Is
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Contents



1	January	7
2	February	23
3	March	39
4	April	54
5	May	69
6	June	85
7	July	102
8	August	117
9	September	133
10	October	148
11	November	165
12	December	179

1



January

January 1

God bless you in this new year. May He give you many opportunities to build gold and silver for eternity on the one foundation, Jesus Christ.

Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each man's work will become manifest . . . because it will be revealed with fire.

1 Corinthians 3:12–13 RSV

With our hand in Your hand, Lord Jesus, we are more than conquerors, because Your victory is our victory. Hallelujah!

January 2

The Bible tells us that God created the earth through Jesus. He was with God when He looked at the newly created earth and said that it was very good. But then the terrible fact took place that man tore himself away from God and was sent from God's presence. The result was sin, misery, war, suffering, unrighteousness, death. And when God sent His Son to the earth to die for the sins of

the world, very many did not accept Him. What about you? Did you accept Him as your Lord and Savior?

He was in the world, and the world was made by him,
and the world knew him not.

John 1:10

God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,
not imputing their trespasses unto them.

2 Corinthians 5:19

Father, we can never fully understand the wonderful oneness between You and Your Son, nor the fact that You loved us so much that You gave Your Son, that we might come back to You, and that You do not even impute our sins to us. We praise Your holy name.

January 3

When Jesus had finished all, God could bring us back to what He first made: man in His image and likeness, meant to have dominion and power over evil spirits and, above all, to have fellowship with Himself. What is our answer?

You have . . . put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:9–10 RSV

Our Father, how immeasurable is Your mercy, Your loving-kindness toward us. We want to put our lives at Your disposal in a new way. Make us faithful.

January 4

God has always been seeking contact with His creation. He has not forgotten it. It was His will that man should

have dominion over it, but in fellowship with Himself. Therefore, He made man in His image.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion.

Genesis 1:26

Our Father, what a wonderful calling You have for us. Forgive us that so often we marred Your image. But we thank You, that in Your Son, You made all things new—even us. Let us live our lives to Your honor.

January 5

Many people struggle with the problem of sinning and trying not to sin again. Although we know about this vicious circle of sinning and trying again and again to live up to the Christian life—and we may indeed be successful for a time—yet we fail because of our sinful nature, and the power of the enemy keeps us on the deadly treadmill of sin.

The truth is that no condemnation now hangs over the head of those who are “in” Christ Jesus. For the new spiritual principle of life “in” Christ Jesus lifts me out of the old vicious circle of sin and death.

Romans 8:1–2 PHILLIPS

Lord, teach us what it means that, now that we are in You, we are no longer governed by our own natures. Show us the joy of surrendering to You.

January 6

Jesus came to lift us out of the vicious circle of sin and trying to live up to the Christian life, and to put us into

the blessed circle of the Holy Spirit. If we then sin, we confess it immediately and are cleansed.

After confession and cleansing, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit, for there is room for Him to dwell in us. We must get into the good habit of constantly confessing our sins.

Your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

1 John 2:12

Lord, thank You that You shed Your blood for us—for me—and that it keeps me clean from all sin.

January 7

Too often when a Christian makes a vow and fails to keep it, he explains it away as a mistake or an error of judgment. But in most cases it is not a mistake, and the vow is both valuable and possible to keep. The error is falling short of the mark.

Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.

Job 22:27

Help us, Father, to obey Your command and take our vows seriously. We want to honor You.

January 8

If ever you make a foolish promise, talk it over with the Lord, but do not shrug it off. A broken vow is a sin and an affront to God. Until broken vows are mended, it is difficult to make progress on the way of consecration.

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.

Psalm 50:14

Take my will, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

January 9

When your good is spoken evil of, your wishes are crossed, when your taste is offended, your advice disregarded, when your opinions are ridiculed and you take it all in patient, loving silence—that is victory.

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:23 RSV

Lord, make us more like You. Help us to be victorious in the little things of everyday life.

January 10

If you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God—that is victory.

In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want.

Philippians 4:12 RSV

Help me, Father, to examine myself closely in order to know whether I have really learned this secret. If not, please teach me.

January 11

If you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or to record your own good works—if you can truly love to be unknown—that is victory.

For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:10 RSV

Lord, help me not to look for praise or the approval of man. Let me be content with the fact that You know about what I do in serving You.

January 12

The perfect victory is to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and thus to triumph over one’s self.

Let Christ Jesus himself be the armour that you wear; give no more thought to satisfying the bodily appetites.

Romans 13:14 NEB

Thank You, Lord, that You make us victorious in Yourself.

January 13

Often people say that one religion is as good as another. But there is a big difference between religion and Christianity. Religions tell people to try to climb from earth to heaven. Christianity is founded on Christ. He

came from heaven to earth, to give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

Ephesians 4:10

Father, thank You that You sent Your Son and that He opened up the way for us.

January 14

Religions are concerned with sins. The Bible deals with sin. Our Lord bore the sin of the world by identification, taking it upon Himself as if it were His own, not in sympathy. And because God had to be true to His words, Jesus had to bear the punishment for sin: death on the cross.

Ye are bought with a price.

1 Corinthians 6:20

How can we ever thank You, Lord, that You were willing to bear our punishment? Help us that our lives may glorify You.

January 15

Why do we long for the Lord's coming? Because we love Him. And He loves us infinitely more than we love Him. That is why I believe that He longs for that day even more than we do.

We know we must be ready at His coming—completely ready. And if we are really hoping for His return, we shall see to it that we are ready.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:3

Help us, Lord, to remember that we must daily purify ourselves. Help us to be ready for Your coming. What a joy to see You then!

January 16

"But," you may say, "so often I try and fail. I do not succeed. However much I do my best to be pure and holy and to live in the right relationship with God and men, I deeply feel the temptations of the enemy." I believe that in these days the enemy is very, very active in attacking the children of God. He knows the time is short for him. But he is a conquered enemy.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.

James 1:5 RSV

Father, You know our innermost thoughts and feelings. You know all we lack. So we come to You, asking You, and we thank You that You will give to us that which we need. With You, we will not fail.

January 17

How can you be ready? How can I be ready? Not by trying and trying again and again. That could well be a victory of pious man living a carnal life. Then we feel so good, which is a tremendous victory for the devil.

The answer is by surrendering to Him who longs for us and who is willing to prepare us for His return.

Because . . . you have a hope like this before you, I urge you to make certain that the day will find you at peace with God, flawless and blameless in his sight.

2 Peter 3:14 PHILLIPS

Yes, Lord, we want to surrender more fully to You. Make us willing for You to prepare us for Your return, so that we may be found ready on that wonderful day.

January 18

When we think of the last great battle, we must realize that not only the future is at stake, but that we are engaged in warfare now. We are already standing in the midst of the battle. If we have our eyes and ears open, we see how the enemy is marching in from all sides. The armor we need is not only necessary for the battle we have to fight in the future, but also for this time.

For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness.

Ephesians 6:12 RSV

O Lord, make us strong in the battle of today. Thank You that You are our Commander. Make us obedient to Your commands, that we may not be defeated.

January 19

God's plans for the victory are perfect. He has known the enemy and the reactions of the enemy from before the foundation of the world, and He does not need to fear any unexpected attack. At the cross of Calvary He has already won the victory. We know our position in the battle. The Bible speaks of this position:

Your life is hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:3

Father, there is no safer position for us than to be hid with Christ in You. We thank You that it will be so in all eternity.

January 20

I am more and more impressed as I read the Bible, by the reiterated "Fear not." There are so many promises that it should not be strange if there were no "Fear not"; the promises are enough to rest upon. We should not need to be told not to be afraid, and yet there it is over and over again, in one form or another, this strong, loving, encouraging "Fear not" of our God.

Amy Carmichael

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid . . . for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 31:6

How we thank You, Father, that again and again You assure us of Your presence and that You will be with us always, to take away all our fears.

January 21

What a comfort to know that we belong to the victorious army of God, when we look at the seemingly superior forces of the enemy. Nowadays there are many atheistic ideologies. When I look at world history in the light

of God's Word, then I do not believe we can expect better times. Politics has no answer for this progress of atheism.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57 RSV

Thank You, Father, for giving Your Son to be crucified and for raising Him up again. Thank You that He is alive today and that we can live in the power of His victory.

January 22

When we think of the future, when the great final battle will take place, we can very well imagine the powers of evil. But we must not forget that these are already mobilized in the battle, and it is part of our training that we recognize them and become firm.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7 RSV

Thank You, Father, that it is possible for me to be strong in Your power. Thank You that Your Word tells me so. Teach me more and more to listen to Your Word, not to the lies of the devil.

January 23

The children of God are greatly attacked at this very time, and it is good to know our enemy. That is why it is

necessary to be victorious in daily life now and to surrender completely to the Lord Jesus. Jesus is always Victor! All we have to do is to remain in close contact with Him. Then His life of victory will flow through us and teach the people around us.

Our everyday life is our battlefield. Part of God's strategy is to appoint the place where we have to fight.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.

1 Peter 5:8–9 RSV

Lord, if You tell us to resist, You will also give us the power to do so. You know how much we need Your power. Thank You that we may always ask for that which we lack.

January 24

The training in the victorious army of God for the last great battle does not take place under unusual circumstances, but in the midst of common daily life. That is the place of training, and everything we experience belongs to that training. So do our contacts with our fellow men. In Peter's first epistle we read that all difficulties and temptations work together to prepare us:

This means tremendous joy to you, even though at present you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials. This is no accident—it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold. . . . This proving of your faith is planned to result in praise and glory and honour in the day when

Jesus Christ reveals himself.

1 Peter 1:6–7 PHILLIPS

We pray, Lord, that we may be reminded of the joy that lies before us when our lives seem to be so difficult. Keep our eyes on You.

January 25

Patience is a scriptural virtue Christians must seek. There seems to be only one way, however, to gain patience, as explained in the Bible: through difficulties. You will be encouraged when you see the temptations of everyday life from God's point of view. Then you know that the greatest power of God's love and joy—the fruit of the Holy Spirit—is at your disposal in daily life.

Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

James 1:2–3 RSV

Lord, You alone know how much patience I need. Open my eyes when I have difficult times and trials to help me see them from Your side and to realize that they are meant to teach me patience.

January 26

What a mystery! When things are seen from the viewpoint of eternity, it makes us patient, for we know we are like gold that must be purified.

Let patience have her perfect work.

James 1:4

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are always with me and that when I look up I see You. Everything else becomes small compared to this joy.

January 27

Are you having problems in your walk as a Christian? Has sorrow come? Must you do without something or someone in order to follow Him? God has the answer. Turn to Him.

You are so much more than what you enjoy!

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Thank You, Father, for Your overflowing provision for all our needs.

January 28

The finished work at the cross of Calvary, the power of the blood of Jesus, is our great victory. We can take this into account in our spiritual battles now and in the future. But the word of our testimony is also a power to gain the victory. We must always be ready to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ before the devil and man. If we don't, something is wrong.

You shall be my witnesses.

Acts 1:8 RSV

Lord, make us faithful in obeying Your commands. Give us the right words to say when witnessing. Above all, fill us with Your love, so others will see it.

January 29

Many people make the mistake of thinking they can measure the certainty of their salvation by their feelings. But the Word of God is the only foundation, and therefore it is essential to have a practical knowledge of the Bible.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. . . . Teach me thy statutes. Make me to understand the way of thy precepts. . . . I will run the way of thy commandments.

Psalm 119:18, 26–27, 32

Father, I thank You that Your Word alone gives me the certainty of my salvation. Help me to be willing to be rooted in Your Word more and more.

January 30

What is written in the Bible cannot be changed. Feelings and emotions can change. Christians are not always on the mountaintop. Act on the Word, and teach others to do so. John says, “These things have I written.” Why did he write?

. . . that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13 RSV

Father, Your Word stands forever, and it says that we can know that we have eternal life. We do thank You for this assurance.

January 31

When we lose our first love, we begin to backslide, and we grow cold in our work for the gospel. We neglect our

Bible reading and prayer, and we never witness. The reason for our backsliding is always sin. Outwardly, everything may look the same, but God and we know what is wrong.

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Revelation 2:4 RSV

Father, let Your light shine into our hearts and make us conscious of any darkness that has crept in. Bring us back to the point where we took the wrong turning. We open our hearts to You.

2



February

February 1

We must return to God, confess our sins, ask forgiveness. Then our fellowship with God will be restored and our first love will be renewed. But what if we do not feel any joy after the confession of our sins? Let us thank God for His forgiveness all the same. His promises in the Bible stand forever.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Thank You, Father, for this wonderful promise. Thank You that we can rely on it and that we can completely trust You. Thank You that You will restore our fellowship with You and also our joy.

February 2

A child of God has power in his struggle against Satan. However, the devil does his utmost to turn our eyes away from Jesus. He tries to get us so far away that we explain everything by our intellect.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him . . . because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Father, You gave us Your Spirit to guide us. You will strengthen us in our struggle against Satan. Thank You for this fact.

February 3

The armor of God in Ephesians 6 is not only described as the armor of the soldiers of Jesus Christ in the victorious final battle, but also for the time of Paul, as well as for this time. Because we know that the great final battle will start soon, this armor is very important. Jesus said that these days would come, and we can see already from the newspapers that they are upon us. Let us not be afraid. These things must happen first. It is so kind of the Lord to tell us beforehand.

Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, "I am he," and, "The time is near." Do not follow them.

Luke 21:8 NIV

Lord, keep us watching and praying.

February 4

The Bible does not only give us the necessary information about Satan and demons, but also the weapons we need for this battle, so that through Jesus Christ we may be more than conquerors.

Let us keep in mind that God wants and expects us to be conquerors over the powers of darkness—not only for the sake of personal safety and for the liberation of others from the chains of slavery (though these are very important), but for His glory, so that His triumph and victory over His enemies may be demonstrated!

And then, having drawn the sting of all the powers and authorities ranged against us, he exposed them, shattered, empty and defeated, in his own triumphant victory!

Colossians 2:15 PHILLIPS

O Father, we thank You that You want to use us so that others may be made free and that it is Your will that we should be victorious so that You may receive honor and glory.

February 5

Do you know what encouraged me lately? John 15:2. Sometimes difficulties can so depress me. Then I saw that such moments are only the back of the embroidery. On reading John 15 again and again, I began to realize that when the Lord prunes, He is very near to the branch. It caused me to feel glad, knowing the Lord was so near to me and that He pruned me that I might bring forth more fruit. I could only say, “Thank You, Lord Jesus.”

Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:2 RSV

Yes, thank You, Lord Jesus, that You are always with me and pruning me, that I may bring forth even more fruit, that Your name may be glorified.

February 6

So often I meet Christians who have the same experience as I described yesterday, and how wonderful it is then to be able to tell them of the presence of Jesus. Let us pray for one another in these times of testing, so that we cannot do anything but thank Him and not become discouraged.

When we look to Jesus, we see things, as it were, from God's side—we receive spiritual insight (see Colossians 1:9).

By whom also we have access by faith . . . and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed.

Romans 5:2–5

Father, thank You that we can always come to You in the name of Your Son, and that You will again and again fill our hearts with hope and joy. We praise and worship You.

February 7

Sometimes people say, "Why do we need Jesus to come to God?"

I once met a lady who said to me, "I have spoken with prominent people all over the world—in India, Arabia,

Japan, and many other countries—about the way of life in time and eternity. There were eminent persons among them who had come to know God without Jesus Christ. You said so definitely that we need Him, but that is not true.”

“You do not disagree with me, but with the Bible,” I answered. “It is not I who say so.” I was a bit discouraged. Sometimes I feel it is much too difficult for me to speak to learned people.

Several months later, I met this lady again, and she told me she could not forget what I had been saying. “Very, very often I had to think of your words that we need Jesus Christ to come to God.”

“How great!” I answered. “You have been listening to God’s voice. Go on listening, and read the Bible. There is much more He wants to say to you.”

No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

Lord Jesus, how clearly You speak to us, so that we cannot misunderstand Your words. Help us to pass on Your words to those who do not yet know You.

February 8

Accepting Christ is not an end, but a beginning. There is a second step. We must accept Him as our Lord. When we do this, He lives His victorious life in us—He the vine, we the branches. The branch without the vine has no value at all. The vine has everlasting value. When connected with the vine, the branch can bear fruit.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

Thank You, Lord, that You will give me Your strength for all the many things for which I need it. Hallelujah!

February 9

A seeking Christian will soon find out what stands in the way, if there is a hindrance. The Holy Spirit will lead him to seek forgiveness through the blood of Jesus and to accept by faith His provision for a victorious life, fully surrendered to God. Then, by faith—and only by faith—he can act upon the promises of God, and he shall receive the mighty power of God.

Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the highways. . . . They go from strength to strength.

Psalms 84:5, 7 RSV

Father, You know how much I need to be filled with Your strength. You know how weak I am in myself. Thank You that it is possible to be strong in You.

February 10

One of Satan's devices is to make us introspective. When we are looking inside ourselves, we are looking at the wrong person. We are bound to find more and more sin. We must look at Jesus. He will show us our sins in the light of His finished work upon the cross. And we shall know where we have to make restitution and get right with God and men.

Let us . . . lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1–2 RSV

Lord Jesus, we can never thank You enough that we can always rely on You. Make us willing to obey when You tell us what we should do.

February 11

My grandfather wrote to his father, “I pray that the Lord will come closer to me.” But my great-grandfather wrote this answer in a letter: “A fish does not ask the water to come closer to him; a bird does not ask the air to come closer to him. The Lord is very close to us. Enjoy it.”

For in him we live, and move, and have our being.

Acts 17:28

Thank You, Lord, that You are near to me.

February 12

Unless you believe with all your heart, you will not see Jesus when He returns. You must invite Him to come into your heart. You must open the door. No one else can.

Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.

Revelation 3:20 LB

O Lord, thank You for being willing to come into my heart. Thank You for even knocking at my door. With joy I open my heart for You to enter.

February 13

A young art student was copying one of Turner's pictures in the National Gallery in London. His eyes were continually lifting from his canvas to his "master." He put nothing down that he had not just seen. He was "seeking after" Turner.

Josiah began to seek after God (see 2 Chronicles 34:3).

[He] turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might.

2 Kings 23:25

Lord, I will seek after You—now, and this whole day during my work.

February 14

Worship has vital connections with work, just as there are nerve relationships between the heart and the hand.

We read in the stories of Ezra and Nehemiah that they first arranged the altar, then the tabernacle was rebuilt, and after that, the wall of Jerusalem.

And they sang together . . . in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD.

Ezra 3:11

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me. . . . And they said, Let us rise up and build.

Nehemiah 2:18

Lord, I worship You before I start my work today. I praise Your name that I belong to You with all the labor I have to do.

February 15

From the beginning of the Bible to the end, there are words of comfort and encouragement. We know that the temptation to fear is a very real one; millions of people have had it. But they have conquered, and so will you, if you take our Saviour's words of strengthening to yourself and stay yourself on them.

Amy Carmichael

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

Lord, we can never thank You enough for giving us Your peace. We praise You that we need not be troubled, need not be afraid, because of Your peace.

February 16

Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, and therefore the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the birthright of every child of God. But we must give room to Him, even in the corners deep down in our hearts. Then we can expect that He will do a lot in and through us.

So, if you, for all your evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more likely is it that your Heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11:13 PHILLIPS

Lord, make us see in what respect we have not yet opened our hearts completely to Your Holy Spirit. We

want to trust Him to work in us that others may see the greatness of Your power.

February 17

Someone said, "There is no aristocracy in God's kingdom." He was wrong. There is nothing but aristocracy in God's kingdom, for we are heirs with the Son of God.

We are the children of God: And if children, then heirs . . . joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:16–17

Thank You, Lord, that You made us children of God and therefore heirs together with You. What a mystery that we, who are just so many specks in the vast universe, are meant to inherit the heavenly riches.

February 18

In the Bible we cannot find one single word that gives us any indication that the gifts of the Spirit were only necessary for the apostolic times. The slow "drying up" of the stream of the gifts of the Spirit is not in accordance with the biblical and historical plan of God's salvation. We must seek the reason for this in lack of faith and in the backsliding of the churches.

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . .
But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4, 31 RSV

Lord, teach each one of us the meaning of the gifts of the Spirit. Let us come with an unprejudiced heart, that You may instruct us.

February 19

If a trombone has a pure tone, the overtones vibrate too. One does not hear them, but they give color and beauty to the tone. If, however, the tone is not pure, the overtones are silent.

If a child of God sins—if his trombone gives an impure sound—the overtones to God's glory do not resound. Because of this, a child of God feels unhappy when sinning. Then he calls out, "Father, in Jesus' name, forgive this sin," and Jesus, our Advocate, who lives and is at the right hand of the Father, says, "Father, this sin I also took upon Me." He then throws the sin into the depths of the sea, and the overtones vibrate again, giving a certain and joyful sound to our trombone.

And you yourselves who were strangers to God, and, in fact, through the evil things you had done, his spiritual enemies, he has now reconciled through the death of Christ's body on the cross, so that he might welcome you to his presence clean and pure, without blame or reproach.

Colossians 1:21 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that through Your cleansing You make our lives so harmonious.

February 20

Francis of Assisi said, "Don't you know that everyone you meet during the day should see in you something of God's love?"

Is that possible? Yes, but not by striving and trying, but rather by keeping the curtains of your heart open for the light of the Holy Spirit.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Lord, make me a channel of Your streams of living water.

February 21

An overflowing measure of strength is at our disposal. But then, how we need it! Let us therefore live as rich as we are! This wealth is not dependent on outward circumstances. It is good to know this, because in the time of the final battle, outward circumstances are going to be very hard. You can be sure that the Lord is with us. There will always be His grace and strength. It is true that I saw my sister starve in a concentration camp, but the Lord's presence was real. He never let me down.

He is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 18:30 RSV

Lord Jesus, in heaven we will see Your pattern of our lives, but we need to see now the most important outlines, such as Your strength being demonstrated in our weakness.

February 22

I am so glad the Bible never asks impossible things of us! How good that it does not say, "Let us look at our faith." If it did, perhaps I would say, "My faith is great." That would be pride, which is a victory of the devil. Spiritual pride ruins many blessings.

Or I might say, "Oh, that faith of mine is nothing. It does not work." We call that "defeatism," which is also a victory of the devil.

Hudson Taylor once said, “We do not need a great faith, but faith in a great Saviour.” Therefore, let us look more and more at *Jesus*, not at our faith.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest . . . Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast.

Hebrews 4:14

Lord Jesus, we thank You that we need not look at our faith, but can look at You to receive all we need for today.

February 23

God sometimes disciplines us through illness or physical weakness. Because of my inability to travel any longer, I had to settle down. My dedication is not less, and now I experience that the message God gives me reaches more people than ever before, through the books and films I have been enabled to make in His strength in my house in California.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

Romans 8:28

Thank You, Lord, that You have a purpose for that suffering I have to carry. Someday I will see it; now I believe it. You never make a mistake.

February 24

If you should have one more year to live, what would you do? It may be good to think about that sometimes. Then we realize what is essential. For each one of us, it may be something different: faith to live by; peace to fill our heart; joy for others to see; wisdom to know what to give to others. Whatever it may be, it makes us more dependent on God.

My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

What a wonderful promise, Father! I can leave everything in Your hands because Your Word stands firm forever. Hallelujah!

February 25

Are you grieving over a loved one who passed away? Was he or she a child of God? Then your heart can be at peace, with the knowledge of the glory of your loved one's new home in heaven. How good it must be for that one to be at home, to be with the Lord, to see Him face-to-face!

He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All of that has gone forever.

Revelation 21:4 LB

Lord, You told us You were going to prepare a place for us when You went to the Father's house. How wonderful that place will be, because there we shall see You!

February 26

I can understand your discouragement when it seems that your prayers have not been answered. But never doubt that God hears every one of your prayers, even the unusual ones. Look out for the answer, without deciding yourself what it should be like.

The Father himself loves you.

John 16:27 RSV

Thank You, Father, for Your love. Thank You for hearing our prayers and giving us that which You know is best for us.

February 27

A soldier must obey. He cannot serve his country if he does his own will. Jesus was obedient. He, the Creator of the world, always submitted to His Father's will. He set His face toward Jerusalem, to be crucified. He was obedient unto the death of the cross. That was His way to resurrection. It is also the way for His followers, for only the way of obedience, the way of crucifixion, leads to resurrection.

. . . bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5

Teach us, Lord, to be obedient, as You were obedient. Show us in what way we still hold on to our own will and desires, and give us the courage to leave all in Your hands.

February 28

People have asked me, "How does God speak to you?"

Sometimes God speaks by giving me an assurance of heart, without words. It is not important *how* God answers prayers for guidance. The thing I am absolutely sure of is

that God is light, not darkness. And He never leaves those who trust Him in darkness.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

Father, we thank You that we need never walk in darkness, because You are leading us and showing us the way, step by step.

February 29

God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible; in the talks we have with Him when praying; through other people; and through that which is happening around us. If we take time to listen, we shall hear Him, and then we can go and tell others.

We have seen this day that God doth talk with man.

Deuteronomy 5:24

Thank You, Father, that You will always speak to us when we come to You with a heart that is willing to hear and willing to do as You say.

3



March

March 1

God also uses our daily Bible reading to show us the way we have to take, the decision we have to make. God has promised to honor the daily use of His Word in our lives.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32:8

Father, we know that our lives are completely in Your hands and that You are guiding us. Teach us to always trust You, even when sometimes we have to wait for Your directions as to the next step.

March 2

Another way in which God makes us know His will is by closing the doors if our decision is not the right one, or by allowing us to make a mistake, in order that we may see for ourselves that we took the wrong turn when we did not listen to Him. His Word tells us that we can hear His voice.

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21 RSV

Help us, Lord, to discern Your voice amid the many voices we hear—other people's voices and the voice of our own thoughts. Let us be near enough to hear Your soft voice.

March 3

Often God does not immediately give us a clear answer. Then we must learn to wait for Him. This waiting upon God is a blessing in itself, because we know, confidently and joyfully, that the answer will come at the time our loving Father thinks right.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

Thank You for this promise, Father. Yes, I will call to You and wait for that which You are going to show me.

March 4

Our circumstances often are God's answers to our prayers. We pray for patience, and God sends us someone demanding the utmost of our strength. We pray for selflessness, and God gives us opportunities to get rid of our self.

We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:3–4 NIV

Lord, remind us again and again that Your answers to our prayers may differ from what we think they ought to be. We wait for You to show us how to interpret Your answers.

March 5

We pray for a closer union with Jesus, and then God loosens natural relationships. Our best friends misunderstand us, or they become indifferent to us. We want to become more faithful followers of Jesus, and then He takes us from our homeland and relations, for He said:

So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 RSV

Lord, we pray, make us willing to let go of everything and count it but loss, because we do want to follow You.

March 6

We pray for peace, and suddenly everything in us and around us is in a turmoil, in order that we should learn to rely on God and trust Him completely.

When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?

Job 34:29

Thank You, Lord, that You are able to give quietness into our hearts, when there is nothing but unrest around us and even in us. Thank You that You are Victor over it all.

March 7

We pray for victory, and the things of this world pull us into a whirlpool of temptation.

This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.

1 John 5:4 RSV

Lord, evermore give us this victory.

March 8

We need men and women who are full of the Holy Spirit, in whom the gifts of grace are active. Such people can show the world that God is alive.

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:7 RSV

Lord, we want to be one of those who can show the world that You are alive today. Thank You for the grace given to each one of us, grace which is never ending.

March 9

We must measure the value of the gifts in accordance with what is written in Holy Scripture, where they are shown to be important. When the Bible says, "desire spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 14:1), we cannot change this into "keep away from the gifts of the Spirit." We can fight against their misuse, but never against the gifts themselves.

What a responsibility! God offers to His church these gifts, but on the condition that we pray for them. Very often we do not do that, and therefore we are so poor and in want.

There are different kinds of gifts. . . . All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:4, 11 NIV

Thank You, Father, that each one of us has received gifts. Open our eyes to them, that we may use them to glorify You.

March 10

Follow the pathway of obedience. Let the Word of God do its own work in you, and you will be used by God far beyond your own powers.

F. B. Meyer said, “God does not fill with His Holy Spirit those who believe in the fullness of the Spirit, or those who desire Him, but those who obey Him.”

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another.

1 Peter 1:22

Father, help me to be always obedient to what Your Word tells me, so that You can use me.

March 11

No one can trust God who does not obey Him. Obedience is the root of trust. In Jesus' life, trusting went quite without saying, because, for Him, obedience went without saying.

Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?

1 Samuel 15:22

Teach us, Father, always to be willing to listen to Your voice and to be obedient, that we may bring joy to Your heart.

March 12

Although God's love never changes, we do not always live in the joy of it. When sin comes between God and our soul, as a dark cloud between the sun and the earth, our communion with Him is broken. Let us therefore avoid everything that might rob us of enjoying God's immeasurable love.

It was by the generosity of God, the free giving of the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, that the love of God overflowed for the benefit of all men.

Romans 5:15 PHILLIPS

Help us, Lord, to put aside everything that hinders our enjoying Your love, everything that breaks our communion with You, because we cannot live without it.

March 13

Some Christians live in bondage. The reason they are not free may lie in the past. It may be a sin; it may be because they do not forgive. It may be a tie with the wrong person, or even a tie with the right person, one who really follows the Lord.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:36

Lord, show me what still ties me down. Open my eyes, that I may see and ask You to cleanse me.

March 14

Our sins can be shown to us in two very different ways.

In the first place, Satan accuses the saints day and night. Again and again he tells us our sins, until we become quite desperate. He says, “Now you can see how you really are. That which you have done is completely according to your character, and that will never change.”

If, however, the Holy Spirit shows us our sins, He does it in the full light of the finished work at the cross. He says to us, “For this sin Jesus died. He bore the punishment.”

He is alive, and it is His will that you become more than conqueror. Repent and turn away from your sin in His strength. His blood cleanses. He gives us the victory. He sends the answer, and the Holy Spirit enables us to close our ears to the accuser.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,
and by the word of their testimony.

Revelation 12:11

Thank You, Lord, for the power of Your blood. Thank You for giving Your life for us. Thank You that You are Victor forever.

March 15

I have met many young people who were set free because they wrote to their parents: “Will you please forgive me

what I did wrong? I want to forgive you the things that you did not do right."

They became a blessing to their parents. After having written a letter like the above, some of them could bring their parents to the Lord.

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16 LB

Father, help us to forgive, as You have forgiven us.

March 16

How the enemy uses human channels! You can only be made free from that when you break off certain friendships in the power of Jesus Christ.

We are not ready for His coming if all is not well between God and us and between other people and us.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

Show me, Lord, the things I must put right with others, the things that are hindering me from being an open channel. Make me ready for Your coming.

March 17

It can also be that we must be made free from a tie with the right person; someone who really follows the Lord. This I had to learn myself. A vision my sister Betsie had

in the concentration camp where she died showed me the work that I would have to do after the war. When the time had come that I had to let go of this work, I felt very unhappy and depressed.

Then a sister in the Lord showed me that also a tie with a beloved one who has died can be wrong. In the name of Jesus I was made free from it, and the Lord gave me deep peace.

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Psalm 118:8

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind.

Psalm 146:8

Thank You, Father, that You open our eyes, that we may see clearly whether we really trust You more than a human being, however dear to us.

March 18

Not all prisoners are behind bars. There are prisoners of self, lust, money, ambition, or pride. You can be liberated today. Confess and be cleansed, and in Jesus' power you can turn away one hundred percent.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness.

Colossians 1:13

Search me, God, and show me if I am a prisoner. Show me the cross where all was finished so that I may understand that it made me free.

March 19

Are you a prisoner of lust?

You thought it would make you happy, but you know now that such bondage is hard and unhappy. There is an answer: It is Jesus. He carried this sin at the cross, and He lives, and He is willing to liberate you this very moment. Turn away; come to Him. He hates your sin. He loves you.

I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

John 12:47 RSV

Lord, in Your strength, I turn away and come to You.

March 20

Are you in the prison of self?

Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me!

Luke 9:23 LB

Lord, I thought it meant losing my life when I surrendered to You, but I see that it is the opposite. It is gaining my life to give myself to You.

March 21

Are you in the prison of occultism? You did it just for fun when you went to that fortune-teller, when you let him look at your palm, when he told you what was going to

happen and it really did happen. But now you are in darkness. You came, because of that “fun,” into the territory of the demons, and they are tough. But there is One who is stronger.

Tell it to Jesus. Repent, and He will set you free.

So use every piece of God’s armor to resist the enemy.

. . . When it is all over, you will still be standing up.

Ephesians 6:13 LB

Forgive me, Lord Jesus, and liberate me. I praise You for Your cleansing blood.

March 22

Are you in the bondage of smoking, alcohol, or drugs? Realize that you are in a spiritual battle. We do not have to fight against flesh and blood, but against the very representatives of the headquarters of evil. But they are conquered enemies.

When I stood in front of death in the concentration camp, I saw things so realistically and simply. There was I; there was the devil. He is much stronger than I. But there was Jesus. He is much, very much stronger than the devil, and with Him, I am stronger than the devil.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6 RSV

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the perfect logistics of Your armor.

March 23

The Lord opens doors and sets the captives free; not only those behind iron doors, but also captives of sin, selfishness, and other bonds. Are you free indeed? If not, Jesus can make you free. Put your weak hand in His strong hand. He said:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Lord, You know how tired and burdened I sometimes am. I come to You today, just as I am. Give me Your rest.

March 24

A compromise is fatal. The devil, who is a liar, tells you that a little bit of “yes, but . . .” is so much easier than “yes, Jesus.” That is a lie! Every day with Jesus is better than the day before, but He is not willing for you to be only a member of a spiritual insurance company. He is our Savior. He has bought you with His blood—a very high price. He is the King of kings, the Son of God.

Stay always within the boundaries where God's love
can reach and bless you.

Jude 21 LB

Lord, I surrender all. Set my feet on victory ground.

March 25

Are you a backslider? The enemy tells you that now you cannot go on with the Lord. But read what Jesus told

about the good shepherd in Luke 15:3–7. He left the ninety-nine good sheep at home and went to seek the one naughty, stupid sheep. After he found it, he rejoiced.

The Lord Jesus will rejoice when you come again to Him. This moment, He is telling you, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

There will be . . . joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:7 RSV

Lord Jesus, I am a lost sheep. Thank You for seeking me, that I may come back to You.

March 26

An unrepented sin is a continued sin. Don't be careless about it. You do not need two different poisons to be killed. If you do not repent, the blood of Christ cannot cleanse you, and you cannot receive eternal life.

Every man shall die for his own sin.

2 Chronicles 25:4

O Lord, help me to bring every sin which you show me to You at once, asking forgiveness. Let me never forget what even the smallest sin cost You.

March 27

As He cleanses our lives, so He fills them to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. Everything that the light of God shows up as sin, we can confess and carry to the fountain

of the water of life, and it is gone from God's sight and from our hearts.

What God has cleansed, you must not call common.

Acts 10:15 RSV

Lord, keep us from the sin of remembered sins. That sin we have confessed is gone forever. Hallelujah!

March 28

Did you conquer? Not yet? Does that mean defeat? You are not the first one to experience that. Jesus sometimes seems to lose a battle, but He never loses a war. Soak in the Word of God. The Bible shows that there is much to fight, but Jesus is Victor.

"And they will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 1:19 NAS

Lord Jesus, it all seems defeat, but I know in my heart that You are Victor. Make me more than conqueror.

March 29

How wonderful it is that Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners! On Calvary we see the awful sinfulness of sin. But we also see Him, who came to destroy sin.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

Lord Jesus, how can we ever thank You enough, that You were willing to come into this world to save us and that

You came to destroy the works of the devil? We thank You that You are the Victor!

March 30

In the Bible we find a wonderful prayer of worship by David. Do you join David in his prayer? Do you belong to those who praise and honor Him? If not, will you not turn to Him today?

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

Lord God, we come to You with thanksgiving, and we praise You for Your exceeding greatness. If there is anyone among us who is not yet able to join us, we pray You will work in his heart that he may come to You, accepting You as his Lord and Savior.

March 31

Time must be set apart for prayer. Prayer is the key for the day, the lock for the night.

Watch ye therefore, and pray.

Luke 21:36

Make us ever more conscious of the fact that prayer is essential for our life with You, Lord. Only then shall we be able to hear Your voice.

4



April

April 1

Praying means listening to God's directions and instructions with a heart that is open toward Him; it is a talk between a Father and His child. Having an open heart means being willing to do whatever He says.

Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.

1 Samuel 3:9

Yes, Lord, we also pray: Speak, for we want to hear. Even though so often we do not listen and are not willing, yet You know that we long to hear You speak. Make us obedient to Your voice.

April 2

Lack of intercession is sin. Did you promise to pray for someone in need, someone who is ill, or a missionary? Did you keep that promise? If not, do you realize this to be a sin? Go to the Lord with it and ask Him to forgive you.

God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you.

1 Samuel 12:23

Lord, make me faithful in praying for others, and keep me faithful.

April 3

One day in Germany, a woman came to me. Her face was distorted by hatred. She was full of her own virtues and other people's faults. I just let her talk and listened. Suddenly it was as if something in her broke down, and she confessed that she had an empty heart.

I told her, "I know One who can fill the emptiness of your heart, but you can only come to Him with a prayer for mercy, and that you will not be able to do."

She called out, "I am a hypocrite. I see it now. Is there no mercy for me?"

I pointed out to her the great simple love of Jesus for sinners, and though she was not completely free, her attitude was much more humble when she left. Afterwards, I learned that a man in the adjoining room had been praying during our conversation. How wonderful intercession is!

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.

1 Timothy 2:1

Thank You, Father, that we can all take part in praying and interceding for others. Thank You that You always hear us and that You will do more than we can ever think of. We praise You!

April 4

How important are our prayers in God's eyes?

Do you know that not one of your prayers is lost? Your

prayers—for your son, your daughter, your mother, your father, your friend, or whoever you prayed for—are so costly in God's eyes that they are stored in heaven.

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Revelation 8:3

Lord, forgive me that I have underestimated my intercessions. I prayed to You in Jesus' name, and therefore they are so precious. Hallelujah!

April 5

Each one of us can pray for the leaders of the countries, just as we can pray for the salvation of unbelievers, for strength and encouragement for those in need—in fact for everyone. The Bible tells us over and over again that this is what we should do.

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends.

Job 42:10

Father, how wonderful it is that You allow us to come to You with all that occupies our minds, but also with other people's needs. Thank You that we can unburden ourselves and leave everything with You. Thank You for hearing us.

April 6

In our days there is much talk about peace between the nations. Everybody knows how greatly this is needed.

Many think that talking about peace will help. But if it is not from God, and the leaders do not receive wisdom from above, it will not be of much avail.

The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Isaiah 59:8

Lord, teach us the way of peace. Keep us from going along crooked paths. We only want to follow You.

April 7

Often words of peace sound so beautiful, but they are only a facade. There is no real peace behind the words. If, however, we choose for peace through Jesus Christ, the real beauty will be there. God will humble our hearts, and then we shall be able to go the path of real peace.

There shall be an highway for the remnant of his people.

Isaiah 11:16

Thank You, Father, that through Jesus Christ You cleared the path of peace for us and that He promised to give us His peace.

April 8

When the church and its believers think of peace, they must always keep in mind that they are on God's side. God always brings light into darkness. Without power from above, we cannot discern. We must pray for the church leaders to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for . . .

kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.

1 Timothy 2:1–2 RSV

Make us more faithful, Lord, in praying for those who have the great responsibility of leading the nations. Give them Your wisdom for all the decisions they have to make.

April 9

We live in the pause before the last trumpet sound. This is the great advent for the whole world. Jesus is coming and will make all things new.

Behold, I make all things new.

Revelation 21:5

Lord, I look forward to Your coming. Give me inspiration about how to use my time.

April 10

There is a great battle going on in the invisible world. The enemy will try with all his might to alienate us from God, to destroy our faith in Jesus Christ, and to make us rebellious against God. We can shut our eyes to the danger and not see where the course of world history will lead us. But Jesus says:

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:36

Lord, You alone are able to keep us, that we may be able to stand before You. Give us the strength and keep us from falling away from You.

April 11

Once when I was in the hospital, I learned something. I was in much pain, and I remembered the pain Jesus suffered for me, for my sins, and for the sins of the whole world. I remembered His love for the world, His love for me, and I received new strength.

I also remembered that He went the way to glory through suffering. Isn't that also guidance? If we follow Him in suffering, He will also lead us to glory.

We are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:16–17

Guide me continuously, Father. And if suffering is part of the way, remind me that this too is meant to bring glory to You. Thank You that You are my Helper.

April 12

Are you a child of God? God is waiting for you to come to Him and tell Him you want to be His child, if you do not yet belong to Him. Everything that was needed to make you God's child was finished many centuries ago on Calvary, when Jesus died for you.

Today He is asking you—and I may ask you in His name—"Do you want to become a child of God?" If you

say, "Yes, Lord, I want to, because I love You," He will say, "For a long time I have been waiting for that answer. It is good—now you are My child."

As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 1:12

Lord, we thank You that we may know You as our Lord and Savior. We pray for those who have not yet received You. Open their eyes, that they may see.

April 13

Jesus' cross seemed the end of love, but it was the great result of love and the beginning of salvation for all who come to Him, because they will always be with Him.

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

Father, keep us close to You, fill us with Your love, so that indeed You may rejoice over us.

April 14

When God calls you, don't look over your shoulder to see who is following you. You have to answer Him. Most likely, God will call somebody else for another task. And so you and I each work in His service, in the place He appoints for us.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11–12

Thank You, Father, that when You call us, You also show us where You want us to serve You, fitting us into the whole, that Your name may be glorified.

April 15

I cannot know the full impact of sin until I see it in the light of Calvary. I see the awfulness of sin, be it expressed in small sins or in big ones, when I realize what even the smallest sin cost God: He gave His only Son to die on the cross.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.

Romans 8:32

Father, I can never thank You enough for Your love for us—even for me. Take my life into Your hands and let it be to Your glory.

April 16

What does the cross show us? What do we see when our eyes are opened? We see that our sins are laid on Jesus, and that His righteousness is placed on us.

Jesus had legions of angels available, which could have been an overwhelming defense. Nobody could have done Him any harm without His allowing it, but He did

not use His defense. Through His obedience, He made His defense available to us—to you and to me.

He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. . . . That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.

Philippians 2:8, 15

Thank You, Lord, for what You did for me. Show me what I can do for You.

April 17

We must have assurance of salvation. There can be nothing vague or uncertain in our relationship with Jesus Christ and with God.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

Father, thank You that I know that I have eternal life, because Your Son told us that everyone who believes that He is Lord has this life.

April 18

Don't try to escape the cross.

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27 RSV

Lord, make me willing to follow You every new day.

April 19

The blood of Jesus Christ has great power! There is perhaps not a phrase in the Bible that is so full of secret truths as “the blood of Jesus.” It is the secret of His incarnation, when Jesus took our flesh and blood; the secret of His obedience unto death, when He gave His life at the cross of Calvary; the secret of His love that went beyond all understanding when He bought us with His blood; the secret of the enemy and the secret of our eternal salvation.

He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking
. . . his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:12 RSV

Help us, Lord, that we may more fully understand the value of Your blood. It is hidden from our natural minds, but please reveal it to our spirits.

April 20

Why does the devil hate it when the blood of Christ is spoken of? Because it reminds him of his defeat on Calvary through the death of Jesus, who gave His blood for us. But it also reminds him of Jesus’ life, of the risen One, to whom we may always go with our sins. That is why the devil is afraid of it. The blood of Jesus Christ has great power.

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Revelation 12:11 RSV

Father, we thank You that we can conquer the devil through the blood of Your Son and by our testimony. Keep us steadfast in the faith and help us to give a clear testimony to those who do not know You yet.

April 21

Are you prepared for the coming of Jesus? Am I prepared for the coming of Jesus? It is wonderful that the Bible clearly says that only by full surrender are we made ready for His coming again. If it depended on us, then one day we would be successful, but the next day it would be just the opposite.

Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:7–8

Thank You, Lord, that You are our strength and that, if only we surrender to Your will, You will keep us to the end.

April 22

There is still a tremendous struggle in sight, but the moment is coming when our sanctification will be complete. Yes, the best is yet to be! One day there will be an end to the battle. Then there will be complete victory—the victory through Jesus Christ!

May the God of peace make you holy through and through. May you be kept sound in spirit, mind and body, blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 PHILLIPS

How we long to be made holy through and through, Lord. Make us willing to let Your Spirit work in us.

April 23

When the marching orders of our King are given, and they seem very exacting, we need not fear. He Himself gives us the courage, the faithfulness, and the strength to obey Him. “Go in this thy might,” He says when He has given us, through the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit: faithfulness and strength.

If we are faithless he always remains faithful. He cannot deny his own nature.

2 Timothy 2:13 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that we never need go in our own strength. Thank You that You Yourself provide all we lack. Only help us to be faithful.

April 24

It is essential that we realize in these days that Jesus is the Conqueror! To stand at His side, to follow Him, to be hidden with Him in God—that is the safe position for every soldier of Jesus in this time and in the coming final battle.

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

Romans 12:2 TEV

Lord, we thank You that You will never leave us alone.

If only we abide in You, we shall remain hidden with You in God, and we shall be able to overcome.

April 25

Are you afraid to witness? How do you make the choice as to whom and where to witness? Remember, your mailman also has an eternity to win or to lose.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.

Matthew 28:19

Lord, show me to whom I must tell the joyful news of the gospel. I will obey Your choice, not mine.

April 26

Either we have let go of self or we have not. The proof is in our reactions to that which happens to us. Many people are correct in their actions, but not in their reactions. Those around us are watching for our reactions. Do we realize that these may cause others to turn to Jesus or to turn away from Him?

Look carefully then how you walk.

Ephesians 5:15 RSV

Thank You, Lord, for Your grace, given to work in us, that others may see You and turn to You.

April 27

If people don't see Jesus in the Bible, this is not your fault. But if they don't see Him in your life, that is your fault.

He who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:6 RSV

Help me, Lord, as I live through each day, to really abide in You, that others may see You and come to You as their Lord and Savior.

April 28

Nobody will know what you mean when you say that God is love, if you do not live that love. God Himself will provide the opportunities for doing so.

As I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:34–35

Lord, evermore give us this love.

April 29

Once I spoke to a group of students. I realized that the leaders did not know quite what to do with me—such an old woman! Was she to speak to the students? Nevertheless, they gave me an opportunity to give a testimony.

A few years ago, I heard what happened after that. One of the leaders came to me and said, “Do you remember what the Lord did through you during that week? For many students, the week was decisive for their lives.”

Whenever I hear such a thing, I am reminded of heaven. What will it be like, when others come to us and

say, "You invited me. Here I am!"? Yes, there you will see how the Lord blessed your testimony, the comforting word you passed on here on earth. God's Word never returns empty. Hallelujah!

Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalms 2:12

Thank You, Father, that You are willing to use even me, and that I may pass on to others what You gave me.

April 30

Beware of criticism of your fellow Christians. In Romans 14, we are told not to criticize any of God's servants. The Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom we need to know what is discernment and what is wrong criticism.

Why, then, do you criticise your brother's actions, why do you try to make him look small? We shall all be judged one day, not by each other's standards or even by our own, but by the judgment of God.

Romans 14:10 PHILLIPS

Lord, forgive my criticism. Give me the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love—then I will have helpful discernment.

5



May

May 1

Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to faultfinding.

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Colossians 3:13

O Lord, today let me see people as it were with Your eyes.

May 2

It is a spiritual law that a man only gets peace when he himself is willing to forgive without reserve.

Forgive our sins—for we have forgiven those who sinned against us.

Luke 11:4 LB

Thank You, Lord, that You brought into my heart God's love through the Holy Spirit. Thank You, Father, that Your love in me is stronger than my unforgiveness, my resentment—yes—my hatred. Hallelujah!

May 3

The best indication of how strong you are is whether you can love your enemies. God knows you cannot do it yourself. You need His love in your heart. He will do it.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24 RSV

Lord Jesus, so often we have not shown You to others because we were too much taken up with ourselves. So often we did not let Your love work in us, forgetting that those around us were watching to see how we would react to our enemies. Forgive us and cleanse us.

May 4

God sometimes keeps us waiting for an answer to our prayers, but He never keeps us waiting one single second for an answer to our prayer for forgiveness. He hates sin and is only too glad to sweep it away. He loves the sinner and is only too happy to receive him. And He is able because Jesus bore the punishment for our sins at the cross. The Father loves the Son and delights to work out His image and likeness in us.

“Let every one who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

2 Timothy 2:19 RSV

Father, we know You hear every prayer of ours. And yet at times we think You are not hearing and we become

impatient. Forgive us for doubting Your love, as this is also sin. We want to obey Your commandment to depart from iniquity.

May 5

“Be filled with the Spirit” is the most joyful commandment of the Bible. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the fruit and the gifts we need in the world to be the light, to be the bread, to be the salt of the earth, and who gives us eyes to see.

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Ephesians 1:16–18 RSV

Lord, here is my life. Take me, fill me, use me.

May 6

Dr. F. B. Meyer has told how his early Christian life was marred and his ministry paralyzed, just because he kept back one key of the bunch of keys he had given to the Lord. Every key, save one.

The key of one room was kept for personal use, the Lord was shut out, and the effects of the incomplete

consecration were found in a lack of power, a lack of assurance, a lack of joy and peace.

He that loveth . . . more than me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:37

Forgive me my compromise. Take me one hundred percent, Lord.

May 7

Most people seem to settle for mere animal-life necessities: enough to eat, a comfortable place to sleep, and companionship with a similar being. These three elements satisfy dogs. Yet surely, each human being, having another dimension—a God-conscious spirit—demands more than a lower creature. What is your highest ambition? What purpose or objective do you have? Are you really alive, or just existing? Jesus gives a clear answer about life:

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 RSV

Forgive me, Father, that I was too quickly content with a shallow life, when You had offered a joy unspeakable and full of glory through Jesus Christ.

May 8

Surrender includes letting the wrong things go out of our lives. The things we know are wrong, or that we are doubtful about, must be completely abandoned.

Sin no more.

John 5:14

Help us, Lord, to make a clean cut with everything we know is wrong. Thank You that Your Spirit in us causes us to feel uneasy about all we have to put away.

May 9

The Lord knew all about Nathanael. He told him: "When you were under the fig tree in that secret meditation, when your wishes and desires were being born, I saw you." Nathanael saw a side of Jesus that was most encouraging. He suddenly knew: He knows, He loves, He cares. It was the joyful beginning of his discipleship.

Do you know who Jesus is? Do you realize that He sees you, He loves you? Do become His disciple.

Follow me.

John 1:43

O Lord, what a joy that I may do it. Yes, Lord, yes. Come into my life, my heart. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

May 10

The way to be ready is by surrendering to Him who longs for us and who is willing to prepare us for His return. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians:

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

Yes, Lord, we want to surrender more fully to You. Make us willing for You to prepare us for Your return, so that we may be found ready on that wonderful day.

May 11

Surrender! The Potter cannot form the vessel if all of the clay needed is not put into His hands, or if we are not willing to leave it there—every bit of it.

Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou?

Isaiah 45:9

But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter.

Isaiah 64:8

Our Father, we pray You anew, form us and make us vessels to Your honor. Keep us from struggling against You. We thank You that we can leave it all to You—our Potter and our Father!

May 12

It is very difficult for us to accept illness. Once, when I was a young woman, I had a long illness. It took many days before I could surrender and accept the situation.

I learned to thank God, but I could not understand why He wanted me to lie in bed, imprisoned by the walls of my little room. Every day I prayed for peace in my heart, and finally the moment came when I could say, “Yes, Lord, You know best.”

We pray that you will be strengthened from God's glorious power, so that you may be able to pass through any experience and endure it with joy. You will be able to thank the Father because you are privileged to share the lot of the saints who are living in the light.

Colossians 1:11–12 PHILLIPS

Father, I thank You that You always enable me to pass through any experience You think fit for me. Teach me more and more to accept everything as coming from You. Thank You that You never make a mistake in any yielded life.

May 13

Is every illness out of the plan of God? I should not say so, for after all, we are training for higher service, and I know that suffering can be part of that training.

However, giving too much attention to little symptoms is playing into the hands of the enemy. He uses illness to depress us, until we see things out of all proportion to their real value. So we must also turn to the Lord with those "little" symptoms. He knows how difficult it can be to work when feeling unwell, and He is able to give the strength needed for that which we must do. Perhaps He is just saying to us that we should draw apart for a little while and let ourselves be refreshed by Him.

You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.

1 Peter 5:7 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that You are my Helper, that You are taking care of me in whatever circumstances I may be, and that I can always trust in You and rest in You.

May 14

In God's faithfulness lies eternal security. I once asked my father what predestination was. He answered, "The ground on which I build my faith is not in me, but in the faithfulness of God."

God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let every one who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19 RSV

Father, thank You for Your Word, which tells us over and over again that You know each one of us who is Your child and that You also know all our needs.

May 15

Suffering is God's thorny but blessed road to wonderful victory. We must learn to remain faithful.

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. . . . Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10 RSV

Lord, You know how often I fear when hearing of suffering and when suffering myself. Thank You for Your promises. Thank You for Your victory. Make me victorious.

May 16

There are things that are not essentially wrong for others, yet are a hindrance to ourselves. We can know this in different ways: We are uneasy about them; we argue about them with our conscience; we ask other people's advice, hoping they will tell us what we would like to hear.

Let us heed these warnings. Such things must be laid aside in the strength that Jesus waits to give. Let us ask Him to deal with them for us.

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement . . . and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 RSV

And, Lord, we thank You that we do not need to do this in our own strength, but that You will give us Your strength and make us victorious.

May 17

It is very easy to look only at the outside of a person, but we must remember that God looks on the inside, and so should we. Often the person who least looks like it has a deep yearning inside to know more of our Lord.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:23–24

Father, forgive me for so often judging others from what is seen on the outside. Give me more of Your love, that I may see them as You do.

May 18

Our critics are the unpaid guardians of our soul. If what they say is true, then do something about it. If it is not true, just put it aside and don't let it influence you.

Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges.

Colossians 3:13 LB

Thank You, Lord, for those who give me loving criticism. Let it draw me closer to You.

May 19

We all need the Holy Spirit to enlarge our hearts, so they may contain more of the “joy unspeakable and full of glory”—God's abundant love in us.

Everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Isaiah 61:7

Our Father, we pray that Your Holy Spirit may work in us, so that our hearts may contain more of this abundant joy. We do rejoice in Your love and can never thank You enough for it. Help us to show it to others.

May 20

Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear. But God does not want His children to be fearful, and the best way to overcome fear is through the Word of God.

Let not your heart be troubled.

John 14:1

I will trust, and not be afraid.

Isaiah 12:2

Yes, Lord, I will trust. Thank You for telling me I need not worry.

May 21

There are times when we worry about everything, even about our salvation. It is the devil who tries to pull us away from God. As soon as we look up at the cross, however, we see again that it is “not I, but Christ.” God sees us in Christ. He can fulfill the law, and He did it when He died on the cross. Our salvation lies in Him, so we need never doubt.

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that . . . we might live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5:8–10 RSV

We thank You, Lord, that You died for each one of us, in order that we might live. Thank You that this is forever true.

May 22

We can have the fruit of the Spirit. One sign of the fruit is peace, and we can know that He will keep those in perfect peace whose trust is in Him.

Someone said that there are millions of depressed people in America. Are they all unbelievers, or are there also Christians among them? If that is so, it means that they do not know their defense. You can pray for the

many depressed Christians: "Open their eyes, that they may see that their tomorrow is in God's hand." It is the Holy Spirit who turns our eyes in the right direction.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

Lord, what a joy that there is an answer for everyone. You, Lord Jesus, are the answer.

May 23

You have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus. He takes your sins on His own shoulders and cleanses you with His blood. When He died on the cross, He identified Himself with your death, and now you and I must identify ourselves with His life.

If you confess a sin as soon as you are conscious of it, you can say:

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 RSV

Father, cause us to realize more and more what it means that Your Son Jesus Christ was made to be sin—for us.

May 24

It is the fan of the air conditioner that causes the cold air to be distributed all over the house. The Spirit penetrates

our whole being in the same way, giving light and life and growth.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:11

Yes, Lord, yes. By Your Holy Spirit, come into my life today.

May 25

We need wisdom and knowledge. Wisdom gives knowledge. We can bring joy to God's heart by bearing genuine Christian fruit. Knowledge without wisdom makes one proud.

. . . to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:10 RSV

Lord, we want to live such a life. Thank You that You will lead us by Your Spirit.

May 26

When depression comes upon you, it is important to find the reason. It is the first step toward being free of the darkness that grips you. God will give His children a clear answer when they are willing to listen in obedience. Finding the reason for the darkness is in itself a work of liberation. And the darkness never needs to continue!

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9:2

Thank You, Father, that Your light shines into our darkness and that it is always stronger than the darkness.

May 27

There is no shortcut to holiness, and no detour.

Follow . . . holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.

Hebrews 12:14–15

Lord, make me more intent to follow holiness, that I may see You, and make me watchful in all I do and say and think. Thank You that You are able.

May 28

There is a difference between intelligence and wisdom. Intelligence is of the earth; wisdom is a gift of God. Our senses give us information about the world around us. The better a person handles that which his senses convey to him, the more intelligent he is. Wisdom is the gift to recognize God's presence in a certain situation and to act accordingly.

To the intelligent person, wisdom often seems foolish, because it acts and thinks in a different way from that which intelligence may demand. Intelligence gives outward prosperity; wisdom gives inward peace. Intelligence is concerned with this world, wisdom with the future

world as well as this present world. That is why we can pray for wisdom.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.

Proverbs 4:7

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

Lord, give us wisdom. We need it so very much. We want also to be prepared for the future world—the world of eternity. Speak to us and teach us.

May 29

Our work, also our service for God, can come between us and Christ if we do not realize that we are branches. Absolute dependence is the essence of the faith of the angels; it should also be ours. He is willing to do everything in us.

This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6:29

Lord, I believe in You. Help me to be more utterly dependent on You. Thank You that then You will glorify Yourself.

May 30

What God taught me when I was in the concentration camp, He is also willing to teach you. What did I learn? I

learned how futile the things of the world are and how to conquer the things of the world in us. I learned to know the source of strength, and that this source is not in us, but in God.

For with thee is the fountain of life.

Psalm 36:9

Teach each one of us, O Lord, the futility of the things of the world, that we may consider the things that are of Your kingdom.

May 31

We can pray now that God will take away our fears when the moment of death comes. God always answers that prayer. Christians who prayed that prayer have had peaceful entrances into God's glory when they died. God is not weak, but strong. When you belong to Him, you are not weak, but strong. God's power is at your disposal through faith.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

Lord, give me Your peace today, and tomorrow, and even the moment that I have to die.

6



June

June 1

Harm and wounds inflicted by others can be so deep, the scars so painful, that humanly speaking it is impossible to forgive. But Jesus gave us God's love, and this love is always abundant. Did you, did I, really accept this love from Him?

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Romans 5:5 RSV

Will you show me, Father, whether I really am willing to accept this love of Yours each time my own feelings are unloving? Make me willing to open my heart to Your love.

June 2

We cannot love one another too much. It is impossible to love too much. We cannot approach that, much less pass it, so we cannot love too much. Only let the love be selfless, strong, brave, faithful. There are always chances for strengthening one another's hands in God; let us not lose our chances.

Amy Carmichael

This is my commandment, That ye love one another,
as I have loved you.

John 15:12

Lord, You can give us this love. Please, do so today.

June 3

The source of love is not in ourselves. When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, He Himself will give us the love with which to do so. We are neither factories nor reservoirs of His love—only channels. When we understand that, all excuses for our lack of love are eliminated.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently.

1 Peter 1:22

Love through me, Lord.

June 4

Love's strength is evident in love's sacrifice. He who suffers most has most to give.

God's love is not something natural; it does not grow in our life's garden. The subject of Christian life is not man, but God. However, men are used as instruments of God.

He who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.

John 14:12 RSV

Make me an instrument that You can use, Lord.

June 5

Love is strong as death. Love is the only solution to the world's problems. The greatest demonstration of God's love for us was sending His only Son into the world to die for our sins in order to give us eternal life. We cannot use the name of Jesus if we do not walk in love. When we step out of love, the Bible is a closed book and our fellowship with the Father is broken. The Father's nature is love.

I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. You must go on living in my love. If you keep my commandments you will live in my love just as I have kept my Father's commandments and live in his love. I have told you this so that you can share my joy, and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:9–11 PHILLIPS

Lord, You know how often we fall short of this love of Yours, although You tell us that it need not be so. Make us willing to keep Your commandments and live in Your love.

June 6

“Come to me, all,” Jesus says. That means that every communist may come, every prisoner in every prison. But how will they know, if nobody tells them?

Are you telling them? Are you praying for the people who reach them and help them? Ask the Lord where He wants to use you.

How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?

Romans 10:14

Thank You, Lord, that together with You, I can be the light of the world. We two will win.

June 7

How can we grow? Many think we grow through experience, and that is true, but truer yet is the answer "by the Word." Don't forget that it is God's Spirit who makes the Word alive to us.

It is the spirit that gives life . . . the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 6:63 RSV

Lord, when I think of the last months, I must confess that there was not much growth. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, that Your Word becomes more alive to me and that I see my experiences as Your training.

June 8

I gave some talks at a university. One of the students knew he had to make a decision. After the meeting, he went to the top of a high mountain and cried aloud, "Lord Jesus Christ." After he had done that for the third time, the Lord showed him some very practical things he had to do. Among those things was to burn a book by a sect leader and to give a picture away. He gave the picture to me and wrote his name on it with these words: "There was a great celebration in heaven." I had said in

my talk that the angels rejoice when a sinner is saved.

It is true that we don't always have to go to a high mountain to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, but everyone has to make a decision for Jesus Christ, to become a child of God. Have you done it yet? Did you take the next step and open your heart for the fullness of the Holy Spirit? Jesus sent us the Comforter, and He is willing to fill us to the utmost. Keep your heart clean by confessing your sins to Jesus, and He will cleanse you with His blood. Then the fruit of the Spirit will come, and He will make you a useful channel for streams of living water.

Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

John 4:14 RSV

O Lord, will You give the angels joy by saving me, a sinner?

June 9

I would very much like to teach you an important lesson. There was a time when they took away my Bible. Do you know what they could not take away? All the Scriptures I knew by heart. Why don't you start to collect Scriptures for times of trouble? Here are some that helped me:

Whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has in store for us.

Romans 8:18 PHILLIPS

We pray that you will be strengthened from God's glorious power, so that you may be able to pass through any experience and endure it with joy.

Colossians 1:11 PHILLIPS

Father, how great You are, willing to strengthen us from Your glorious power, enabling us to pass through any experience in order to bring glory to Your holy name.

June 10

When you read this text, there is a choice to make: Perhaps for the first time, perhaps again. Is it "yes" or "yes, but"?

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Thank You, Lord, that I may choose.

Thank You, Lord, that I can depend on You.

Thank You, Lord, that I can know that what You said is true.

June 11

How about that book, the Bible? Throughout its sixty-six different yet unified divisions, the Bible claims for itself divine inspiration. It is accepted as the Word of God. Inspired but understandable, threatened but indestructible, it offers life to the believer, hope to the hopeless, and direction to all who trust its words.

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

2 Timothy 3:16

Holy Spirit, teach me to read the Bible. When You open my eyes and heart it makes me so rich.

June 12

Let us have done with whittling away the vast promises of the divine Word. Let these come within the limits of our poverty-stricken experience, and let us look unto Jesus, who is longing and willing to bring our experiences in accordance with God's promises.

Wherefore hearest thou men's words?

1 Samuel 24:9

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know.

Ephesians 1:18

With our small human minds, we can never grasp the vast riches of eternity, Father. Yet You promised us the light of Your Spirit. We ask You today to give it to us in a greater measure.

June 13

Recently a thirteen-year-old girl sent me a small banner, on which she had very minutely embroidered two verses from Psalm 119, meant as an encouragement during the long time of recovery from my illness.

These were the words:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. . . . Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Psalm 119:105, 114

Father, what a comfort that again and again we experience that Your Word indeed lightens our path whenever we cannot clearly see it. Help us to always hope in Your Word. Thank You that You are our hiding place and our shield.

June 14

The Bible is not like other books. It is the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit. We must handle it with reverence. When we read and teach it under the guidance of God's Spirit, it is a sharp sword.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 RSV

Our Father, You gave us Your Word to feed on it, to be strengthened by it, and to use it to show others the way to come to You. We thank You for all of this. But we ask You to make us willing to have our thoughts and intentions shown to us and then to do what You tell us to do.

June 15

The crisis in Bible study comes when we make the decision as to whether or not we accept the truth that has

been revealed. The Old Testament is full of expectancy of what God will do; the New Testament looks back on the things God did. But both Old and New Testaments find fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the same Lord yesterday, today, and all the tomorrows.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

Hebrews 1:1–2 NIV

Thank You, Father, for giving us Your Word. Thank You for all it tells us of Your doings. Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand.

June 16

The power of the gospel can cope with the lowest forms of heathenism and the worst superstitions. Oh, the power of the simple preaching of the gospel!

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30 RSV

Our Father, we thank You that the message of the gospel is so simple. Make us obedient to Your command that we should repent, and help us always to come to You at once with any sin, so that it cannot take root.

June 17

Knowledge is of no value until you know how to use it. Let the Holy Spirit lead you in the choice of study and reading.

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way.

Isaiah 30:21 RSV

I will listen in obedience, Lord. I will do Your will in Your strength.

June 18

Thank God for the battle verses in the Bible. We go into the unknown every day of our lives, and it is sure to be a battlefield, outwardly and evidently, or inwardly in that unseen life of the spirit, which is often by far the sternest battlefield for souls.

Amy Carmichael

The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you.

Deuteronomy 1:30

Father, we have so often experienced that You fight for us, that the battle is Yours. Help us to stand in Your strength this day, watching for that which You will do today.

June 19

Are you afraid of the endtime, when those things shall happen that Jesus said would come on the earth before His return? You can trust Him to give you all you will need at that time. He will strengthen you, and He is the One to whom all power in heaven and on earth is given. Jesus said:

You must be vigilant at all times, praying that you may be strong enough to come safely through all that is going to happen, and stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that You will always be with us until the end of the world, and that You will never fail us nor forsake us. Thank You for this assurance.

June 20

The special task of God's children for this time is to be strong enough in the time of oppression. Is it possible that weak people can be ready for that? Yes. Everyone can be ready. I mean what I say: The Lord has given us all we need for the end-time.

But you are to be given power when the Holy Spirit has come to you. You will be witnesses to me.

Acts 1:8 PHILLIPS

Father, what peace there is in knowing that the Holy Spirit will prepare us and that You will perfect the work You began in us, till the day Jesus Christ arrives.

June 21

The end-time has started already. Those who pay attention to the signs of the times will not doubt this at all. If we watch the events in the Middle East, in Israel and in the Arab states, then we cannot do anything but look expectantly for the coming of the Lord. Every day, every

hour, brings us nearer to His coming. We see many more signs of the times than ever before. It is the Lord's command that we observe the signs of the times. He said:

Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

Luke 12:56

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:13

Lord, will You open our eyes to discern the signs of this time? And, Lord, keep us watching.

June 22

So often people say to me, "I cannot look forward with joy to the return of the Lord, because so many people are not converted yet." We see that things are getting worse and worse on earth. The unclean are getting more unclean. Today there are more lost ones than yesterday. Unbelief and lawlessness are increasing all over the world, not only outside the church, but also in it.

For the Christian, Jesus' return will be the end of all battles, because our sanctification will then be accomplished completely.

. . . that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:13

Lord, show me today where I can be used by You to save a soul for eternity.

June 23

There are many immature Christians. How often, after a meeting, I hear, “I will do my best to become a good Christian.” Then I make it clear that becoming a child of God is a present, a matter first of all of taking what God gives in Christ. What a privilege that I can speak of the other foundation, not of feelings: “It is true, for it says so in the Bible.”

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6:28–29

Father, I thank You that it is so simple, that You would have us just believe in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us, that we continually look unto Him, so that He may show us the Way.

June 24

Once I tried to help a pastor who was in great need. He said: “I feel . . . I hope . . . I shall do my best.” I asked him if he wouldn’t say: “It is true, for the Bible says so. I have accepted Jesus, and He gave me power to become a son of God.”

His answer was: “If only I could be delivered from my training in the liberal university. If only I could see the

Bible as you do." I told him that if we go to the Lord and tell Him all about our difficulties and ask Him to open our eyes to see, He will come and do so.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally . . . and it shall be given him.

James 1:5

Heavenly Father, thank You for this promise in the Bible. Thank You that You will do all You have promised.

June 25

Knowing the future and understanding the present time do not need to make us downhearted, because the Lord has spoken many comforting words about the future.

But there shall not an hair of your head perish. . . . And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. . . . So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Luke 21:18, 28, 31

Father, we thank You for all the comfort You give us in Your Word. We want to honor You by trusting You and rejoicing in You.

June 26

In the days before Jesus comes again, there will be greater stubbornness on the one side, but on the other side a

deeper cleansing: either/or. Everything will reach a climax. Atheism is gaining ground, becoming more aggressive. The kingdom of God continues to operate. It must be either Christ or Antichrist; nobody can serve two masters.

The time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Revelation 22:10–11

Lord, open my eyes through Your Holy Spirit to what it means to live now and to be a Christian who knows that Jesus is coming soon.

June 27

If we pay heed to what happens in this world, to things that we look upon as signs that Jesus will come back very soon, we feel frightened when we consider what the Bible says about the time of Antichrist. Awful things are going to happen then. Also, the moment in which we shall all have to appear before a righteous God will come. In order to be ready for these events, we need the many promises of the Bible.

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:33

Lord Jesus, we thank You that all the promises of the Bible find their fulfillment in You and that we can trust

You at all times, knowing that the day of redemption will come.

June 28

If I were not a Christian, I would be very pessimistic. Because man has given himself to the devil and his service, the whole world lies in evil. How can we get out of this chaos? We must return to God's original plan. We can never change chaos. God can, and He does! We can read it in His Word.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors . . . but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

Hebrews 1:1–2 JERUSALEM

Father, we thank You that right from the beginning of creation You had Your plan for restoration. Thank You for speaking to us again and again. Give us ears to hear.

June 29

If God should never again send any trials intended to point us and others to Him, would all our sufferings cease? No. Left to ourselves, with our sinful natures unchecked, greater harm would result. But as it is, He gives us only that which works for good and which will bring us closer to Him. And there is something else: If we know Him as our Lord and Savior, we will, at His time, go to heaven, where we will never suffer again.

I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18

Father, thank You that all that comes our way is permitted by Your love. Although we know it, we so often forget. Please remind us again and again. We praise You for Your love, which is behind it all.

June 30

I heard someone say, “I don’t believe in Jesus’ coming again. So many have prophesied, and nothing happened.”

I answered him, “You are one of the signs of the time, for Peter told us that such sayings belonged to the conversation of the last days.”

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers . . . saying, Where is the promise of his coming?

2 Peter 3:3–4

Lord, make me, through Your Holy Spirit, a positive witness of the prophecies and set a watch for my lips, that the enemy cannot make me spread unbelief.

7



July

July 1

How you and I behave is important for the great end battle in which we might already be engaged.

This will be a time for you to bear testimony.

Luke 21:13 RSV

Lord, take my weak hand in Your strong one, so that together we can stand on victory ground.

July 2

How the world, with its turmoil and problems of this time, needs Christians who are willing to speak up! After all, we are the only ones in the whole world who know the future and who can understand our present days. Because this knowledge is depressing, the Lord comforts us regarding these days:

For the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matthew 24:22

Thank You, Lord, that we know that You have plans, not problems, and that there is never a panic in heaven.

July 3

Here is something that helps me when I am discouraged because of sin:

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of my sins within,
Upwards I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.

Will you not try to see what looking to Jesus will do for you?

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . . consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:2–3

Lord Jesus, thank You that when we look to You, You will strengthen us, as our Father strengthened You.

July 4

God made His plan for this world known unto us. It is His will that the history of mankind will find its fulfillment in Jesus and that all things in heaven and on earth will be made perfect in Him.

And the overwhelming part of it is that Jesus promised to share everything that is His with us.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me.

John 17:24

Lord Jesus, we cannot fully grasp what it means to behold Your glory. But we thank You that one day we shall understand.

July 5

God has hidden the day of Jesus' coming again in order that we may be ready every day, watching our daily walk and actions.

But we are citizens of Heaven; we eagerly wait for the saviour.

Philippians 3:20 PHILLIPS

Lord Jesus, thank You for introducing us to the Father. Thank You that we are citizens of heaven and children of our Father in heaven.

July 6

Cross bearing, as a form of martyrdom, has become unknown in the Western world; in the Eastern world it has not. Nevertheless, it is of great importance nowadays, for the opposition against God and the cross is increasing.

That day will not come before there first arises a definite rejection of God and the appearance of the lawless man. He is the product of all that leads to death, and he sets himself up in opposition to every religion.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 PHILLIPS

Lord, prepare us for the days when the Antichrist will reveal himself. Make us able to withstand and to stand against the wiles of the devil.

July 7

Before Jesus returns, there will be a hard battle. Therefore it is good to prepare ourselves for battle with His strength. Every Christian is called to take his place in the army of King Jesus and to wrestle as a fellow conqueror together with Him.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers . . . against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:12

Lord Jesus, I belong to You, and therefore You also call me to take my place in Your army. Thank You that I know that You are the Victor.

July 8

Everyone on this earth is expecting—and many are fearing—another war. This war will be ended with such a display of divine intervention that a great many of the surviving Gentiles and Jews will put their whole trust in Jesus, the Messiah.

We have found the Messias.

John 1:41

Father, Your plan for this earth and for its inhabitants is perfect. And we know that You will fulfill it. Thank You for all who have accepted Your Son as their Savior and Lord, and for all who will do so.

July 9

Every promise in the Bible is yes and amen in Jesus. I have seen—and I know it is true—when reading the Bible, that it says very clearly that the Lord Jesus Himself will prepare us for that great day when we shall see Him face-to-face. I do long for His coming. Do you?

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Thank You, Lord, for taking our hands in Yours, holding us, and strengthening us every day anew, until that day when we shall see You face-to-face. Hallelujah!

July 10

As long as there is fear in our hearts, we will never understand what God is saying. It took Jacob many years to understand, but we do not need such a long time. Jesus has conquered our fears.

Fear not; I am the first and the last.

Revelation 1:17

Thank You, Lord, that You are from everlasting to everlasting, so that we never need fear. Keep our eyes on You.

July 11

Are you feeling discouraged today? Or are you passing through a time of real distress? Will you let me share with you what has helped me so often?

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. . . . He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Psalms 91:1–2, 4

Father, please, speak to all who are feeling discouraged. Perhaps by these words, perhaps in another way, let them know You are always near to each one of them. May Your presence give them joy.

July 12

Are you seeking happiness? Is that your only goal? We set our minds on something we think will make us happy—a husband, children, a particular job, or even a ministry—and refuse to open our eyes to God’s better way. In fact, there are those who believe so strongly that only this one thing can bring happiness that they reject the Lord Jesus Himself.

Happiness is not found in marriage, or work, or ministry, or children, in themselves. Happiness is found in being secure in Jesus, in obedience to Him, in doing His will. Then we have fellowship with Him and we can speak to Him about everything that occupies our thoughts and all these other things find their proper places in His plan for our lives.

We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

John 9:31 NIV

Father, You know which way is best. I do not want to choose for myself how my life is going to be. What mistakes I would make! Make me willing to listen to You and to obey You.

July 13

The will of God is either a burden we carry or a power that carries us.

All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:18

Lord, I surrender my will to You.

July 14

All our failings, as Christians and Christian nations, do not change the fact that Jesus is the Way and that through Him only can we come to the living God.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

Lord, set my feet on victory ground. Forgive me that I sought the way that was wrong. Lead me in the right path.

July 15

Prosperity can cause superficiality, and that is a danger. Having every corner of our lives under the control of God means victory. Again and again, a total surrender is necessary, and then we experience that all things, also prosperity, work together for good.

I know . . . both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:12

Lord, have I money? Or has the money me? Make me a faithful ambassador of heaven.

July 16

When we seek the Lord's guidance, we must have nothing to do with other forms of guidance. He will guide us by His Spirit if we ask Him to do so, if we are submissive to Him and refuse to be led by our own wishes.

So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

Deuteronomy 32:12

Thank You, Lord, that we can leave everything to You, because You know best. Make us willing each day to submit all our wishes, thoughts, and desires to You. Your will be done.

July 17

It seems to be God's plan to allow all sorts of things to happen that would naturally cause fear, but to forestall them by the assurance of His presence.

Amy Carmichael

And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:8

You know, Father, how much we need You this day. Thank You that Your Word stands forever. Thank You that You are going before us during this whole day.

July 18

Do you know how it feels when you are dead tired? Sometimes I feel like that. One day I spoke about it to the Lord. He showed me that it was wrong to feel irritated, that it was sin. I began to argue, until I remembered that Jesus cannot cleanse excuses. Then I confessed my sin and told the Lord I was willing to do whatever He wanted me to do. My joy became very deep when I read:

When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God . . . that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

Ephesians 3:14–19 LB

It encouraged me to know and to trust that the limitless resources of His strength are more than sufficient. I began to praise the Lord and to thank Him. My tiredness disappeared.

And today also I praise and thank You, Lord. You will give me the strength I need for this day.

July 19

There are times when we cannot depend on anything but God. Then we must be in perfect union with Him. Get in training. Practice depending on your heavenly Father in your everyday life.

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalm 9:10

Father, You know that I trust in You. Yet at times it seems as if You are far away. Show me in what respect I depend on somebody or something else, instead of on You only. I know You will always be with me, if I remain close to You. Hallelujah!

July 20

We know that on the cross of Calvary all was finished that had to be done to prepare us for the future. Jesus said, "It is finished." And when we look at Calvary's cross, we know it is Jesus who calls us.

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:32

Lord, we thank You that You are calling us. You know how weak we feel in ourselves, how we never can become blameless and holy by trying. But, oh, we thank You that You did all that had to be done and that we just have to accept it from You.

July 21

The well-known American missionary to India, E. Stanley Jones, tells of an experience he once had: "One day I watched an eagle in the Himalayas face a storm. I wondered what the eagle would do as the storm rushed through the narrow valley. Would it fly above the fury of the storm? Would it be dashed to pieces on the rocks below? No! It set its wings in such a way that the air current sent him above the storm with its fury. He used the storm to reach greater heights."

We must learn this lesson of turning all resistance into opportunities of release. Then we shall know how to live. With the eagle it was a setting of wings that made the difference. For us it is saying yes to God.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

Joshua 24:15

Yes, Lord, I want to serve You. Thank You that it is possible to turn that which seems to be a hindrance into something that will glorify You.

July 22

We sit with Christ on His throne as soon as we have surrendered all our crowns and made Him sole and only ruler of our life and its possessions.

[God has] raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6 RSV

Yes, Lord, forgive my "yes, buts."

July 23

When we are obedient, God guides our steps and our stops. Beware of shortcuts in guidance; it is far better to take a detour with Him than shortcuts without Him.

The Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee.

Deuteronomy 9:3

For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills.

Deuteronomy 8:7

Forgive me, Lord, my shortcuts. Take my whole life.

July 24

When your will differs from God's will, what are you going to do?

[Jesus said,] not my will, but thine, be done.

Luke 22:42

Lord, make us like-minded with You, that we can also say from our hearts: Father, Your will be done. You know best.

July 25

Wherever I go, I find Christians needing encouragement. In these days so full of darkness, chaos, and hopelessness, it is dangerous to live as a Christian who has stopped halfway. We have the great responsibility of being the light of the world.

You are the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14 RSV

Lord, You know that in ourselves we have no light, but we thank You that You let Your light shine through us, that others may see.

July 26

If you say no to God at any point, you have allied yourself with the evil forces that are in rebellion against God. To whom do you listen—to God or to the devil? It is either/or.

Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 37:23

Father, cause us to realize what it means if we say no to You. So often we are not willing to submit. Forgive us and make us strong in Your power.

July 27

Satan sometimes suggests that a money offering will satisfy God, when in fact He is demanding our all. Losing our life for Jesus' sake is one inescapable requirement. But how great is our gain! We are the great losers when we persuade ourselves that the giving of money is sufficient. Jesus gave His life for you and me. Shall we then not give our lives to Him, letting go of our own wishes and desires?

Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Luke 17:33 RSV

Lord, take my life and use it in Your service.

July 28

Those who are not willing to obey the Lord can never understand what He is saying. Only those who are willing to obey what God reveals to them can be effectively instructed.

To know wisdom and instruction. . . . but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:2, 7

How wonderful it is, Lord, that You are willing to instruct us and that it is possible for us to understand and to obey.

July 29

When we really rely on the Holy Spirit, He will guide us. We from our side must fulfill one important condition: obedience.

I being in the way, the Lord led me.

Genesis 24:27

Thank You, Father, that You are always willing to lead us, if only we are willing to obey and remain in Your way.

July 30

Each time we put our hand in His and go on through life together with Him, we may ask Him to lead us till our last day on this earth comes. We cannot go alone—not one step—but “Lord, take me with You wherever You go.” We can ask Him to let us rest at His feet. Isn’t that wonderful?

In ourselves we are so poor, but in Him we are rich—in Him who said He would make us more than conquerors. Then we do not need to fear the future. He will lead us on the narrow pathway.

In every thing ye are enriched by him.

1 Corinthians 1:5

Lord, we thank You that we do not need to worry, but that You will guide us, even in these very serious times. And not only that, Lord, but You want to make us witnesses of Yourself in a world so full of darkness. Will You make us lights in the world? Thank You, Lord.

July 31

The person who trusts God, but with restrictions, is like a wave of the sea driven to and fro by the wind. He cannot expect to receive anything from God. The life of such a one, who only trusts God in part, is unstable in every respect.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 37:5

Lord, we want to commit our whole lives, also the smallest details, to You, not being tossed about like the waves of the sea. Help us to continually look up to You.

8



August

August 1

We have the privilege of being coworkers with God. Perhaps you say, "I am weak," or "I am old, what can I do?" But the Lord is not weak. He is building His kingdom. We are only His coworkers.

Surrender and obedience, willingness to work where He thinks it necessary—that is what He is asking from us. Then we stand on victory ground, and the Lord will use us and make us channels for the streams of living water, wherever we may work. Hallelujah!

All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.

Exodus 24:7

We are labourers together with God.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Thank You, Father, for the privilege of being coworkers with You. Make us faithful and always willing for whatever You want us to do.

August 2

Whatever happens, be sure that your everyday life is honoring to the Lord. Then you will have power, and your life will point others to Him.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Lord, let Your grace be seen in my everyday life.

August 3

You who are God's children, are you only occupied with yourselves, rejoicing in what the Lord did for you? Or are you concerned about the many, just within reach, who do not know Jesus yet? Perhaps you feel inadequate as to how to tell them of the great love of Jesus for them. Just ask the Lord to let His Holy Spirit show you the needs of those around you. He will give you the opportunities and the right words to speak to them of Him.

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13 RSV

Lord, I want to tell others of You. Lead me by Your Spirit to those who long for You and give me the right words to point them to You and to Your love for sinners. Grant that they may repent and come to You.

August 4

There are two sorts of failures: those that think and do not do, and those that do and do not think. This may seem an exaggeration, yet both kinds of people exist. Are

you one of them? If so, ask the Lord to show you how to combine the thinking and the doing so that there are no contradictions in your life. Don't forget: People watch you, and they want to see Jesus.

But the mercy of the Lord is . . . upon them that fear him, and his righteousness . . . to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Psalm 103:17–18

Father, help us to remember Your commandments and to do them, living according to Your will with great joy, that others may know it is You working in us in all we think and do.

August 5

The more you walk with the Lord, the more He will increase your strength and enable you to do His work. The more you do God's will, the better you will discern what His will is.

. . . that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Colossians 1:9 RSV

Yes, Father, it is the desire of my heart to do Your will and to walk with You. Thank You that You are always willing to strengthen and encourage me and that Your riches are inexhaustible.

August 6

The Lord always gives grace for just this day. I must not live in the future or in the past, but just today—today with Him. This is the day of the Lord.

Be still, for the day is holy.

Nehemiah 8:11 NAS

Help me, Lord, to live one day at a time. Thank You that Your grace is sufficient for today and that I don't need to worry about tomorrow, because Your grace will be sufficient for tomorrow also.

August 7

The Lord God is the One who gives life, and who gives us the life of eternity when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. We live because of His infinite grace. He makes us strong. He shows us the way in which we must serve Him, and His hand is guiding us along that way.

O Lord, . . . Be our arm every morning.

Isaiah 33:2 RSV

Lead us, Father, along the paths You choose for us, whatever they may be. Help us to realize every day that You do not slumber or sleep and that You will not let our feet slip. We thank You for Your wisdom in leading us.

August 8

Our real songs begin with our sacrifices. We enter the realm of music when we enter the realm of self-surrender. A willing offering on a clean altar introduces the soul into "the joy of the Lord."

When the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also.

2 Chronicles 29:27

O Lord, a clean altar—a willing offering—is what You expect, and it is the desire of our hearts. Let us never forget that we enter into Your holy presence when we bring an offering.

August 9

One day, when he was old, Francis of Assisi was asked how it was possible he did so much for God. His answer was: “The reason that God blessed my endeavors must have been this: God looked down from heaven and said, ‘Where can I find the weakest, lowliest, poorest man on earth?’ Then He saw me and He said: ‘I found him. I will work through him, for surely it will not cause him to think anything of himself and take My glory to be his. He will know that I always used him, just because he was lowly and did not think himself important.’”

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world . . . to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:27–29 RSV

Father, if You will, You can use even me. Make me willing to be looked upon as foolish by the world, if people should consider me so.

August 10

Once there was an old monk who sang a Christmas song every Christmas Eve. His voice was ugly, but he loved the Lord and sang from his heart. One day the head of the

cloister said, "I'm sorry, Brother Don, we have a new monk with a beautiful voice. He will sing this Christmas." The man sang so beautifully that everyone was happy.

But that night an angel came to the superior and said, "Why didn't you have a Christmas Eve song?"

The superior answered, "We had a beautiful song."

But the angel said sadly, "We did not hear it in heaven."

You see, the old monk had a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, but the young man sang for his own benefit, not for the Lord's glory.

Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Lord, self slips in so easily when all I want is to do things for Your glory. Let me always hear the voice of Your Holy Spirit.

August 11

Many church members may be working hard and yet when they go to heaven their hands may be empty because they never won a soul for Christ. They have nothing to offer as a token of gratitude. They are like the disciples, who after Christ had died and risen again, went back to their fishing. They fished all night and did not catch one fish.

Is that not the life of many Christians? They try so hard, they study so hard, and yet they end up without having anything with eternal value.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 RSV

Open our eyes, Father, to the fact that we have to step into doing the works You ordained for us to walk in. And we thank You that You will show us what these works are.

August 12

When all securities and riches and values of the world crumble and fall away, you will experience the indestructible riches of God's promises.

The world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

1 John 2:17 RSV

Lord, Your Word says that it is possible to abide in You, which means that we shall always be where You are. Then we shall see the fulfillment of Your promises. Hallelujah!

August 13

When I was in solitary confinement, I wrote in one of my letters, "I long for freedom, but I hope I will not lose the joyful consciousness of Jesus' presence that I have here in this cell." Do you also know what it means to feel the presence of Jesus? There is nothing that can surpass it. And He Himself promised that He would be with us!

I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Matthew 28:20

Thank You, Lord, that we shall never be left to ourselves, because You are always with us. How privileged we are!

August 14

Jesus is the great turning point in the history of mankind and creation. He was the first of whom God said, "He is My beloved Son." Till then every man in the Bible and in history had had his limitations and weaknesses. Jesus had God's very own nature. If we want to know God, we must study the life of Jesus.

Therefore, holy brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.

Hebrews 3:1 RSV

Father, we thank You that You gave Your only Son and made it possible for mankind—for each one of us—to partake of His life if we accept Him as Savior and Lord. We want to keep close to Him. Help us to do so.

August 15

Jesus is God's armor! He is truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

John 14:6

Neither is there salvation in any other.

Acts 4:12

Father, we can never thank You enough for the wonderful provision You made for us in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach us to accept it anew every day.

August 16

Who is that source of defense, that Helper in whom you and I must trust? It is the Lord of lords, it is the King of kings.

He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Hebrews 13:5–6

O Lord, what a strong and loving heavenly Father You are. Thank You that I may lay my trembling hand in Your strong one.

August 17

The wells of the Lord are to be found when I most need them.

John Henry Jowett wrote: “There was a farmer who for a generation had carried every pail of water from a distant well to meet the need of his homestead. One day he sunk a shaft by his own house, and to his great joy, he found that the water was waiting at his own gate.

“My soul, your well is near, even here. Go not in search of Him. Your pilgrimage is ended: the waters are at your feet.”

He sendeth the springs into the valleys.

Psalms 104:10

Lord Jesus, I make it so complicated. Make me, through Your Holy Spirit, as simple as a child, so that I live as rich as I am in You.

August 18

The possibilities of man are boundless indeed, but only if he does not put God's promises within boundaries. The Lord's words are unshakeable and full of the power of eternity. And these words of the Lord tell us that He has come very near to us. The presence of the Lord is our great comfort. He promised:

I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Matthew 28:20 RSV

Thank You, Father, that I am safe in the hands of Jesus.

August 19

The Lord Jesus knows all about you and me. He says, "I know My sheep." We do not take Him by surprise. He does not come in late and find the performance half over. He is in at our beginnings.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee . . . in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 8:2

You know me, Lord—me! What a security!

August 20

Pray regularly, but also when you have to make a decision or when you have to resist a temptation. You can be in contact with God every moment. And He always hears you.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

Psalm 27:4

Thank You, Lord, that I can always be near to You and that I can go to You with any request. Above all, thank You that You are always willing to listen. Hallelujah!

August 21

Often we do not understand God's promises. They seem too lofty and beyond our comprehension, and so we lay them aside without really giving them serious thought. But that is not God's intention.

He backs every promise with His love and His omnipotence, and He was in earnest when He made them. Therefore I believe that we are sinning when we ignore them or perhaps evade them by explaining them away.

We do not want any of you to grow slack, but to follow the example of those who through sheer patient faith came to possess the promises.

Hebrews 6:12 PHILLIPS

And I do not want to grow slack, Lord. Make me more conscious of Your love, which gives me Your sure promise to strengthen and encourage me.

August 22

Often people ask me, "Why do I not hear God's answer? When I ask for guidance, it is as if the Lord is not willing to answer."

My answer then can only be a question: "Do you honestly expect an answer?" And they admit they don't.

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace.

Job 22:21

Lord, forgive and cleanse my fruitless prayer life. I see that I did not expect and did not wait. Thank You that You are a patient, understanding Teacher.

August 23

No one but yourself can rob you of the fullness of blessing. No man is deprived of any spiritual gift because of the failings and faults of others. Aaron's rod budded, blossomed, and gave fruit, even when tied up with a bundle of dry sticks.

The rod of Aaron was among their rods. And Moses laid up the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness.

Numbers 17:6–7

If only we would always come to You, Lord, with all our thoughts, concerns and longings, and let You do what You think right. Make us more willing to come.

August 24

Never be ashamed of asking, seeking, and knocking at the storehouse of God's omnipotence. When we admit our helplessness to meet needs, we are expressing our dependence on God. That is the faith that moves mountains.

How long are ye slack to go to possess the land,
which the LORD God . . . hath given you?

Joshua 18:3

Forgive us, Lord, that so often we only look at our own poor resources, forgetting You are the Source. Help us to go and possess that which You have already given us.

August 25

Let us always be filled with holy discontentment regarding ourselves. We can never be sure of our own wishes, but we can of God's promises.

He will keep you steadfast in the faith to the end, so that when his day comes you need fear no condemnation.

1 Corinthians 1:8 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that Your promises stand forever and that You will keep us steadfast, because Your promises never fail.

August 26

It is not so important what we experience as how we experience difficulties.

How we thank God for all of this! It is he who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:57 LB

Lord, nevertheless I am continually with You, although Your way is hidden from me. I know You uphold

me with Your right hand. You lead me according to Your counsel, even when I see nothing but darkness. You make a path in the wilderness and cause me to reach the goal. Lord, I am ashamed that I was so defeated. Help me to realize Your sustaining presence is always there.

August 27

In Hollywood I saw many different kinds of hands and faces and situations. I saw the hands of those who desired to be “Queen for a Day”—greedy, nervous, desperate hands. I saw folded hands of young boys and girls praying silently. I saw bored, unhappy faces. I saw happy young faces of boys and girls witnessing to the peace Jesus had brought into their hearts. I saw poverty—poignant poverty—in luxurious buildings. I saw the heavenly riches of God’s children.

One was “Queen for a Day”—just one day.

Those who know Jesus are royal children for time and eternity. The world says, “One is allowed to come.” Jesus says, “Come unto Me, all.”

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

O Lord, we never can fully grasp what it means that You were willing to come to this earth to suffer and die that we might have abundant life. Thank You that You came for each one of us.

August 28

It is through Jesus that God’s greatest and most precious promises have become available to us.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

Romans 11:33 RSV

It is a marvel to us, Father, that we are allowed to draw from Your Word and that the riches of Your promises are at our disposal. We thank You and praise Your holy name!

August 29

How rich I am! God is the Creator of the whole universe yet is holding my life in His hands. He ever guides the constellations of stars, and at the same time remembers man. Wind and water also obey Him. And this is my God, my Father. I am His child. Nobody is like this Lord, and He loves me. How rich I am!

He . . . hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Job 26:7

What is man, that thou art mindful of him?

Psalms 8:4

Thank You, Lord, that You also have me in Your hand.

August 30

Do you know there is a difference between life and abundant life? Many Christians say, "I believe in Jesus; that is all I need. I have eternal life, so why these problems about abundant life?"

Once I saw a very sick person who could hardly move. Then a nurse entered the room. She was full of energy and strength and came to help. Both had life. One had just life, the other had abundant life.

Too many Christians are like the sick person. They have life, yes, but they are not strong and cannot help others.

You desire proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful in you.

2 Corinthians 13:3 RSV

Thank You, Lord, that it is possible to live the abundant life, because it is You who are powerful, even in me.

August 31

God wants us to be independent of any bottle and to be abundantly satisfied with the well of water within us—a well fed from the hills of God.

Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it . . . the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Proverbs 16:22; 18:4

Lord, lead us into Your wisdom and let it be a well of water in us, not only for our own refreshment, but also for that of others.

9



September

September 1

Do you know that God wants you to take Him at His Word? When we think about the dark days in which we live or about ourselves and our continual need of grace, strength, and guidance, we must always remember that God's promises are waiting for us to meet our need. We do not need to say much, we only have to take Him at His Word. And He will give us rest.

Do as thou hast said.

2 Samuel 7:25

Father, You will never break Your Word. We know that You will always do as You have said. Thank You for Your Word and Your promises.

September 2

God's promises are spoken with full authority. You never come across any idle word in the Bible. Whatever God says, He means.

The word of the Lord stands forever.

1 Peter 1:25 NIV

Thank You, Lord, for the sure foundation we have in Your Word.

September 3

Sometimes people start saying to me, "I feel that . . ." What a privilege that I can speak of the truth, not of feelings. "It is true, for it says so in the Bible."

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

Father, help us that we continually look unto Your Son, so that He may show us the way.

September 4

However poor and small and incomplete the faith of the disciples was, many times they had sufficient faith to make them do the right thing. When they were agitated and distressed, alarmed and exhausted, they went to Jesus, and He gave them all they needed.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 6:68 RSV

I am the bread of life.

John 6:48 RSV

We say with Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go?" You alone can fulfill our deepest needs. Thank You that we can go to You at all times.

September 5

Are you concerned about the security of your faith? The reality of our redemption lies in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross, not in our own feelings and emotions. Feelings come and feelings go, but Jesus is always present.

. . . that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power.

Ephesians 3:17–18 RSV

Lord, I can never thank You enough that at the cross You did all that was necessary to free me from the power of sin. Thank You that it is possible to have power, if I only remain rooted in love—in Your love.

September 6

Faith is an activity; it is something that has to be applied. Let us always be prepared to do so at the place and time of need or testing. Our faith is in God. He is the all-sufficient One. By an act of will, we can always turn to Him.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may . . . find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Father, thank You that whenever we come to You, trusting and believing Your promises, we may come boldly. And thank You that in every need we shall find the grace that will help us just then.

September 7

Faith is important because it takes me to the Lord. It may be necessary for Him to rebuke me, but He will also receive me. He will give me a greater conception of Himself than I had before.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Lord, I thank You for all You have done in me ever since I came to You. Make me willing to examine myself and to be corrected.

September 8

Faith is not anti-intellectual. It is an act of man that reaches beyond the limits of our five senses.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 NIV

Lord, we know our senses were given to us to use for the things of this earth. Faith has to do with the kingdom of heaven. Thank You that what is impossible to man is possible to You.

September 9

I have been thinking of how many unexplained things there are in life. Our Lord Jesus, who could have explained everything, explained nothing. He said there would be tribulation, but He never said why. Sometimes

He spoke of suffering being to the glory of God, but He never said how. All through the Scriptures it is the same. I cannot recall a single explanation of trial. Can you? We are trusted with the Unexplained.

Amy Carmichael

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth . . . might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7

Lord, strengthen us to live in patience and steadfastness in every little call upon faith, as well as in every great call.

September 10

Because victory is the result of Christ's life lived out in the believer, it is important that we clearly see that victory, not defeat, is God's purpose for His children.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:54

Thank You, Lord, for Your victory! Thank You that You are able—always!

September 11

We do not need to agree with each other about all the doctrines, but we must be able to discern the spirits. The Holy Spirit equips us with the gift of discernment. In these days many will try to deceive us. We must clearly discern what comes to us from the Holy Spirit and what is from the devil.

For false Christs shall arise, and false prophets, and will do wonderful miracles, so that if it were possible, even God's chosen ones would be deceived.

Matthew 24:24 LB

Lord, we pray that the Holy Spirit will always give us insight, so that we may be able to discern what is from the devil and not be caught in his trap.

September 12

David had conquered fear. That is why he could say that no man's heart need fail him because of Goliath. There was no panic; there was no feverish and wasteful excitement; there was no shouting to keep spirits up. There was perfect calm.

For a child of God, fear is a conquered enemy. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us victory over fear. After Pentecost, we all stand on victory ground.

The Lord that delivered me . . . he will deliver me.

1 Samuel 17:37

Make me, through Your Holy Spirit, a David who sees the Goliaths of today in the right proportions, Lord.

September 13

David conquered unbelief. He had a rich experience of the providential dealings of God, and his confidence was now unclouded and serene. He had known the Lord's power when he faced the bear and the lion and Goliath.

By my God have I leaped over a wall.

2 Samuel 22:30

Lord, help me to remember previous experiences that showed me Your victory. I know You never let me down.

September 14

The young champion of the Lord, David, won many victories before he faced Goliath. Everything depends on how I approach my supreme conflicts. If I am careless in small combats, I shall fail in the larger ones.

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

Psalm 56:3

Lord, I must choose between fear and trust, unbelief and faith, defeat and victory. Yes, Lord, I will trust, believe, and conquer in Your power.

September 15

Do you think that any stone or obstacle on your path is there for no reason at all? Whether it be ugly, big, or small, you must believe that it has to be just where it is, but certainly not to hinder you from getting on, certainly not to weaken your courage and strength. A wise hand put it there, in order that you might take a good look at it and then talk about it with God, asking Him what He wants to make clear to you by it. And if you meet God at every stone, then every stone will bless you.

These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure.

1 Peter 1:7 LB

Lord, it makes such a difference how I see my trials and problems. Show me what is the reason that I did not

see things from Your point of view. Thank You that You give me the right vision and the strength I need through Your Holy Spirit.

September 16

Whenever we are confronted with suffering, we immediately ask, "Why?" Might it not be that God wants to show us what He can do? Suffering drives us to our knees, and isn't that just where God wants us? Then His strength is most obvious. The apostle Paul knew the value of being weak: God uses weak people.

My power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9 RSV

Lord, make us willing to see suffering from Your side. Help us so that our suffering, however great or small, may bring glory to You.

September 17

One of the reasons for suffering may be that it can bring out the best in others. And if we recognize this, we can praise God's goodness, for all the love and kindness one person shows to another ultimately comes from Him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights.

James 1:17

Lord, please teach me to see Your love behind every expression of kindness and love that others show me.

September 18

Faith is a strong power, mastering any difficulty in the strength of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. . . . They shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Lord, I am waiting upon You. Thank You that You are coming.

September 19

My book *Amazing Love* has been used by the Lord to show God's working in my life. Sometimes I experience that the enemy does not like some books. *Amazing Love*, originally written in Dutch, was translated into English, and I had only four copies of the translation. I was in Africa at the time and sent one copy to the publisher in England. It never arrived.

I traveled to another country and heard that the first copy was lost, so I sent a second one. That one was also lost in the mail. I then sent them a third copy, but they never received that one. I did not send the fourth one until I had four more copies made. This one arrived and was published. It was reprinted many times.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:7–8 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that through Your Holy Spirit You make us channels of Your love.

September 20

In India an evangelist wanted to translate my book *Amazing Love* into his language. He gave it to a man who was a good translator. After a long time he asked when the translation would be ready. The man had lost it. He gave it to a second man, who became seriously ill. A third man was overtaken by a flood and so lost the copy. The evangelist himself had to flee for his life in the same flood but was able to reach a little town. It was impossible to get away from there because water surrounded the town. He used that time to translate the book himself, and so the enemy did not conquer.

And conspired all of them together . . . to hinder it.
Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God.

Nehemiah 4:8–9

Thank You, Lord, although the battle can be severe,
with You, we stand on victory ground.

September 21

You who are in much trouble can be of good cheer. One day your troubles will be over and you will not need to fear anymore. Jesus will give you victory. Therefore it is possible not to be overwhelmed by difficulties. God will rejoice over you, and you will rejoice in Him.

The Lord your God . . . is a mighty Savior. He will give you victory.

Zephaniah 3:17 LB

Lord, You have conquered all the power of the enemy, and You are willing to make me victorious. I cannot understand this, but how I thank You that it is true.

September 22

A woman once said, “Sometimes it seems that some canyons are too wide for bridges. I pray I will have the courage to keep trying to build them anyway.”

Difficulties can seem so impossible to overcome, but my father taught us children that difficulties are there to be overcome.

Without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

I will tell You all the details of my problems and fears. Please, Lord, use them as material to build a miracle.

September 23

If we find that victory is becoming hard—a matter of effort and of struggle—we are on the wrong track. We are not on God’s basis. Faith does not struggle; faith lets God do it all.

Victory is not just an experience, not just a blessing (though it is that too); it is Jesus Christ Himself. Our victory lies in Him as a person. Seeing “Jesus only” is victory.

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30:15

Time and again we think we have to do it in our own strength, and of course we fail because we are not looking up to You, Lord Jesus, not trusting You. Remind us of Your Word at such times. We praise Your name that we can always put our confidence in You.

September 24

In a meeting, the pastor told the congregation that it was my birthday and that we had at that time a small work for the orphans in Israel. In the collection box, a birthday card from a little boy was found. All the money he had saved to go and visit his aunt was stuck in the card “for the orphans.” That was a wonderful birthday present!

Often I pray, “Lord, protect me against unblessed money.” I know that the Lord can do more with three blessed quarters than with a hundred unblessed dollars.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Make us cheerful givers, Lord, in order that You can bless what we give and there may be fruit for eternity.

September 25

Every gift—also money—begins to bear fruit when we use it. You must begin to discover the gifts God gave to

you, and then you must open them up and use them, that others can be blessed through you.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

Open our eyes, Lord, to the gifts we received from You, and then please help us to use them in such a way that others may be blessed and give thanks to You.

September 26

If all things are possible with God, then all things are possible to him that believes in Him. Have you got any rivers you think are uncrossable?

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

Isaiah 43:2 RSV

Lord, I have no great faith, but I just look at Your promises in the Bible, and then I do not fear.

September 27

A compromise does not belong to the cross.

Not my will, but thine, be done.

Luke 22:42 RSV

Make me willing to be made willing to surrender all,
Lord Jesus.

September 28

Slander is falsely accusing a person. It is taking away his good name and harming him. The Bible is very severe about slander.

Him who slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy.

Psalms 101:5 RSV

Lord, set a watch before my lips and help me not to talk about other people's faults and mistakes.

September 29

Gossip leads to criticism, and criticism kills love. We all know that. To be entangled in gossip is a snare and a delusion. It is love destroying, time killing, and a power that separates beyond recall. This is not God's will. We are called upon to do good, not to harm others.

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due,
when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

Proverbs 3:27

Father, how often we have let ourselves be entangled in the snare of gossip. Keep our eyes open to the danger when it comes near us. Teach us to be generous.

September 30

Our wonderful Savior not only made provision that God's children might be delivered from the guilt of sin, but He

also provided a clearly stated way whereby the shortcomings of those who are His might be confessed and forgiven and cleansed at any time. His Word also teaches that the obedient Christian may claim victory by faith, enter into a closer walk with God, fully surrender his life, and be filled with the Holy Spirit for whatever service in which he may be used.

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. . . . Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, . . . Let us draw near.

Hebrews 10:17, 19, 22

We praise You, Lord, that You provide the way—that You did all that had to be done, until You could say, “It is finished.”

10



October

October 1

A daily prayer:

Oh, that mine eyes might closed be
to what concerns me not to see;
that deafness might possess mine ear
to what concerns me not to hear;
that truth my tongue might always tie
from ever speaking foolishly;
that no vain thought might ever rest
or be conceived within my breast;
that by each deed and word and thought
glory may to my God be brought.
But what are wishes? Lord, mine eye
on Thee is fixed, to Thee I cry.
Wash, Lord, and purify my heart,
and make it clean in every part.
And when it's clean, Lord, keep it too,
for that is more than I can do.

Thomas Ellwood (1639)

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door
of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to
practise wicked works.

Psalm 141:3–4

Yes, Lord, You will have to do the work, but I must be willing to let You do it. Thank You for Your Spirit, who will always warn me when I am in danger of taking a wrong turn. Thank You, Lord, for Your victory.

October 2

Satan wastes no ammunition on those who are dead in trespasses and sins. Christians are far more strategic targets for him. Traveling all over the world, I saw Satan, with his timely shots, attacking Christians more than ever before. What a joy that we have so many promises in the Bible. We are holy, chosen, beloved, hidden in the hollow of His hand. We have a living Savior, legions of angels. Count your many blessings!

. . . having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:13

The devil is strong, much stronger than I. Thank You, Lord, that You are stronger, much stronger than the devil, and that with You I am more than conqueror. Hallelujah!

October 3

A discouraged person—you can pray for him. You can pray, “Open his eyes, that he may see his defense.” You can pray like that if he is a Christian, when he has surrendered and knows how to use the Word of God. In that book, God’s logistics are summed up.

If the discouraged person is not yet a Christian, pray, “Lord, lay Your hand on his eyes that he sees that he must be born again and that he may then cast all his cares on You.”

Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Lord, You know that discouraged person I am concerned about better than I do. You love him. Show him that he may—must—surrender.

October 4

A great hindrance to Christians can be that they trust in orthodoxy and the sufficiency of their religious knowledge. When they sin and fail, they say, "If only we could be more earnest, more faithful."

The disciples needed not to be more earnest and faithful in using the privilege of having such a Master. More and more strenuous efforts would only have led to more and more bitter failures. They had to die to their old way of knowing Christ and receive the gift of an entirely new way of fellowship with Him.

Worldly standards have ceased to count in our estimate of any man; even if once they counted in our understanding of Christ, they do so now no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:16 NEB

Lord, we pray that You remind us, each time we look at our failures, that we can never improve ourselves by trying in ourselves. Help us to let go of all worldly standards and receive the newness of life with a thankful heart.

October 5

There is only one right way of fighting sin. The secret of true overcoming is to calmly trust in the victory Jesus has

already won for us, counting sin as dead, which it is, through Jesus' victory.

So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God; for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from his.

Hebrews 4:9–10 RSV

Lord, You know how often I have tried and tried, without success. Thank You that Your Word says we can always fully trust You.

October 6

A king gave a little golden staff to his jester and said, "Keep this staff until you find a greater fool than you are, and then give it to him."

Later the jester came to the king, who was dying.

"I am going for a long journey to a country far away," said the king.

The jester said, "But I don't see any suitcases. Did you not make any preparations?"

"No," the king said. "I made neither reservations nor preparations."

Then the jester gave him the little staff and said, "Now I have found a greater fool than I!"

The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:25

Lord, I know that someday I will have to leave this world. Will You show me how to get ready?

October 7

We are never alone. We have His promise, and we need not be concerned. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be used to glorify Jesus. Jesus is the door to a victorious life. Did you put your hand in His today? You must do it each new day. He loves you, and He wants to guide you. Look up to Him!

For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

Psalm 48:14

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are with us in every circumstance, in every trial, and that we need never be overcome if Your hand holds and leads us. Thank You that Your grace enfolds us.

October 8

When you come into a pitch-dark room, you cannot find out how things are. With your hands you can feel a chair, a table, a door, but the moment you put on a light switch, you suddenly see all the details.

Faith is the light that shows the reality of Jesus' victory and love. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the faith.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:3

Lord, I have been in the dark. I did not see anything, but I felt something, and I surely felt unhappy. Make it light in me, that I can see things close and far away.

October 9

Where are you living? In the valley of your inadequacy or on the mountain of God's adequacy? Are you living in the valley of "I cannot," or are you on the hill of "God can"? Defeat is an abnormal experience. We must be more than conquerors.

I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:32

Lord, thank You that when we are unable, You are able and willing to do the work through and for us.

October 10

In a Christian, the combinations of pride and Christianity, self-sufficiency and Christianity, irreconcilability and Christianity, backsliding and Christianity, are impossible. Jesus is very serious in His command to all decent and indecent sinners.

Go, and sin no more.

John 8:11

Father, we pray that Your Spirit may enlighten our minds and show us every compromise we are making. Teach us how to live in Your light.

October 11

When you study the life of Jesus, you see again and again that He is Victor in every circumstance. Seeing a hungry

crowd, He feeds them. Always He has the answer to people's problems. Three times He raised people from death. How was this possible? Because He was filled with the Holy Spirit—not only because He was the Son of God. For although He was the Son of God, yet He was also man and subject to hunger and temptation. But the Spirit caused Him to be victorious!

He was faithful to him who appointed him. . . . Christ was faithful over God's house as a son.

Hebrews 3:2, 6 RSV

And, Lord, because the same Spirit works in us, we can also be faithful and victorious. Let us not hide behind false excuses.

October 12

When you overcome the dark powers, you become a strategic target for them, so you must know how to remain on victory ground. Remember that with Jesus you are more than conqueror. When they attack, pray for the protection of Jesus' blood. Don't wait until you understand that; just obey.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.

Revelation 12:11

Teach me, Holy Spirit, how to fight victoriously in Jesus' power.

October 13

Because of listening to the enemy, Satan, who is the accuser of the saints day and night, we see ourselves as slaves and prisoners of sin—without hope. But the door is open. Come out, enter into freedom.

I am the door.

John 10:7

Thank You, Jesus, that I may lay my hand in Yours and that You set me free. Hallelujah!

October 14

Into the heart of every believer comes an intense longing for victory over sin and power for service. It is inconceivable that the Lord of a perfect salvation should not make provision for every need of His children. There must be a way to purity and power. But how few avail themselves of Jesus' promise:

He who believes in me, Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:38 RSV

Lord, I believe in You. Fulfill my longing for a life in Your strength.

October 15

It is a trick of the deceiver to make us think that we are still sinning when we have met all God's conditions for

confessing sin and claiming the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

God's faithfulness and truth are the guarantees of our forgiveness, once the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all the sins we confess. His blood will never cleanse an excuse. We must fully surrender.

. . . to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins.

Acts 26:18 NIV

Thank You, Father, that You made it possible for us to be delivered from the power of Satan and to receive forgiveness of sins. May our lives prove the truth of this fact. We pray that those who do not know You yet may be drawn to You.

October 16

Is there any purpose in feeling guilty? There is. The purpose of guilt is to bring us to Jesus. That is what any feeling of guilt should do for you.

If our conscience condemns us, we know that God is greater than our conscience and that he knows everything.

1 John 3:20 TEV

O Lord, thank You that You also called me. Thank You that I can bring all my feelings of guilt to You. Thank You for cleansing me.

October 17

Don't build a ladder of good works in order to reach heaven. Heaven is a long distance away from "good people." But it is only one step from a sinner.

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

Mark 2:17 RSV

Lord Jesus, thank You that I can come to You, because You are calling sinners such as me. Thank You for Your great love.

October 18

Jesus died in our stead, that we might receive forgiveness. He lives that we might know deliverance. I need forgiveness for my sins. I need deliverance from the power of my sins. God's Spirit can give me both.

For God hath . . . given us the spirit . . . of power.

2 Timothy 1:7

Lord, how You must love me that You were willing to die even for me.

October 19

People sometimes say they have committed a sin so bad that they cannot bring it to God, or that He cannot forgive and forget. But there is no sin too great to bring to Jesus. Those who come to Him, He will never cast out.

The first step is to come to Jesus and to turn away from sin, in His strength. Then we shall be cleansed and sanctified.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 RSV

I need Your help, Lord, to turn away from sin. Thank You that in Your strength I can. I long to be sanctified.

October 20

Since Satan attacks us so often, it is necessary to confess often. Regardless of how old people may be, or how long they have ministered in the name of Jesus Christ, they still need to confess their sins again and again and ask forgiveness.

When we follow Jesus, He makes us sensitive to the smallest sin that comes between Him and us. Whenever this happens, we can go to Him at once to confess this sin.

If we confess our sins, he . . . will forgive our sins.

1 John 1:9 RSV

Lord, make us increasingly sensitive to anything that tries to come between You and us. Thank You that whenever this happens, we can go to You and tell You all about it. Thank You that You will always forgive.

October 21

The devil accuses us night and day. He likes to discourage us, because then we cannot be strong. But the Word

of God says to us, over and over again, “Be strong in the Lord.” The Lord can give us this command because He Himself gives us His strength.

As soon as we realize that there is a sin in our hearts, we must bring it to the Lord, because that sin makes us insecure and weak. “Your sins have hid his face from you” (Isaiah 59:2 RSV). But when we confess our sins, He will forgive us and make His face shine upon us anew. We must know it is really true that:

The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7 RSV

Father, teach us more and more the wonderful power of Jesus’ blood.

October 22

Theology wants to know where sin comes from. Jesus tells us how we can get rid of sin. We shall not conquer the world with theology. Knowing that Jesus conquered sin and all the power of the devil when He died on the cross will make us conquerors.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
and this is the victory that overcometh the world,
even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world,
but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4–5

O Lord, we thank You that it is possible to live a victorious life, because we know and believe that You are the Son of God and that You are the Victor!

October 23

Those who come to Christ must have the right attitude. They must know they need salvation because they are sinners. Only the Holy Spirit convicts of sin. And we have only to deal with our own sins, not with those of others.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. Point out anything you find in me that makes you sad, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalms 139:23–24 LB

Father, I also pray that You will search my heart and show me if there is anything that has caused me not to walk in Your way. You know my thoughts, even those I want to hide. Make me willing for Your Spirit to work in me.

October 24

We must have clear vision, but our sins often hinder us. They confuse our sight. He who waits for Jesus' coming again should be sensitive to every shadow that comes between his Master and himself, and he should not rest until his vision is clear again. We must clearly understand that this does not mean striving to make ourselves better and better. We must look at Jesus, our hope. He is the Lord who sanctifies us. The Holy Spirit gives us all we need.

The Spirit . . . produces in human life fruits such as these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, tolerance, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22–23 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that You sanctify us. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, who not only gives us what we need, but who also produces fruit in our lives that is well pleasing to You.

October 25

When Jesus is in your heart, you suddenly see all unconfessed sin so clearly. Together with Him, there comes a spring cleaning in your heart that sets you free, takes away the guilt, and gives you vision.

Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it.

Psalm 69:18

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You are willing to live in my heart. What a miracle! You in my heart!

October 26

How often we must pray, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions” (Psalm 51:1). But then we can add:

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.

Psalm 51:12

O Father, how great are Your love and mercy. How we thank You for blotting out our transgressions and for restoring unto us the joy of Your salvation.

October 27

God has let us share His secrets. We know about it because God has sent His Spirit to tell us, and His Spirit searches and shows us God’s deepest secrets.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Our Father, how You must love us that You are willing to let us share the things that are hidden from those who do not love You. Help us not to brush such love aside.

October 28

God never takes away; God gives. If I reach out and take someone for myself and the Lord steps in between, that does not mean God takes. It rather means that He is asking me to turn my back on something or someone I should not have, because He has a far greater purpose for my life.

Behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither.

Ezekiel 40:4

Father, thank You that You have a purpose for my life. I trust You to work it out, and because You love me, I know that You will only do that which is to Your glory.

October 29

God's fullness is available when we serve Him.

But you shall receive power. . . . You shall be my witnesses.

Acts 1:8 RSV

Thank You, Lord, for this promise. Help us to be faithful witnesses, filled with Your very power.

October 30

Don't look at the people who do you wrong. It is God who allows you to bear this difficulty. If you are in the center of the will of God, you can accept that all comes from His dear hand.

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

Colossians 1:11

Holy Spirit, turn my eyes away from myself, from other people, from my problems, and straight to Jesus.

October 31

God will give us the state of life that is best for us. And because He is the Lord of our lives, we can thank Him for whatever He gives, whether it is marriage and a family or remaining single. He alone knows in which state of life we can best serve Him. And is not that our heart's desire?

Those God calls to live single lives are always happy in that state. It is a special gift. This happiness, this contentment, is the evidence of God's plan.

Our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Psalm 33:21

Help us to share with others the joy You gave to us, Father. We know You are guiding our lives according to Your will, giving us Your peace. Let others see Your love and greatness in the circumstances in which You allow us to live.

11



November

November 1

When a part of the body is injured, the pain causes tensions, and tensions in their turn cause pain. It is the same with anger and resentment. A good bath of forgiveness makes us ready for peace and joy. But if we give ourselves over to hatred and resentment, we will receive the opposite of peace and joy.

For the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God.

James 1:20 RSV

Keep us from getting angry, Father. Give us Your love for those who try to harm us, and make them conscious of Your love.

November 2

What is the secret of forgiveness? It is not enough to simply say, "I forgive you." You must also begin to live it out. That means acting as though their sins, like yours, have been buried in the depths of the deepest sea. If God can remember them no more, then neither should you. The reason your resentments keep coming back to you is

that you keep turning them over in your mind. Please, just trust God with your thoughts. He will renew your mind.

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 10:17

How great Your love is, heavenly Father, that for Christ's sake You will not remember our sins!

November 3

Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Theology in the hands of the Holy Spirit is a beautiful science, but in the hands of unbelievers, it is death. Listen to the simple faith of those who read only the Bible and trust only in God. They don't care if some theologian says that heaven is a fable. Those who have found Jesus, know that heaven does exist.

I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

How wonderful, Lord, that You went to prepare a place for me. Help me to live in such a way that, when my time comes to go to that place, I shall be fully prepared.

November 4

Have you ever thought of the fact that one day we shall all have to appear before God, and then asked yourself, "But who will be able to stand? What about my sins?"

It is true: Sin has to be dealt with before we can come to God and have fellowship with Him. But God did deal with sin. His Son Jesus Christ gave His life as a ransom,

and God made a new covenant based on His own faithfulness.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 8:12

Father, I thank You for Your promise. I thank You that You will do it, because Your Word says that You will not lie or repent of what You said.

November 5

Have you been born again? It is so important. When a child is born, there is great joy for the parents. The baby does a lot of crying, but we, who know what it means to live, say, “Baby, why cry? You were born, and you received a life to live.”

Jesus told Nicodemus how important it is to be born again and to receive another life—eternal life. He said:

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

We thank You, Lord, that when we come to You, accepting You as our Lord and Savior, we shall be born again and receive eternal life.

November 6

Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? That is a great experience. Yet, when one is converted and says yes to Jesus, it does not mean the end of a new experience, but

the beginning. You have entered the gate to a new life. You will find complete joy and liberty there. Don't be too concerned about what Christians should and should not do. You can leave those things safely to the Holy Spirit to show you, for you have not been brought to a religion or doctrine, but to a Person: Jesus Christ.

Now, in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off are brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood.

Ephesians 2:13 PHILLIPS

Thank You, Lord, that the power of Your blood is still the same and that it continues to cleanse and protect each one who comes to You.

November 7

There are Christians who have yet to learn that Jesus stands outside the door of their hearts. Are you a Christian? Is Jesus in your heart? He knocks. Let Him in!

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him.

Revelation 3:20

Yes, Lord, come in and have fellowship with me. I see that I was satisfied much too soon. Really come into my heart, so that we can sup together. What a joy!

November 8

Often people think that working for the Lord, as a missionary or a pastor or an evangelist, is a matter of ability. Because they have no special gifts in that respect, they think they cannot do anything. But working for the Lord

is far more a matter of availability, and we are all called to take our share. God gave a gift to each one of us. It is our responsibility to make it available to Him. One thing every child of God can do is pray. However weak or young or old we are, we can always pray. And it might well be that prayer is, in God's eyes, the most important thing.

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lord, we do not know how to pray or what to ask for. Teach us to pray and make us faithful, so that we can do our part in serving You.

November 9

Prayer is sanctified by the name of Jesus. Therefore use this name! It is the most powerful name in heaven or on earth.

If you ask the Father for anything in my name, he will give it you. So far you have asked nothing in my name.

John 16:23–24 NEB

Lord Jesus, it is true I cannot come to the Father with anything of myself. You told us that we can always go to Him in Your name. How I thank You for this!

November 10

Looking unto Jesus in prayer is a blessed training. Prayer without listening is like going to a person, asking questions, and leaving without waiting for an answer.

We need some practice. We have prayed so much without listening that we do not always hear the answer

immediately. Then we must wait upon the Lord. This waiting upon Him is a blessing in itself.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

Isaiah 40:31 LB

Lord, teach me to pray and teach me to listen and understand Your sometimes still, small voice.

November 11

The enemy considers it most important to destroy our prayer life by little faith, lack of time, and doubt. We should know that prayerlessness is sin for a child of God. But we can confess this sin and be cleansed.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You for forgiveness and cleansing. Make us always willing to confess.

November 12

Prayerlessness is a sin. It is a creeping paralysis, beginning with neglect of prayer and ending in utter prayerlessness. By neglecting prayer, a Christian becomes prey to a hundred voices.

Ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

Jeremiah 29:12

Father, forgive me for not keeping in constant touch with You and for letting other things take up my mind and draw me away from You. How great is Your mercy that I may go to You again and that You will listen to me.

November 13

Are your prayers unanswered? You must be convinced that your loving Father hears whenever one of His children makes any request. God does not always grant what we ask, because He knows what we don't know. He sees His side all the time; one day we shall see it too.

And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God.

Romans 8:28 LB

Father, I thank You for every answered and every unanswered prayer.

November 14

During a time when I was unable to do what I wanted so much to do, I was very conscious of my inability. Yet I knew that the Lord would go on with His work, and I could thank Him for this.

One evening, these two thoughts kept coming to me: "Tomorrow I must get on further," and "Tomorrow I shall be permitted to get on." What a comfort to see God's side of the matter once again!

He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 RSV

Lord, keep us from thinking we have reached the goal. Make us willing to have our hearts searched by You. Let not past and present difficulties close us in, but let us continue on our path in the power of Your Spirit.

November 15

Do you witness for the Lord? I do not find any word in the Bible for so-called secret believers.

What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the house-tops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

Matthew 10:27–28 RSV

Forgive me, Lord, that I was afraid to witness. Make me, through Your fullness, more than conqueror.

November 16

It is not important how much I can do for Jesus, but how much Jesus can do through me.

I will make you to become fishers of men.

Mark 1:17

Lord, how I need to look to You and not to myself. Turn my eyes, through the Holy Spirit, in the right direction.

November 17

Many communists are articulate, while many Christians are tongue-tied, like the mouth of the MacKenzie River, which is frozen over three-quarters of the year.

It may be true “that the devil is dead and gone, but sensible people would like to know who carries the business on.” But he is a conquered enemy, since Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil. We overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the name of Jesus. Those who are with us are more and stronger than those who are against us. At our side are a powerful high priest and legions of angels.

Because [Jesus] . . . has suffered and been tempted,
he is able to help those who are tempted.

Hebrews 2:18 RSV

Lord, through the Holy Spirit make me an articulate,
joyful witness for You.

November 18

Soul winning is a task and a privilege from which no believer is exempt. Witnessing for Christ is the greatest work in the world. It is the work that is most honoring to Christ, most joyful to the believer, most beneficial in its blessed effects to those who are won.

Go . . . preach the gospel.

Mark 16:15

Make me sensitive, Lord, to the needs of those whom I meet, that I may know when to speak to them of You, that they may come to know You personally.

November 19

The best way of reaching others is to say, as simply as possible, “I was blind. Now I see.”

The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind.

Psalm 146:8

I praise You, Lord, that You opened my blind eyes and that now I can see. May others see the change in my life and be drawn to You.

November 20

The gospel is not a secret to be hoarded but a story to be heralded. Are you saved? Do you think that is what matters most? If so, what about those you meet every day? Do you keep it all to yourself, or do you do what the shepherds at Bethlehem did when the angel brought them tidings of great joy?

As for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:60 RSV

Forgive me, Lord, if I think I can keep the good news of salvation to myself. Show me to whom I must pass it on today.

November 21

The only evidence of the truth of the Bible that is seen by thousands today is the men and women who claim to be Christians. Are you and I proof of the Bible's truth?

Do all you have to do without grumbling or arguing, so that you may be blameless and harmless, faultless children of God . . . shining like lights in a dark world. For you hold up in your hands the very word of life.

Philippians 2:14–16 PHILLIPS

O Lord, make us to be men and women who do all they have to do with a willing and cheerful heart, that those who do not know You yet may long to be Yours.

November 22

The world does not read the Bible, but it reads you and me. Does it see you grow like Peter, glow like Stephen, go like Paul? If not, ask God to make you a person in whom the world can see what He can do with a yielded life.

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.

2 Corinthians 3:5

Father, thank You that we need not force ourselves to be and do something special. Thank You that You will do that in us which is pleasing to You. Make us willing to let You do whatever You think necessary.

November 23

We are called to be God's ambassadors, His missionaries, the light of the world in a time of chaos and great darkness. And as we see chaos and darkness increasing, our responsibility also increases.

We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 RSV

Lord Jesus, help us to remain watching and praying, that we may be able to discern other people's needs and go and help them, pointing them to You.

November 24

What is God doing with people who never hear the gospel? What are you doing with them? How will the heathen be saved when they never hear the message of God's love? Will you perhaps have to bring it to them?

But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14 LB

Lord, show me whether You want me to be such a preacher. If not, show me what You do want me to do.

November 25

When Jesus told His disciples where they were to go to preach the gospel, He said they were to go to the utmost parts of the earth. That really meant they had to surrender their own will. Jerusalem was hostile to them. Samaria was their natural enemy. Of themselves, they did not want to go. But the fact that Jesus sent them made all the difference. Now they were safe and secure.

Now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.

Genesis 31:16

Lord, give me an attentive ear that I can hear what You are saying, that I may do what You tell me to do.

November 26

When we are ready to witness, we are also ready to suffer. What about you? Are you ready to tell everyone who is

willing to listen? It is settled for all eternity that Jesus is Victor. The whole world belongs to Him!

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57 RSV

Father, make us aware of the needs of those we meet, that we may minister to them, telling them the glad news of Your great love in giving Your only Son for us.

November 27

We need heroes and heroines for Christ, people eager to go out and preach Christ to those who have not yet heard of Him. We need men willing to point them to Jesus, the Savior of all mankind.

All shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Hebrews 8:11

Lord, we pray for men and women who are willing to bring the gospel to those who have not yet heard it. Tell me what You want me to do.

November 28

The multitudes are waiting for the workers. Will the workers come? Or will they have to go on waiting until it is too late and they have to cry out, as they go into eternity, "The harvest is past and we are not saved"?

How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?

Romans 10:14 RSV

Again, Lord, I pray: Show me what You want me to do.

November 29

It is not my ability, but my response to His ability, that counts. It is not what happens to me that matters, but what I do with what happens to me.

Who is sufficient for these things?

2 Corinthians 2:16

Our sufficiency is of God.

2 Corinthians 3:5

Father, thank You that You are the all-sufficient One and that I can always depend on Your ability.

November 30

I stand amazed at the unfathomable complexity of God's wisdom and God's knowledge. How can man ever understand His reasons for His doings, or explain His methods of working?

Who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Romans 11:34

O Lord, how great You are! I can only bow down and worship You for Your majesty and wisdom.

12



December

December 1

Man has to go through many experiences in order to receive the spiritual vision that is needed to see the divine plan. Some experiences are hard. But then nothing that is of great value is easily obtained. If we let God do the work, He will show us His plan little by little. One day we shall see it all. When we feel as if there is nothing but darkness around us, let us not forget that a film has to be developed in a darkroom in order to bring out the beauty.

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18

Father, keep us close to You, that in times of darkness and difficulties we may feel Your presence. Thank You that one day we shall see the whole plan You have for our lives.

December 2

Sooner or later, to most who follow Christ, there comes a time when flesh and heart fail. Feelings and fears can be like a torrent of rough water, and we see no way to cross it. The words But God make all the difference then.

Amy Carmichael

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalms 73:26

Father, You know that at times we have no strength whatever. Help us then to turn to You. With You, there is plenty for everyone.

December 3

There are two great forces at work in the world today: the unlimited power of God and the limited power of Satan. So when we have surrendered our lives and hearts to Jesus Christ, we need never be overcome.

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

Colossians 1:11 RSV

Thank You, Father, that Your glorious power will strengthen us whenever we need it. And You know how much we need it, just to be patient and longsuffering with joyfulness.

December 4

To grow spiritually, we must recognize that every part of us belongs to God, once we have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When we are totally emptied of ourselves, we can be full of the Holy Spirit. Then we shall be conquerors and able to accept all things from His hand.

Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within

you? Your own body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because he owns it.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 LB

Lord, we must confess that we have not yet fully learned that our body does not belong to us. Help us, that we may glorify You by the way we live.

December 5

The things of this world are empty in themselves, and so are many of our ambitions, because they are earthbound. Jesus made us children of God, our Father who is in heaven, and so He wants us to be heavenly minded.

. . . that ye might be filled with knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Colossians 1:9

Lord, we pray that we may know Your will and grow spiritually, so that we may bring joy to our heavenly Father's heart.

December 6

In our days, man and his achievements are increasingly being brought into the center of people's thinking. This may seem to be the right thing, because man has indeed achieved much. However, if we really think man is on top of everything, we make a mistake. We forget that all man's thinking is nothing but afterthought, copying what God has originally thought long, long ago.

By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible. . . . All things were created by him, and for him.

Colossians 1:16

Lord, we worship You. We thank You that we know You are the omnipotent One and that all things are in You.

December 7

It is sometimes hard to reconcile the Christian's dual role of being separate from the world and yet part of it. We are in the world but not of the world, and we must learn to discern between the two. When we realize what it means that we are not of the world, we begin to learn the secret of living in it as we should, being more willing to serve God in all circumstances, more willing to serve those around us and give to them out of the vast riches we possess in Christ.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 RSV

O Father, how we thank You that whenever we need anything, You will give it to us. Also we thank You for this wonderful promise in Your Word, which covers each and every need.

December 8

In order to grow in our faith, we need to be placed into circumstances where we are forced to reach out to the

Source of our strength. That is the way our spiritual vision is exercised, and how we discover new dimensions in our God.

All my springs are in thee.

Psalm 87:7

Father, I can say with the psalmist that it is good for me to draw near to You. Renew my strength, for You are the Source from which I live. And then help me to tell others.

December 9

God's will is not a hidden mystery that you must set out to discover. You must simply open your heart to the evident will of God. Remember that God wants you to know His will and that He is doing everything He can to make it obvious to you.

Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:17 RSV

Our Father, I thank You that it is so simple to know what Your will is and that You Yourself make it known to me. Cause me to fully understand.

December 10

We have to conquer the world in us and the world around us. In the inner world there is pride, selfishness, guilt, bitterness, greed. All these things must be conquered. We ourselves can never do this.

With us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.

2 Chronicles 32:8

Thank You, Lord, that You will always strengthen us and make us victorious.

December 11

Are you acting as if your life were your own? You lost the right to do so on Calvary. Christ bought you—lock, stock, and barrel. What does he get from you in return?

Live as obedient children before God. Don't let your character be moulded by the desires of your ignorant days, but be holy in every part of your lives.

1 Peter 1:14–15 PHILLIPS

You alone can enable us, O Lord, to live a completely surrendered life. Help us, we pray, that our lives may show what You can do.

December 12

Let us not forget that we are eternity people. We are citizens of heaven; our outlook goes beyond this world.

Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with . . . cares of this life.

Luke 21:34

Thank You, Lord, that You have given me eternal life. Let Your heavenly light shine on my life of today, so I see things in the right perspective.

December 13

It is never a waste of time to look unto the Lord. Looking is a most needed part of our daily discipline.

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Mark 13:37

Forgive me, Lord, for looking in the wrong direction. I know that is the reason I was discouraged.

December 14

Elijah prayed to God for his servant: "Open his eyes that he may see." What was there to see? A great army to defend them.

We may pray for others, that their eyes may be opened, and also for ourselves. It is the Holy Spirit who does the job. Jesus said we would have power when the Holy Spirit came upon us, and that is because the Holy Spirit gives us vision.

When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.

John 16:13

Lord, what a victory when we see Your way, Your plan.

December 15

An unsanctified Christian is not in the will of God. He is a burden and a sorrow to God. The Father wants His child to be sanctified.

As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1:15–16 RSV

Lord, whenever You command me to do anything, You also give me the power to fulfill it. I thank You for that.

December 16

How much more we know than those for whom Christmas only means the ringing of bells and Father Christmas, or the many who only prepare for Christmas by posting their Christmas cards in time and wrapping their presents! They do their best to do their duty every year, because it is a yearly ritual for them and they are afraid people might think they forgot about them.

Those who know Jesus Christ have received what the Bible calls an inexpressible gift. Is He the center of your Christmas?

The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

Psalms 14:2

Lord, Your Holy Spirit can give us this understanding. We pray You, let Your Spirit work in us more and more, enlightening our understanding so that others may find the Way of life because of what they see in us.

December 17

The one aim of the call of God is the satisfaction of God, not the call to do something for Him. We are not sent to

battle for God but to be used by God in His battles. Are we being more devoted to service than to Jesus Christ?

Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. [Jesus] saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

John 21:15

O Lord, I love You, and that is why I am so glad when You use me. Give me discernment.

December 18

Sanctification is not a heavy yoke but a joyful liberation. If you have surrendered to Jesus Christ, He will work this liberation in you.

Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us . . . sanctification.

1 Corinthians 1:30

Thank You, Father, that whatever You command us, You made possible through Jesus Christ, Your Son.

December 19

Someone asked Henrietta Mears the week before she died, "If you should have an opportunity to live your life again, which things would you do differently?"

Her answer was, "I would trust Jesus more than I have done this time."

In quietness and confidence is your strength.

Isaiah 30:15 LB

Lord, increase my trust by Your Holy Spirit.

December 20

Sanctification brings us to a new battlefield: that of the spirit. The devil tries to keep us concerned with our own selves—preaching self, looking at self, looking at our own faith, looking at our own experiences—and he says, “Rest on those experiences.”

Are you so foolish? Having begun with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?

Galatians 3:3 RSV

Lord, I know that in my own strength I never can accomplish the things of Your kingdom. But thank You that in Your strength I can.

December 21

We rob the work of Jesus of its efficacy and we stand powerless before the adversary when we doubt the integrity of the Word of God. There is no other way of proving the authenticity of the Bible but by believing it and by living it ourselves.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1:3 NIV

We thank You, Lord, that Your power is available to us, if only we depend on You. Use us so others see that You are the only wise God.

December 22

Christmas is no duty! The coming of Jesus was a free gift to us all. Christmas reminds us that He came as a baby. Let us prepare our hearts for that celebration, in order to be able to prepare others for it.

Then said I, Lo, I come. . . . I delight to do thy will,
O my God.

Psalm 40:7–8

Lord, we thank You that You were willing to come to this earth with such a desire to do Your Father's will. Make us willing for whatever You may ask from us.

December 23

We must crawl before we walk, and we must walk before we run. This is the natural development in the life of us all. Actually, it applies to all spheres of life. Never run ahead of yourself; you'll never make it. Another thing is that we must learn to crawl and to walk and to run—and for this we need the help of others. The Bible also speaks of this when it tells how God taught His people.

I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms.

Hosea 11:3

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are helping us, leading us, teaching us in the small details of everyday life. Make us willing to obey, not trying to do things in our

own limited strength, waiting for Your timing in our development.

December 24

We are God's children if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. If only we knew how truly we belong to Him, everything would be different. God is continually remembering us, and if He claims our life for Himself, it is because we share the same life of eternity.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1 John 3:1 RSV

Father, we bow down before You and worship You. It is beyond our understanding that You love us so much.

December 25

God made a little opening in the sky to show the shepherds a little bit of heaven. He will show you still greater joy if you open your heart for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Even now, your eyes may see some of the far vast reaches of eternity.

We all . . . are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18

I would like to see much now, Lord. Will You, by Your Holy Spirit, open my eyes? Thank You.

December 26

Jesus not only wants to save us from our sins—He wants to restore God’s image in us. We never can love like this, but it is not necessary. When we put our weak hand into the strong hand of the Lord, then He will do it. He Himself causes His love to overflow. Just imagine—unblamable in holiness! This we can never achieve by trying. But He can!

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Our Father, we worship You. You are the almighty One, and You will do that in us which we in ourselves never can do. Thank You for the greatness of Your power.

December 27

How is it possible to be blameless—holy? When we look at ourselves, such words just frighten us. But when we look unto the Lord, we never need be afraid, for 1 Thessalonians 5:24 says: “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

We can rely on these words, because we know that on the cross of Calvary all was finished that had to be done to prepare us for the future. Jesus said: “It is finished.” And when we look at Calvary’s cross, we know. Faithful is He who did it and who also will do it. It is Jesus who calls us.

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:32

Lord, we thank You that You are calling us. You know how weak we feel in ourselves, how we never can become blameless and holy by trying. But, oh, we thank You that You did all that had to be done and that we can just accept it from You.

December 28

Will God be defeated? No! After the period of darkness, His trumpet will sound, and His Son Jesus Christ will come. Then it will be very clearly manifested that the gospel has indeed been brought to all nations.

One word of command, one shout from the archangel, one blast from the trumpet of God and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven! Those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then we who are still living will be swept up with them into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And after that we shall be with him for ever.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 PHILLIPS

What a wonderful future lies before us, Lord. We are looking to the day of Your coming. Help us to encourage one another again and again.

December 29

What a joy to know Him, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, who died on the cross for our sins, who was raised, and who is with us always, until the end of the world!

Let us do what the shepherds did—tell it to everyone who is willing to listen.

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?

Romans 8:32 RSV

Our Father, we can only thank You for Your great gift in Jesus Christ, Your Son, by passing on these good tidings of great joy to others.

December 30

The certain hope of every child of God is that death is not the end but only the gate to greater life. This keeps believers from fearing death. If we gave our heart to Jesus, we can be certain that He prepared a place for us in His Father's house.

Death is not a pit but a tunnel leading to a far greater fullness of light than we ever saw before, because we shall then be in the light of God.

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And . . . in my flesh shall I see God.

Job 19:25–26

Lord, how I long for the day when I shall see You and shall no longer need the light of the sun or of a lamp, because You shall give me Your light.

December 31

This year brought us closer to the great end battle and to the return of the Lord Jesus. May He use you and me to hasten this return, because when the last of the Gentiles

has turned to Jesus, the time will have come. You and I could be used to bring this last one to Him. What a joy!

Ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return. . . . Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching.

Luke 12:36–37

Lord, show me if there is a compromise in my surrender, whether that is the reason I do not enjoy the fruit of the Spirit more fully. Lord, use me to build Your kingdom.

Corrie ten Boom was imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II for harboring Jews. Upon her release, she began a worldwide ministry of preaching and teaching. *The Hiding Place* is the best-known book about her life.

A Note from the Editors

These books were selected by the Books and Inspirational Media Division of the company that publishes *Guideposts*, a monthly magazine filled with true stories of hope and inspiration.

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In her travels, Corrie ten Boom took every opportunity to spread the message of the need to prepare for Christ's second coming.

"Every Christian is called to take his place in the army of King Jesus and to wrestle as a fellow conqueror with Him," writes Corrie. In *The End Battle*, she shows us how to fulfill our responsibilities as part of God's army.

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Each day of Corrie ten Boom's life belonged to the Lord. He was her victor through many trials and her joy throughout her lifetime. *This Day Is the Lord's* shares Corrie's personal way of starting each day with the Lord. The daily devotional entry contains a brief thought from the author, a relevant Bible verse and a prayer to guide you in your daily walk.

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