



THINK

**ON
THESE
THINGS**

Living with an Eternal Perspective

DR. KEN BOA

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**“I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the course,
I have kept the faith.”
(2 Timothy 4:7)**

PREFACE

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says God sets eternity in the human heart. C. S. Lewis echoed this truth when he wrote, “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

Yet, here we are, strangers on this planet, called to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling” we’ve received (Ephesians 4:1) during our relatively brief earthly sojourns. God’s goal: conform us, as his sons and daughters, more and more to the image of Christ.

But how does this happen? How *can* it happen in a world so loud, so distracting, so ubiquitous? How do we not only keep the things of this life from distracting us, weighing us down, or deceiving our hearts into sin, but also see life more like our Creator sees it—through his lens?

In reality, God is the only one who can give anyone an eternal perspective, by the power of his Holy Spirit. But we also have a responsibility to put ourselves at his disposal so he can do this work in us—by making ourselves available to him and submitting our hearts, minds, and actions to him (1 Peter 2:13). The Scripture-based tools and words in this booklet are intended to help you do just that.

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Many of the enclosed truths and promises I have been using for years—meditating on them at various times of the day. They're not a magic wand, nor should they be repeated in a rote manner. But when used correctly and often, they can be a wonderful aid for continually resetting our minds on eternal things, the things that really matter to God, and for “re-seeing” life through his eyes.

I pray these words become meditations of *your* heart—prayers to your perfect, loving Father—reminding you, wherever you are in life, of who and Whose you are. For in the end, it's really only his opinion (of us and everything around us) that ultimately matters.



MORNING AFFIRMATIONS

This set of affirmations is a tool to help you renew your mind at the beginning of each day, by guiding you through a biblical perspective on the fundamental issues of life: *Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?* You needn't go through all of the passages every day, nor should they become statements you repeat by rote. Instead, use them as a preliminary (not a substitute) to prayer and Bible reading.

1. SUBMITTING TO GOD

Because of all You have done for me, I present my body to You as a living sacrifice for this day. I want to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, affirming that Your will for me is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

2. ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

Offer a brief word of praise to God for one or more of his **attributes** (e.g., love and compassion, grace, mercy, holiness, goodness, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, truthfulness, unchanging

character, eternity) and/or **works** (e.g., creation, care, redemption, loving purposes, second coming).

Thank him for the good things in your life.

3. EXAMINATION

Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank him for his forgiveness. *Psalm 139:23-24*

4. MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me."
Galatians 2:20

I have **forgiveness** from the penalty of sin because Christ died for me. *Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3*

I have **freedom** from the power of sin because I died with Christ. *Colossians 2:11; 1 Peter 2:24*

I have **fulfillment** for this day because Christ lives in me. *Philippians 1:20-21*

By **faith**, I will allow Christ to manifest his life through me. *2 Corinthians 2:14*

5. FILLING OF THE SPIRIT

Ask the Spirit to control and fill you for this day.

I want to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). When I walk by the Spirit, I will not carry out the desire of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). If I live by the Spirit, I will also walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

6. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Pray for the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. *Galatians 5:22-23*

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

(Galatians 5:16, 25)

“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

7. PURPOSE OF MY LIFE

I want to love the Lord my God with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind, and I want to love my neighbor as myself (Matthew 22:37, 39). *My purpose is to love God completely, love myself correctly, and love others compassionately.*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
(Matthew 22:37)

I will seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness.
Matthew 6:33

I have been called to follow Christ and to be a fisher of men. *Matthew 4:19*

I will be a witness to those who do not know him and participate in the Great Commission to go and make disciples. *Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8*

I want to glorify the Father by bearing much fruit, and so prove to be Christ's disciple. *John 15:8*

8. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DAY

I will trust in the Lord with all my heart, and not lean on my own understanding. In all my ways I will acknowledge him, and he will make my paths straight. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

"God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28; also see 8:29). I acknowledge that You are in control of all things in my life, and that You have my best interests at heart. Because of this I will trust and obey You today.

Review the events of this day and commit them into the hands of God.

9. PROTECTION IN THE WARFARE

AGAINST THE WORLD: RENEW

I will set my mind on the things of the Spirit. *Romans 8:5*

Since I have been raised up with Christ, I will keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. I will set my mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. *Colossians 3:1-2; also see 3:3-4 and Hebrews 12:1-2*

**“Set your mind
on the things
above, not on
the things that
are on earth.”
(Colossians 3:2)**

I will be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving I will let my requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus. Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, I will let my mind dwell on these things. *Philippians 4:6-8; also see 4:9*

AGAINST THE FLESH: RECKON

I know that my old self was crucified with Christ, so that I am no longer a slave to sin, for he who has died is freed from sin. I will reckon myself as dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. I will not present the members of my body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but I will present myself to God as one alive from the dead, and my members as instruments of righteousness to God. *Romans 6:6-7, 11, 13*

**“Reckon
yourselves to
be dead indeed
to sin, but alive
to God in Christ
Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 6:11
NKJV)**

AGAINST THE DEVIL: RESIST

As I submit myself to God and resist the devil, he will flee from me. *James 4:7*

I will be of sober spirit and on the alert. My adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But I will resist him, firm in my faith.

1 Peter 5:8-9

I will take up the full armor of God, so that I may be able to resist and stand firm. I put on the belt of **truth** and the breastplate of **righteousness**; I put on my feet the preparation of the gospel of **peace**; and I take up the shield of **faith** with which I will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. I take the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God. With all **prayer** and petition I will pray at all times in the Spirit and be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints. *Ephesians 6:13-18*

**“Take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and ... stand firm.”
(Ephesians 6:13)**

10. THE COMING OF CHRIST AND MY FUTURE WITH HIM

Your kingdom come, Your will be done. *Matthew 6:10*

You have said, “I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to me. *Romans 8:18*

I will not lose heart, but though my outer man is decaying, yet my inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for me an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while I look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**“Therefore we do not lose heart ... For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”
(2 Corinthians 4:16, 17)**

My citizenship is in heaven, from which also I eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 3:20*

Also consider 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 11:1, 6; 2 Peter 3:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3.

“Beloved, now we are God’s children, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

(1 John 3:2-3)

WHO DOES GOD SAY I AM?

This list of biblical affirmations about our identity in Jesus Christ is derived from selected passages in the New Testament. This is just a portion of the many truths about who we have become through faith in God's Son, but it is a powerful inventory to review from time to time.

I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." *John 1:12*

I AM A BRANCH OF THE TRUE VINE, AND A CONDUIT OF CHRIST'S LIFE.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ... I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." *John 15:1, 5*

I AM A FRIEND OF JESUS.

"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not

know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” *John 15:15*

I HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED AND REDEEMED.

“... being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” *Romans 3:24*

MY OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, AND I AM NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN.

“... knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.” *Romans 6:6*

I WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED BY GOD.

“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” *Romans 8:1*

I HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.” *Romans 8:2*

AS A CHILD OF GOD, I AM A FELLOW HEIR WITH CHRIST.

“... and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” *Romans 8:17*

I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY CHRIST.

“Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.” *Romans 15:7*

I HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE A SAINT.

“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.” *1 Corinthians 1:2 (also see Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2)*

IN CHRIST JESUS, I HAVE WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION.

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.” *1 Corinthians 1:30*

MY BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN ME.

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” *1 Corinthians 3:16*

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” *1 Corinthians 6:19*

I AM JOINED TO THE LORD AND AM ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM.

“But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” *1 Corinthians 6:17*

GOD LEADS ME IN THE TRIUMPH AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” *2 Corinthians 2:14*

THE HARDENING OF MY MIND HAS BEEN REMOVED IN CHRIST.

“But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.” *2 Corinthians 3:14*

I AM A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” *2 Corinthians 5:17*

I HAVE BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” *2 Corinthians 5:21*

I HAVE BEEN MADE ONE WITH ALL WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” *Galatians 3:28*

I AM NO LONGER A SLAVE, BUT A CHILD AND AN HEIR.

“Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.” *Galatians 4:7*

I HAVE BEEN SET FREE IN CHRIST.

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.” *Galatians 5:1*

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” *Ephesians 1:3*

I AM CHOSEN, HOLY, AND BLAMELESS BEFORE GOD.

“... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.” *Ephesians 1:4*

I AM REDEEMED AND FORGIVEN BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” *Ephesians 1:7*

I HAVE BEEN PREDESTINED BY GOD TO OBTAIN AN INHERITANCE.

“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.” *Ephesians 1:10b-11*

I HAVE BEEN SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE.

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.” *Ephesians 1:13*

BECAUSE OF GOD’S MERCY AND LOVE, I HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE WITH CHRIST.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).” *Ephesians 2:4-5*

I AM SEATED IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES WITH CHRIST.

“... and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” *Ephesians 2:6*

I AM GOD’S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED TO DO GOOD WORKS.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” *Ephesians 2:10*

I HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR TO GOD BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Ephesians 2:13

I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY AND A PARTAKER OF HIS PROMISE.

“The Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” *Ephesians 3:6; also see 5:30*

I HAVE BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENT ACCESS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

“... in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.” *Ephesians 3:12*

MY NEW SELF IS RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY.

“Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Ephesians 4:24

I WAS FORMERLY DARKNESS, BUT NOW I AM LIGHT IN THE LORD.

“You were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.” *Ephesians 5:8*

I AM A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also

we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
Philippians 3:20

THE PEACE OF GOD GUARDS MY HEART AND MIND.

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:7*

GOD SUPPLIES ALL MY NEEDS.

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:19*

I HAVE BEEN MADE COMPLETE IN CHRIST.

“In Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.” *Colossians 2:10*

I HAVE BEEN RAISED UP WITH CHRIST.

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” *Colossians 3:1*

MY LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.

“For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” *Colossians 3:3*

CHRIST IS MY LIFE, AND I WILL BE REVEALED WITH HIM IN GLORY.

“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” *Colossians 3:4*

I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN OF GOD, AND I AM HOLY AND BELOVED.

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” *Colossians 3:12*

GOD LOVES ME AND HAS CHOSEN ME.

“... knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.” *1 Thessalonians 1:4*

The more we embrace these truths from Scripture about who we have become in Christ, the more stable, grateful, and fully assured we will be in this world.

RENEWAL VERSES

FIRST COLLECTION

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” *Matthew 22:37-40*

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” *John 15:12-13*

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ... ²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him. ... ²³If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” *John 14:15, 21, 23*

“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails.” *1 Corinthians 13:4-8a*

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. ⁹The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” *Philippians 4:6-9*

“Rejoice always; ¹⁷pray without ceasing; ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” *Galatians 5:13*

“Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹²The night is almost

gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.” *Romans 13:11-14*

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” *Romans 5:3-5*

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” *James 1:2-5*

“And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” *2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” *Ephesians 4:31-32*

“This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.” *James 1:19-20*

“See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.” *1 Thessalonians 5:15*

“But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ ⁷Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ... ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” *James 4:6-8, 10*

SECOND COLLECTION

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!
5You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might. 6These
words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on
your heart. 7You shall teach them diligently to your sons
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and
when you walk by the way and when you lie down and
when you rise up. 8You shall bind them as a sign on your
hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.
9You shall write them on the doorposts of your house
and on your gates.” *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and
all these things will be added to you.” *Matthew 6:33*

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding. 6In all your ways acknowledge
Him, and He will make your paths straight. 7Do not be
wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away
from evil.” *Proverbs 3:5-7*

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the
counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners,
nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2But his delight is in the
law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and
night. 3He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams
of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf
does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.”
Psalms 1:1-3

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. ¹⁰With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.” *Psalms 119:9-11*

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” *Philippians 2:3-11*

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” *Joshua 1:8*

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” *Hebrews 4:12-13*

“The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” *1 John 2:9-11*

“For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ... ⁸But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.” *James 3:2, 8*

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ... ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ... ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” *Galatians 5:16, 22-23, 25*

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸For the one who sows

to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” *Galatians 6:7-10*

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. ²⁵For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?” *Luke 9:23-25*

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” *Galatians 2:20*

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” *Romans 12:1-2*

THIRD COLLECTION

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” *Matthew 11:28–30*

“Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” *Matthew 6:9–13*

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.” *Matthew 5:3-11*

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” *1 Peter 5:5b-7*

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰and have put on

the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—¹¹a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” *Colossians 3:1-17*

“In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His

Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”

Romans 8:26–30

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” *2 Corinthians 1:3–4*

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” *Matthew 7:7–8*

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” *Colossians 3:23–24*

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” *Hebrews 11:6*

PAUL'S FOUR LIFE-CHANGING PRAYERS

Use these prayers from four of Paul's epistles to help you pray for yourself and others.

"[I ask] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe." *Ephesians 1:17-19a*

**"... that you will
know what is
the hope of His
calling, what
are the riches
the glory of His
inheritance in
the saints ..."
(Ephesians 1:18)**

"[May the Father] grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and

depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” *Ephesians 3:16-19*

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” *Philippians 1:9-11*

**“... that your love
may abound
still more and
more in real
knowledge and
all discernment,
so that you may
approve the
things that are
excellent ...”
(Philippians
1:9-10a)**

“[I ask] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.” *Colossians 1:9b-12*

FOUR TRANSFORMING WORDS

Psalm 37 invites us to adopt a long-run perspective on life by embracing God's purposes and ordering all of our affairs (e.g., family, work, leisure, finances, ministry) in light of them.

There are four positive commands in this psalm that involve our relationship with the Lord:

1. Trust
2. Delight
3. Commit
4. Wait

1. TRUST IN THE LORD.

*"**Trust** in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. ... Commit your way to the Lord; **trust** also in Him, and He will do it."*

Psalm 37:3, 5

Put your confidence and hope in the character and promises of the Lord (see also Romans 8:28).

2. DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD.

*“**Delight** yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4*

Let the nearness of God be your good (Psalm 73:28), and cultivate intimacy with the Lord through regular time in his Word and in prayer.

3. COMMIT YOUR WAYS TO THE LORD.

*“**Commit** your way to the Lord; trust also in Him, and he will do it.” Psalm 37:5*

Unreservedly give all your plans, dreams, hopes, and desires to the Lord.

4. BE STILL AND WAIT FOR THE LORD.

*“Rest in the Lord and **wait** patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ... For evildoers will be cut off, but those who **wait** for the Lord, they will inherit the land. ... **Wait** for the Lord and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.” Psalm 37:7, 9, 34*

If we trust his character, we must also trust his timing (see also 1 Peter 5:6–7).

BEFORE RISING FROM BED

Make a habit of giving God the first moments of your day. Use one or all of these couplets to help center your mind and heart on him and his purposes for your life before your feet hit the floor.

LOVE AND GRATITUDE

"I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders." Psalm 9:1

Express **love** for the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Offer God **gratitude** for one or more things in your life.

SUBMIT AND DEPEND

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Willingly **submit** to God's purpose for your life today.

Depend on him this day, committing to ...

- Trust the Father
- Abide in the Son
- Walk by the Holy Spirit

COMMIT AND OBEY

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him." John 14:23

Commit this day, unreservedly, to the Lord.

By God's grace, seek to **obey** his Word.

This brings us full circle back to love: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." *John 14:15, 21, 23*

BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP

Make a habit of reviewing your day and putting God at the center of your last thoughts of the day, just as he was in your first thoughts.

MEDITATION

Take one verse, narrow it to one or two words or a small phrase, and meditate on these words for a few moments in bed.

**“When I
remember You
on my bed, I
meditate on
You in the
night watches.”
(Psalm 63:6)**



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