

Thoughts from the Psalms



Psalm 54

When I am betrayed by those whom I have considered good friends, I will seek the Lord for wisdom and guidance.

Lord, please listen to me and my current plight. You are not likely going to believe this, Lord, but my friends have turned against me. You may think I am being paranoid, but the truth is that I am being attacked even by strangers, obviously misguided folks who do not respect You!

I know, however, that with Your help, I can endure anything. Not only this, I expect that You will let the devices of my enemies bring harm to themselves and not me.

I bring my gifts and offerings to you. I praise Your Name. Lord, You are awesome. You always manage to bring good out of evil. You always help me come out on top in every situation.

Thank You very much!!!

PSALM 54



1 For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A maskil of David. When the Ziphites had gone to Saul and said, "Is not David hiding among us?" Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might.

2 Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.

3 Strangers are attacking me; ruthless men seek my life-- men without regard for God. Selah

4 Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

5 Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them.

6 I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

7 For he has delivered me from all my troubles, and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

Bible Study Interaction Notes



Philippians 3:13-21

Those persons whose lifestyles are completely contrary to holiness, who act in complete disregard for God, who deny that Christ's death on the cross was God's only plan for reconciliation of sinful man to the holy God will in the end be "trashed" by God for making a mockery of God's most precious gift, the sacrifice of His only Son.

These people commit all sorts of sinful acts with
their bodies. They are actually proud of acts of
which they should be ashamed. They have
absolutely no regard for spiritual matters and
things pertaining to God, but only themselves and
what they possess and do.

But as for us, our homeland is not here on earth at all. Heaven is our home, this earth is simply a temporary residence. We are waiting for our Lord to come and give us transportation to our true home. When He arrives, He will demonstrate to the entire world and all of its inhabitants, the power which He possesses. He will rule over all things. He will even give us new bodies which are like His own. These new bodies will have substance, but be able to pass through other substances, such as walls. These bodies will have astronomical powers and characteristics. These bodies will enable us to enter into the very presence of God!



13 Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above. 15 All of us who are spiritually mature should think this way, too. And if there are things you do not agree with, God will make them clear to you.

16 But we should continue following the truth we already have. 17 Brothers and sisters, all of you should try to follow my example and to copy those who live the way we showed you. 18 Many people live like enemies of the cross of Christ. I have often told you about them, and it makes me cry to tell you about them now.

19 In the end, they will be destroyed. They do whatever their bodies want, they are proud of their shameful acts, and they think only about earthly things. 20 But our homeland is in heaven, and we are waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven. 21 By his power to rule all things, he will change our simple bodies and make them like his own glorious body. Proverbs 24:3



3 By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; (NNAS)

3 It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong. (NCV)

3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; (NIV)

3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established. (KJV)

3 Any enterprise is built by wise planning and becomes strong through common sense. (TLB)

3 By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; (NASB)

PROVERB 24



1 Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company; 2 for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble. 3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. 5 A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; 6 for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.

7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the assembly at the gate he has nothing to say. 8 He who plots evil will be known as a schemer. 9 The schemes of folly are sin, and men detest a mocker.

10 If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength! 11 Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. 12 If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

13 Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. 14 Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. 15 Do not lie in wait like an outlaw against a righteous man's house, do not raid his dwelling place; 16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.

17 Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice, 18 or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from him. 19 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of the wicked, 20 for the evil man has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.

21 Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious, 22 for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?

23 These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good: 24 Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent"-- peoples will curse him and nations denounce him. 25 But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them. 26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

27 Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house. 28 Do not testify against your neighbor without cause, or use your lips to deceive. 29 Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did." 30 I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; 31 thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. 32 I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Reflections



Commitments



Victories and Defeats of yesterday (DID IT)	Actions needed now (DO IT)

Quick Reference Guide to DayPrimer for today;

- Reflect on the wisdom of Solomon Read the selected verse(s) from multiple versions Remember the highlighted words
- Sing to the Lord (if you can't sing, read and reflect)
 - Read God's Word Psalm for today Proverb for today Bible study passage for today
- Focus for a moment on the "key thought" Remember the highlighted words
- Pray very specifically
 - In prayer be: (in an appropriate attitude)
 - Include: (focus on certain aspects of prayer)
 - ¹ Praise God for His work in your behalf
 - ↓ Confess your wrong doings and not doings
 - \Rightarrow Intercede for the needs of others
 - ← Petition God for yourself
 - Meditate about God's creativity
 - P Commit to God to do something specific

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart Nought be all else to me save that Thou art Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word. I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord. Thou my great Father. I Thy true son. Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and Thou only, first in my heart. High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won. May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's sun. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall. Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all!

DayPrimers' PRAYER GUIDELINES:

Since our prayer time would be flooded with never ending requests and we could not possibly pray continuously for every request, DayPrimers has devised a method of andomly selecting certain categories for prayer for each day.

DayPrimers also provides prayer request forms which enable you to put start and end dates to the requests.

Nhen you are asked to pray for someone or some thing, be sure that the request is very specific.

Only commit to a certain time frame or "as God brings them o mind."

Be realistic in your commitments. If you in good faith cannot bray with a sense of conviction that God will answer in a bositive way, you should likely not commit to pray for that specific request.

f you don't really intend to pray for something, do not commit to do so.

NE ARE NOT ALL CONVINCED OF THE SAME RESULTS! You cannot be a prayer warrior is you do not believe that victory will be yours.

Choose your prayer battles wisely. Then pray all the way to victory!"

A few sample prayer request forms appear on the following pages:

Day Primers are intended to help you establish personal accountability for your walk with God. The pattern is printed every day, to encourage you to be honest with yourself and with God every time you seek His face. Your honesty in reflecting will help you to see your progress (or lack thereof). Don't be discouraged, simply because you see repetitions of behaviors you want to stop. Habits are very hard to break. But the new ones you establish can be just as strong and lasting as the ones you eventually leave behind.

Note that this devotional guide uses the same "text" for more than one day. This is to help those who may be struggling to establish a regular pattern for personal time with God. If you miss a day or maybe two, you will not be skipping portions of scripture which would break the continuity of the book of the bible.

This guide is not intended nor expected to force you to have a "daily" time with God, but rather to help you focus your attention when you do meet with God so as to increase the quality of the time we spend in His presence.

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Here are some guidelines.

Attempt to memorize the "wisdom" verse for the day.

Read the text from a different translation each day.

Always be **specific** in your prayers, use one of your "specific prayer" sheets.

When time does not enable you to pray for all the requests on your prayer sheets, select a sheet that is in the category in **bold** print on the daily "primer."

Extra daily bible reading might include:

= the entire chapter of the book of proverbs which match the date

= an entire chapter in the book of psalms selected from the chart provided

= topical scriptures from a "topical" bible such as the Naves Topical Bible

= follow a "read through the bible" schedule

Try to keep a balance between reading/studying and praying. God wants to hear us talk to Him as much as he wants us to listen to Him (reading His word).

Your daily commitments should become your own, rather than those printed on the "primer." But, in the absence of time for meditation to establish your own commitment, the "primer" suggests a commitment which may help you through your day. The (future dates) pages are included for your use to keep track of dates beyond the month which you are living through. At the top of these pages you can write in the month and year for these future appointments and important action items. Down the left side are the dates within the month (1 through 31). The column titled "Day" is for you to indicate what day of the week the date is.

> For example: February 4th might be a Monday, when you enter an appointment for the 4th, put that it is a "Mon" as well. That way if you were given the wrong date but the right day of the week, you can make the correction when you transfer the appointment to the current month.

Month:		n: Year:
		(future dates)
Date	Day	
1	-	
2		
3		
4	Mon	Meet with Bill for lunch at Tripps at 12:45
5		
6		



amily	Friend	Business Associate	Minister	Missionary
Names		Needs and N	otes	Dates
-				Begin
-				End
<u>-</u>				Begin
-				End
				Begin
-				End
				Begin
-				End
				Begin
-				End
				Begin
-				End
				Begin
		Prayer Request P	ages	
_imit ead	ch page t	to the specific area t	o be emphasi	ized when

This specific prayer is for

requests on the sheet to the left might be for "Family." Then on the days when DayPrimers selects "Family" as the requests to be lifted up to God that day, you can refer to the "Family" sheet or sheets to remind yourself of the commitments you have made.

Notice also that you have a column for when you will begin praying for this "family" member and when you will either cease praying for this particular need or you will confirm with that "family" member that you will continue for another specified time.

This approach not only enables you to manage your "prayer load" but also provides a mean of requiring accountability for yourself and the person for whom you are praying. REMEMBER to always be very specific with both the "names" and the "needs." If you pray for all the missionaries in the world, but no one specifically, you are but making "noise" in God's ears. God, your heavenly "daddy" cannot give you what you want if you don't tell Him in clearly understandable language what it is that you want.

Pray does not have to be "lengthy" either. Get to the point with each request. Don't be flippant nor presumptuous. Just be genuine and clear and sincere.

braying during your quiet time. For example all the prayer

PROJECTS

Project Guide

uide

PROJECTS

Project Name / Description			Due by	
			Submitted	
			When:	
Completed	Approved	Implemented		
A	ction Items	•	by when?	
			started	
			finished	
			started	
			finished	
			started	
			finished	
			started	
			finished	
			started	
			finished	
	Completed		Completed Approved Implemented	

These are provided to help you organize tasks and clearly define what all must be done to accomplish the task which you believe God has assigned to you. These can be used for business, pleasure, or ministry.

Notice that these guides call for an estimate of time needed to complete the work. This is also intended to help you avoid over-commitment to "work" for yourself, others, and the Lord.

Opportunity and Notes Pages

These are provided to help you take good notes and keep them organized as you take advantage of opportunies at work, at play, or in ministry. The "opportunity" pages would act as the cover page identifying the person or organization being served. The notes sheets would provide space for overflow commentary about the opportunity. Some even use the "opportunity" pages to take sermon notes! Opportunity

Notes



			1
Company:			
Phone:			
Contact:			
Location:			
Date/Time:			
Date/ Inne.			
Needer			
Needs:			
	1		

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OREAMS		Things I <u>hope</u> to	do	DREAMS
⁻ amily for whom	Friend	Business Associate	Minister	Missionary
priority		Word or Actio	n	Dates Dreamed
				Done/Drop
				Dreamed
+				Done/Drop
				Dreamed
-				Done/Drop
				Dreamed
				Done/Drop
-				Dreamed
				Done/Drop
-				Dreamed
				Done/Drop
+				
				Done/Drop Dreamed
+				Done/Drop
²riority: 1=ver	high, 2=high,	3=normal, 4=low, 5=very low, 7=dr	op in 3 months, 9=	

virority: 1=very high, 2=high, 3=normal, 4=low, 5=very low, 7=drop in 3 months, 9=drop in 1 mon

DEEDS	Things I <u>must</u> do			DEEDS
Family for whom	Friend	Business Associate	Minister	Missionary
priority		Word or Actio	n	Dates
				Planned
				Complete
				Planned
				Complete
				Planned
				Complete
				Planned
_				Complete
_				Planned
				Complete
				Planned
				Complete
Priority: 1=ver mon	/ high, 2=high,	3=normal, 4=low, 5=very low, 7=dr	op in 3 months	, 9∍drop in 1

On the "Passions" page of Dayprimers:

A specific verse is selected from the chapter of Proverbs for he day (chapter 24). The words in **bold** are to remember all day and practice all through the day.

A song is selected for you to sing, speak, or read silently to ift your heart in worship to God, you should not limit /ourself to this song. If you are enjoying the presence of God in song, keep on singing to Him.

The passage of scripture for the day is selected as a part of an organized, systematic, approach to studying an entire book of the bible in "daily" (bite-sized) portions. The same ew verses are studied for 3 days in a row with an emphasis on different verses in the passage each day. This is ntended to enable you to occasionally "miss" a day, but not niss any scripture.

The "key" thought is taken from "God's Word for the Day" ext and paraphrased so as to help you remember this highlight" from the passage. A few words are in **bold** which express in a nut-shell what you might easily remember all lay long and use as a reminder of what God wants you to lo, think, feel, or be today.

The pattern of "Communion with God" is shown every day to help you stay on track with an order of "Devotional" expression which we feel helps to prepare your heart to be open to God's hearing from you and speaking to you from His Heart.

PRAISE => READ => PRAY => REFLECT => COMMIT

On the "Passions" page of Dayprimers:

In order to be most effective in communication with God, it is essential that we be specific about what we desire. No more than we would tell our coworker to meet me after work but not say where we would meet should we speak to God in general terms. Instead of praying for "all the missionaries" or all of the "sick persons" in the world, we should select one or two missionaries and/or sick persons and pray specifically for them. We should get enough details about them in order to pray "intelligently" for them. Pray for what they truly need rather than what we think they might need.

Prayer should **ALWAYS be SPECIFIC**! Dayprimers has also been designed to help you focus on your prayer time to be: **Specific**, Selfless, Short, Simple, Sincere

Prayer can be most meaning when it contains these five elements and in this order:

Praise Confession Intercession Petition Meditation Each day Dayprimers emphasizes a different one of these elements and within each element emphasizes one or two particular areas to pray about.

Each day imagery is used to stimulate your meditation. However, you can substitute your own **meditation** which brings your spirit closer to God's.

Finally, Dayprimers includes a suggest commitment for the day. Your own commitment(s) will come from the Lord as you spend this most precious time with Him.

Be it long or short, the formula should remain consistent.

Praise => Read => Pray => Reflect => Commit

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ODE TO WANDA (by popular demand!)

Dh, the plans God had for WandaFrom the foundations of the earth.His hand has been upon herFrom the moment of her birth.

Nanda is SO precious And not unlike you and me. She just surrendered to His calling That has brought us out to sea.

So dear, sweet, lovely Wanda, Ne do not really care f you make fun of your nose Or come with bottled hair.

Or if you call yourself an idiot,
A sheep who sometimes strayed,
For you also show your heart
And the difference Christ has made.

God has used you, precious servantFo touch so many lambs.He is working through your weaknessesBecause you answer, "Here I am."

Jesus has been so gracious Nith new mercies everyday Even in your rebellion And desire for your own way.

You have opened up your life And shared some laughs and hurts and pain So not even the outcast men *N*ill ever be the same.

So teach on, oh faithful listener To what God gives to you. *Ne* await more 'words with Wanda' And those lessons that we do.

Thank you, wonderful Wanda For sharing hugs and smiles. Our days in Greece together Shall carry us on for miles.

Dne day we'll slide in glory, Not on marble but fine gold. Ne'll shout glory, Hallelujah Nhen the Lamb we all behold.

crafted by Melinda Bridges, Beloved Disciple Tour with Beth Moore Greece, 2002

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