

# DAILY ENCOURAGING WORD FOR LIFE

JANUARY 1 - JANUARY 31  
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**AFTER YOU COMPLETE THE READING FOR EACH DAY  
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A PRAYER WALK.**

## January 1

Praise the Lord Everyone. Let God promote you. God will promote you to the top. You are already on his agenda, and he wants you on the top. Do you expect to be on top? Some of us fear being on top because you are looking down at the drop. When God takes you to the top, you don't have to worry about the drop. God is able to keep you from falling.

### Scripture:

**Deuteronomy 28:13** The Lord will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom—if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them. (NRSV)

**Psalms 128:1-2** How joyous are those who love the Lord and bow low before God, ready to obey him! Your reward will be prosperity, happiness, and well-being. (TPT)

**Jude 24** Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing. (NRSV)

## January 2

Praise the Lord Everyone. Sometime ago, I went bike riding with my children, nieces and nephews. We raced each other 5 miles each way. They went at full speed but forgot that they had to get back home. I caught them at the halfway mark on the return trip and led them back home. Sometimes it takes wisdom, not strength, to finish the race. If you have to go the distance, you don't put all of your energy out at the beginning. You have to save some for the trip home. A lot of people start out, but some never cross the finish line. Let's seek God for wisdom so that we can both run our race and finish it well.

**Scripture:**

**Proverbs 7:4** Treat wisdom as a sister and make understanding your closest friend. (NCV)

**Proverbs 28:26** Those who trust in their own wits are fools; but those who walk in wisdom come through safely. (NRSV)

**1 Corinthians 1:25** For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (NRSV)

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. (NRSV)

**January 3**

Praise the Lord Everyone. God sometimes gives us tasks that appear to be impossible. If we would leave the solution in God's hand, we will see God perform a miracle in our lives. The minute that you acknowledge that you need God, you will see God work things out for you. If you give God what you have, he will multiply it so that everyone can be blessed and then will give you the leftovers to boot! We can limit God by assuming what is and isn't possible. Trust God to provide the resources. Don't let anything stop you from taking on a task that God assigns to you. God can turn a major problem into a major blessing!

**Scripture:**

**Exodus 14:15-16** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. (NRSV)

**John 6:9, 11, 12-13** "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also, the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So, they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. (NRSV)

**Philippians 4:12-14** I know what it means to lack, and I know what it means to experience overwhelming abundance. For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty. (TPT)

**January 4**

Praise the Lord Everyone. When people say, "You think you're cute," you can tell them, "Yes, I do, because Psalm 149:4 says, "He will beautify the meek with salvation!" (MEV). The truth is that our outer body is just a shell. The real 'us' is on the inside. The real you are the image of God. We are growing into our sonship with each passing day. As you grow, remember that the real you are the express image of God.

**Scripture:**

**1 Samuel 16:7b** The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” (NRSV)

**2 Corinthians 4:6-7** For God, who said, “Let brilliant light shine out of darkness,” is the one who has cascaded his light into us—the brilliant dawning light of the glorious knowledge of God as we gaze into the face of Jesus Christ. We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that the extraordinary overflow of power will be seen as God’s, not ours. (TPT)

**1 John 3:1-3** Look with wonder at the depth of the Father’s marvelous love that he has lavished on us! He has called us and made us his very own beloved children. The reason the world doesn’t recognize who we are is that they didn’t recognize him. Beloved, we are God’s children right now; however, it is not yet apparent what we will become. But we do know that when it is finally made visible, we will be just like him, for we will see him as he truly is. And all who focus their hope on him will always be purifying themselves, just as Jesus is pure. (TPT)

## January 5

Praise the Lord Everyone. We are worth more than we think we are. Sometimes we make silly decisions to give ourselves away freely, but we are worth so much more. Don’t sell yourself short because you are too valuable. You have an inheritance amongst those who are sanctified. That means that you are blood washed and special. You are a benefit to anyone that you meet. God has made a deposit in you, and you are an asset to everyone in your life.

### Scripture:

**Genesis 12:2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (NRSV)

**Luke 6:27-29** “But if you will listen, I say to you, love your enemies and do something wonderful for them in return for their hatred. When someone curses you, bless that person in return. When you are mistreated and harassed by others, accept it as your mission to pray for them. To those who despise you, continue to serve them and minister to them. If someone takes away your coat, give him as a gift your shirt as well. (TPT)

**Acts 20:32** “And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself. (NLT)

## January 6

Praise the Lord Everyone. There are times that we try to make ourselves fit in, but we just don’t fit. There are things that other people can get away with, but we just can’t do it. When you put yourself on the altar of surrender, you must remain there so that God can perfect everything concerning you. It will be painful, but God will not quit on you even when you feel like quitting because you are chosen. You are God’s choice. God is not grooming you to fit in. God is grooming you to be fit for the kingdom.

### Scripture:

**Jeremiah 20:9** If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. (NRSV)

**Luke 14:25-26, 28a** As massive crowds followed Jesus, he turned to them and said, “When you follow me as my disciple, you must put aside your father, your mother, your wife, your sisters, your

brothers—yes, you will even seem as though you hate your own life. This is the price you'll pay to be considered one of my followers. So, don't follow me without considering what it will cost you. **1 Peter 2:8-9** "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (NLT)

## January 7

Praise the Lord Everyone. Sometimes we are blessed but don't know how to receive the blessing. While I was studying in seminary, I had a rough semester and needed more time to complete my assignments before the Christmas holiday. I was worried about it but when I asked my professor for more time he said, "You can have all the time you want." Even with that assurance, I continued to worry because I wasn't sure that he really meant it. The last day before the grades were due, I finally completed my work and handed it in. It was then that the Lord reminded me of his benefits towards me. I never had a need to worry because God blessed me with a set path of success before, I even entered seminary. When you have a relationship with God, you don't have to worry about anything. Trust God that you have the benefit of his blessings in all that he calls you to do.

### Scripture:

**Psalm 25:9-10** He will teach the ways that are right and best to those who humbly turn to him. And when we obey him, every path he guides us on is fragrant with his loving-kindness and his truth. (TLB)

**Psalm 103:1-2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits. (NRSV)

**Isaiah 48:18** O that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your prosperity would have been like a river, and your success like the waves of the sea. (NRSV)

## January 8

Praise the Lord Everyone. A minister at my church once said that we need to get to the point where we are addicted to God. I thought about it and I believe that I am addicted to God. Every time I turn around, I am thinking about him. I can't do without him. I just have to have him. I am devoted to him. I surrendered to him. I lay in bed at night and sometimes I can't get to sleep thinking about how good God is. There are times that I go to the house of the Lord just to get my sanity. That's sounds like an addiction to me! How about you? Are you addicted to God? We all should be!

### Scripture:

**Psalm 63:1-4** O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So, I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. (NRSV)

**Psalm 119:20** I am continually consumed by these irresistible longings, these cravings to obey your every commandment! (TPT)

**Song of Songs 3:3-4** Then I encountered the overseers as they encircled the city. So, I asked them, "Have you found him — my heart's true love?" Just as I moved past them, I encountered him. I found the one I adore! I caught him and fastened myself to him, refusing to be feeble in my heart

again. Now I'll bring him back to the temple within where I was given new birth — into my innermost parts, the place of my conceiving. (TPT)

## January 9

Praise the Lord Everyone. The devil is always at his job. Every time you try to do something good, here comes the devil! He is consistent and he is faithful. We too, have to develop consistent and faithful patterns. One of the patterns that we must develop is a regular time of devotion. If you start out giving God at least 15 minutes a day you set yourself among the elite of God because not everyone gives God that time of meditation. If we expect to come against the works of the enemy in our lives, we have to consistently seek God's face and spend time in his presence.

### Scripture:

**Psalm 97:10** The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked. (NRSV)

**Psalm 119:30-31** I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me. I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame. (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)

## January 10

Praise the Lord Everyone. God doesn't want us to talk to him on the run all of the time. When trouble arises, we say to God, "Hurry up," but God says, "I let this happen so that you would talk to me. I needed to get your attention. Now that I have, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength!" God will hold everything up until he finishes talking to you. God holds it up out of love and demonstrates that his mercy endures forever as we wait.

### Scripture:

**Psalm 39:7-11** We live our lives like those living in shadows. All our activities and energies are spent for things that pass away. We gather, we hoard, we cling to our things, only to leave them all behind for who knows who. "What am I doing in the meantime, Lord? Hoping, that's what I'm doing—hoping You'll save me from a rebel life, save me from the contempt of dunces. I'll say no more, I'll shut my mouth, since you, Lord, are behind all this. But I can't take it much longer. When you put us through the fire to purge us from our sin, our dearest idols go up in smoke. Are we also nothing but smoke? (MSG)

**Psalm 85:7-9** Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, so our land will be filled with his glory. (NLT)

**Romans 2:4b** Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (NRSV)

## January 11

Praise the Lord Everyone. Your word can supersede someone else's word when you know how to pray. Your words form your destiny. In 1 Chronicles 4:9-10, Jabez prayed for blessing and increase, and the Lord granted what he asked. The name Jabez means 'sorrow.' Your mom can name you Jabez but if God means to bless you, there is nothing that can stop his blessings. Even if your very

name is against you there is no need to worry because God will do things for you for his name's sake.

**Scripture:**

**Nehemiah 13:1-2** On that day they read from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, because they did not meet the Israelites with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. (NRSV)

**John 16:23b** Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. (NRSV)

**Philippians 2:10-11** The authority of the name of Jesus causes every knee to bow in reverence! Everything and everyone will one day submit to this name—in the heavenly realm, in the earthly realm, and in the demonic realm. And every tongue will proclaim in every language: “Jesus Christ is Lord Yahweh,” bringing glory and honor to God, his Father! (TPT)

**James 5:16b** The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (NLT)

**January 12**

Praise the Lord Everyone. If you miss watering your plants, they will droop. It will look as if they are dying. If you give a plant water and allow it to get some sun, you will see it come back up. Do you ever have days like that? You think about how good God is and then you come back up just like that plant. Are you glad about it? I am!

**Scripture:**

**Psalms 63:5-7** My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. (NRSV)

**Psalms 105:5-6** Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. (NRSV)

**Lamentations 3:19-23** The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (NRSV)

**January 13**

Praise the Lord Everyone. Whenever you have anticipation, you are challenged with intimidation from the enemy to make you think that you will not get what you are looking for. He will try to tell you that you are not getting anything at all and that you are not worthy. Don't let the devil rob you and don't let the devil make you doubt. God is going to bless you. It's already happened. Make your declaration, “I will not be denied anything because I am God's child.”

**Scripture:**



**Nehemiah 2:18a-20** I told [the people of Israel] that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us start building!” So, they committed themselves to the common good. But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, “What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem.” (NRSV)

**Psalm 119:41-42** Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise. Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word. (NRSV)

**Isaiah 54:17** “No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And every tongue that rises against you in judgment you will condemn. This [peace, righteousness, security, and triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And this is their vindication from Me,” says the Lord. (AMP)

## January 14

Praise the Lord Everyone. We can sometimes look at others and put ourselves above them. We can get to the place where we don't even want people to touch us because they don't look like us. Some time ago I was walking down Main St. in downtown Richmond during the Christmas season. There was a man who had pins holding the canvas of his shoes to the rubber bottom and a gob of mucus coming out of his nose. He reached his arm out to me, but I didn't want him to touch me, so I moved to avoid him and walked past him. When I did the Lord said to me, ‘You're missing me!’ I was touched deeply in my spirit and walked back to the man to ask what he needed. He said that he just needed shoes and something to eat. I gave him some money and it was then that I was willing to allow him to embrace me. He was one of the least of the brethren. He was one of us. The Lord said to me, “From this day forward, don't put yourself above other people.” We never know where we may end up. Let's be willing to be a blessing to everyone that we see.

### Scripture:

**Psalm 41:1** God always blesses those who are kind to the poor and helpless. They're the first ones God helps when they find themselves in any trouble. (TPT)

**Proverbs 14:31b** Showing kindness to the poor is equal to honoring your maker. (TPT)

**Luke 10:33-34, 36-37** But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

## January 15

Praise the Lord Everyone. You don't need a title to be great. All you need is to serve. People that serve get titles. People that strive for titles are people that have ego problems. Often these are people who will not work unless they are given the lead position. They don't understand that leaders serve and that our first call is to service. Always remember that the greatest in the kingdom is the one who is willing to serve.

### Scripture:

**Mark 9:33-35** They arrived at Capernaum; and when [Jesus] was in the house, He asked them, “What were you discussing and arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet, because on the road they had discussed and debated with one another which one [of them] was the greatest. Sitting

down [to teach], He called the twelve [disciples] and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all [in importance] and a servant of all.” (AMP)

**John 13:12-17** After washing their feet, he put his robe on and returned to his place at the table. “Do you understand what I just did?” Jesus said. “You’ve called me your teacher and lord, and you’re right, for that’s who I am. So, if I’m your teacher and lord and have just washed your dirty feet, then you should follow the example that I’ve set for you and wash one another’s dirty feet. Now do for each other what I have just done for you. I speak to your timeless truth: a servant is not superior to his master, and an apostle is never greater than the one who sent him. So now put into practice what I have done for you, and you will experience a life of happiness enriched with untold blessings!” (TPT)

## January 16

Praise the Lord Everyone. There’s no such thing as ‘waking up on the wrong side of the bed.’ If you wake up, whichever side is the right side. The only wrong side is not waking up at all! God looks for us to be thankful as his children. Begin each day rejoicing that yesterday was not your last.

### Scripture:

**Psalms 97:12** Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name! (NRSV)

**Psalms 115:17-18** The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor do any who go down into silence; But as for us, we will bless and affectionately and gratefully praise the Lord From this time forth and forever. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!) (AMP)

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (NRSV)

## January 17

Praise the Lord Everyone. Do you ever have trouble falling asleep at night? Some people count sheep in order to get to sleep. One of the mothers in my congregation once told me, “Don’t stay up all night counting sheep. Talk to the shepherd and go to sleep!” If you talk to the shepherd, you don’t have to count sheep. Don’t fall asleep watching television or reading a book. There’s only a temporary benefit in that. A restless night is an opportunity for you to have a conversation with God. There’s eternal benefit in that. You think?

### Scripture:

**Psalms 3:4-5** I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah, I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. (NRSV)

**Psalms 16:8-10** I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. (NLT)

**Psalms 131:2** I am humbled and quieted in your presence. Like a contented child who rests on its mother’s lap, I’m your resting child and my soul is content in you. (TPT)

**Philippians 4:6-7** Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds



anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (NLT)

## January 18

Praise the Lord Everyone. One of the favorite lines of saints is, “God understands,” but does he really? Does he understand or does he want us to do his will? God is an understanding God but when does he not understand? When you know better, you are obligated to do better. Does God expect you to do what is right all of the time? Yes, he does because God works within us to choose to do what is right. What would you do if God didn’t wake you up in the morning? Would you be able to tell him, “God understands?” Think about it. It is far better for us to desire to understand God than it is to desire for God to understand us.

### Scripture:

**Deuteronomy 30:11-14** “This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, ‘Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?’ It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?’ No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it. (NLT)

**James 4:17** Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin. (NRSV)

**Philippians 2:13** For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (NLT)

## January 19

Praise the Lord Everyone. The enemy likes for us to think that one mistake destroys our whole blessing. When fasting, for instance, you may give in to the temptation to eat. If you do, the thought occurs to you to skip fasting altogether since you slipped up once. You can still win if you choose to stop. God’s mercy is there to cover you. You can repent, make the choice to stop eating and seek God to strengthen you. You don’t have to give in to your flesh because you have made one mistake. You can stay in the spirit and walk in the victory because it is already given.

### Scripture:

**Proverbs 24:16** For the lovers of God may suffer adversity and stumble seven times, but they will continue to rise over and over again. But the unrighteous are brought down by just one calamity and will never be able to rise again. (TPT)

**Matthew 18:12-13** “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away! (NLT)

**1 John 1:9** But if we freely admit our sins when his light uncovers them, he will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins because of Christ, and he will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (TPT)

## January 20

Praise the Lord Everyone. The time to have faith is now. If you start working on your faith now,

when you go through something, your faith will work for you. You can't wait until things go wrong to have faith. You have to stand by what you know.

**Scripture:**

**2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine** yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! (NRSV)

**Hebrews 13:7 Remember** your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. (NRSV)

**1 Peter 1:6-7** May the thought of this cause you to jump for joy, even though lately you've had to put up with the grief of many trials. But these only reveal the sterling core of your faith, which is far more valuable than gold that perishes, for even gold is refined by fire. Your authentic faith will result in even more praise, glory, and honor when Jesus the Anointed One is revealed. (TPT)

**January 21**

Praise the Lord Everyone. If you are following God, you never have to worry about your destiny. You know his voice and his command. The experience that God wants for you to get is not "on the boat" but "on the water." When you get on the water, you have nothing to uphold you but his word. If you make the choice to follow God, you can walk the water because you are not walking by yourself. You can walk on his word. You can walk by faith.

**Scripture:**

**Psalms 73:23-24** Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. (NLT)

**Isaiah 30:21** And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (NRSV)

**Matthew 14:28-29 Then** Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So, Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. (NLT)

**January 22**

Praise the Lord Everyone. As children of God, we have to confess our dependence on Christ. We are a part of him, and he is a part of us. He is the vine, and we are the branches. We depend on him for life. God never meant for us to be able to live for him on our own. He expects us to invite him in. Have you?

**Scripture:**

**John 15:4-5** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (NRSV)

**1 Corinthians 1:30-31** [God] is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” (NRSV)

**Ephesians 3:16** And I pray that he would unveil within you the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with his divine might and explosive power. (TPT)

### **January 23**

Praise the Lord Everyone. How is it that the weak can say that they are strong? God says it is easy because the Lord is the strength of our life. God has given us heavenly treasures in an earthen vessel. For all of our loss, disappointment and brokenness, we have strength that comes supernaturally because we are God’s child. God provides more than we need. We have God on the inside of us and he becomes whatever it is that we need.

#### **Scripture:**

**Isaiah 40:29** He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. (NRSV)

**John 7:37-39** Then on the most important day of the feast, the last day, Jesus stood and shouted out to the crowds— “All your thirsty ones, come to me! Come to me and drink! Believe in me so that rivers of living water will burst out from within you, flowing from your innermost being, just like the Scripture says!” Jesus was prophesying about the Holy Spirit that believers were being prepared to receive. But the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon them, because Jesus had not yet been unveiled in his full splendor. (TPT)

**Psalms 73:26** My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (NKJV)

### **January 24**

Praise the Lord Everyone. God allows us to go through the process knowing our end from the beginning. It’s like watching a movie with someone who knows how it will end because they’ve already seen it. We watch trying to figure things out through all of the twists and turns, but they already know what is to come. That’s how it is with our future. God has already seen what is to come for us. Rejoice now because what is coming is good and it is sure.

#### **Scripture:**

**Isaiah 46:9-10** “Remember [carefully] the former things [which I did] from ages past; For I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, And from ancient times the things which have not [yet] been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will do all that pleases Me and fulfills My purpose. (AMP)

**Jeremiah 31:17-18** There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country. I have heard Ephraim grieving, ‘You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the Lord my God. (ESV)

**Luke 22:31-32** “Peter, my dear friend, listen to what I’m about to tell you. Satan has demanded to come and sift you like wheat and test your faith. But I have prayed for you, Peter, that you would

stay faithful to me no matter what comes. Remember this: after you have turned back to me and have been restored, make it your life mission to strengthen the faith of your brothers.” (TPT)

### **January 25**

Praise the Lord Everyone. Do you ever get tired of looking for the right things in the wrong place? People can sing sweet love songs to you, but they can't actually do what they say. God can touch places within you that no one else can touch. There is a secret place in God where we can go to have every void in our lives filled.

#### **Scripture:**

**Psalm 90:14** Let the sunrise of your love end our dark night. Break through our clouded dawn again! Only you can satisfy our hearts, filling us with songs of joy to the end of our days. (TPT)

**Psalm 145:16** When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. (NLT)

**Romans 15:13** I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (NLT)

### **January 26**

Praise the Lord Everyone. The more mature you get, the more gratitude you ought to give. When you are a child, there are small things for which you don't even consider giving thanks. You certainly do not have enough maturity to give thanks when times are hard. When you get older, you know better. Paul and Silas gave God praise in jail because they knew that there were more people locked up outside of the jail than there were with them inside of the jail. They knew that they were free. They were bound by natural circumstances but free in their minds. Are you glad that you are free in your mind? Give thanks!

#### **Scripture:**

**Psalm 119:108-109 Lord**, receive my grateful thanks and teach me more of how to please you. Even though my life hangs in the balance, I'll keep following what you've taught me, no matter what. (TPT)

**Psalm 30:11-12** You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever! (NLT)

**1 Timothy 1:12-14** I am grateful to the one who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me faithful in putting me into ministry, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I was treated with mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief, and our Lord's grace was abundant, bringing faith and love in Christ Jesus. (NET Bible)

### **January 27**

Praise the Lord Everyone. Doesn't it seem strange that Jesus would show up to Peter after he broke fellowship with him? It isn't really strange when you consider that the time to love is when somebody is broken. The time to love is during rejection. The amazing thing about Jesus is that he wants to be around us when the covenant is broken, and he is not the one to break it! He wants to

know from you after you deny and reject and betray him if you love him. Do you really want to be like Jesus? He has put his lambs and sheep in your hands. Be willing to love others when they deny you, reject you and betray you.

**Scripture:**

**Proverbs 10:12** Hatred keeps old quarrels alive, but love draws a veil over every insult and finds a way to make sin disappear. (TPT)

**Luke 17:1-4** One day Jesus taught his disciples this: “Betrayals are inevitable, but great devastation will come to the one guilty of betraying others. It would be better for him to have a heavy boulder tied around his neck and be hurled into the deepest sea than to face the punishment of betraying one of my dear ones! So be alert to your brother’s condition, and if you see him going the wrong direction, cry out and correct him. If there is true repentance on his part, forgive him. No matter how many times in one day your brother sins against you and says, ‘I’m sorry; I am changing; forgive me,’ you need to forgive him each and every time.” (TPT)

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5** Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn’t selfish or quick tempered. It doesn’t keep a record of wrongs that others do. (CEV)

**January 28**

Praise the Lord Everyone. You are more blessed than you think you are. To have God is to have all that you really need. You have to ask yourself if what you are looking for is really a need. God may have you go without to make you more dependent on him. God will sometimes take things and people away from you so that you can depend on him. When you have learned to depend on him, God will give you what you want because you don’t need it anymore. When God cleans you out, then you can have other things added to your life.

**Scripture:**

**2 Samuel 7:1-2** Before long, the king made himself at home and God gave him peace from all his enemies. Then one day King David said to Nathan the prophet, “Look at this: Here I am, comfortable in a luxurious house of cedar, and the Chest of God sits in a plain tent.” (MSG)

**Psalms 37:4** Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (NRSV)

**Matthew 6:33** But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also. (AMP)

**January 29**

Praise the Lord Everyone. Sometimes we don’t prepare gifts for God the way that we do for each other. The prepared gift comes from the committed person. You put a lot of thought into it. You are excited about it. You wrap it up and put a bow on top to put joy and excitement in the heart of the recipient. When a gift is for the Lord, you should say, “I’m going to do this for the Lord, and I am going to take this off of the top!” We should never be so strapped that we can’t bless God. We have to be faithful to God just as God has been faithful to us.

**Scripture:**

**Psalms 66:15** The best I have to bring, I’ll throw it all into the fire as the fragrance of my sacrifice ascends unto you (TPT)

**Proverbs 3:9** Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase. (MEV)

**2 Corinthians 9:7** Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (NRSV)

### January 30

Praise the Lord Everyone. God doesn't expose you for doing wrong until you have been doing it for a long time. If you got caught, it wasn't your first time. You got caught because you got comfortable. The Lord is longsuffering towards us. God gives us opportunity to repent. Every day we should be asking God to forgive us and cleanse us.

#### Scripture:

**Nahum 3:5b** "And now I will lift your skirts and show all the earth your nakedness and shame.

**Jeremiah 13:25-26** This is your allotment, the portion I have assigned to you," says the Lord, "for you have forgotten me, putting your trust in false gods. I myself will strip you and expose you to shame. (NLT)

**Psalms 32:6** This is what I've learned through it all: All believers should confess their sins to God; do it every time God has uncovered you in the time of exposing. For if you do this, when sudden storms of life overwhelm, you'll be kept safe. (TPT)

**2 Peter 3:9** This means that, contrary to man's perspective, the Lord is not late with his promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, his "delay" simply reveals his loving patience toward you, because he does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance. (TPT)

### January 31

Praise the Lord Everyone. When a farmer plants, no one knows how much they have planted but them. They know what kind of harvest they have coming in. We ought to be the same way. If we know that we have planted good seeds in the kingdom, we should be able to declare, "I know what I've got coming."

#### Scripture:

**Hosea 10:12** I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.' (NLT)

**Galatians 6:9** And don't allow yourselves to be weary or disheartened in planting good seeds, for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you've planted is coming! (TPT)

**2 Corinthians 9:10** He who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (NRSV)