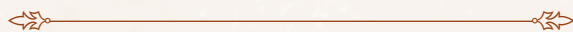




Week 1, Monday

MORNING

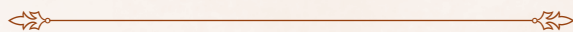
My dear heavenly Father, it is my desire to be a man of integrity. Realizing that I am what I am by the grace of God, please so work in my heart this day that the tongue in my mouth and the tongue in my shoe are going in the same direction. I realize that if I am to affect others for Your cause, You will have to do it through me. I surrender to Your control now and ask You to be in me, no longer me but You. Resurrection power, fill me this hour, Jesus be Jesus in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD!”

PSALM 119:1

The Bible does not call us to be sinless, but it does call for blamelessness. The word *undefiled* speaks of those who are blameless, referring to integrity. Integrity is the opposite of duplicity and hypocrisy, which is the pretense to be something we are not. The most difficult life to attempt to live is the one you are not. Yet the most blessed and least difficult to live is the life you have been given; be who you are! Job was a man in the early writings of the Bible who was described as blameless (Job 1:1). His life was described as one who walked in consistency in every area of his life. *Blameless* means to be complete, whole, and truthful. When Jesus cried, “It is finished!” (John 19:30), He used the Greek word *Teleios*, which later His half brother James used in James 1:4. Remember, He has not called us to a life of sinless perfection, but rather to a lifestyle that is growing and conforming to His Word. The person who desires to be blameless will indeed be a blessed person. Happiness will be the overflow of His joy. He always weds happiness to holiness.



EVENING

My Father, as this day comes to a close, anything good that has been imparted through my life is simply a gift from You through me for Your greater glory. I am grateful that You answer prayer and that You have chosen to work through Your servants. Please help me to be consistent in the area of a blameless life, and please keep me close and clean. Your presence has been real and affirming today, and for that I am grateful. May even the thoughts and dreams of this night be Christ-centered and wake me to a new day of service that will know even greater opportunities of making You known. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 1, Tuesday



MORNING

Lord, as I begin this new day, thank You for the gift of a good night's sleep as well as the opportunity of a new day. I want to simply say that I love You this morning and I praise You for the way You love me unconditionally. Help me to love You more today than yesterday, and even more than ever before. May my heart be fully focused on You today and may I love as a fully devoted follower that unashamedly bears Your witness. In Jesus' name, Amen.



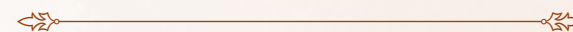
“Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!”

PSALM 119:2

How many of us know that a divided heart will kill a relationship? Half-hearted Christianity has done its share of damage to the church as it pertains to meeting the needs of a lost and dying world. When Jesus was asked to declare the greatest commandment in the Word of God, He gave us Matthew 22:37, 38: “Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with *all* your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment.” To the believer, nothing is more important than loving Jesus with all your heart. How each of us needs an undivided heart that is guarded by the testimonies of our Lord, meaning the things that God witnesses. A whole-hearted commitment to the Lord and His Word will put our lives together.

Psalm 127:1 says, “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

Listen to the truth of Jeremiah 24:7: “Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.”



EVENING

Lord, it is clear to me that I often allow my heart to be divided in its loyalties. Please keep me focused and fully devoted in heart to the lordship of Jesus Christ. I realize that if I am to love others, I must first love You supremely. Goodnight, Jesus—I love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Week 1, Wednesday

MORNING

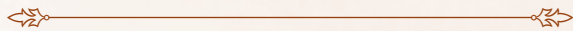
Lord, may my heart be desperate for a deeper, loving relationship with You. Oh God, help me to never take You for granted, and may I never place my ultimate dependence on anyone but You. Thank You for Your forbearance with me when I allow my mind to drift to all of the “what-ifs.” Please draw me close to You and never let me go. I desire to finish well and to live in such a way that You will be glorified in and, yes, through my life. Jesus, I crown You King of my heart this morning. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!”

PSALM 119:9, 10

The Bible often mentions the need to consider and reconsider the great need of moral purity. I have often said that this is probably one of the greatest qualities and characteristics in the Christian life in the 21st century. When Paul was preparing his young mentee, Timothy, for spiritual fortification in order to lead the church of Ephesus following his approaching death, he called Timothy to this priority in his private life in 2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” The psalmist knew as well as the apostle Paul that it takes obedience to God’s Word to keep his moral life clean before the Lord. I have prayed for years that the Lord would keep me *close* and *clean*. It is in my closeness to Jesus and in obedience to His Word that my purity becomes a reality. It is my prayer, as with the psalmist, that I not wander from His Word. And once again, the secret lies in being whole-hearted.



EVENING

Lord, I am reminded that it is not my promises to You, but Your promises to me that make the difference in my life. Lord, help me to live my life with eternity in view. May I forever be reminded of the judgment seat of Christ and be inspired to live a life that will receive Your approval. May I do now that which I will be grateful for then. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Week 1, Thursday



MORNING

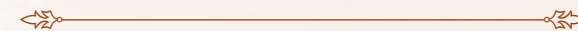
Lord, I desire to be taught by You today that I may know and obey. Too often I seem to be a hearer but not a doer. Please work in my heart that I would be overwhelmed with delight in doing Your will. Thank You for the privilege of serving You, and most of all for the unbelievable opportunity of knowing You. Please choose to use me today to be one that would decrease in living out my desires and increase in living out Your life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.”

PSALM 119:33

There are three words you find over and over again in the psalms: *knowledge*, *understanding*, and *wisdom*. *Knowledge* is that which is gained by our education and what we are taught. *Understanding* speaks more of discerning, which enables us to see the sense in what we have been taught. We need inner illumination to discover what the teaching means to our lives. What we learn with our minds and apprehend with our hearts must motivate the will to do what God commands. *Wisdom*, on the other hand, is a gift from God. The apostle James referred to wisdom as coming from above (James 3:17). The psalmist made it clear that he desired to know God’s will in order to do God’s will. He was both teachable and had a desire to learn. We hear both a tone of humility and dependence come through. He was not filled with just intellectual curiosity but also a desire to comprehend God’s truth in order to use this truth in a life of obedience to God. He sensed the truth of the hymn, “Trust and Obey,” for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus. May this be our desire today.



EVENING

Dear Lord, may the words of this text and the words of this hymn be the desire of my heart until I see You face to face. Help me to read Your Word with the thoughts of learning in order to obey. Help me not to be a hearer only, but also a doer of Your truth. Remind me often that it is not the truth I know but the truth I obey that makes the difference in my walk with You. Thank You for Your dear Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Lord, there are times I feel useless, yet I am trying to learn to always hope in Your Word. Even as the psalmist sensed his need for a new beginning, my heart so identifies with his. Would You please reach down this morning and grant me a fresh start at the start of this new day? Please stabilize my faith, and may I find my purest delight in You. Give me the desires of my heart that are in keeping with Your perfect will. Thank You that You are my hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.



“For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes.”

PSALM 119:83

Have you ever felt that you were losing, or had lost, whatever influence you have known in this life? The psalmist felt that everyone and everything was working against him. It is as though he was reminding himself that the only thing worth holding on to was that which he must never forget: “I do not forget Your statutes.” Charles Spurgeon once said, “Never question in the dark what God showed you in the light.” It really is true that we learn far more in the valleys than on the mountaintops; however, thank God for the mountains. Have you ever felt like a “wineskin in smoke”? The psalmist was referring to containers used for water, wine, and milk that were made out of animal skins. These containers, due to smoke and fire, often dried up and shriveled. As a result, they became useless. Talk about a dry spell—the psalmist felt parched in his spiritual life! His request was for a word from God that he believed had the power and potential to bring transforming power to his life. Today, maybe this is your need. Ask Him to revive you as His servant.

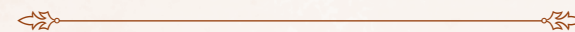


EVENING

My heavenly Father, I cannot count the times that I have felt useless. As I study Your Word, I am made aware that I am not alone. Help me to learn the lessons of those who have gone before me, and help me to leave a faithful trail that would speak of Your faithfulness to the next generations. Lord, when I feel that I do not have the strength to come to You, please come to where I am and breathe Your transforming breath into me. You are my only hope to stand in this world with all of its distractions and temptations. I look to You alone now. In Jesus' name, Amen.



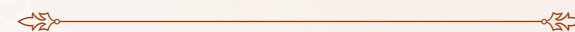
My dear heavenly Father, help me to walk in Your path today. Remind me of the joy that has always been mine when I have chosen to follow You. Let me never forget the heartache, pain, and disillusionment that come from my disobedience. Thank You for Your patience and love for me. Lord, I praise You that Your mercies are new with each new day. I am reminded this morning of Your promise that if I will delight myself in You, You will give me the desires of my heart (Ps. 37:4, 5). With a thankful heart, I love and praise You for who You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.



“Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.”

PSALM 119:35

There are some scriptures in the Bible that seem to be paradoxical. Why would someone ask the Lord to make him do what he delights in? The psalmist knew all too well that the Christian life is not a playground but a battlefield. Maybe he also knew that the Christian life is not about what we do for Him but about what He does in and through us. Our obedience is certainly the result of His power working within our yielded hearts. Paul understood this truth and spoke of it in Galatians. There is a war going on in the souls of all of us, and the real victory is in Christ alone. “Make me walk” is a request that I pray regularly in my own prayer time. Romans 7:14–25 clearly describes our need for God's intervention in our Christian walk. Grace really is the power to obey. I cannot and do not obey by my own power, but by His sufficient grace that empowers me to walk in His path. Today, my victory is dependent on His grace and my submission to Him. Psalm 37:23 says, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.” Thank God that He can change our “want-tos.”



EVENING

Dear Lord, as I come to the close of another day, I come with praise for Your sufficiency. I rest in the assurance that Your grace is enough. Make me walk in the path of Your Word, and may it always be my delight. Thank You that as I awake tomorrow, I have Your Word to direct me and teach me Your ways. Until You call me home, may it serve as a light to my path (Ps. 119:105). I love Your Word, dear Lord, and thank You for it. Please allow nothing to come between Your Word and me, for Jesus' sake. In Jesus' name, Amen.