

DAILY ENCOURAGING WORD FOR LIFE

February 2024

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February 1

Praise the Lord Everyone. Whenever you give God credit, God will give you interest. When you give God glory for what he is doing in your life, God will give you increase. When you give to God, you always get far more in return. Think about it. When you give your mortal life to the Lord, he gives you eternal life in return! Knowing this, is there anything that we should withhold from God? Give God everything and watch out for interest, increase and much more in return.

Scripture:

Genesis 22:16-18 “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (NKJV)

Psalms 115:1, 14 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. May the Lord give you increase more and more, You and your children. (NKJV)

Luke 6:38 Give generously and generous gifts will be given back to you, shaken down to make room for more. Abundant gifts will pour out upon you with such an overflowing measure that it will run over the top! Your measurement of generosity becomes the measurement of your return.” (TPT)

Prayer:

Gracious and Giving God, we come today with profound rejoicing knowing that we can't beat you giving no matter how we try. Through Jesus Christ, you have proven that what you give to us far exceeds what we offer to you. Psalm 39 says that our lives are as short as hand widths yet, when we give them to you, you give us eternity in return. We thank you for the assurance that we receive from Abraham's testimony. When he gave you his only son, you gave him a multitude of descendants. We give you the glory for all that you are doing in our lives and you give increase to us and our children. When we give a measure of our substance, you see to it that we receive an overflowing measure in return. With these truths ever before

us, train us to walk in greater degrees of trust. Teach us to let go of what we are holding in our hands so that we can see you bless us with interest, increase and more.

February 2

Praise the Lord Everyone. When you affirm with your mouth that the Lord is the master, owner and manufacturer of your life you can take it back to God anytime something happens. To think of it in natural terms, when your car breaks down you need to take it back to the maker. You can put generic parts on it but they won't work as well as the genuine parts. I knew a man that couldn't find parts for his Rolls Royce. He took the car to a Chevrolet dealer who made parts for him. They told him, "These parts will get you rolling but they won't let you roll like the Rolls Royce parts." God made us so it is not incredible for God to heal us. If you are experiencing brokenness physically, mentally, or spiritually, God is able to make you whole.

Scripture:

Psalms 100:3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. (NKJV)

Psalms 147:2-3 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. (NRSV)

Isaiah 40:28-29 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. (NKJV)

Prayer:

God our Source and Maker, our hearts are filled with gratitude as we consider that we don't have to search for healing when we find ourselves broken. You have made us, we are yours and you take care of your own. Forgive us for attempting to use counterfeit measures to do what only you can do in us. We can try to let accolades, positions and possessions build us up, but we can only find a sure foundation with you. We can surround ourselves with people to feel included, but only you can gather the outcast and make them feel at home. We can strive to attain security with our intelligence and common sense, but only you can give power to the weak and increase strength for those who have no might. Train us to look within to the Maker that dwells within us by the Holy Spirit instead of searching for answers in what we see around us. We lay down our aftermarket remedies and open ourselves to receive genuine wholeness and healing from your mighty and loving hand.

February 3

Praise the Lord Everyone. If you put a tea kettle on a stove, it will whistle when the water begins to boil. If you don't remove the kettle from the heat, the pressure will pop the top off. This is how it is with us when we don't properly deal with stressful situations. If you allow things to continually build up in you, there will eventually be an explosion. You will 'blow up.' Every now and then you have to stop, refocus and remember what God has said. If you let your praise go up, your pressure will come down.

Scripture:

Psalm 145:14-15 Weak and feeble ones you will sustain. Those bent over with burdens of shame you will lift up. You have captured our attention and the eyes of all look to you. You give what they hunger for at just the right time. (TPT)

Psalm 34:17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. (NRSV)

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (NRSV)

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. (NRSV)

Prayer:

God our Great Keeper and Sustainer, we come today with the utmost gratitude because rather than allowing pressure to build up, we are able to come to you to lay our burdens down. Forgive us for allowing things to fester rather than crying out to you for help. We remember that you hear us and rescue us from all of our troubles. You uphold the weak and feeble and lift up those who are bent with shame. You are willing to hear all that we have on our hearts and minds. Even more, you invite us to place all that concerns us at your feet. Grant that we would become disciplined at casting our cares on you rather than carrying them ourselves. Since we know that you are our helper, keeper and sustainer, we lift up an explosive praise to you now and stand confident that you will bring our pressure down.

February 4

Praise the Lord Everyone. We are to walk by faith and not by sight but sometimes we walk by faith at the wrong times. What I mean by that is that we don't see what we should see. You are really walking by sight when you see someone in need and decide to keep walking. In so called "faith" you may say, "The Lord will bless them," but could it be that the Lord has already blessed you to bless them?

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 15:7 If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. (NRSV)

Ezekiel 16:49 This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. (NRSV)

James 2:14-17 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. (NLT)

Prayer:

Gracious and Loving God, we come today with gratitude for your mercy that covers us when our walk does not measure up with your word. Lord, forgive us for ignoring opportunities to aid those that we see in need under the pretense of 'faith' that you will bless them. We confess that we can get so caught up with our own schedules and concerns that we are not willing to see what we should see. We repent for putting ourselves first because when we do, we become hard-hearted and tight-fisted toward our neighbors in need. Teach us to lean into the truth that when we put you first you will prosper and empower us to get what we need and to give to those who are needy. We ask that you would pierce our hearts and make us sensitive in moments where you intend for us to be the one that blesses someone's life. Let it be that we would never again merely speak a word of blessing when you mean for us to be the blessing.

February 5

Praise the Lord Everyone. People often say what they will do for the church if they were to come into money but if you can't give God a dime out of a dollar when you don't have much, you won't give what is due God if you become rich. If you were to come into 80 million dollars, you will not give God eight million dollars out of it if you weren't faithful with far less. If you want to be a channel of blessings, don't complain when people ask you to do things. If you want to be the lender instead of the borrower, don't cringe when people ask you for something. You have to practice generosity to be generous. You have to practice faithfulness in order to be faithful.

Scripture:

Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. (NRSV)

Luke 16:10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (NRSV)

2 Corinthians 9:6b A stingy sower will reap a meager harvest, but the one who sows from a generous spirit will reap an abundant harvest. (TPT)

Prayer:

Gracious and Giving God, we thank you for the opportunity to examine ourselves and see where we stand when it comes to sowing into your kingdom. The belief that we will give a lot when we have a lot comes from a carnal mind and not the mind of Christ. We take this thought captive to obey Christ right now in the mighty name of Jesus. We renew our minds today and declare that which is true. We cannot have a lot unless we are willing to sow a lot. We cannot be faithful with much if we fail to be faithful with very little. We are reminded that walking faithfully before you is a practice. There are no overnight successes in the kingdom of God. We go from faith to faith, glory to glory. Bless us to step out and grow in faith so that we can be generous with what we have in hand right now.

February 6

Praise the Lord Everyone. If your car battery dies, I will give you a jumpstart to get you going, but if you find out that your battery is dead you have to get a new battery. If I were to continue to give you a jump, my battery would die soon. As believers, we can't keep giving someone else a 'jump' if they are not doing what they need to do to stay in the right place. We need to encourage one another but we can't be down all the time. We can't depend on someone else to keep us in good spirits. We have to stay attuned to the Holy Spirit within to get the energy and zeal that we need.

Scripture:

Judges 20:21-22 The sons of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and struck to the ground on that day twenty-two thousand [fighting] men of Israel. But the people, the [fighting] men of Israel, took courage and strengthened themselves and again set their battle line in the same place where they formed it the first day. (AMP)

1 Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. (KJV)

Psalm 119:52 Your revelation-light is eternal; I'm encouraged every time I think about your truth! (TPT)

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit. (NRSV)

Prayer:

Great and Almighty God, we come today giving you thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ who hold us up and spur us on as we walk daily in our journey. We recognize that we cannot depend solely on others to keep ourselves heartened and motivated. Help us to realize that our co-laborers in Christ only give to us that which you have poured into them. Teach us to first look within to the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our inner being with power. Train us to think about your word when we find ourselves in need of encouragement. When we find ourselves beat down by the circumstances of life, give us a heart to take courage and strengthen ourselves in you so that we can get back up again. When we have been built back up, use us to be a blessing and encouragement to those in need.

February 7

Praise the Lord Everyone. Are you sure of your salvation? Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." If you've made this confession and hold this belief, you can be assured that you are saved. God wants us to believe him for everything in the same way that we believe him for our salvation. God doesn't save us for heaven. God saves us for relationship with him. You don't just need a foundation. You need the whole house. When storms come, you are going to need a roof to cover you as well as a foundation to stand on! Believe every word that God promises concerning your life.

Scripture:

Psalm 103:2-5 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (NRSV)

John 10:10 The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]. (AMP)

John 14:12 "I tell you this timeless truth: The person who follows me in faith, believing in me, will do the same mighty miracles that I do—even greater miracles than these because I go to be with my Father! (TPT)

Prayer:

Matchless and Omnipotent God, our hearts are filled with gratitude today because you have reminded us that you did not save us to go to heaven but to make the kingdom of heaven seen and known in the earth. We know that through Christ our salvation is sure but we confess that we sometimes waver in our faith when it comes to your promises. We also know that we can't stay in this place because we need to stand firmly on your promises in order to live a life that both pleases and reflects you. God we ask that you would search us and remove every stumbling block to our faith. We commit to declaring your word until we receive it and grasp it tightly with our whole heart. We declare that salvation does not just mean the forgiveness of sins and redemption from the Pit but it also means healing from all of our diseases, being crowned with steadfast love and mercy and being satisfied with good as long as we live so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's. We declare that Jesus came that we may have and enjoy life to the fullest! We recognize that we cannot represent you in the earth if we don't believe that we can do what you did. We declare that we shall do even greater miracles than Jesus. We declare that we believe every word that you have promised concerning our lives.

February 8

Praise the Lord Everyone. When God brought the children of Israel to the Land of Promise, he knew that giants were in the land. If there were people smaller than them in the land, they would have put their trust in themselves. You can choose to look at the giants or at the One who made them. God wants to know if you are afraid of things that are bigger than you. We've got to get some heart. "Get some heart" means, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45)." God has got to be in your heart so that he can become God in your mouth. When God is in your mouth, you will start speaking those things that are not as though they were. God has got to be bigger than what you see.

Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:37a David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." (NRSV)

Numbers 14:6-9 And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes and said to all the congregation of the Israelites, "The land that we went through as spies is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only, do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they are no more than bread for us; their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." (NRSV)

1 John 4:3-4 And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (NKJV)

Prayer:

Almighty God and Conquering King, we come today declaring that there is nobody greater, nobody bigger, nobody stronger, nobody mightier than you. Your love, power and presence dwarfs any and all giants that we face in our lives so we have no cause to be afraid of things that are bigger than us. We call to our remembrance the giants that we have faced in our past and glory in the knowledge that by your grace and power, they are slain and we are still standing. We declare that we have heart and we lift our voice to say that the Lord who saved us in the past will save us now and forevermore. We declare that the Lord is with us and we will not fear. No matter how big the problem or circumstance that comes our way, we declare that with the Greater One abiding within us, the bigger they are, the harder they fall!

February 9

Praise the Lord Everyone. What causes a house to be a home? It is love. God is love. It is the very presence of God. The presence of the Lord is always with us and this means that we should always be prepared to give God praise. The presence of God should rest in our homes when we are worshipers. Your house is blessed because you carry the presence of the Lord in you. You can be 'at home' everywhere you go!

Scripture:

Ezekiel 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (NRSV)

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (NKJV)

Prayer:

God, we come today with great jubilation because when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, you make yourself at home in us. We give you praise for your Holy Spirit that causes us to walk in your statutes, keep your judgments and do them. We will continually allow your praises to flow from our lips so that your presence can rest in our homes and

wherever we may find ourselves. Let your loving presence exude from within us so that everywhere we go, others can see you, experience you and come to know you for themselves.

February 10

Praise the Lord Everyone. You may not have the best yet but the best belongs to you. God is going to do beyond what you want and beyond your expectations. God stretches us to show us that he can do more than we think he can. Get ready for more because God is going to do more.

Scripture:

1 Kings 3:11-13 God said to [Solomon], “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. (NRSV)

John 11:21-25 Martha said to Jesus, “My Lord, if only you had come sooner, my brother wouldn’t have died. But I know that if you were to ask God for anything, he would do it for you.” Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise and live.” She replied, “Yes, I know he will rise with everyone else on resurrection day.” “Martha,” Jesus said, “You don’t have to wait until then. I am the Resurrection, and I am Life Eternal. Anyone who clings to me in faith, even though he dies, will live forever. (TPT)

Ephesians 3:20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. (NLT)

Prayer:

Magnificent and Matchless God, our hearts are flooded with joy and thanksgiving because we know that not only does the best belong to us but the best is yet to come. The things that we desire for ourselves are just so miniscule and basic in light of what you desire to give to us. Expand our thinking today and take us up higher in our understanding and expectation of you. Bless us to take the limits off of you in our minds and keep us mindful that even when you do, you will still exceed what we think and ask of you. You are so great that when we ask for things that please you, you generously give us that and much more. We thank you for stretching us so that we can see what you are truly capable of even when we are resistant because of the uncertainty and pain that we feel. We ask that you would move on our hearts and minds so that we might be ready for you to do more.

February 11

Praise the Lord Everyone. David knew that God was before and behind him. He knew this because he had to run away from Saul. He ran from him so as not to kill him because he respected God's anointed. He knew that God would take care of Saul. The whole time that David was running away from Saul, God was maturing him for his kingship. God did not want to promote him until he was finished with him. Let God complete the work that he is doing in your life. Don't get ahead of God and don't lag behind God. We have to move with God.

Scripture:

Psalm 17:15 As for me, I shall see Your face in righteousness; I will be [fully] satisfied when I awake [to find myself] seeing Your likeness. (AMP)

Psalm 32:8-9 I hear the Lord saying, "I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!" (TPT)

Psalm 139:5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. (NRSV)

James 1:2-4 My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (NRSV)

Prayer:

Awesome and All Knowing God, we give you so much thanks today that when we are in harrowing experiences with the Saul's in our lives, you show us that you are before us, behind us and that you have your hand upon us. We give you praise for the assurance of your divine peace and protection. We ask that you would give us a heart to love those in our lives who are attempting to hurt and abuse us. It would be so easy for us to turn our attention to hating them but we thank you for reminding us that while we are on the run from them, you are maturing and completing us and causing us to lack in nothing. Let our hunger to see your likeness reflected in us far outweigh our desire to be delivered from our Saul's before time. Make our hearts pliable so that you will not have to push and pull us along the way that you would have us go. You have promised us that you will stay close to us, instruct us and guide us. Armed with this assurance, bless us each day to move with you along the pathway of our lives.

February 12

Praise the Lord Everyone. When I was growing up, the kids on my block used to call me “seven-thirty.” They called me that because my mom always made me go inside at, you guessed it, 7:30. I didn’t like it because I wanted to be able to hang out and do what the other kids were doing. When I graduated from High School, I noticed that the very ones who teased me did not graduate along with me. Sometimes discipline and structure seems unfair but if you adhere to it, you will see the benefit of it in the end.

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 8:5 Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. (NRSV)

Job 5:17 “Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. (NIV)

Psalms 37:1-3 Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. (NRSV)

Hebrews 12:9-11 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. (NLT)

Prayer:

Faithful and Loving God, we thank you for reminding us today that no matter how old we get, we will always be your babies. We often respond to your discipline in the same way that we responded to our parents’ discipline as we were growing up. We could not understand the need for their discipline until we were old enough to see the benefit of it. Your word says that the one whom you correct is blessed so we humble ourselves before you in submission to your correction. We often resent correction when it seems like the wicked are having fun and getting away with their wrongdoing. We remember now that there is no need to envy them because we now know what their end will be. Armed with such foresight, let it be that we would not resist your discipline no matter how painful it may be. Let an unfettered excitement build within us as we look forward to the refinement and reward that comes from enduring your discipline.

February 13

Praise the Lord Everyone. No matter how much we try, we will never really understand death. We cannot understand it because we only know in part. The thing that is important is that we understand life. When you understand life, you will get your life together because you know one day you are going to die. You have to be prepared for death. When you accept Jesus Christ, you don't have to worry about death. Even after your body is deceased, your spirit will live forever. What is important to know is that your life is in the hands of God.

Scripture:

Psalm 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death. (KJV)

Psalm 31:15a My life, my every moment, my destiny—it's all in your hands. (TPT)

2 Corinthians 5:1-8 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (NKJV)

Prayer:

Gracious and Loving God, it is a sweet comfort to know that we don't have to understand death when we give our lives to you. We rejoice today because every aspect of our lives is in your hands. We declare that you are our God forever and that you will guide us even unto death. We will not spend our time pondering or worrying about death but rather giving thanks for the abundance and newness of life that we have in you. We are grateful that although we will never understand death, we don't need to fear death because to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We declare that death has no power over us because we were given eternal life the moment that we said yes to Jesus.

February 14 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Praise the Lord Everyone. What do you do when you pray and God doesn't come through? Know that God knows what's best for you. You try to pray and determine your own answer but that is not what God wants us to do. You need to pray and leave things alone because God is working things out for your good in ways that you can't see or that you cannot foresee. If you believe that God makes ways out of no way then you should just mind your business because God is making a way. It's best to get to the place where you are willing to declare that you trust God's sovereign will.

Scripture:

Job 42:1-4 Then Job answered the Lord and said, "I know that You can do all things, And that no thought or purpose of Yours can be restrained. "[You said to me] 'Who is this that darkens and obscures counsel [by words] without knowledge?' Therefore [I now see] I have [rashly] uttered that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, please, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct [and answer] me.' (AMP)

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (NRSV)

Psalms 139:5-6 You've gone into my future to prepare the way, and in kindness you follow behind me to spare me from the harm of my past. With your hand of love upon my life, you impart a blessing to me. This is just too wonderful, deep, and incomprehensible! Your understanding of me brings me wonder and strength. (TPT)

Prayer:

Merciful and Sovereign God, we come today confessing that sometimes we foolishly set our minds to praying our will into being. We make determinations about what we need based on what we see in front of us. You know what we need based on what is going on all around us and based on your plans for our future. Like Job we utter things that we don't understand and we forget that your ways and your thoughts are far higher than ours. Lord, we repent of our arrogance and set our hearts to relinquish control of our lives to you. We turn now to seek your will and we incline our ears to hear your instruction. Help us to walk in the understanding that it is better to pray your will instead of our wants because your word says that if we delight in you, you will give us the desires of our hearts. We declare that we want your purpose to prevail in our lives.

February 15

Praise the Lord Everyone. Wisdom comes from God and he gives it to those who ask for it. We ask God for things but rarely do we ask him for wisdom and understanding. The thing is, if you have wisdom, God is able to entrust you with things. You can have a lot of money but lack the wisdom to manage it. The Bible says in Proverbs 21:20, “The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get” (NLT). There are some that attain a wealth of knowledge and from it conclude that there is no god. The Bible says in Psalm 14:1, “Fools say in their hearts that there is no god.” Let’s be sure to seek God for wisdom so that we will know what to do in all things.

Scripture:

Proverbs 4:6-8 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. (NKJV)

Proverbs 8:10-11 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. (NRSV)

James 1:5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. (NRSV)

Prayer:

Wise and All Knowing God, we come today expressing thanks that your wisdom is always available to us when we seek you for it. We confess that we sometimes get our hearts so set on receiving the things that you have promised that we don’t see the need for wisdom to manage those things before we have them in hand. We ask that you would open our eyes wide to see that everything that you do in our lives is meant to bring you glory. If we receive your promises without wisdom, we will foolishly forget about you. Give us a hunger and thirst for wisdom that surpasses our desire for things. We decree and declare that we will love and not forsake wisdom and that it will preserve and keep us. We declare that we will exalt and embrace wisdom and receive the promotion and honor that it brings. We give you honor, thanks and praise because with wisdom, we will be good stewards of all that you bestow upon us. We declare that you will get the glory in every area of our lives in Jesus’ mighty name.

February 16

Praise the Lord Everyone. God wants to get us to a place of total dependency. It is always a struggle to do what God says when God is trying to teach you to trust him. God will let you get down to your very last and then will tell you to take your last and give it to someone else. You will say, 'God, this is all that I have!,' and God will say to you, 'This is all that I want.' You can't say that God makes a way out of no way until you are faced with no way out. When you don't have anything, there is always one thing left - his word. God upholds the world by the power of his word. God wants you to get to the place where his word is good enough. His word says to trust and obey. What do you say?

Scripture:

Genesis 22:2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." (NKJV)

1 Kings 17:8-9, 13-14 Then the word of the Lord came to [Elijah], saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of [meal] and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." (NRSV)

Psalms 4:5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. (NRSV)

Prayer:

Almighty and All Sufficient God, we come today gratefully declaring that you are worthy of all of our faith, hope and trust. We confess that walking the path to total dependency on you is often a painful struggle. We are constantly tempted to depend on things other than you. What's more, when you ask for our last, we are reluctant because we want 'something' to hold on to. Forgive us for withholding all that we have and all that we are from you. Help us to understand that when we have nothing left in hand, we still have your word in our hearts. We accept that we have to know by experience that you are a way maker. Make us willing to give you even our very last and to put our trust in you. It is only when we see you come through when there is nothing left that we will believe in and totally depend on you both in lack and in abundance. Bless us to endure the pain of detaching ourselves from things so that we can cling all the more to your steadfast and loving hand.

February 17

Praise the Lord Everyone. God puts things in your life that don't make sense. He won't take them out of your life until you get where you are supposed to be. In most cases, it's to develop your attitude. For instance, God will place people in your life that you don't like in order to teach you how to love. They are a part of your destiny. The only purpose of negative things in your life is to get you closer to God. When God gets you through your worst scenario he will put you in your best. It's about relationships. If you want to be like Jesus, you have got to learn how to deal with all kinds of people, even your enemies.

Scripture:

Genesis 41:51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh (causing to forget), for he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and hardship and all [the sorrow of the loss of] my father's household." (AMP)

Psalms 41:9 Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me. (NLT)

Luke 6:27-28 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. (NLT)

Romans 12:19-21 Beloved, don't be obsessed with taking revenge, but leave that to God's righteous justice. For the Scriptures say: "If you don't take justice in your own hands, I will release justice for you," says the Lord. And: If your enemy is hungry, buy him lunch! Win him over with kindness. For your surprising generosity will awaken his conscience, and God will reward you with favor. Never let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good. (TPT)

Prayer:

Faithful and Loving Father, we thank you because you use everything in our lives, even the worst scenarios, to develop us and draw us nearer to you. While we may resent the difficult people in our lives, you are using our relationship with them to shape our character and correct our attitudes. It makes no sense to be kind to close friends who have hurt us but you see what is at the root of their behavior and want to use us to show them a love that will bring about their deliverance. Bless us to see beyond our pain and discomfort to the God kind of love that you are placing in us. We understand that it is only when we can love in this way that we can be like Jesus. We believe you for the grace to love even our enemies and to do good to those who hate us. We rejoice knowing that when we have come through the worst, you will bless us with the best. We believe that just like Joseph, you will make us forget all of our trouble and hardship and give us a testimony that will cause countless hearts to be turned to you. We give you all of the honor and the glory in advance.

February 18

Praise the Lord Everyone. In Deut 28:13, God said that he will make us the “head and not the tail.” Sometimes we have to think outside of the box. Rather than working for others, it may be that God wants us to think about having people work for us. Some of us are supposed to be in business for ourselves. Kingdom thinking is about understanding what you can do that will be of service to others and will also bless the kingdom. God will sometimes shake things up in your life to nudge you to the place where he is calling you to work in the kingdom.

Scripture:

Proverbs 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. (KJV)

Proverbs 13:22 The good leave an inheritance to their children’s children, but the sinner’s wealth is laid up for the righteous. (NRSV)

Deuteronomy 8:18 But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. (NASB)

Deuteronomy 15:11 Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” (NRSV)

Prayer:

Gracious and Giving God, we thank you for challenging us today to go beyond thoughts of getting a job to make a living to dreams of owning our own business and giving jobs to others. In everything that we do in this earth, you mean for us to be a blessing to others. You give the power to attain wealth. We consider anew that instead of wondering how the poor and needy will be cared for, you are depending on us to care for the poor. Teach us to see ourselves as the answer and to look to you for the power and provision to walk in it. Flood our hearts with a desire to be of service to others and endow us with wisdom that leads to the knowledge of witty inventions. We welcome you to shake things up in our lives in order to get us to the place where you are calling us to work in the kingdom. Prepare our hearts and renew our thinking. We declare that we shall walk through every door that you open and avoid the doors that you close. We declare that we will receive everyone that you send to help us and avoid those that come to hinder us. We declare that we shall leave an inheritance to our children’s children and that our hands will be open to our poor and needy neighbors.

February 19

Praise the Lord Everyone. A true fast will cause us to be sensitive to God and the needs of others because it will help rid us of our wicked ways. Anything in us that causes us to hesitate to do what God commands us to do is evidence of wickedness. When we disobey God in anything, we are wicked. Seek God about fasting. It will help you to move quickly to do God's will.

Scripture:

Isaiah 58:6-7 “No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. (NLT)

Joel 2:12-13 That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. (NLT)

James 4:8-10 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (NLT)

Prayer:

Holy and Righteous God, we come today thanking you that you never give us a command without also giving us the tools to carry it out. We are grateful for the discipline of fasting that helps us to subdue our flesh in order to be more sensitive to your voice and the needs of others. Lord, we confess that there are far too many instances where we allow fear and our ties to this world to cause us to hesitate to do what you command. Let the act of fasting give us a full understanding of the gravity of our disobedience. Cause us to be filled with tears, sorrow, deep grief and repentance. Guide us with your wisdom to know when to fast, how to fast and how often to fast. Reveal to us the source of our fears and ungodly ties so that we can take authority over it, uproot it and make room for you to come close to us as we come close to you. We know that denying the flesh is painful so we ask that you would give us the will and desire to fast. We declare that as we fast, we will have hearts for the oppressed and

poor and will generously give of our substance to those in need. We declare that we will move quickly to do your will in Jesus' mighty name.

February 20

Praise the Lord Everyone. Learn how to pray with an open mind. If you pray with your mind made up, you will only get what you have in mind. If you pray with an open spirit, God will speak to you and show you things. Be open to what God has for you as opposed to settling on what you want for yourself.

Scripture:

Psalm 81:8-10 "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! There shall be no foreign god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god. I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. (NKJV)

Proverbs 8:9 All [the words of wisdom] are clear and straightforward to everyone who possesses spiritual understanding. If you have an open mind, you will receive revelation-knowledge. (TPT)

Romans 8:26-27 And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don't even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf, pleading to God with emotional sighs too deep for words. God, the searcher of the heart, knows fully our longings, yet he also understands the desires of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit passionately pleads before God for us, his holy ones, in perfect harmony with God's plan and our destiny. (TPT)

Prayer:

Gracious and Sovereign Lord, we come today confessing that often we pray with our mind closed because inwardly, we are insisting on our way instead of seeking your way. This is nothing short of attempting to be god in our own lives and for this Lord, we repent. Condition us to come to you with our mouth open wide for you to fill it. We humbly admit that at times we don't know how to pray or what to pray. We submit ourselves to you so that your Holy Spirit can rise up within us to intercede on our behalf. We only know in part but your Spirit within us knows your plan for us. Give us a heart to pray in the spirit often so that we can pray your perfect will for our lives. Let it be that when we approach the throne of grace, our minds will be open with a yearning for words of wisdom and an intense craving for revelation-knowledge. We declare that we will have no other god before you, not even

ourselves. We declare that we are open to what you have for us and that it is your will and your way alone that we insist on from this day forth.

February 21

Praise the Lord Everyone. The average person would not think of stealing something if they know that they are being watched. Most thieves break into homes when no one is there. The Bible says that the enemy is a thief but we don't ever have to be caught unawares when he attacks. We have tools to stop the enemy before he gets started and the power to expel him when he gets in. Let's be watchful so that the enemy cannot take what is rightfully ours.

Scripture:

Nehemiah 6:1-3 Now when it was reported to Sanballat and Tobiah and to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had built the wall and that there was no gap left in it (though up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?" (NRSV)

1 Peter 5:8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. (NRSV)

Ephesians 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. (NRSV)

Prayer:

Almighty and Righteous God, we come today with gratitude for the assurance that no matter how relentless the enemy attempts to attack us, by Jesus Christ his works are already destroyed. We thank you for the power that you have given us to thwart his plans to steal that which rightfully belongs to us. We commit to disciplining ourselves and keeping alert. We ask that you open our eyes to any gaps and doors that we need to close to prevent the enemy from coming in. Train us to open up our mouths at will to pray in the spirit so that we can be built up in our most holy faith. Give us a heart to pray in the Spirit at all times so that we might always be attentive to your voice and be able to cover all the saints through intercession. We declare that we shall always firmly possess the inheritance that you have bestowed upon us as your servants and beloved ones.

February 22

Praise the Lord Everyone. There are two things that I believe that believers can do with stones. We can set up stones as a memorial of where God has brought us from or if we are without sin, we can use the first one to cast at someone else. I don't believe the day will ever come where we will be qualified to cast stones at anyone. Whenever you feel inclined to judge or condemn another, use those stones to remember where God has brought you from and pray for God to deliver them too.

Scripture:

Joshua 4:6-8 When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever." The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord told Joshua, carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there. (NRSV)

Proverbs 12:18 Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (NRSV)

John 8:7 When they kept on questioning him, [Jesus] straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (NRSV)

Prayer:

God, we come today with thanksgiving because we know that you have brought us from a long way. It is when we remember where you have brought us from that we can have empathy for those who may not be as far along on their journey to full maturity in Christ. We also recall that although you have done a great work in us, we still have quite a distance to go ourselves to walk in the full stature of Christ. We recognize that if we are truly mature, we will pray for those who are weak in the faith instead of casting stones of accusation and criticism at them. We will refrain from speaking rash words of judgment and condemnation over others. Season our tongues with wisdom so that we might speak words of healing instead. Show us ways that you can use us to restore those that have gone astray and to win souls that are lost. Let it be that we would be able to celebrate with them as they too gather stones in remembrance of the great things that you have done for them.

February 23

Praise the Lord Everyone. One of my instructors in seminary used to say, the greater that you want to preach, the more time you need to spend in devotion. If you take devotional time, the Bible will speak. You won't have to look for a text. The text will look for you! When God finds you in the word, you will receive the word that you need. If you get a prayer relationship with God, you have a direct line to heaven. You don't have to wait to hear from anyone else to get a word from the Lord!

Scripture:

Psalm 119:148 My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. (NKJV)

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ (NRSV)

Matthew 11:25-26 At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth [I openly and joyfully acknowledge Your great wisdom], that You have hidden these things [these spiritual truths] from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants [to new believers, to those seeking God's will and purpose]. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. (AMP)

Prayer:

Wise and All Knowing God, we thank you for reminding us today that the greater the work that we want to do for you, the more time we need to spend with you. No matter what our call, we need your voice and instruction so that we might know what to do. Let the same zeal to do a great work in your name rise up in us to spend time in your presence and in your word. Let it be that we would never attempt to detach our work for you from our relationship with you because your word says that there are those who will say that they prophesied, cast out demons and did many deeds of power in your name but you will say that you did not know them. Grant that even when we are awake during the night that we would have a heart and mind to meditate on your word. We declare that we are those who are seeking your will and your purpose and we open our ears to receive revelation from you. We decree and declare that whenever we need it, there is a word from the Lord.

February 24

Praise the Lord Everyone. We should never be concerned about what other people think about God's work in our lives. What seems big to someone else may mean nothing to you because you are humbled by what God has done for you. You do not have to apologize for God's blessings. You are to give him thanksgiving. Everyone doesn't have what you have and everyone hasn't been through what you have been through. If you go through something and come out with a reward, give God thanks and praise for it.

Scripture:

Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. (NRSV)

Isaiah 25:1 O Lord, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now you have accomplished them. (NLT)

Genesis 41:50, 52 Joseph had two sons born to him before the years of famine came. He named his second son Ephraim (Double Prosperity), saying, "God has prospered me in the land of my sorrow." (MSG)

Prayer:

Gracious and Giving God, we come today to express our thanks for the great things that you have done for us. We pray for those who cannot understand why you bless us the way that you do. We know that you are faithful to perform what you have promised. You said that if we humble ourselves, you will exalt us. If we give, it shall be given to us in greater measure. If we obey your word, we will receive abundant blessings. We declare that we will honor and praise your name for the mighty acts that you have performed on our behalf. As we give thanks for the wonderful things that you have done for us, we ask that our testimony would soften hearts and give clarity of mind. Let it be that when others learn of the tears that we have sown in our land of sorrow, they will no longer be resentful of the harvest of joy in our land of prosperity.

February 25

Praise the Lord Everyone. When my granddaughter was a little girl, she would take me by the hand and walk me over to the closet in my kitchen and say, “Pa-pa, I want umm-mmm.” “Umm-mmm was ‘something good in the closet.’ She knew exactly where I kept the snacks in my house. God has “umm-mmm” for us too but we have to go to the closet to get it! If you go to your secret closet, God will reward you there.

Scripture:

Psalm 16:11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. (NLT)

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. (NRSV)

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! (AMP)

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (MEV)

Prayer:

God our Keeper and Sustainer, we come today thanking you for the ‘umm-mmm’ that you pour out to us in our prayer closets and through your word. We know that when we neglect to meet with you, we miss out on so much. We repent and come against complacency in the mighty name of Jesus. Grant that our time with you would become just as natural and necessary to us as eating, breathing and sleeping. We rejoice knowing that whenever we come to you, our souls will be satisfied. We declare that we will feast on the joy of your presence and savor the pleasures of living with you. We declare that we take refuge in you and that you satisfy every hunger and quench every thirst. We declare that we will relish every moment that we spend in secret with you and we praise you in advance for the open reward that you have promised.

February 26

Praise the Lord Everyone. Many times we take what we have for granted. Sometimes the cure for murmuring and complaining is to see just how blessed you are in the light of what others are enduring. There are those who have less than us who thank God for their lives. Let's do all we can to maintain an attitude of gratitude. You think?

Scripture:

Philippians 2:5-8 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. (NRSV)

Colossians 3:15 Let your heart be always guided by the peace of the Anointed One, who called you to peace as part of his one body. And always be thankful. (TPT)

1 Peter 2:22-24 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (NRSV)

Prayer:

God, we come today in deep contrition because we recognize that we often take for granted all that you have given to us. No matter our lot we have no room to complain but we are further convicted when we see those who have far less than us who do not complain at all. We remember that we truly cannot grumble and murmur in light of what Jesus endured for us on Calvary's cross. Forgive us for our ingratitude as we turn now to heed your command to always be thankful. We lay our lives down afresh on the altar of sacrifice so that we can let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. In all that we go through, we entrust ourselves to you, our Righteous Judge, knowing that you are able to answer all that we are up against. Let it be that everyday we would express our gratitude that we are free from sins, able to live for righteousness and that we have been healed by the stripes of Jesus Christ. We commit to giving you glory, honor, praise and thanks in all things.

February 27

Praise the Lord Everyone. Sometimes we want to be elevated but not consistent and faithful. Promotion comes from God. You can be elevated by a person but not promoted by God. You can get a title but never get the blessing God intended for you to get. That's because blessings come only from the Lord. When God brings you out, you won't need a title. God will make your name great. God will make it known that you are a servant of the Lord. You will have no pride when you get to the place where God wants you to be. You will know that it is not you but God doing the work through you.

Scripture:

Psalm 75:6-7 This I know: the favor that brings promotion and power doesn't come from anywhere on earth, for no one exalts a person but God, the true judge of all. He alone determines where favor rests. He anoints one for greatness and brings another down to his knees. (TPT)

Mark 10:44 The path to promotion and prominence comes by having the heart of a bond-slave who serves everyone. (TPT)

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. (NRSV)

Prayer:

God, we come today expressing thanks that the more that we pursue you, the higher that you will take us in you. We confess that there are times when we want others to put us on a pedestal knowing that we have not been as faithful and consistent as we could be. Move on our hearts so that we will change our focus to pleasing you rather than taking pleasure in the accolades of people. True blessings and promotion come from you alone. We humble ourselves before you and invite you to have your way with us. We count it an honor to be known as your servant and we rejoice knowing that not only will you exalt us, but you and only you will get the glory from our lives.

February 28

Praise the Lord Everyone. It's important to treat everybody right. You can't be biased. When we are, we can accept one person who is in a total mess but then reject another person simply because of who they are. Many times we draw opinions because we listen to what others say about people. You have to watch what you let people feed you and put in your ear. If you don't have a mind of your own, you will never be a fair judge. You have to learn how to hear and not hear. More than anything you have to guard your heart because what goes in comes out. You have to be strong enough not to let people influence you. You have to learn how to stand alone and feel good about it.

Scripture:

Psalm 1:1 Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers (ridiculers). (AMP)

Proverbs 12:6 The wicked use their words to ambush and accuse, but the lovers of God speak to defend and protect. (TPT)

James 2:1-4 My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives? (NLT)

Prayer:

God, we come today thanking you that you pour out your love on us and all of humanity without a hint of bias or favoritism. Forgive us for times when we have allowed appearances or opinions to influence the way that we have treated others. We repent and declare that rather than being guided by our sight or the viewpoint of others, we will be guided by your Holy Spirit that dwells within us. We shut our ears to wicked counsel, shun the path of sinners and refuse the seat of scoffers. Fill our mouths with words that defend and protect instead of those that ambush and accuse. Let it be that everyone that we meet whether rich or poor will see your love reflected in the way that we treat them.