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Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I am so happy you have taken a set of these devotions. I know that I am called to be a servant to God's people and this is one of the ways I fulfill that calling. If you know of anyone else who would use these please get a set for them or direct them to our website where they can download them.

God bless you as you study God's Word this month.

Gladly in His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jason".

Dr. Jason B. Brittain





Saturday May 1

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 1-2
Luke 22:54-71

Praise the Lord! God is good. As I write this devotion, I am on my way to Entebbe, Uganda. I will give you a little update as I go along. We are also working our way through the book of Psalms and chapter 65 verse 6 says, **Who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength.** This is talking about God and David is reminding us that God created everything. Thank God that we have given our lives to Him.

Look at what Jesus went through in Luke 22:63-65, **The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" And they said many other insulting things to him.** They were mocking Him and He didn't strike back at them. He could have judged them but He didn't. You see, He was accomplishing God's will in all this.

John 10:14-15 say, **I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep.** Jesus came to lay His life down. Thank God that He sent Jesus and thank God that Jesus willingly came and accomplished all that God had for Him to do. We are saved and in the family of God because Jesus paid the price for our sins. If He had settled for less than God's complete will we would have missed out.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Thank You for laying Your life down so You could provide salvation to all who call upon Your Name. I know I was totally lost and had no hope until I came to You. Please help all of us who are doing these devotions to know Your love more fully. We don't want to miss out on anything You have for us and we ask You to teach us more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday May 2

**Scripture Reading: I Kings 3-5
Luke 23:1-26**

Praise the Lord! We will keep covering Psalms but I also want to keep you up to date on my trip. When we arrived at the airport in Denver we were told that our flight was going to leave late and we might not make our connection in London. It was going to be close and so I prayed that it would all work out. Romans 8:28 says, **And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.** I really believe this verse and so I have peace. I believe God's will is going to happen and it will work out for my good.

In Luke, we are reading about all that Jesus went through. Don't ever forget that He went through all these things so He could provide salvation to us. Some people refer to salvation as being free and it is free to us but it cost Jesus His very life. When we realize how much He loves us it will transform our lives.

Look at Luke 23:4, **Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."** Pilate admitted that Jesus was innocent and yet he condemned Jesus to die. Our reading said that Pilate did that because he wanted to please the people and that is correct but there was also something else behind his actions. You see, it was God's will for Jesus to die on the cross and Jesus came to do that very thing. So, Pilate was also fulfilling God's plan.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I thank You that I am learning to trust You more and more. I know that You are always looking out for me and I don't want to wander from Your will. Thank You Jesus for coming and laying Your life down so I could be born-again. I know that giving my life to You was the best decision I have ever made and I don't want to draw back from my commitment to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday May 3

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 6-7
Luke 23:27-38**

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, I wrote out Romans 8:28 for you, **And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.** Sometimes people stand on this verse hoping that everything will work out like they want. Well, we were late getting into London and missed our flight to Entebbe. Now we have to wait another 7 hours in London and then fly through Nairobi. We will be getting to Uganda on Wednesday morning rather than Tuesday night. I believe God is in control and this is for our good. I may never know why this happened but I believe every word of Romans 8:28!

Look at Luke 23:32-34, **Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.** Jesus was extending forgiveness to those who were crucifying Him. We don't know if any of the Roman soldiers accepted His offer of forgiveness but one of the criminals being crucified at the same time did.

Luke 23:42-43 say, **Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."** Praise God!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I know it was the best decision I have ever made. I am also thankful that You extended forgiveness to me. I know that I didn't deserve it and yet You loved me and saved me. I want to live like You want so others can be drawn to You by my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday May 4

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 8-9
Luke 23:39-56**

Praise the Lord! Well, we ended up flying on Kenya Air and we had to land in Nairobi. I have never been there so that was kind of cool. We also saw Mount Kilimanjaro out the plane window both coming in and flying out. God is in control and we are doing well. I know many of you have prayed for this trip and I know that God is answering your prayers.

I just realized that I used some of today's verses in yesterday's devotion. Look at Luke 23:47 for today, **The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."** This was certainly an interesting statement for this man to make.

You see, he was probably in charge of the crucifixion and this probably wasn't the first time he had watched someone die but he had never seen anyone like Jesus die. I am sure Jesus extending forgiveness to people was something the centurion had never seen before.

So, this hardened man came to the conclusion that Jesus was a "righteous man". I don't know if he was saved or not but he was sure on the right track and I believe Jesus would make sure he had the opportunity to accept Him as his Savior. You see, Jesus was always seeking sinners so they can be saved and that included the very ones who were crucifying Him.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the things You are teaching me from the Word. I want to learn everything You have for me and I want to really live like You want me to live. I am so thankful that You sought me when I was a sinner. I know that I was totally lost without You and I love You so much. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 5

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 10-11
Luke 24:1-35

Praise the Lord! I always tell people that things change on missions trips and this one is no exception. We were supposed to get into Uganda at about 10:30 pm on Tuesday night, get a good night's sleep and then hit the ground running on Wednesday morning. As it turned out, we got into Uganda on Wednesday morning at about 10:30 am and hit the ground running. I hope you enjoy hearing about all this and I will share more tomorrow.

The resurrection of Jesus is one of the most important events in all of history! It is the basis for our salvation and it sets Christianity apart from all other religions. We have a risen living Lord! He died for us. Death, hell and the grave could not hold Him because He was a righteous man. Now, let that statement sink in. Death, hell and the grave cannot hold righteous people.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.** Jesus was righteous and He died on the cross for us so we could be made righteous! Do you need to read that verse again? Since we are righteous death, hell and the grave cannot hold us either! We will live forever with Jesus. You see, the message of the resurrection is not only about Jesus in the past. It is also about us and our future.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You are always in control and I ask You to help me to remember that when things aren't working out like I want. I want to think about others more than I do myself and I always want to speak words of life that come from a good attitude. I am also thankful that You are alive forever and that I am going to enjoy life and life in abundance with You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday May 6

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 12-13
Luke 24:36-53**

Praise the Lord! We checked into our motel and settled in a little bit. Then we headed out for three meetings with Pastors after about an hour drive. I have to admit that I was so tired that I had a hard time finding the Gospel of Mark while I was preaching. It was kind of funny. Here I was the speaking and turning the wrong direction in my Bible. My interpreter had to help me find Mark. I guess I really was tired. I will tell you more about the service tomorrow but here's a hint - God was still faithful!

In our reading from Luke, Jesus was appearing to His disciples. Some of them had a harder time believing than others but He made sure they all made it. Thank God that He takes care of us too.

Luke 24:50-53 say, When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

A couple of things stood out to me here. First, they worshipped Him! They recognized Jesus as God. That is the only way they would have worshipped Him. Then they stayed in the temple, praising God. Don't you think this was more than worshipping the Father? Now they could worship the Father and the Son!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are always faithful. Even when we are tired and at the end of our strength You are faithful and You meet our every need. I also know that You are always worthy of my praise and I want to be more diligent to give it to You. Please help me to get over anything that would hold me back from living for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday May 7

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 14-15
John 1:1-28**

Praise the Lord! As I said yesterday, I was very tired at the meetings on Wednesday night. I had preached (while tired) and Gary had preached. Then I preached again and asked if anyone needed healing. Several Pastors came up and I prayed for them. I am so thankful that the results weren't dependent upon me. I was so tired and yet Jesus healed them! Praise God. He is always ready and willing to meet people right where they are. He met those Pastors right where they were and He met me right where I was. Praise Jesus forever more!

The Gospel of John is a wonderful book. Look at the first verse, **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** I am sure you know this is talking about Jesus. Jesus is God and He has always been God. Verse 14 says, **The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** Jesus became flesh and made His dwelling among us. This was true back then and it is still true today.

Jesus is still making His dwelling among us. When we take the Word and make it a vital part of our lives, the Word (Jesus) is making His dwelling among us. Colossians 1:17 says, **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.** Jesus (the Word) created all things and all things hold together because of Him. So, if you ever think everything is falling apart it isn't because of Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, thank You Lord that You never get tired! Thank You for the strength that You supply me every day. I don't ever want to lean upon my own strength. I also thank You for the reminder that You are God and that You created all things. I know that You hold my life together and I thank You for Your faithfulness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday May 8

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 16-18
John 1:29-51**

Praise the Lord! When I finally laid down on Wednesday night in Uganda it was 55 and half hours after I had gotten up in Cheyenne. I did sleep a little on the plane but it is not very restful. When we go home it looks like we will only be up about 48 hours so that should be easy. God is always faithful and when we keep our attitude right we can enjoy whatever we are going through.

Look at John 1:29, **The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** What a declaration this was. You see, for thousands of years the people of Israel had sacrificed lambs for their sins and now John was saying that Jesus was "the Lamb of God".

In verse 34, John said, **I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.** This is another huge revelation. No one else had declared either of these things about Jesus. How do you think John knew these things? He knew them because God spoke them to him and John believed what God said. I hope you caught the last part of that statement. You see, God is speaking to us all the time. We need to believe what He says! When we believe we will have more revelation about Jesus just like John. You see, we all need to know Him better and He is willing to show us things when we are willing to believe what He speaks to us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are my life and my strength. I know that I always do better when I rely on You. Help me to remember this when I start to forget. I also thank You for speaking to me and I want to be quick to believe all that You speak to me. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. I also ask You to bless my Church tomorrow. Help us to have a great day in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday May 9

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19-20
John 2**

Praise the Lord! On Thursday we drove back to the same group of Pastors for 3 more meetings. I apologized for having been so tired the day before. We had a couple of the Pastors who had been healed give testimonies and everyone was encouraged. We had two meetings in the morning and then went to lunch in town. While we were there we ran into two people from Seattle and they said British Airlines was going on strike. They were going to cut their trip short so they could fly home that night. I will tell you what we did tomorrow.

Jesus attended a wedding and they ran out of wine. He worked His first miracle to help them out. He turned 120 - 180 gallons of water into wine. That is amazing on several levels. First of all, He did this to help out a young couple starting their lives together. They would have been embarrassed if they had run out of wine and so He helped them.

Secondly, this miracle shows that Jesus has power over the quality of things. He took something very ordinary and miraculously changed it into something different. John 2:10 says, **Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.** Thank God that He can take our common ordinary lives and make us into something much better too. Hebrews 13:8 says, **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for blessing Church today. I am so thankful that I have given my life to You and I am thankful for every change You have brought into my life. I know that You are making me better every day and I want to keep growing in You and Your will. Please bless my Pastor and the leadership in my Church. Help us to grow so more people will be blessed with the Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday May 10

**Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 21-22
John 3:1-21**

Praise the Lord! When we ran into some people who were panicked about British Airlines going on strike the same way of thinking tried to get into our heads. Gary made a call to his travel agent and we felt confident that things would work out for us. Now, neither of us wanted to get stranded in Africa but we also knew that God was looking out for us and we didn't think God had brought us to Uganda to fly home in two days. So, we trusted God and it sure felt better than getting into panic and fear.

John 3:20 says, **Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.** When I read about Jesus in the Gospels it always amazes me that some people opposed Him but this verse tells why they did. Some evil people don't want to change and the light of the Gospel exposes their darkness.

The next verse says, **But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.** This should describe us. We should live in the truth and then we won't have anything to hide. When God works on us or through us we can be open about it because it will all be good. Keep your life open to the things of God. You do that by consistently being in His Word, listening to what He speaks to you and by being quick to obey the things He asks you to do.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the peace You bring into my life. Help me to know that I can always run to You when I start to feel panic. I also know that the people I am around affect me so help me to make good choices in friends and help me to be a good friend as well. I also want to keep my life open to You and closed to the devil. I want all the life and life in abundance that You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday May 11

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 1-3
John 3:22-36**

Praise the Lord! When I said that Gary made a call to his travel agent I meant he left a message with her. You see, it was in the middle of the night back home. So he called and left a message. Here's why I mentioned that. We had several hours to wait and it was up to us what we would fill our minds with. We could fill our minds with fear and panic or faith and the Word. I am glad to report we filled our minds with faith and the Word. I actually wasn't even very hard to do because we were doing it together. It is good to be linked up with people of faith!

John 3:30 is a wonderful verse. It says, **He must become greater; I must become less.** This is John the Baptist talking about Jesus. John knew that yielding to Jesus was always the right thing to do. So, he wanted Jesus and His Lordship to increase in his life. This happens when we know what God wants and we choose to live like He wants.

In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus told us to pray like this, This, then, is how you should pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** When we let His will be done in our lives, we are allowing His Kingdom rule and we are letting Him increase in our lives. This is what John was talking about in John 3:30 and it is the exact process that we are all in. We need to learn God's ways (thank God for the Word) and then we need to be doers of His Word and not hearers only.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I know that Your will for my life is far better than anything I could come up with on my own. Help me to have good friends who will stand with me in faith and help me to be just that kind of friend for others. I know we are all stronger together. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 12

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 4-5
John 4:1-30**

Praise the Lord! Well, the travel agent finally called back and said that we should be ok. British Air could go on strike but they were usually able to get people back home. This was a comfort but our real confidence came from the fact that we had the peace of God about staying. The first part of Colossians 3:15 says, **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.** We had peace and so we were relying on it to rule in our hearts. It is so wonderful to know Jesus Who has been make peace for us.

Thank God that He loves us! He came to seek and to save people just like you and me. In John 4, Jesus reached out to a woman that many other people would have passed by. She had been married 5 times and now she was living with a man but Jesus still loved her. Let me say again, thank God that He loves us! None of us were good enough to be saved and we certainly didn't deserve it but He still loved us and He did it all for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:8 says, **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Praise God! Now, with that in mind, look at Romans 8:32, **He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?** Because He loved us, God gave His Son for us. Can't you believe that He will meet all the rest of your needs?

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the peace that You bring into my life. Help me to embrace it and to know that You often use that very peace to guide me. I am also so thankful that You came and died on the cross for my sins. Help me to know that all of my sins have been dealt with and help me to know that You want to meet all my others needs. I don't know what I would do if I didn't have You in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday May 13

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6-8
John 4:31-54

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, I told you that we had peace about completing the mission God had sent us to do in Uganda. Colossians 3:15 tells us that we can let that peace rule in our lives. Isaiah 26:3-4 are also wonderful verses. They say, **You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.** We can have “perfect peace” when we keep our minds steadfastly set on God and His Word. When we put our trust in the Lord He will always take care of us. That is true in Uganda and it is true where ever you are right now.

In our reading from John 4, Jesus continues to minister to the woman from Samaria. The disciples were worried that Jesus wasn't eating and He made a very interesting statement in John 4:34, **“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”** Doing the will of God was more important to Jesus than eating!

Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, **Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”** Jesus had His priorities right. There was nothing more important to Him than the Word of God and doing the will of God. Don't you know that God took care of Him and God will take care of us when we put Him first too. Matthew 6:33 says, **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Prayer: Lord, I want to keep my mind steadfastly on You and Your Word. Please help me. I also thank You so much for always taking care of me. I want to seek You and Your righteousness more and I know that You will help me with everything else in my life. I don't ever want to try to live without Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday May 14

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 9-11
John 5:1-24**

Praise the Lord! I hope you are enjoying hearing about the trip I was on in Uganda. We will get back to the book of Psalms eventually. Do you remember when I told you that I was so tired that I couldn't find the book of Mark? Well, Gary was tired too and he gave my Bible away. Actually it was just a mistake. He had some books for one of the Pastors and accidentally gave him my Bible. We got it back the next day and I was sure glad.

In John 5, Jesus encountered a man who had been an invalid for 38 years and He asked him a very interesting question. John 5:6 says, **When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"** "Do you want to get well?" Of course he would want to get well. Wouldn't he? I am not going to spend a lot of time on this but let me tell you that not everyone who is sick wants to get well. Some people have their whole identity wrapped up in their sickness. We need to want to be well and we need to let Jesus heal us.

Psalms 103:3 says this about God, **He forgives all our sins and He heals all our diseases.** We need to renew our minds to this truth and then never settle for anything less than what God has provided for us. By the way, ALL means ALL. Many people know that God wants to forgive all their sins and so they walk in that revelation. We need to know that God wants to heal all our diseases too! Then we will also walk in that revelation.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am thankful that You are my Lord and my Savior. I don't want to put up with any of the devil's work in my life. I know that sin and sickness comes from him and I want to keep my life closed to his evil works. Help me to renew my mind to the promises in Your Word about forgiveness and healing. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday May 15

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 12-14
John 5:25-47**

Praise the Lord! We had some meetings way out in the country at a village Church. We knew some governmental officials were going to be there so we went to a place there and bought Bibles to give to them. We decided to buy the Bibles in the language that most of the people there speak. One of the officials was a woman and she cried when we gave her the Bible. She said that she had been praying for 2 years for a Bible in her own language and we brought her one. God is so good! When we listen to Him we are blessed and often He will use us to bless others too.

We talked earlier about people who rejected Jesus and the things He came to reveal about God. They loved the darkness more than the light and so they ultimately wanted to kill Jesus. Some of these people were even religious leaders.

Look at John 5:39-40, **You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.** They were students of the Bible but they were blinded by their own traditions and so they missed what God was saying. Now, I don't want to spend all my time talking about them. We need to allow God to speak to us from His Word. The Bible is always right and if we come to a crossroads where what we have always believed is being challenged by the Truth of God's Word we need to accept what the Word says and change what we believe.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the Word. Please help me to be more like that lady in Uganda who was so thrilled to have a Bible for herself. I know that Your Word is never going to pass away and I want to base my life and my beliefs on the truth of Your Word. I also know that the Word will always lead me to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday May 16

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 15-17
John 6:1-21**

Praise the Lord! On the way to our next meetings we drove south and crossed the equator. We stopped and took pictures. There was a place there that gives a demonstration but they were closed so we would stop on our way back. We held 3 meetings with Pastors there and would be at 2 Churches there tomorrow which was Sunday. It is always wonderful to meet believers on trips like this. I keep telling them that we are stronger together than we are apart and it is true. Don't ever give up on the body of Christ. We may not be perfect but we are your brothers and sisters in Christ and we are growing.

In John 6, Jesus wanted to feed about 20,000 people (5,000 men plus women and children). Verses 5-7 say, **When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"** The next two verses say, **Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"** Jesus took the little, worked a miracle and met this huge need! Listen, He can take our lives (the little), work miracle and make us into the people He wants us to be.

The key is this: We have to give Him what we have and then He can work with our little to do much.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love the body of Christ. Help us to work together to get Your work done. I am also so thankful for all that You have done in my life. Please take all of me and have Your way. I really do need Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday May 17

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 18-19
John 6:22-44**

Praise the Lord! At the Church I preached at on Sunday morning in Uganda the people were very responsive and I could feel their love. I told them that if Jesus was there He would walk right out among the people and heal them. Then, I put that into practice. I left the front, walked right out in the middle of the people and they started to reach out for healing. God was faithful and many people were healed! Thank God that He always confirms His Word. Psalms 103:3 says that God forgives all our sins and He heals all our diseases. That is true in Africa and it is true right where you are today! Believe it.

After Jesus fed the multitudes, He departed and went to Capernaum. John 6:24 says, **Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.** This might not seem like a verse that I would pick to cover in this devotion but please notice the part that says they were **in search of Jesus.** When we seek Him, He will make sure we find Him.

The next verse says, **When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"** Did you see it? They sought Him and they found Him. Then they were able to ask Him all their questions.

Seek the Lord! You will find Him and you will find that He wants to answer all your questions. Are you the person who really needed to hear this today?

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for the promise that when I seek You, I will find You. I am so thankful that You are even drawing near to me right now. I don't want to miss times like this when I can be with You and know Your love more. I love You so much. Please bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions with revelation of Your presence. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday May 18

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 20-22
John 6:45-71**

Praise the Lord! Something very humbling happened to me at the Church I wrote to you about yesterday. They took an offering for me even though they are very poor. I wanted to tell them not to do it but God said that it was good for them to give. So, I let them. I also preached at a Church that Sunday night and they did the same thing. Both of the offerings totally about \$6.50 but the amount was not important. It was important that they gave (sacrificially) and I asked God to bless them. Would you take some time right now and ask God to bless them for their giving too?

John 6:66 says, **From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.** Jesus had revealed some truth to the disciples that stretched them. He was revealing that He was the Messiah and that He was going to lay His life down for the sins of the whole world. Many of the disciples quit following Him.

The next verses say, **“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”** Thank God these people got it right. They had nowhere else to go. We should be like this. We have given our lives to Jesus and we should never even think about quitting. We don't have anywhere else to go!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful for all that You are doing in my life. Please bless those precious Christians in Uganda. Prosper them and help them to grow in You. I also thank You that my whole life is wrapped up in You and Your Word. I know I have a lot more to learn but I have learned enough to know that I don't have anywhere else to turn. You are my everything! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 19

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 23-25
John 7:1-31**

Praise the Lord! On our way back north in Uganda we crossed the equator again. They had a demonstration that shows water draining in the opposite direction on each side of the equator. It also doesn't swirl at all right on the equator. I have it all on video. It is nice to see things like this and I can sure see that God created the earth in wonderful ways but it is always the people that matter the most to me. We preached to hundreds of Pastors on this trip and it was great to meet them and bless them with the Word.

Jesus knew why He came. He came to live a sinless life and then to lay His life down for the sins of mankind. That was His purpose and He fulfilled every bit of it. He knew God's will for His life but others didn't know it. Look at John 7:5, **For even his own brothers did not believe in him.**

Can you imagine how lonely Jesus must have been at times. He was right in the center of God's will for His life and no other person understood. Actually, John the Baptist had a glimpse into Jesus' purpose but then he was put to death.

Have there been times in your life when you knew what God wanted you to do but others didn't accept it? Well, we need to live our lives to please God rather than people. It is also good to know that Jesus went through the same thing so He can help us. Also, you probably do have some other believers who know what you are going through and you should let them come along side you and help you.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I thank You for all the good friends You have brought into my life. I am also very thankful that You are always with me and You can always help me. I really do want to live exactly how You want me to live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday May 20

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 1-2
John 7:32-53**

Praise the Lord! Well, I am going to back to covering the book of Psalms tomorrow. We had a wonderful trip and God was with us all the time. We had 19 meetings in 6 days and many people were healed. I appreciate Gary who was with me on the trip. We are always stronger together than we are apart and we made a great team.

Look at the wonderful promise Jesus made in John 7:37, **On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."** Say this out loud, "Thank You Jesus!"

In the next verse He tells us even more, **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.** We are blessed so we can be a blessing to others!

Now, look at the next verse, **By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.** Thank God for the Holy Spirit. He is a gift from God and He comes to refresh us and to equip us to bless others. God only has good gifts for us and the Holy Spirit is sure a good gift. Luke 11:13 says, **If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all that was accomplished in Uganda. I pray that You will bless my brothers and sisters there. Help them to grow in You and help them to experience Your Kingdom more. I also thank You for the Holy Spirit. Please come and fill me so I can be refreshed and equipped to be a blessing to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday May 21

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 3-5
John 8:1-20**

Praise the Lord! We are working our way through the book of Psalms and chapter 65 verse 7 says, **Who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.** This is talking about God and David is pointing out that God was in control of creation and He is still in control today. We should trust Him with every detail of our lives.

Thank God that Jesus came to seek and to save sinners. He loved the woman caught in adultery and He loves us. Without Him we would be totally and completely lost with no hope.

Here's a thought from this story. Jesus and the teachers of the law wanted the same thing for this woman. They both wanted her to stop sinning but they went about it in totally different ways. The teachers of the law wanted to kill her and that would have stopped her from sinning. Jesus loved her and He wanted to save her and give her a new start in life. In the last part of verse 11 Jesus said, **"Go now and leave your life of sin."**

Aren't you glad that you have Jesus working in your life rather than the teachers of the law? Both of them want to stop you from sinning but Jesus does it by giving us eternal life rather than a sentence of death.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are in control of all things and I certainly want You to be in control of my life. Please tell me if there are areas of my life where I am not yielding to You and help me. I am also thankful that You accept me as a sinner but You don't leave me there. Help me to live in victory over temptation in my life. I do want to live like You want. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday May 22

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 6-7
John 8:21-36

Praise the Lord! Psalms 65:8 says, **Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.** God is God everywhere and wherever people call on His Name, He will be found. Acts 4:12 says, **Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.** Jesus is our Salvation and there is no salvation in any other Name!

I want to give you some very important verses today. John 8:30-32 say, **Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."** This is very important because it informs us how to find freedom.

These people had put their faith in Jesus and that means they were saved. Then Jesus told them to hold on to His teachings and the Truth would set them free! You see, you can be saved and still need more freedom. I am sure that describes every one of us. We need to be people of the Word and we need to never give up. When we know the Word, renew our minds to it and do what it says we are on the path to freedom. So, whatever area you need freedom in find the Word that applies to it and go for it. Now, I am really impressed to point out that Jesus said we need to "hold on to" the Truth. That means taking your stand on the Word and never giving up!

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have put my trust in You for my Salvation. I know there is no other way for me to be saved. Now that I am saved I want all the freedom You have for me. Help me to know if there are any bondages in my life, help me to know what the Word says, help me to renew my mind and help me to be free! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday May 23

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 8-10
John 8:37-59

Praise the Lord! Psalms 65:9 says, **You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you have ordained it.** Thank God for His provision. James 1:17 says, **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.** When we know that everything good comes from God we will be more thankful!

Jesus was the Son of God and those who rejected Him rejected God as well. 1 John 2:23 says, **No-one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.** This is John making this very point. We need to accept Jesus and the Father.

Some of the religious leaders of the day were opposing Jesus because He was revealing that God was His Father. Look at what Jesus said in John 8:44, **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** When they rejected Jesus they were rejecting the Father and so they were on the side of the devil. Thank God that we are on Jesus' side!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for reminding me today that everything good in my life is a gift from You. Help me to remember this and help me to be more thankful. I know that my salvation is a gift from You and I am so thankful that You have taken me out of bondage to the devil and given me life and life in abundance in You. I want to keep my life open to You and closed to the devil. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday May 24

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 11-13
John 9:1-23**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 65:10 says, **You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.** Do you think David was going too far and giving God too much credit for all the good things that happened? I don't think so and the more we remember it the better we will do. We all know that we should praise God more and having an attitude like this will help us!

In our reading from John 9, there was a man who was born blind. The disciples asked if he was blind because of something he had done or because of something his parents had done. Look at John 9:1-2, **As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"** Now, this question makes sense if we believe that sin is always the cause of physical problems but that isn't always the case. Look at what Jesus answered them in the next verse, **"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.** Their sin had not caused this problem.

Now, don't get me wrong. If sin had been the problem Jesus would have dealt with that as well. Here is what I want to emphasize for today. The man was blind and Jesus wanted to heal him so he was healed! The cause of it was not as important as the fact that Jesus was the healer and so He healed the man.

Prayer: Lord, I want a greater revelation that everything good comes from You. I can see that when I am reading Your Word but then I sometimes forget it as life goes on. I am also so thankful that You are always the Healer. I am so thankful that I am getting this revelation more and more and I always want to run to You for healing when I need it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday May 25

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 14-16
John 9:24-41**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 65:11 says, **You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.** God's will is always abundance for His people. The Kingdom of God is always a place of abundance. The best revelation of the Kingdom can be seen in Jesus' life and ministry. He never did without and He always had an abundant supply for others. Think of the time when a huge crowd was following Him. Jesus wanted to feed them and He was able to feed them in abundance!

When Jesus healed the man who was born blind not everyone was happy about it. The Pharisees didn't believe that the miracle had happened. Because they didn't believe they missed out on what God was doing.

John said that he picked the miracles recorded in his Gospel to help us to believe. John 20:30-31 say, **Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.** John recorded this miracles to help us to believe. When we believe we will have the life and life in abundance that Jesus came to give us. Let me show you how this ties into our reading for today. The Pharisees didn't believe and they missed out on the life that Jesus could have given them. Now, here's what we need to get from all this. Believe the Word and believe in God's miracles. Your believing will help you to have more of the life and life in abundance that God has for you.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want all that You have for me. I want to live in the abundance that You have for me and I can see that my believing is part of that process. So, I choose to believe the Word and I choose to believe in miracles! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 26

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 17-19
John 10:1-21**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 65:12 is an interesting verse, **The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.** The hills are clothed with gladness. I am not sure how all that happens but I believe it because the Word says it. I do know what it means for me to be filled with gladness and I know how it comes. When I meditate on the Word and God's goodness I am filled with gladness. I want to do my part to bring that about because it is what God wants and because it is good for me.

John 10:10 is a vitally important verse, **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** God is good and the devil is bad. God wants to bless you and the devil wants to steal, kill and destroy. We should keep our lives open to Jesus and closed to the devil.

Acts 10:38 says, **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.** Sickness was from the devil and healing was from God.

I know I have written you these things before but it is so important for us to know them and to hold onto them. The Bible says that Jesus sows the Word in our hearts and the devil comes to steal it.

Prayer: Lord, I want to keep my life open to You and closed to the devil. I want to believe all of Your Word and I am never going to quit living for You. I know You came to give me life and life to the full and I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. I love You so much and I want to represent You well to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday May 27

Scripture Reading: 1Chronicles 20-22
John 10:22-42

Praise the Lord! David ends Psalms 65 with verse 13, **The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing.** David ends this Psalm with joy and singing unto God. We have seen many times when David would start off talking about his enemies and his problems but he usually ended up with praise going to God. We can and should learn from this. We can take our problems and concerns to God but we should end up praising Him because He is always worthy of our praise!

Yesterday, we talked about John 10:10 which says, **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** When you believe the Word and never quit, it will produce in your life.

For today, I have another verse that you need to believe and never quit. John 10:27 says, **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** That is the truth and I want to challenge you to believe it and never say anything different. You do hear His voice and you follow Him! 2 Corinthians 4:13 says, **It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.** Believe the right things (His Word) and speak what you believe. When you do those things the Word will produce in your life. So say this, "I hear my Shepherd's voice. He knows me and I follow Him!"

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am know that You are always worthy of my praise and I want to give it to You more consistently. Help me to think on good things and help me to renew my mind to Your Word. I also thank You for speaking to me and I want to be quick to hear and obey You. I know that You only have my best interests in mind and I trust You to always take care of me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday May 28

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 23-25
John 11:1-17**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 66 is a Psalm of great praise to God. Verse 1 starts off by saying, **Shout with joy to God, all the earth!** I don't know what you are going through but I know this, God is worthy of your praise. Have you ever shouted to God? It is a good thing to do. I actually stopped writing just now and shouted to God! I don't know if anyone else in the building heard me but they probably did if they are around. The important thing is that God heard me and that makes it a good thing.

In John 11, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. This conclusively proves that Jesus has power over death. Praise the Lord! Death could not hold Jesus and it can't hold us because of the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Look at John 11:17, **On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.** When Jesus arrived there Lazarus was dead and he had been in the tomb for four days. That means he was really dead but none of this held Jesus back from doing all that He was called to do.

Let me emphasize this point and then tomorrow we will continue in John 11. Jesus is always able to accomplish His will. It might seem like it is too late or impossible to us but nothing keeps Jesus from doing the will of God. Luke 1:37 says, **For nothing is impossible with God.** Nothing means nothing.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You are always worthy of my praise and I want to give it to You more consistently. I know that You are always able to accomplish Your will and I want to get in the flow of what You are doing. I want to be a person of great faith. I want to believe everything You speak to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Saturday May 29

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 26-27
John 11:18-46**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 66:2 says, **Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!** As we study the Word, we should be seeing how wonderful God is and we should respond. We should sing and praise His Name! I don't know how some people can say that they know how wonderful God is and then not do anything. Don't be like that. Keep studying and when God shows you His greatness express your love for Him by praising Him and singing of His greatness.

John 11:25-26 say, **Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"** Jesus declares Himself to be the resurrection and He brings life. Those things are settled but they don't benefit everyone.

In the last part of these verses, Jesus asks a vitally important question. **Do you believe this?** You see, it is settled that Jesus is the resurrection and He brings life but WE HAVE TO BELIEVE. Jesus has provided these wonderful things and more but we have to believe or we miss out. In John 11, we have an example of people believing and receiving what God had for them. They kept their faith in Jesus and they saw things they had never seen before. It is the same way with us. We need to keep our faith in Jesus and know that He only has good things for us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I know that You are wonderful and deserving of all my praise and worship. I am so thankful for everything You have for me. I know that giving my life to You was the best decision I have ever made and I am never going to quit living for You. I believe You are my resurrection and my life! Help me to represent You well every day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday May 30

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 28-29
John 11:47-57**

Praise the Lord! **Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you."** That is Psalms 66:3. There are two things I want to comment on here. First, God is all powerful and His enemies don't stand a chance when they oppose Him. Secondly, thank God that we are not His enemies! We used to be His enemies but now we are His friends and He loves us.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and some people were upset about it. John 11:47-48 say, **Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."** They were worried about the political ramifications of Jesus raising people from the dead.

Verse 53 says, **So from that day on they plotted to take His life.** They decided that the best thing to do was to kill Jesus. Isn't that amazing? I wonder if they considered that they might not be able to keep Jesus in the grave if they ever did kill Him. You see, they did have Him killed on the cross but the Resurrection power of God raised Him from the dead!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You love me and drew me to the place where I would give my life to You. I am also glad that You have made me Your friend rather than Your enemy. Help me to know that living for You and pleasing You is always the right way to live. Please bless my Church and every other Church in town that preaches the Word and Jesus. Help us all to know You better. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday May 31

**Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 1-3
John 12:1-19**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 66:4 says, **All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” Selah** The word “Selah” is an instruction to stop and really think about what God’s Word just said. All the earth praises God. Isn’t that amazing? We have the choice as to whether we will praise Him or not and I hope you are making the right choice. By the way, the right choice is to praise Him. He always deserves our praise!

Let’s start off today by looking at John 12:1-2, **Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.** Did you notice the part I underlined? Things like people serving are often easy to miss but they are very important. Jesus said that being a servant is how we are great in the Kingdom of God. So, with all the things that happen around us take time to notice those who are serving and know that they are great in the Kingdom.

Well, the chief priests who wanted to kill Jesus now wanted to kill Lazarus too. John 12:10-11 say, **So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.** Jesus came to give life and devil comes to kill so we can know whose side they were on.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful when You speak to me from the Word. I love You and I love all of Your ways. You have been so kind to me all this month as I spent time in Your Word and I look forward to next month. Help me to be a servant and I continue to ask You to bless Your people in Uganda. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.