

# *August 1*

## Money

### Psalm

*You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah  
For you meet him with rich blessings; you set a crown of fine gold on his head.*

Psalm 21:2-3

### Meditation

But have not we in a Christian land our idols too? How many worshippers of the god mammon are there among us! How many admirers of gold and silver eagles, or their paper representatives! With how much toil, and labor are they sought! With what greedy grasp are they held when obtained! With what warm affections are they viewed and gazed upon! What pleasurable thoughts do they inspire! To part with them without value received, is like rending the heartstrings of life. The love of money is the root of all evil.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 292

### Scripture

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

### Prayer

Father of Abundance, you provide everything I need. May I trust your provision and not trust money. May I cheerfully give to those in need.

## *August 2*

### Christian Community

#### Psalm

*Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;  
deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.*

Psalm 79:9

#### Meditation

As Christians, in their individual and social capacity, are frequently exhorted by the apostles to contribute to the wants of the poor, to distribute to the necessities of the saints: as the congregation at Jerusalem continued steadfastly in this institution; and as other congregations elsewhere were commended for these acceptable sacrifices, it is easy to see and feel that it is incumbent on all Christians as they have ability, and as circumstances require, to follow their example to this benevolent institution of him who became poor that the poor might be made rich by him.

Alexander Campbell, *Christian Baptist*, (1826), 126

#### Scripture

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

Acts 2:42-44

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to be one with my brothers and sisters, sharing everything as these early disciples did.

## August 3

### Blessedness

#### Psalm

*He chose his servant David, and took him from the sheepfolds;  
from tending the nursing ewes he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of  
Israel, his inheritance.*

Psalm 78:70-71

#### Meditation

How precious to the heart of the Christian the high privilege of fellowship with God. How poor, in comparison, all the pleasures of sense and all the honors of the world. It is to meet with the King Eternal, Immortal, and Invisible, amid the sacred mysteries of his spiritual temple, that we are here assembled. We come to seek from that holy presence those elevating and consoling influences which impart a divine peace to the soul and purify the affections from the polluting touch of life's vain idols. We come to approach the fountain of being and blessedness, to drink of its ever-flowing streams of life and joy.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 43

#### Scripture

*"And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."*

2 Samuel 7:28-29

#### Prayer

Father, you have blessed me beyond my imagination. May I offer heartfelt thanks and worship to you.

## *August 4*

### Following Jesus

#### Psalm

*They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

Psalm 82:5

#### Meditation

There is something in the demeanor and words of Jesus that captivates the human heart. He did not enter into any lengthy explanation of his mission or dissertation on what he expected of them, but simply in passing invited them to come, and they, as if drawn by a power which they neither could explain or resist, arose, leaving all behind and followed him.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 141

#### Scripture

*The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"*

*The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.*

John 1:35-39

#### Prayer

Rabbi Jesus, allow me to follow you this day, to come and see how you live in the world so I might be your disciple.

*August 5*

## Lordship of Christ

Psalm

*Let them know that you alone, whose name is the Lord,  
are the Most High over all the earth.*

Psalm 83:18

## Meditation

Hence, the Holy Spirit, and all the angels of Heaven are now at the disposal of our Savior. For in him all the promises of God are laid up; all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and all the fullness of the Deity, reside fully and truly in him. All these things, it is true, might be comprehended in one gift—the gift of Jesus as our Mediator; our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 52

## Scripture

*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”*

Acts 4:8-12

## Prayer

Jesus, you are my Lord, my Priest, my King! May I always praise your powerful name that saves!

## August 6

### Prayer and Faith

#### Psalm

*O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence,  
let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.*

Psalm 88:1-2

#### Meditation

In no other act does the soul assert its divine paternity so clearly as in seeking communion with and blessings from the Father of Spirits. But the value, the dignity, and the power of prayer grow out of the fact, that it is the cry of a human soul uttered in the ear of the Almighty Father, who will withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 59

#### Scripture

*Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"*

Mark 9:21-24

#### Prayer

Jesus, help my unbelief! Increase my trust in your goodness and power! Let my prayer come before you. Listen to my cry.

## *August 7*

### Generosity and Justice

Psalm

*Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.*

Psalm 87:3

### Meditation

There is a fellowship in the Church of Christ which gives to all its members a right to whatever is really necessary to their comfort, and which, if properly understood, would render all secular policies of insurance wholly unnecessary. It is useless to recommend to others the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ while we are ourselves neglecting the principles of common justice.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 526

### Scripture

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37

### Prayer

Let my testimony about Jesus be more than words, but in actions of generosity and love. Lord, make me like Barnabas!

## *August 8*

### Christian Unity

#### Psalm

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

Psalm 67:1-3

#### Meditation

That church does not worship acceptably, in which reconciliation amongst its members do not exist. It is not in a healthy state, nor does it exert a sanative influence on the unregenerated around. No refreshing seasons from the Lord will be experienced there while this state of things exist. What shall we say of the worship of the churches of every name, who not only are irreconciled one to another, but ever wrangling and hostilely opposing one another?

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 334-335

#### Scripture

*May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 15:5-6

#### Prayer

Lord, live in me so I may be reconciled to everyone, living in harmony so I might glorify you.



## *August 9*

### The Holy Spirit

#### Psalm

*For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?  
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,  
a God feared in the council of the holy ones,  
great and awesome above all that are around him?*

Psalm 89:6-7

#### Meditation

This language refers to the Holy Spirit as opening up in the human heart, not a cistern, but a life-giving fountain, forever satisfying all its deepest desires. It may be said that Christ Himself alone satisfies the human heart, and becomes a fountain of perpetual joy to the soul. This is true, and it is only as the Holy Spirit communicates Christ to the soul that he opens up this fountain of life and joy in us.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 145

#### Scripture

*Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

John 3:5-8

#### Prayer

Jesus, you have given me birth through water and the Spirit. May the Spirit give me living water to satisfy my deepest desires.

## *August 10*

### Jesus as King

#### Psalm

*The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness  
and justice are the foundation of his throne.  
Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.  
The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.*  
Psalm 97:1-3, 6

#### Meditation

As King, he is the oracle of God—to have disposal of the Holy Spirit—to be the Prophet and High Priest of the Temple of God—to have the throne of his Father—to be Governor of all nations on earth, and head of all hierarchs and powers in heaven—the supreme Lawgiver, the only Savior—the resurrection and the life, the ultimate and final Judge of all, and the Heir of all things.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 154

#### Scripture

*For the king will hear, and deliver his servant from the hand of the man who would cut both me and my son off from the heritage of God.' Your servant thought, 'The word of my lord the king will set me at rest'; for my lord the king is like the angel of God, discerning good and evil. The Lord your God be with you!"*

2 Samuel 14:16-17

#### Prayer

King Jesus, rule my life today. May I serve you with all my heart, showing your good to others.

*August 11*

## Christian Fellowship

Psalm

*I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, so that they may live with me;  
whoever walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.*

Psalm 101:6

## Meditation

Here, then, ends the whole matter of identifying the body of Christ, and the union of Christians. When we are turned to the Lord, reconciled to God, made one with him, we are united to all that are united to him. This is the genuine union, the genuine religion, and the genuine body in which to meet and worship.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 478

## Scripture

*Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."*

Mark 10:28-31

## Prayer

Christ Jesus, help me to leave all for you, knowing that you give me a new family in which to live.

## *August 12*

### Bread of Life

#### Psalm

*They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.  
He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.*

Psalm 105:40-41

#### Meditation

Thus it is “living,” incorruptible food alone that can impart life and incorruptibility. And oh! How striking the literal fact which perfects the agreement of these truths, that when our Lord gave his flesh for the life of the world that “living food” saw no corruption. For he was the “true bread from heaven”; the celestial manna; the “bread of God which came from heaven to give life to the world.” It was not possible that he should be held by death in the bondage of the grave.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 19-20

#### Scripture

*But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.*

John 4:32-34

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are living bread. Fill me with obedience to the will and work of the Father.

## *August 13*

### Calling on the Lord

#### Psalm

*Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.  
Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress.  
Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.*  
Psalm 102:1-2

#### Meditation

By all his tender mercies, then; his goodness, his great love; his wonderful compassion; by the value of your precious souls; by the sufferings of the bleeding, dying Savior; the shame and indignation heaped upon him, when he bore our sins on the cross; by all that is lovely and endearing, be persuaded to turn to the Lord and live forever.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 152

#### Scripture

*Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name."*

Acts 22:14-16

#### Prayer

O Lord, hear my cry as I call upon you this day. You heard my cry in baptism and washed away my sins. May I live forever in your Name!

## *August 14*

### Praise and Worship

#### Psalm

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.  
Give victory with your right hand, and answer me,  
so that those whom you love may be rescued.*

Psalm 108:5-6

#### Meditation

Those in heaven worship in truth—truth in the inward parts, and according to the prescribed truth in heaven. When they praise they do it from a sense of praise-worthiness; When they give thanks it flows from a sense of obligation for unmerited favor; when they bow before him, it is with a deep sense of their unworthiness and dependence. O for such worship to be on earth, as it is in heaven!

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 142

#### Scripture

*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,  
“Hosanna!*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!*

*Hosanna in the highest heaven!”*

Mark 11:8-10

#### Prayer

May your name be exalted, O God! I bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Jesus, the one who saves!

*August 15*

## Redemption

### Psalm

*This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.*  
Psalm 118:24-26

### Meditation

But in no other way could the love of God be so fully, so directly, and so efficaciously manifested to us as in the gift of his own Son. True, indeed, to him whom the Lamp of Truth illuminates, all nature is but an index or manifestation of the goodness and benevolence of God, as well as of his wisdom and power.  
Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 242

### Scripture

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*  
Galatians 3:13-14

### Prayer

Father, you redeemed me through the gift of your Son. Jesus, you became a curse for me, and gave me your Holy Spirit. I bless God for his marvelous gifts!

## *August 16*

### Prayer

#### Psalm

*Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;  
help me when you deliver them;  
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory in your heritage.*

Psalm 106:4-5

### Meditation

Is not prayer, next to repentance, one of the first fruits of that all-pervading, soul-transforming and regenerating principle by which God purifies the heart, makes it a fit temple for his Spirit, and gives new life and energy to the soul?

Robert Milligan, *A Brief Treatise on Prayer*, 42

### Scripture

*Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Mark 11:22-24

### Prayer

*Father, I thank you that you hear my prayers. Increase my faith in your goodness and power, so I may glory in your heritage.*



## *August 17*

### Salvation

#### Psalm

*Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.*

Psalm 124:6-7

### Meditation

While Christians are taught to expect and hope for a future salvation—a salvation from the power of death and the grave—a salvation to be revealed at the last time—they receive the first fruit of the Spirit, the salvation of the soul from guilt, pollution, and the dominance of sin, and come under the dominance of righteousness, peace, and joy.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 186

### Scripture

*But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.*

Acts 8:12-13

### Prayer

Father, you have saved me now and for eternity. May I know the joy and peace of salvation today and look forward to the salvation yet to come.

## *August 18*

### Daily Bread

#### Psalm

*Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.  
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy,  
and it shall go well with you.*

Psalm 128:1-2

#### Meditation

Here is the beautiful spirit of dependence on, and trust in, a Father's love and care. When we can recognize all our daily blessings as gifts from the hand of our heavenly Father, the gratitude we feel will express itself in constant thanksgiving to him.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 116

#### Scripture

*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. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."*

John 6:11-14

#### Prayer

Father, give me this day my daily bread. Jesus, feed me as you did the crowd, with yourself the living bread.

## *August 19*

### Help in Hardships

Psalm

*O Lord, remember in David's favor all the hardships he endured.*

Psalm 132:1

### Meditation

I have taken much pains to give you glimpses of his power and majesty, for I want you to know that our God has the power to help in time of need. I wish to bring him down, or rather bring us up to the point where our minds and hearts will take hold of him.

Is God our Father? Certainly. Even nature teaches that he is the Father of all the sons and daughters of earth. The adaptability and plenitude of the provisions of nature for human desires prove that he who made both had a Father's feeling.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 28

### Scripture

*Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong-doing.*

Job 1:20-22

### Prayer

God of love, I am weak and helpless. My struggles and sorrows threaten to overwhelm me. Lord, hear my cry and hurry to help me!

## *August 20*

### Grief

#### Psalm

*With my voice I cry to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.  
I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.  
When my spirit is faint, you know my way.  
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.*

Psalm 142:1-3

### Meditation

O Lord, you are our refuge in every time of trouble and of danger. Though we forget you, too often, when our path is unshadowed, and all goes well with us, yet in the day of affliction, when clouds overspread our sky, you are remembered by us as our only refuge, and to you we flee.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 139

### Scripture

*So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the troops; for the troops heard that day, "The king is grieving for his son." The troops stole into the city that day as soldiers steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!"*

2 Samuel 19:2-4

### Prayer

Loving Father, listen to me as I pour out my grief and complaint to you. I flee to you for help, O Lord. Deliver me from evil.

## *August 21*

### Help of the Spirit

#### Psalm

*Stretch out your hand from on high;  
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters, from the hand of aliens,  
whose mouths speak lies, and whose right hands are false.*

Psalm 144:7-8

#### Meditation

Without the Spirit of God, how infirm, how weak, how helpless we are! He gives help to us in time of need. It was this Spirit in the apostles and martyrs that made them strong to endure persecution and death in its most horrid forms. It is this Spirit in Christians that supports them in all the ills of life, and causes them to triumph in death.

Often this Spirit of prayer intercedes in groans unutterable—God understands the meaning and grants the grace we need.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1841), 240

#### Scripture

*As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.*

Mark 13:9-11

#### Prayer

Brother Jesus, this day may I rely on the help of the Holy Spirit, not on my own feeble wisdom and power. Give me words to say when others speak lies about me.

## *August 22*

### One in Christ

#### Psalm

*Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.  
Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.*

Psalm 111:1-2

#### Meditation

It is true, indeed, that for a short time the power of the Gospel seemed to neutralize and triumph over everything else. Under its potent influence some of the worst forms of human nature were molded into the image and likeness of Him who became flesh and dwelt among us.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 501

#### Scripture

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.*

Galatians 3:27-29

#### Prayer

Father, remove from my heart and life all prejudice and favoritism. May I embrace all your children, knowing that we all belong to Christ through grace.

*August 23*

## Living Food

Psalm

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.*

Psalm 1:1-2

## Meditation

How important to realize that there is this necessary connection between life and its food, and that as mortality and corruption depend upon food that is itself perishable, so eternal life is equally dependent upon that food which endures forever.

How happy the one who can truly realize by experience these precious spiritual truths.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 20

## Scripture

*So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink."*

John 6:53-55

## Prayer

Jesus, let me eat of your flesh and drink your blood today, as I meditate on your life and death for me.

*August 24*

## Resurrection

### Psalm

*Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.  
The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.  
All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror;  
they shall turn back, and in a moment be put to shame.*

Psalm 6:8-10

### Meditation

By the word of his power he created the heavens and the earth; by the word of his grace he reanimates the human soul; and by the word of his power he will again form our bodies anew, and reunite the spirit and the body in the bonds of an incorruptible and everlasting union.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 271

### Scripture

*All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.*

Acts 9:32-41

### Prayer

Lord, deliver me from that ultimate enemy, death. May my weeping be turned to joy!



*August 25*

## Prayer in Trouble

### Psalm

*You, O Lord, will protect us; you will guard us from this generation forever.  
On every side the wicked prowls, as vileness is exalted among humankind.*

Psalm 12:7-8

### Meditation

To come to the Lord in faith, over the sick, and pray for the sick, not simply in view of their being raised up, or recovered, but to invoke the divine blessing on them, in full assurance that the Lord will hear, answer, and bless them—it may be, not precisely as we meant it, or looked for it, but in a better way—is the exercise of living faith.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 185

### Scripture

*“Do not human beings have a hard service on earth, and are not their days like the days of a laborer? Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like laborers who look for their wages, so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me. When I lie down I say, ‘When shall I rise?’ But the night is long, and I am full of tossing until dawn. My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt; my skin hardens, then breaks out again. My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and come to their end without hope.”*

Job 7:1-6

### Prayer

“Father, hear me when I cry out in pain for others and for myself. Give me faith to trust your power to protect and heal.”

## *August 26*

### Psalm

*The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation,  
the God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me;  
who delivered me from my enemies;  
indeed, you exalted me above my adversaries; you delivered me from the violent.  
For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.*

Psalm 18:46-49

### Meditation

Evil is the one thing to be feared, and we do well to ask our heavenly Father to “deliver us from evil”—the evil that is without, and the evil thoughts that may arise in our own hearts. God alone can deliver us from the dominion of evil or the “Evil One.”

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 117

### Scripture

*Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”*

John 7:25-27

### Prayer

My Father, deliver me from evil this day. Lord Jesus, thank you for delivering me from the Evil One by the power of your death and resurrection.

*August 27*

## God's Temple

### Psalm

*I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:*

*You who fear the Lord, praise him!*

*All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

Psalm 22:22-23

### Meditation

As God dwelt in his temple of old, so now he dwells in his church. As he manifested himself in that which was the type of his future church, so now he dwells in his church on earth by his Spirit, and shines through them to the world in darkness.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1841), 66

### Scripture

*But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'*

1 Kings 5:4-5

### Prayer

Holy God, you had Solomon build you a temple. Today, build me and my sisters and brothers into a holy temple, so you will live in us.

*August 28*

## Judgment

### Psalm

*The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.  
He will execute judgment among the nations,  
filling them with corpses; he will shatter heads over the wide earth.  
He will drink from the stream by the path; therefore he will lift up his head.*

Psalm 110:5-7

### Meditation

The Gospel is to kindreds, and tongues, and sects, and nations, as it is to individuals, a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. It either kills or cures. It is the ax that is even now laid at the root of every tree in Christendom and every one which does not speedily bring forth good fruit must soon be cut down and cast into the fire.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 555-556

### Scripture

*Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me."*

John 8:14-16

### Prayer

Almighty God, deliver me from judgment through the love and power of your Son, Jesus. May I embrace the good news this day.

*August 29*

## Presence of God

Psalm

*Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.*

Psalm 114:7-8

## Meditation

How many thus enter into the sanctuary of God without any realizing sense of the divine presence! How many, alas, from that sleep of error never waken! Ye the Lord is in his holy temple and will there reveal himself to his people; even to the seed of Israel, his servant—the children of Jacob, his chosen.

How fitting it is that we should enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. How proper that we should here repress each worldly thought and yield our hearts up to those sacred communings in which faith lifts a ladder to the skies, that angels may descend to earth and God himself confirm his promises of grace.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 1-2

## Scripture

*“Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? It is higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.*

Job 11:7-9

## Prayer

Lord God, welcome me into your presence this day, that I might enjoy sweet communion with you.

## *August 30*

### Mercy

#### Psalm

*O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;  
who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;  
in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.*

Psalm 15:1-5

#### Meditation

We ardently desire to see godliness, piety, and love keep pace with  
knowledge.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 4

#### Scripture

*So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will  
be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.*

James 2:12-13

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me! May I have mercy on others. May I walk  
blamelessly before you this day.

# *August 31*

## God's Promises

### Psalm

*Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

*Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.*

Psalm 36:5-6

### Meditation

It takes a lifetime for each individual to test the faithfulness of God for himself or herself, and if you are not willing to pledge your whole life, give your entire time to the work, you might as well not begin.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 162

### Scripture

*Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors.*

1 Kings 8:56-58

### Prayer

Faithful God, teach me this day to trust in your promises, knowing that you will never leave or abandon me.