

# September 1

## Deity of Christ

### Psalm

*Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise.  
Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.*

Psalm 119:41-42

### Meditation

The introduction of the worship of the Messiah into the church of the living God, forms a new era in the history of the true religion, and can be justified only on the hypothesis that our Lord Jesus Christ was divine—"God manifest in the flesh."

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 212

### Scripture

*Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."*

John 8:54-58

### Prayer

Jesus, God made flesh, you are before Abraham. May I worship you today in both word and action.

# September 2

## The Crucifixion

### Psalm

*The wicked plot against the righteous, and gnash their teeth at them;  
but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that their day is coming.*

Psalm 37:12-13

### Meditation

But you say did Christ die for me? The Scriptures aver that he “died for all;” not only those who already believe, or have in any age believed, but “for the sins of the whole world.” If therefore you are in the form of flesh and blood, you are included in the great reconciliation by Jesus Christ.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 516-517

### Scripture

*Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.*

Mark 15:12-15

### Prayer

Christ, you suffered unjust punishment for me. You trusted in your Father for resurrection. Grant that I may know the depth of your love for me.

# September 3

## Redemption

### Psalm

*You have seen, O Lord; do not be silent! O Lord, do not be far from me!  
Wake up! Bestir yourself for my defense, for my cause, my God and my Lord!  
Vindicate me, O Lord, my God, according to your righteousness,  
and do not let them rejoice over me.*

Psalm 35:22-24

### Meditation

Adopted thus into the family of God, you have not only received the name, the rank, and the dignity, but also the spirit of a child of God, and find, as such, that you are kings, priests, and heirs of God. You now feel that all things are yours, because you are Christ's and Christ is God's. The hope of the coming regeneration of the heavens and the earth, at the resurrection of the just, animates you. You look for the redemption, the adoption of your bodies, and their transfiguration.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 238

### Scripture

*For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.*

Job 19:25-27

### Prayer

Jesus, my Redeemer, I bless your holy name! Vindicate me this day, O Lord, and protect me from all who would harm me.

# September 4

## Resurrection

### Psalm

*I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.  
O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.  
O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.*  
Psalm 30:1-3

### Meditation

The promises of God are these; that the Messiah was to be the first fruits of a resurrection; that his dead men should live, and their bones be made to flourish like a green herb; that he should see a seed, who would publish his praises; that as in Adam all die so in Messiah all should be made alive; that he would raise us up at the last day.  
Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 563

### Scripture

*When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people.*  
Acts 13:29-31

### Prayer

Loving God who raised Jesus from the dead, you have raised me from the dead to be in Christ. May I live that new life today.

# September 5

## Death in the Lord

### Psalm

*As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.*

Psalm 103:15-16

### Meditation

The prize of the Christian calling can be nothing less than the complete transformation into Christ's likeness, both in moral and bodily perfection, and the subsequent entrance into all the blessedness of state and being which make heaven. How all the world's most coveted prizes dwindle into utter worthlessness when compared with this!

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 67-68

### Scripture

*Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."*

Revelation 14:12-13

### Prayer

Father, redeem me from my fear of death so I might know how blessed it is to die in the Lord Jesus.

# September 6

## Love of Knowledge

### Psalm

*In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.*

Psalm 44:8

### Meditation

As for our love of knowledge, Christianity purposes to fill us with all the riches and treasures of Jesus Christ. She opens for us a field of inquiry and sacred meditation, which the literature of the nations knows nothing at all about; and by assuring us that all we see, the world, the universe, is of God, she inspires us with an ardent zeal to inquire into his glorious works; so that she brings the works and words of God alike before us, and fills us with the most excellent knowledge.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 208-209

### Scripture

*And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.*

Philippians 1:9-11

### Prayer

Father, I bless you. May my love overflow with insight this day that I might work together with you in helping those in need.

# September 7

## Life in the Kingdom

### Psalm

*Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers,  
consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels,  
that you may tell the next generation  
that this is God, our God forever and ever.  
He will be our guide forever.*  
Psalm 48:12-14

### Meditation

So believers are one in the same benevolent operation of saving the world. They are ‘workers together with God’—they cooperate with God and one another in all divine means, ordained of God to effect this great end. They regard not their own things, exclusively, but also the things of others. They divide their substance with the poor and needy—the widow and the fatherless; nor do they withdraw the hand of mercy from giving the means of sending the gospel the world in darkness.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1840), 257

### Scripture

*There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, “It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.” And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.*

Acts 14:22-23

### Prayer

Blessed are you, King of the Universe! May I work with you this day even if hardships and persecutions come.

# September 8

## Light

### Psalm

*But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.  
For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress.  
O my strength, I will sing praises to you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.*  
Psalm 59:16-17

### Meditation

O for a revival of God's own work in the world! O that we all may be  
Christians indeed—sacrifices salted with divine grace<sup>1</sup> O Lord, may thy truth  
shine as the sun upon our benighted, frozen world! May all that profess the  
name of Jesus be filled with the Spirit, and bring forth the fruits of love, joy,  
peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, and temperance.  
Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 180

### Scripture

*Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and  
innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,  
in which you shine like stars in the world.*  
Philippians 2:14-15

### Prayer

Father, may I shine with the light of Jesus today, through the power of your  
Spirit. Keep me from murmuring and arguing.



# *September 9*

## The Holy Spirit

### Psalm

*You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.  
Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.*

Psalm 119:65-66

### Meditation

If the love of God for us, as manifested in Christ Jesus, awakens a responsive love for God in the human heart, along this line of reciprocal affection God sends his Spirit, and with Him the richest treasures of his grace and truth, and we are "filled with the fullness of God."

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 73-74

### Scripture

*After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us."*

Acts 15:7-9

### Prayer

God of love, you have poured your love into my heart through your Spirit!  
May I be filled with your love today so I might share it with others.

# September 10

## The Goal

### Psalm

*I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.*

Psalm 40:8

### Meditation

Christ is the goal. His perfect, sinless character is the mark toward which we are pressing. Such an aim and plan of life necessitate constant growth both in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. It forbids that we should rest, contentedly, on a low plane of spiritual attainment. What an enchanting view of life does Christianity thus present to the young! It is not a system of dead forms and arbitrary rules, but a glorious life of unending progress in knowledge and virtue, with Christ as our leader and our goal.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 66-67

### Scripture

*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:12-14

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the plan and goal of my life. May I not be discouraged but press on in my race.

# September 11

## Creation

### Psalm

*God, who is enthroned from of old, will hear, and will humble them—  
because they do not change, and do not fear God.*

Psalm 55:19

### Meditation

At the simple command of the Great Architect, suns, and moons, and stars, and systems sprang into existence. And though they were perhaps at first in a chaotic state, they immediately commenced their march sublime under the laws and forces of universal gravitation.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 24

### Scripture

*Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.*

*"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?"*

Job 38:1-7

### Prayer

Almighty God, Creator, I bow humbly before you and bless you as my Maker and the one who sustains me. May I know your greatness and beauty this day.

# September 12

## Unity

### Psalm

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!*

Psalm 133:1

### Meditation

All must be holy, meek, holy, and heavenly as the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. He is the true and perfect example for our imitation. The cement, by which the different members of the building are bound and united together, is the Spirit of Jesus in them. Without this cement the building would fall. Hence we see the absolute necessity that each member have the Spirit of Christ, without it, it is impossible to be united according to the express will of God.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 84

### Scripture

*So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.*

Matthew 5:23-26

### Prayer

Jesus, Savior, bind me this day with your strong love to my brothers and sisters. I ask this through your Holy Spirit who makes us one.

# September 13

## Knowledge and the Spirit

### Psalm

*People will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous;  
surely there is a God who judges on earth."*

Psalm 58:11

### Meditation

I have said that I had rather enjoy the Spirit, dwelling in me one hour, than to dispute about the mode of its operation a thousand years. What can we, with such limited minds, comprehend of unrevealed things? It is enough for us to believe that we receive the Spirit through faith and obedience, and that the disobedient unbeliever has no scriptural authority to expect it.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1835), 110

### Scripture

*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our*

*Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I enjoy your Holy Spirit today. May be give me gifts of knowledge and speech as I wait to see you.

# September 14

## Repentance

### Psalm

*"Bless God in the great congregation, the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain!"  
There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in a body,  
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.*

Psalm 68:26-27

### Meditation

How kind and compassionate is our heavenly Father, against who we have sinned, not only one year, but every year of our life, till we turned to the Lord, to forgive all our sins—blot them from the book of remembrance and remember them no more forever—not even permit them to be mentioned; and how wonderfully must one be to refuse to come and accept this most gracious pardon, when freely and mercifully offered!

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 151-152

### Scripture

*He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

Matthew 4:13-17

### Prayer

Heavenly father, turn my heart toward you this day in repentance, through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

# September 15

## Spirit and Knowledge

### Psalm

*I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.*

Psalm 119:93

### Meditation

The scriptures will never keep together in union and fellowship members not in the spirit of the scriptures, which spirit is love, peace, unity, forbearance, and cheerful obedience. This is the spirit of the great Head of the body. I blush for my fellows who hold up the Bible as the bond of union yet make their opinions of it tests of fellowship; who plead for union of all Christians, yet refuse fellowship with such as dissent from their notions. Vain men! Their zeal is not according to knowledge, nor is their spirit that of Christ.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1835), 180

### Scripture

*But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.*

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

### Prayer

Lord, open my heart through your Spirit so I might comprehend what you have prepared for those who love you.

# September 16

## Light

### Psalm

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.*

Psalm 19:7-10

### Meditation

No other man had ever made such a claim as this, but he, unlike all others, was able to back up his claims by the life he lived and by the wonders which he performed. He claimed without hesitancy or qualification to be the light of the world: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9: 5).

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 42

### Scripture

*Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."*

John 12:35-36

### Prayer

Jesus, be my light this day. Let me live as a child of light, so others may see the path to God.



# September 17

## Judgment

### Psalm

*Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart.  
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.*

Psalm 73:1-2

### Meditation

How utterly wonderful, when the waywardness of the human race in all the past generations is considered, that the forbearance and long-suffering of God should have extended six thousand years; that the love of God to us, as displayed through our Lord Jesus the Christ, should have been extended for eighteen long centuries, while our God has been all the time extending his hands in mercy and in infinite compassion, in gracious invitations to return and live.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 454

### Scripture

*But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.*

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

### Prayer

Lord, help me not to judge myself but to leave you to graciously judge me. In turn, may I not judge others, but trust them to your judgment.

# September 18

## The Great Shepherd

### Psalm

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*  
Psalm 23

### Meditation

What a beautiful picture of Christ's love and care for his disciples. How tenderly the shepherd guards the young and feeble of his flock, often carrying the lambs in his bosom.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 31-32

### Scripture

*The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

John 10:2-4

### Prayer

Lord, you are my shepherd. Protect, carry, and feed me this day.

# September 19

## Turning to God

### Psalm

*When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.  
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.*

Psalm 34:17-18

### Meditation

Think of these things and turn, while it is called today. Be entreated by all the tender mercies of our God, his goodness and compassion, to turn and live. Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, but bow your will to the will of God.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 127

### Scripture

*When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.*

Esther 4:1-3

### Prayer

Father, hear my cry of mourning, mend my broken heart, heal my crushed spirit, so I might turn to you and be saved.

# September 20

## God

### Psalm

*I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.  
I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.*

Psalm 77:11-12

### Meditation

How holy and how reverend is the name of God! How awful the deep mysteries of the Divine nature! That name, that nature, constitute the study of life. Even amidst the darkness of heathenism, some strove to grope their way to God, and the multitude of their idols, while it shows the failure, proclaims also the earnestness of their search.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 43-44

### Scripture

*So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant."*

2 Kings 5:14-15

### Prayer

God of love, there is no God in all the earth but you! I praise your Name, remember your deeds, and meditate on your works.

# September 21

## Care for the Poor

### Psalm

*I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall live in your presence.*

Psalm 140:12-13

### Meditation

How much true riches we may secure and lay up in heaven, while we dwell on earth, by wisely and piously distributing our goods and money to the glory of God.

Wealth rightly and religiously used is a great blessing, but if improperly and irreligiously used, is a great curse. O that this world would lay these things to heart, especially the professors of Christianity! Covetousness is idolatry, and no idolater hath any inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1840), 249

### Scripture

*Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.*

Amos 5:11-12

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you freely gave all for me. Open my heart so I might share what you have given me with those in need. Keep me from covetousness.

# September 22

## Living in God's Presence

### Psalm

*I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness,  
and sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.*

Psalm 7:17

### Meditation

The presence of God in the soul is like the presence of God in heaven—full of glory and joy. Our life is divine only as we dwell in his presence and walk in him—the invisible God. Our religious character resolves itself into our mental devotion in the first instance, which will be characterized by poverty or fullness according to the nature of our faith.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 354

### Scripture

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.*

Titus 2:11-14

### Prayer

Loving God, may I be aware of your presence today so that I might live a self controlled, upright, and godly life.

# September 23

## Praise

### Psalm

*Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!  
Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord.  
May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.*  
Psalm 134

### Meditation

Therefore, to make use of ourselves and the goods we possess, to any other purpose than to glorify God, is a sin of no small magnitude. As our great High Priest, we must pray for all—for kings and all in authority—we must make strong cries and supplications to him that is able to save—we must offer praise and thanksgiving, the calves of our lips. All our offerings must be seasoned with salt, and on a pure altar, on which the sacred fire of the spirit of burning, must continually be found, in the flames of which our offerings ascend to God with acceptance.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1840), 333

### Scripture

*Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: "When locks are long in Israel, when the people offer themselves willingly—bless the Lord! "Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the Lord I will sing, I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.*

Judges 5:1-3

### Prayer

Bless the Lord! May all my life and breath give glory to God! Lord, accept my sacrifice of praise this day

# September 24

## Truth

### Psalm

*In my distress I cry to the Lord, that he may answer me:  
"Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue."*  
Psalm 120:1-2

### Meditation

But Christ did not deliver all of that message to humans while here in the flesh. There were certain truths which he desired to speak which they were not able at that time to receive. This condition of things was provided for in sending the Holy Spirit to abide in the Church as its guide until it shall come into the fullness of the knowledge of Christ.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 203

### Scripture

*Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.*

*I was overjoyed when some of the friends arrived and testified to your faithfulness to the truth, namely how you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

3 John 2-4

### Prayer

Father, may I love and speak your truth. Lord Jesus, continue to guide me in the truth through your Holy Spirit. Let me live the truth, not merely speak it



# September 25

## Wisdom

### Psalm

*Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."*

*They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.*

*The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise,  
who seek after God.*

Psalm 14:1-2

### Meditation

Fill me with your Holy Spirit, increase my faith, intensify my zeal for you and the souls of others; press on me the weight of the world's woe; keep me in your love; satisfy my reasonable wants, and place in my hands much of this world's goods, and then give me the wisdom that comes alone from you, that I may manage your work to the smallest detail, unto your glory.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 90

### Scripture

*God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like."*

2 Chronicles 1:11-12

### Prayer

Father, give me wisdom as you did to Solomon. May I always seek you and glorify you.

# September 26

## Fasting

### Psalm

*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.  
It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;  
for he gives sleep to his beloved.*

Psalm 127:1-2

### Meditation

One now chooses to go to the house of fasting rather than to the house of feasting, in order that one give full scope and free exercise to the swellings and impulses of the soul.

And hence it is that on great and solemn occasions fasting has ordinarily, in all ages and all nations, been connected with prayer as a means of spiritual strength and religious discipline.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 388

### Scripture

*Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.*

Joel 1:14

### Prayer

God of plenty, who provides my daily bread, as I fast, may I hunger for you and you alone.

# September 27

## Life is Short

### Psalm

*"Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting my life is.  
You have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.  
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath."*

Psalm 39:4-5

### Meditation

How short our Life! How vast is eternity! We have but a little time allowed us to make preparations for an eternal home—but a little time to profit our fellow creatures. We have no time allowed for angry debates, wrangling, and disputation.

It is high time to awake out of sleep, and to shake ourselves from the defiling dust of past ages. Let us endeavor to pluck our poor, blind fellows, as brands from the burning. Let self sink at the feet of Jesus. Let him, and his glory, and the salvation of souls be your polar star.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1841), 260

### Scripture

*A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Isaiah 40:6-8

### Prayer

Lord, let me know the brevity of my life so I might live to the fullest! This day may I fill each moment with service to you and to others

# September 28

## Communion with God

### Psalm

*To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.*

Psalm 123:1-2

### Meditation

To establish and maintain this communion is the great end of religion. To unite the soul to God; to erect in the human heart a living temple for his abode; to secure the enjoyment of that Divine presence which is the earnest of eternal blessedness: these are its noble and exalted aims—its truest, holiest purposes.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 45

### Scripture

*His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.*

2 Peter 1:3

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have made me a participant in the very life of God. Open my eyes to your presence this day.

# September 29

## Jerusalem

### Psalm

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:*

*"May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers."*

*For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."*

*For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.*

Psalm 122:6-9

### Meditation

This is a beautiful illustration of the sanctifying and soul-redeeming influences of the Gospel. Humanity is dead in trespasses and in sins. But a fountain has been opened in the house of David; a living stream has gone forth from the side of our Redeemer. It has purified the Sanctuary; it has cleansed the temple of God. But it cannot be confined within the limits of any one town, city, or continent. It is the remedy which God has provided to supply the wants of a fallen world, and hence he has made it as free as the air or the sunlight of heaven.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 563

### Scripture

*You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, comely as Jerusalem,  
terrible as an army with banners.*

Song of Solomon 6:4

### Prayer

Oh, Lord, Jerusalem was beautiful because of your presence there. May I show the beauty of your presence this day, as I wait for the New Jerusalem where I will be with you forever.

# September 30

## Faithfulness

### Psalm

*I cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.  
He will send from heaven and save me, he will put to shame those who trample on me.  
God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness.*

Psalm 57:2-3

### Meditation

How would a man feel towards a wife, whose heart was divided between her husband and other lovers? God “our Maker, is our husband.” How will he feel towards us, if our heart be divided between him and the world? Compared with the love we must have to God, all other love to the dearest objects on earth is a nothing—as hatred. We leave all and cleave to him as our chief beloved.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 290-291

### Scripture

*“Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.”*

Hosea 6:1-3

### Prayer

My God, you have been faithful to me. May I show complete faithfulness to you, loving you alone.