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Prayers for Biblical Wisdom

Prayers for each chapter in the books of Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.



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Psalms

Psalm 1

Father, life seems so complex at times. There are things that happen to us, and in our world, that we can't make sense of. There are hard decisions that need to be made when multiple choices seem to be equally viable but also mutually exclusive. However, as if aware of the confusion that we face, You open the book of Psalms with refreshing simplicity. Life comes down to one simple decision with very clear ramifications.

- “Choose God. Study His Word day and night and avoid the influence of the godless and rebellious. You will enjoy incredible strength and stability in the storms that come in life. Your work for the Lord will be prosperous and fruitful. In other words, You will touch lives for Christ.”
- “Choose rebellion from God. Hang out with the godless. Conspire with them to commit evil. Mock the godly. The storms of life will crush you. You will not prosper in doing work for the Lord. You won't make a difference for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You will be ashamed of your lives when you appear before God in His court and your knees will buckle before Him. You won't be able to find any unlocked door or hole in a wall to sneak into heaven. You will never experience the eternal peace and joy that those who choose His way will enjoy.”

Father, Your feet have paved a smooth path for all who choose You. You surveyed the road, cleared it, and paved it. You have traveled it millions upon millions of times. However, the godless are lost in the dense woods, trying to make a path of their own. They don't have Your help whatsoever. They are on their own. They will all die in the process, succumbing to exhaustion, hunger, thirst, or injury.

Father, show me Your path. Point me in the direction. Better yet, walk with me down it. You know every twist and turn, every hill and plain. Show me the wonders on Your street that have delighted the godly who have gone before me. I look forward to meeting up with all of them where the road comes to an end at the gates of Your Kingdom.

Psalm 2

Father, our culture in America has rebelled against You. The rebels have conspired against Your church. The rebels think of themselves as important and mighty, a force to be reckoned with. But You rollover laughing. What fools we are! You know we are nothing, but we think of ourselves as something. However, when You are done laughing, Your anger comes next. You bring about trouble for our land to inform us of Your displeasure. Who is Your warrior? Who breaks the pride of the rebellious? Jesus Christ! God will give Christ all the nations. Not even one human government will survive. How can human leaders survive God's wrath? By serving and celebrating the Lord with fear. By bowing before Christ. Father, You describe Your Son in this chapter as a victorious warrior whose wrath is terrifying. I will trust in Him for my salvation and that He will have the ultimate victory in history. Therefore, Your blessings will flow into my life.

Psalm 3

Father, there are many people in America who are against me. I am a Christian and, therefore, I will be hated by those who hate Christianity. Those who hate me for my faith will deny me of my rights and my freedom. They will throw obstacles in my path. They will attempt to silence me. They do all of this with the belief that You do not exist or that You will not intervene on my behalf. However, You are my defender. You are my rescuer. You are my deliverer. You are the one who gives me hope and confidence. You hear my cry. It doesn't matter how many people conspire against me. It doesn't matter how many resources they have. I can rest peacefully. You are greater than them. I can wake up each morning confident that You have watched over me while I slept. Father, You have defeated my enemies. You have humiliated them. You have silenced them. Who rescues believers in crisis? You alone! Thank You.

Psalm 4

Father, there have been many times in my life when I was distressed but then relief followed. Why did relief come? Because You rescued me. You heard my prayer and had mercy on me. I was glorified because the glorious God rescued me. However, the world mocks my glory. But what do they glorify? Worthlessness! Lies! I'm glorified by the living God, but they are "glorified" by things that have no meaning or truth. But I have been bet set apart by You from them to glorify You. You hear my prayers while You don't hear their prayers. Father, it is reasonable to be angry with the wicked. However, I should be careful with my anger. It can easily become sinful itself. Instead of lashing out at the world around me, I should be still studying Your Word. I should live a righteous life, which is nothing other than to fully obey Your Word. I should place my faith in the promises of the Bible. The world around me cries out, "Where is our hope? Where is there anything good?" They are in darkness. However, Your light has opened my eyes and revealed to me the secret to peace and hope. Knowing that secret, I have satisfaction in my heart. I get it. I know the answer. The gladness that comes from understanding Your ways is better than any fine wine or delicious food. I can go to bed at night contented that I understand truth and that I have a relationship with You, the one who protects me and watches over me.

Psalm 5

Father, please listen to me. You are my King. You are my God. I am not worshipping anything or anyone else. Make my first thought in the morning to approach Your throne in prayer. Why? I need You each day. I can't make it through the day without You. Father, if I was evil, I should expect nothing from You. You would hate my wickedness and You would want nothing to do with me. You would destroy me for being violent and deceitful. But that is not the case. I fear You and therefore You pour out mercy into my life. You welcome me into Your Kingdom. I will worship You throughout eternity in thanks. Guide me this day as I travel a land with my enemies all around. Make my paths straight, free of obstacles. Who are these people who are against me? They have no faith in You. They seek to destroy that which is good. They have the words of death. If they say anything that seems to be good, it is false and manipulative. Father, defeat them. May their own decisions turn against them. Father, let me rejoice because I have put my trust in You. As I watch You continuously defeat each of my enemies, may my rejoicing and celebrating never stop. I do love Your name, a name which represents Your character and might. Therefore, I will be joyful, knowing that all things will work out for good for me. You will bless me. Your favor upon me will be a force that surrounds me, protecting me from all my enemies.

Psalm 6

Father, I have sinned against You. Why? Because I was weak. I gave into temptation. Please do not punish me in the moment of Your greatest anger towards me. I cannot survive. Instead, I'm asking for healing. I am in pain, physically and emotionally, because of my rebellion from You. Is it not time for You to rescue me? How long must I feel a distance between You and I? If You can't think of any reason to save me, save me for the sake of Your honor and glory. May the world see that You are the God of mercy and forgiveness. The ultimate punishment for my sin is death. How can I share my testimony of Your mercy and forgiveness with the living if I am dead? Father, I am exhausted with my suffering and with all the attacks against me by the enemy. I weep all the time. However, I have confidence that one day You will have mercy on me. You are listening to me. You have heard my confession and my repentance. You have seen my suffering. That is a scary reality for my enemies. Once You move to restore me to Yourself, You will go after my enemies and bring sudden disaster on them.

Psalm 7

Father, You are my God. The God I choose. No idols. No one else. Nothing else. You are my God. It is in You I trust in my time of need. Nothing else. No one else. Because You are the only one whom everyone knows that I trust, save me from my enemies. This is about Your glory and honor and Your promise to watch over those who honor You. If You don't, I will be destroyed because no one else and nothing else can save me. I must have integrity. If I love righteousness, I should hate my own sin. If I hate my own sin, I should desire my own punishment. If I have sinned against You, I should be destroyed. If I've hurt my neighbor, I should be destroyed. But I have a savior. Rise up from the grave, Savior. Judge

my enemies. The multitudes of Your people will surround Your throne and worship You. Rise up from the dead for the sake of all believers who depend on You. You will judge the nations. Defeat the wickedness of the wicked. You test the hearts and minds of everyone. How can I survive that examination? My righteousness comes from Christ. He is my defense. You are just. You are angry with the wicked every day. You are ready to destroy them. The wicked have only themselves to blame. They conceive evil but the evil they conceive happens to them instead. Why do I praise You? Your righteousness. I will sing praise to You, the greatest and highest of all.

Psalm 8

Father, You are our Lord. All of us. All of us believers. You are not mine alone. You are also the Lord of all those who love You. There is no one like You. You are amazing, wonderful, incredible, and awesome. You are excellent in all that You do. Your glory is greater than the universe. Your glory is even greater than Your heavenly home. The young baby praises You. Its brain and lungs. Its eyes, ears, legs, hands, and feet. The baby's cry reflects the breath of God. Father, that was me once. A little baby. However, You had a plan for this baby to grow into a mature man of God who will serve Your Kingdom with strength. Yes, helpless babies grow up to silence the enemy and defeat him. Father, it has been estimated that the observable universe is about 93 billion light years from one end to the other. That's just the observable universe! You created it all. The millions of galaxies. The billions of planets. And yet... You know me personally!! That is incomprehensible. Who am I that You even notice me, let alone want to have a relationship with me? In my human state, I'm not as glorious as Your heavenly angels. But I've been crowned with the righteousness of Your Son, Jesus Christ, something the angels can never experience. I have a glory and honor that they will never have. Father, You have given me authority over nature and all of the animals on the land and all the fish in the rivers of the seas (ocean currents). This is what You've done for me. Your name is excellent!!!

Psalm 9

Father, I will praise You with my whole heart. Not part of it. Not some of it. My whole heart. I will tell everyone about how great You are. I will share my testimony of Your deliverance with all who will listen. I will live each day with gladness because of what You have done for me. You rescued me! I will sing praises to You for that! Father, all who hate me for my faith will one day perish. You will give me justice one day. You will make it clear that I was right. You will advance my cause. Father, You are the eternal judge. You judge righteously. You have punished the nations and the wicked. Though You blot out my sin, You blot out their name forever. You destroy them and their cities. Who are they? I don't remember. I've forgotten them. However, Your glory will endure forever. Nobody will forget You! Your throne is ready for judgement day when every person will give an accounting before You. You are the refuge for all who are oppressed, for all who run to You for help. You have a reputation, Father. That You turn away no one who runs to You for help. Therefore, more and more people come to You. You remember the victims when You avenge their blood. Father, my enemies are ready to kill me. I am at the gates of hell. I cannot survive with You. Please rescue me. Give me a story of rescue that I can share with others. I will tell the leaders of my community of my deliverance by You. Father, this world has sunk into the sewer it has made. They are caught in the traps they laid for others. It is Your way of getting justice for the innocent. You are known by the misery the fools create for themselves - divine justice. Hell awaits all those who forget You. You will not forget those who are poor in spirit, those who acknowledge their weakness and vulnerability before God. Father, rescue such people from the wicked. Terrify them so that none of them will ever think themselves to be their own god again.

Psalm 10

Father, there have been times in my life when I wondered where You were. You didn't seem to answer my prayers. My struggles continued. I looked at the ungodly and they seemed to be enjoying life. They were proud, greedy, and they renounced You. They didn't care at all about You or Your ways. They were arrogant and they thought themselves to be unbeatable. They never experienced suffering and didn't expect to ever do so. They oppress others and they murder the innocent. They lie in wait for the poor and helpless. They say to themselves that You don't exist or that You are indifferent. Father, those people are still out there. Rise up! Do something about them. Defend the humble. Make them

accountable. I know the weak and the helpless call out to You. Hear them and defend them. I know You will. You will give justice to the innocent and the wicked won't oppress others anymore.

Psalm 11

Father, I put my trust in You alone. Some say to me that I am to flee for my life. However, how can I? I'm like a duck in duck hunting season. If I take flight to save my life, I will be shot down by the wicked who are out looking for me. Father, I can no longer depend on the foundations of society. The church is weak, and the government is corrupt. The culture rejects Your ways and the people who follow Your ways. What authority can I turn to for help? You. You test the righteous and I know You test me. It is an act of love. Testing makes me stronger to survive the corruption of this world. I experience adversity so that I can be stronger for the battle. However, You do not test the wicked. You hate them. Hell awaits them with all the fire. But the righteous You love, and they will see Your face. Father, I look forward to the day I will see You face to face.

Psalm 12

Father, there are fewer and fewer godly people left in America. They are vanishing. Everyone seems to be corrupt. Everyone flatters their neighbors, manipulating words to get what they want. Father, people across this country believe they can accomplish whatever they want through the power of words. The victims of such deceit cry out to You. You will arise and give the innocent safety. Unlike the wicked, Your words are pure. It is Your words, it is Your Bible, that rescues us and keeps us safe, just like it has been doing for thousands of years. Father, our culture has joyfully abandoned our Christian heritage. We now are paying for it through incredible violence and civil unrest. Why do the people complain? Isn't godlessness exactly what they wanted?

Psalm 13

Father, this chapter has been a refuge for the despairing and the depressed throughout the ages. I can remember feeling this way. I hope I never feel this way again. I wondered where You were. I too thought You had forgotten me or that You were deliberately avoiding me. I counseled myself, talking myself into deeper despair and hopelessness. My grief was oppressive every day while the godless around me enjoyed life. I felt I was going to die if I wasn't rescued. I thought I might end my own life. If You didn't rescue me, Satan would have victory by ending my life. But I have trusted in Your mercy. You rescued me and today I can rejoice in the salvation. You have been very good to me. I have much to be thankful for.

Psalm 14

Father, anyone who professes to be an atheist is a fool. The evidence for a Creator is overwhelming. The universe is clearly designed and, if there is a design, there must be a Designer. Truly intelligent, reasonable, and scientific people cannot claim to be atheists. They know there is a God. However, they still claim to be atheists. Why is that? Because they don't want there to be a God who will hold them accountable. They are corrupt and they want to remain so. There is no one on earth who understands God's ways. We are all corrupt. We are all rebellious. Not one person in human history was pure except for Jesus Christ. All other humans have had some measure of rebellion from You. The fools love their rebellion and excuse it by saying You don't exist. Are these people idiots? Don't they know that this same God protects and defends His people? Father, I don't believe I've ever claimed to be an atheist. However, I have acted at times as if I was. I have acted at times as if You were irrelevant or insignificant to my life. I've neglected You. Father, please forgive me for the times I've been a friend to atheists even if I wouldn't describe myself as one. I've been a fool.

Psalm 15

Father, who will be permitted to live in heaven with You? The person who is righteous in all that they do. The person who has total integrity. The person who is perfectly loving of their neighbor. The person who hates sin and rebellion. The person who fears the Lord. Any person who is like this will never be shaken. Father, it is impossible for me to live like this. I continue to have desires of the flesh that I must battle every day. However, Christ has lived like this. He is the one who was perfect. He offers me His perfection at the cross. Because I asked Jesus Christ to be my savior, His righteousness has been given to me. You now consider me to be a person who is righteous in all that I do. You now consider me to have total integrity. You now consider me to be perfectly loving of my neighbor. You now consider me to be someone who hates sin and rebellion. You now consider me to be someone who fears the Lord. I will be welcomed into Your Kingdom because of Jesus Christ. Thank You.

Psalm 16

Father, one day I'm going to die. Where will I go? What will happen to me? I am placing my faith that You will preserve me. You will take my soul to a safe place. You will take my soul to You. I'm trusting in You. Father, it has been said that I do good. No. It is You who does good through me. I cannot do any good at all unless You do it through me. Father, Your Word says that You delight in me. I put a smile on Your face. I am even considered "excellent". Why? Because Jesus Christ has perfected me. You look at me after the renovation and remodeling that Christ has done and I look wonderful to You. Father, Christ deserves the credit. I receive the blessing of You delighting in who Christ has transformed me to be. However, You do not delight in those who rebel from You., those who chase after other gods. You do not accept their religious acts. You do not even want to speak their names. They shall not receive Your blessings and, therefore, they shall know sorrow. Father, my inheritance is You. I am a child of God and, therefore, I am an heir to all of Your glory. Nothing else matters. I will continue to thank You for the work of the Holy Spirit who counsels me throughout the day. You have given me a conscience that guards my ways at night. Since I've made You #1 in my life, since You are in the greatest place of honor in my life, I shall never be shaken. Never. I am at peace. No anxiety. No insecurity. I have rest for my soul. Just like You didn't leave Christ in hell, neither shall You leave me soul there either. You have shown me the path of life, the gateway to heaven. His name is Jesus Christ. When I am in Your Kingdom, I will know nothing but total and complete joy. I will be honored forever because I am saved by Jesus Christ.

Psalm 17

Father, I want to fully surrender my life to You. I want to be totally obedient to You. When the Holy Spirit has free reign in my heart, I can be bold in my confidence before You. I can say that my cause is just. I can say that I am not dishonest. I can say that I am upright. I can say that You will find no corruption in me. I can say that I have kept myself apart from the wicked. I can say that I have called upon You and, therefore, You hear my prayer. I can say that I trust in You and, therefore, I can expect Your loving kindness in my life. I can say that You delight in how I live my life. I can expect You to protect me from the many who surround me, wishing to do me harm. They are fools, satisfied with the treasures of this life and not the Kingdom of God. However, I know where my treasures are. They are in Your Kingdom. My treasure is that I will see Your face because of the righteousness that I have through Jesus Christ. My treasure is that You are in the process of transforming me into a man of God because of the work of Your Son.

Psalm 18

Father, I was frightened. I was being pursued by evil. I called out to You as I fled from them. I saw Your light in the darkness and I ran to it. I saw You, my rock, and my fortress. I ran to You. However, You saw me in distress, and You ran to me with full speed and power. You grabbed me and took me to Your rock, Your fortress. My enemies could do nothing more to hurt me. You delivered me from harm. You rescued me. Therefore, I will be forever thankful, filled with praise and worship. Why did You do this for me? Because I have placed my faith in Your Son who died on the cross for my sin. I have surrendered my life to Him. I am His and, therefore, I am Yours. You rescued me because I have committed my life to live like He did. Merciful. Blameless. Humble. I'm not the first person You have rescued. There are countless

stories throughout history of when You rushed to rescue people who called out to You. However, now that I am safe and secure, You have a job for me to do. You are going to send me back out from Your fortress, into the world to do battle for Your Kingdom. This time I will be strong. You will have gently and patiently trained me and prepared me for battle. Your power will go with me so that I will do mighty things for You. I will defeat evil and give You glory and honor. You will make my paths straight, going before me and preparing my way so that I can do the work You have called for me to do. Father, it is all You. You rescued me. You strengthened me. You sent me out. You will give me victory. Therefore, it is You who gets all the praise.

Psalm 19

Father, the heavens are the only evidence that we need that You exist and that You are who You are. Watching the stars and the movement of planets, even for a few moments, tells us that there is an all-powerful God who loves law and order. Where do we find a detailed guide of what Your perfect, true, righteous, and priceless law and order looks like? The Word of God. The Bible. It tells us everything we need to know. The Word of God transforms our hearts, making us more like You. The Word of God enlightens our eyes, making clear the direction we are to move in. The Word of God keeps us out of trouble. The Word of God gives us peace and joy, rejoicing in our soul. The Word of God gives us the secrets for how to fully enjoy life. Father, what is the core message of the Word of God? We are to fear You. When we truly fear You, we will never walk away from You again. Our godliness will endure forever. Father, teach me Your Word and may it guide my life, now and forever.

Psalm 20

Father, it is so easy to think that You are a mere spectator in our life. You watch our lives, crunching on popcorn, so to speak, wondering what will happen next to us. You are not engaged or involved in the details of our human experience. However, that belief is a lie. You are the exact opposite. You are the God who helps us in times of crisis. You are the God who defends us when we are unjustly attacked. You are the God who strengthens us when we are weak. You are the God who gives us all the godly things that we desire. You are the God who gives us purpose and meaning. You are the God who answers our prayers. Father, since the world doubts that You are involved in the concerns of their lives, they place their trust in anything other than You. Things that have no power, wisdom, or sovereignty. However, those who believe that You are involved in every aspect of life turn to You when troubles come and find strength. Father, keep me focused every hour of my life on the truth that You are invested in what happens to me, bringing about what is best for me and for the advancement of Your gospel.

Psalm 21

Father, David shares his testimony with us about Your goodness. What is my testimony? What are the wonderful deeds You have done in my life? How have You given me what my godly heart desires? How have You answered my prayers in amazing ways I could not anticipate? How have You proven Your trustworthiness in my life? How have I remained strong and unshaken by troubles in life because of Your mercy to me? How have You defeated my enemies, especially those who hate You? Father, help me to glorify You by knowing how to answer these questions in detail and to be prepared to tell the story of what You have done in my life.

Psalm 22

Father, this is clearly a Psalm about my savior, Jesus Christ. It was He who felt forsaken by You when He took on the sins of the world. It was He who was destined to die on the cross. It was He who was surrounded by people who hated Him. It was He who thirsted for a drink after being pierced in His hands and feet. It was He whose garments were divided by soldiers. It is also He who saved the poor from Your wrath. It is also Jesus who will come again, strong and victorious, to rule the nations. It is Jesus who will be glorified by all who have passed on and by many generations of people who have not yet been born. There will be a 40-year-old evangelist who will lead many to Christ in the year 2065 who won't

be born yet for another five years. Father, help me to make Jesus Christ the purpose, the reason, the focus, and the reason for everything that I do.

Psalm 23

Father, I am vulnerable and needy. I am dependent and weak. I am not You. I am not God. Therefore, I need someone to watch over me. I need someone to protect me from danger. I need someone to provide for me. I need someone whose presence gives me peace and rest. I need someone who heals me and restores my soul, a soul that is broken because it has walked away from You. I need someone who will lead me and guide me, showing me how to avoid danger and to live a life pleasing to You. I need someone who will carry me through my moment of death and deliver me safely to the other side. I need someone who will get my attention when I go astray and pull me back towards Him. I need someone who will make it very clear to my enemies that He is on my side and that I am immensely blessed because of that. I need someone who will strengthen me and make me useful for Your service. I need someone who will be with me today, tomorrow, and throughout eternity. I need a shepherd. I need Jesus Christ, my Savior and my Lord.

Psalm 24

Father, You own everything. You own the heavens. You own the earth and all that is in it. You own all life, whether it walks or crawls on the ground, lives in the water, or flies in the air. How dare we think our life is our own! How dare we think our skills are our own! How dare we think our capabilities, such as our hearing or our eyesight, are our own! No, You own everything, including me. What do You expect of Your creation? Purity. Cleanliness. Devotion and faithfulness to You. Obedience. You have made us so that when we obey You and surrender our lives to You that we will enjoy the blessings of life. However, it is the Holy Spirit alone who helps us live an obedient life. We seek Your face, that is to desire a relationship with You, only because the Holy Spirit leads us to do so. Why does the Holy Spirit lead us? Because we have opened up and welcomed the King of Glory into our hearts, our victorious Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, forgive me of my sins in the name of Jesus Christ and then may He own my life. Help me to obey Him completely as His servant. I ask that the King of Glory come into my heart and rule without any opposition from me.

Psalm 25

Father, I have made a public decision to place my trust in You. The world is watching how things will turn out for me. "Did Charles make the right choice choosing to follow God's ways?" Father, please don't let me be ashamed. Please don't let the world look at my life and say, "God let him down. I won't follow God like Charles did." Father, I understand that life has adversity. I will have problems. However, You can be honored by rescuing me from those problems, by delivering me from the suffering. You can also rescue me by easing the burden of the problems I face. Give me the character I need that remains strong even during difficult times. Such a character will prove to the watching world that You do strengthen us even in difficult times. Father, I'm asking for You to teach me. I am asking for You to be merciful to me, forgiving so that my sin will not hamper Your blessings in difficult times. Father, give me a prosperity of godly character so that I can face anything with courage and strength and show the world around me that You are faithful. Teach me so that I will be strong. May the victories that are evident in my life lead my offspring and future generations to place their trust in You.

Psalm 26

Father, test me and see if I am a man of God. Do I have integrity? Do I uphold the truth? Do I do what I say, and do I say what I do? Am I the same person in all situations and with all people? Do I trust in You? When times get difficult, do I turn to You for deliverance? Do I have confidence that You will come through for me? Am I obedient to You? Do I obey Your commands every hour of every day? Am I obedient to You no matter where I am, what I am doing, or who I am with? Do I shun evil? Do I stay clear of temptation? Do I run from temptation as fast as I can the second, I recognize it? What is my reputation with the world around me? Can people find fault with my character? Am I above reproach? Do I have a thankful spirit? Am I grateful for all the blessings You have poured into my life? Do I love being with my brothers and sisters in Christ? Do I enjoy fellowship with them? Do I love to encourage them by praising You among them? Father,

it is my heart's desire that I can pass this kind of testing. I'm sure I need to continue to grow spiritually to get to this place. Please keep working with me so that one day I will pass this test to Your pleasure.

Psalm 27

Father, there is so much evil in this world. It can be seen everywhere. There is so much suffering. There is so much darkness. People are blind. They are lost and they give evidence to this by how they live their lives. Father, there are many evil and blind people who hate my faith in You. They want me to turn from You. They want me to join them in their evil deeds and to become blind like them. If I do not go along with them, they will seek to silence me. They don't like my message of light, salvation, and hope through Jesus Christ. Father, I don't want to be with these people. I want to be with You - forever. However, for the time being, I must live in this world with these people. Help me to not be afraid of them. Who are they compared to You? Nobody. What can they do to hurt me? Nothing. When I take refuge in You, they cannot steal my soul. They cannot weaken my faith. Sure, they can perhaps kill me, but they cannot touch my salvation. They are powerless to break my faith in You. Father, for this all to be true, I need You to come through for me, teaching me and strengthening my faith. I need You to be merciful to me, forgiving me of my sin and rebellion. I need to hear all kinds of stories, testimonies, about how You have delivered and strengthened others. This will give me courage. This will enable me to wait upon Your deliverance, even in the darkest hour of suffering.

Psalm 28

Father, I live in a land that is long overdue for Your punishment. This nation has turned its back on You. This nation has rebelled from You. This nation has rejected Your ways and is at war with You. Father, justice demands that Your wrath be poured out on this nation. After the devastation of Your judgement, every person in America will confess that You are God and that Your ways are right and true. Every person in America will confess that they have rebelled from You and that they deserve the punishment they have received. However, once Your wrath is expressed in full measure in proportion to our evil ways, there will be no America left. There will only be ashes and dust. Father, I live in America. I have brothers and sisters in Christ, people who do love and obey You, who also live in America. We are doing Your work. We have confessed our sin and repented. We have surrendered our lives to You. Father don't destroy us along with the wicked. Don't treat us as You would our neighbors who hate Your ways. Father, I'm asking You to have mercy on this nation. Don't destroy the wicked if the wicked can yet be saved. If there is still lives that can be transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, please hold back Your wrath. Empower us to do Your work of ministry, transform lives, and turn the wicked into redeemed and forgiven brothers and sisters in Christ. Save not only Your people but also the work that can still be done in this nation.

Psalm 29

Father, You deserve my worship, my obedience, and honor that I bring to You by how I live my life. It is a debt I owe to You. A man who rescued 20 people, who were facing certain death in a burning building, deserves praise and honor for his act of heroism. How much more does the God of the universe deserve for being who You are and having done what You have done in creation and throughout history? Father, it is to be my life's purpose to bring You glory and praise.

Psalm 30

Father, You long to pour out Your kindness, mercy, compassion, generosity, and grace on those who fear You. Yes, there may be a time when You are angry with us. Father, our delusion that we are our own gods crumbles the moment You pull Your love back from us even in the smallest of ways. Our world falls apart. We may shed tears. However, You make sure that such a time is brief. You are eager to restore our joy, a joy that is to be so great that we will break into dancing. Your favor for those who fear You lasts throughout their lifetimes. Why do You rescue us from our troubles? You want the world to know how You treat those who fear You.

Psalm 31

Father, though He was God, Jesus Christ put His glory aside, holding Himself accountable to the fear of You that every other human must do. He was submissive to You. He surrendered His life to You. He did this because He knew how deeply You loved us. He knew He had to live a perfect life and then die on the cross so that Your people can be rescued from the consequences of their sin. He was hated by the crowds who mocked Him and conspired against Him. His friends deserted Him. His body was broken. In the end, He committed His Spirit into Your hands, trusting that He had done the work You can call Him to do and that You would restore Him to life and to His glory that He had before the creation of the world. You delivered Him from evil. Father, You have given us the greatest gift that can be given - forgiveness of our sin through Jesus Christ. You have prepared untold blessings for all those who have placed their faith in Him. You preserve the faithful. No evil can defeat us or even end our life until the time You have chosen for us to die. We are as safe in Your fortress as we would be in a world without any evil whatsoever. Your strength is unmatched. No evil can storm Your fortress and threaten the faithful inside. Father, whenever I feel threatened, I will put my trust in You. It is You who will rescue me at the right time and in the right way. You will pluck me out of the grasp of evil men and women. Father, help me to be courageous and strong. I need not be anxious about anything because of what You have done for me through Your Son Jesus Christ.

Psalm 32

Father, I am forgiven of my sin. The charges against me have been dropped because the punishment for them has been paid. I am no longer guilty of rebellion from You. Because of Jesus Christ, You have given me a clean and pure spirit, unstained by sin and rebellion. How did I get to the point of placing my trust in a Savior? You gave me troubles that became so unbearable that I finally realized I can't be my own god and I confessed my sin and surrendered to You. I show how much I've surrendered to You by how much I pray to You. Now that I am Yours, You protect me. You teach me gently, mercifully, to do what is right while You use force and sorrow to get the wicked to do Your will. Thank You, Father, for the forgiveness of sin You have given me.

Psalm 33

Father, if I am willing to open my eyes, I would see evidence across the globe of Your goodness. The beauty of creation on every continent. People delivering acts of compassion to others. Lives rescued from suffering and darkness. Hearts transformed. You show mercy to those who wait on You and trust in You by answering their prayers. People blessed who follow Your ways. Your love is perfect. In other words, there is no deficiency in Your love for humanity. It is 100% pure love and it is poured out into the lives of those who love righteousness, truth, and justice. You love us so much that You perform reconstructive surgery on our hearts, taking the time to restore us to spiritual health. There is so much to thank You for. There is so much to celebrate. Father, help me to conceive new ways to celebrate Your goodness. Inspire me. Help me to innovate. Help me to use the skills that You have given me to give You honor and glory in unprecedented ways. May the things that I create lead many to fear You. Father, despite the truth that You are so incredibly loving, people still rebel against You. But You win. You always win. You prove rebels to be fools. If our nation would only trust in Your goodness, America would be incredibly blessed. Father, lead millions of people in America to learn to fear You this year, especially those who are most influential in our culture.

Psalm 34

Father, this psalm sounds like an advertisement for You. "Try God and see that He is good. Seek God and you won't lack anything. God is eager to comfort and rescue you." Father, shouldn't I be continuously "selling" the lost on Your goodness? Shouldn't I share my testimonial, the one where I say "I tried God and He was good. I sought God and I don't lack anything. I was comforted and rescued by Him. I know Him very well and He is as good as He says He is." Father, please lead me to "market" for You, telling the truth about the benefits of trusting in You. However, not everyone will "buy" You. The proud will not. It is only the humble who understand Your appeal and "buy" into it. It is only the humble who are able to fear You. They control their tongues. They depart from evil. They do good for others. They seek and pursue

peace. You deliver the humble, those who fear You, from adversity. They will not be condemned. Father, I am guilty as charged. I deserve eternal separation from You. I cannot save myself. I need a savior. His name is Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for my sin. The charges against me have been dropped. Father, what I've just written is what humility looks like to You. Thank You for my salvation.

Psalm 35

Father, I have enemies in this world. They love it when I suffer. They hate me, even though I have shown love to them. They are arrogant and obnoxious. It is unjust how they treat me. Father, I'm asking You for help. I'm asking You to save me. I'm asking You to fight my battles against my enemies. I am asking You to handle the false charges against me, defending me before my accusers. Father, do to my enemies the things they wanted to do to me. Keep them pre-occupied with adversity in their lives so that they leave me alone. I humbly admit that I am poor and needy, the kind of person You love to bless. Father, please pour out Your love into my life this very day.

Psalm 36

Father, the rebellious are in love with themselves. They think we should be impressed with them, with their achievements and accomplishments. They may think that they are superior to others. However, I am not impressed with them. They have no fear of You. This means they are broken people, filled with anxiety and insecurity. It means they rely on their own strength and understanding. It means they choose for themselves what is right and what is wrong. It means they do not have the fruits of the Holy Spirit. They are deceitful. They are unkind. In fact, they take pleasure in hurting others. They are fools. However, the godly reflect You. The godly are merciful and kind. They are faithful and true. They love justice. They love to live righteously. They provide for others and protect them. They have great understanding, keeping themselves far away from wickedness. The truly godly? They are fun to be with. They know how to bring true joy and peace to a person's heart. These are the people I will be impressed with; not for themselves but because of the glory of Your character that I see in them. Father, please make me an accurate reflection of Your goodness.

Psalm 37

Father, there will be a time when I will look for evil people and I won't be able to find them anywhere. Those who rebel against You will be gone. Those who don't care about the poor and needy will be history. In the new heaven and new earth, there will be no evidence that they ever existed. They will be cut off from heaven. Their voices will not be heard. They will have no influence on society whatsoever. They will be somewhere else, far away in a dark and miserable place where they can never escape. As I live in this world, a world where the wicked dominate, I can feel confident that they will have their day in Your court. Justice will be served. The trouble they cause the righteous will come to an end. I am not to be anxious or fearful of the wicked. They will soon vanish. They will be forgotten, and their impact and influence will disappear. They will be defeated by the very same things that they created to hurt the innocent.

Father, You have saved me because I have placed my trust in You, and in Your Son, Jesus Christ. You give me strength. You help me and deliver me from adversity. You are faithful to always rescue those who fear You. You bring salvation to their children. You know each of my days. You cheerfully lead my feet to take the next steps along the road of life. While the ungodly starve in spiritual famine, I thrive under Your loving care, experiencing total satisfaction. You make sure I will never be ashamed. When I fall, You catch me and put me back on my feet.

However, since You have been so kind and generous to me, there are things that You require of me. I am to trust in You when times get hard. I am to wait, knowing that You will eventually deliver me, no matter how dark the clouds become. I am to do good to others, showing Your love in abundance to them. I am to live among the spiritually poor and needy so that I might show Your love to them. My faith is to grow as I am nourished by my thanksgiving for each trial that You deliver me from. I am to love You more than anything else, delighting in the time I spend with You. I am to want the things that You want and, therefore, experience total fulfillment as You give them to me. Everything I am to do is to be done for Your glory and honor. With that as my motivation, You will bless the work of my hands. I am to follow the example of those who are blameless. I am to turn away from all evil and to obey Your every command. You will give me

wisdom in return. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Your law will be written on my heart, guiding my every thought and action. Father, please help me to live like this, to be the ever-thankful man of God who celebrates the salvation I have received from Christ.

Psalm 38

Father, my sin is devastating to me. It is no small matter. It crushes my spirit. It imprisons me. It steals all my strength. It makes me like one who is severely sick, unable to function. It makes me repulsive to others, leading to my loneliness. Father, You allow me to feel this way because of Your loving discipline. You want me to experience the consequences of my sin so that I choose to sin no more. However, as You discipline me in Your anger, please remember Your power and might. If You aren't very careful, I will be destroyed. I'm fragile. Father, I confess. I am guilty as charged. Please protect me as I am very vulnerable right now. Please forgive my sin through Your Son, Jesus Christ. I trust that You will then heal me from the consequences of my sin. Thank You for Your incredible grace and mercy in my life

Psalm 39

Father, You have disciplined me because of my sin against You. You were justified to do so. I didn't complain. I didn't say it was unfair. I didn't declare myself innocent of Your charges against me. I understand who I am. I am nothing compared to You. I will die and the world will forget me. Father, do You hear what I am saying? I've been humbled. I've learned the lesson to not rebel against You again. Please have compassion on me and forgive me now through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Show the watching world that You have mercy on sinners like me.

Psalm 40

Father, it is good to wait upon You for deliverance. It is an act of faith in the goodness of Your character, Your promises, and in Your power and might. On the contrary, anxiety is a statement of disbelief in Your goodness and power. This is why You bless those who wait upon You. You are blessing their faith. Father, I have a testimony of Your deliverance. I have waited for You and You have rescued me, over and over again, because You love to save people like me. My life is now stable, and I thank You for that.

Father, You don't want me to be religious. That is, You don't want me doing things to earn Your approval. What You want from me is love for You. When I love You, I want to do Your will. When I love You, Your law transforms into a precious list of ideas for how I can show my love to You. Your law becomes so very simple - "do the things that You know will give pleasure to God." One of the best ways to show my love to You is to love my neighbors, who You love, who need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Father, help me to share my faith with others.

I know that when I share the gospel I will be attacked by proud and rebellious people. Father, help me not to give them any consideration. Help me not to surrender to them out of fear of them or out of a desire to appease them. Help me to never be ashamed that I was led into sin by them.

I know I can stay focused on Your work as long as You preserve me with Your kindness and truth. I will worship You with my brothers and sisters in Christ as we all consider how You take care of us when we are poor and needy

Psalm 41

Father, You are the God of mercy, compassion, kindness, and generosity. You look at the poor and needy and You take action to rescue and deliver them. You want us to be like You. In fact, You promise here to bless those who consider the poor. You will deliver them from adversity. You will protect them from disaster. You will preserve them from destruction. You will give them peace, joy, and contentment. Who are the people who truly and sincerely care about the poor? Those who have confessed their sin, asked for forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and who have surrendered their

lives to You. One has to be grateful for being rescued from great disaster to have a genuine heart for others who are suffering. Jesus suffered and died for our forgiveness. He was betrayed. He was hated. People conspired against Him. However, He never gave Satan a foothold in His life. He conquered the grave and He helps those today who help the poor with a genuine and authentic heart.

Psalm 42

Father, there was a time when I worshipped You with joy and enthusiasm. However, hard times have come upon me. I have taken my eyes off of You and I now rely on my own strength to rescue me. I can see in the mirror and I know I am not God. This causes me great discouragement and despair, knowing I cannot save myself. In the misery that my rebellion has caused, I've called out to You in prayer. You don't seem to be answering. You are silent because I have disobeyed You and the world mocks me forever believing that You will rescue me. I long for a return to the days when I worshipped You with joy and enthusiasm. What must I do to get back? I simply must stop being depressed. I must snap out of it. I must wake up and realize You alone are God. I must confess my rebellion and seek forgiveness for it. I must surrender my life to You. I must praise You for all of Your wonderful greatness. I must have hope that You will rescue me, deliver me, and restore me. I will once again be the recipient of a bounty of blessings from You. I must make the decision to change the way I think about my life, deciding that I will return to the belief that You are good and faithful. That will lift my spirits and refresh my soul. Father, help me to return to a lifestyle of thanksgiving, praise, and worship. A new day of bright sunshine will dawn for me.

Psalm 43

Father, day after day I am treated unjustly. Aren't You watching? Don't You see? Where are You? I have surrendered my life to You. I obey Your commands. However, I am falsely charged and punished for things I have not done. It is injustice. I need You to prove my innocence to all. I need Your light to shine on the evil being done to me, exposing it. I need Your truth to prove my innocence with facts and evidence. After You've done this for me, I want to go to Your temple where I can worship and praise You for Your goodness to me.

Psalm 44

Father, I admit that I am confused. You have been so faithful in the past to give us a multitude of victories. We have story after story to tell of Your goodness to us. These stories give us confidence that You will deliver us from our troubles in the tomorrows to come. However, today we are in trouble, but we don't see evidence that You are helping us. We know only defeat today and we don't know why. We believe we are walking in obedience to You. So, please tell us, what is going on here? I know that You search our hearts and know us completely. Reveal to us anything we need to know about unconfessed sin that may be present. We can then confess, seek Your forgiveness, and repent so that we can enjoy Your favor again.

Psalm 45

Father, I thank You today for the greatest gift I could ever receive - salvation through Jesus Christ. You have anointed and blessed Him. You have revealed to us through Him Your deep love for us. Like You, He hates wickedness and evil. He seeks truth and righteousness. He has taught us the wisdom that comes from You. I love Him because of His incredible love for me. He took upon Himself the punishment that I deserve for my sin and rebellion. Thanks to His sacrifice, I am forgiven, and I am now considered by You to be pure, righteous, and without sin. Therefore, I am going to commit my life to praising Jesus. I will write about Him. He has rescued millions of people throughout the ages, building a church for Himself. He loves His church dearly, diligently working to transform it, making it beautiful to Him and to You. He makes the church attractive to unbelievers, people who want to be cherished and adored by Him as well. He loves the generation that has not yet been born. They too will be welcomed into His church. He will call His church home one day to be with Him. It will then be a beautiful eternal marriage - Christ and His church enjoying each other forever and ever. Father, give

Him total victory today in everything. Glorify Him. Establish His throne and His supremacy over everything else. Make Him my Lord by helping me surrender my life to Him.

Psalm 46

Father, today I have troubles. Problems. Challenges. If I tried to deal with these myself, ignoring You, I would become disabled by fear, anxiety, and insecurity. However, I'm going to deal with these problems by giving them to You. You deal with them. You handle them. By giving them to You, I will experience peace. I can be fearless. I will feel strength of heart and mind. Father, You are not against me because I have trusted in Your salvation. It is the arrogant people, the ones who say that they don't need You, whom You are against. You defeat them. I have heard the countless testimonies of how You rescue people. It is why I trust You in hardship. Help me to be still and wait upon You to deliver me. I can be certain my victory will be total.

Psalm 47

Father, there's only one way for me to live my life - celebrating 24/7 what You have done. You have destroyed evil. It is crushed and defeated. Yes, I still see evil people in this world but the path they are walking on is leading to their destruction. You have also rescued me through Your Son, Jesus Christ. He is my savior. I have been forgiven of my sin and rebellion. Father, open my eyes so that I see more and more reasons to thank You, praise You, and worship You.

Psalm 48

Father, is there any better place to be than with you? It is a place where You protect Your people from all harm. We will have nothing to fear. Nothing to be worried or anxious about. You will provide us everything we need. We will experience ultimate personal satisfaction, being the complete and optimum people, we were designed to be. Everyone will celebrate who You are and follow Your ways with eager hearts. Goodness will reign forever. Your Kingdom will never ever be threatened. Father, sign me up. I want to live forever in such a place. Thanks to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, I have become a citizen of such a place. Thanks to Him, I am invited and welcomed to enjoy the unimaginable blessings of life with God. Father, help me to celebrate the gift of salvation I have received, every hour of my life.

Psalm 49

Father, I am surrounded by people who believe that having wealth, fame, power, and influence in this life is the ultimate experience. However, their wealth, fame, power, and influence will vanish upon the moment of their death. They will arrive in Your court without money and without significance. They can't buy You off. They can't do any favors for You. You need nothing from them. How foolish it is when a person boasts of their wealth, fame, power, or influence? They will be humiliated one day, if not by life itself then by Your courtroom. In Your court they will have nothing but the state of their relationship with Your Son. Either they know Him, and they will be forgiven of their sin and welcomed into the riches of heaven or they do not, and they will be cast off into the agony of a place where You are completely absent. Father, on the contrary, an extraordinary life begins for me at my death. Thanks to the salvation I have received through Jesus Christ, I will resurrect after my death and enjoy all the blessings of life the ungodly never experienced or imagined. Thank you! In the meantime, I have the Holy Spirit guiding and transforming me, making me more and more like Your Son. You provide for me and protect me even in this life. I literally have the best of both worlds because of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 50

Father, I believe the entire message of the Bible comes down to this. We have rebelled from You. We have decided we can manage our lives without You. We can make our own decisions and plans. We can be who we want to be, ignoring who You want us to be. We can decide for ourselves what is right and what is wrong. We can rely on our own

understanding and resources. In effect, we tell You to get off the throne of our lives because we want to sit there instead. Father, that is rebellion. It is the attempted overthrow of Your Kingdom. It is a coup. It is treason. It is incredible arrogance and pride on our part. This is Your first charge against us. When we disobey You, we also flee from Your commands to love our neighbors. Self-centeredness and indifference to others comes out of our rebellion. We don't become more loving of others when we rebel from You. We become less loving. We hurt others. This is Your second charge against us. This Psalm reflects the words of Jesus when He told us the entire Bible can be summarized with the command to love You with all of our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as You love them. Father, the world seems to be getting away with their rebellion. You appear to be silent as they conspire to victimize the innocent. However, You will have victory over them. They will have their day in Your court. Either they will be ushered into Your court at their death or they will be ushered into Your court on the day when Christ comes again with His armies to defeat all evil. All of us who have humbly confessed our rebellion to You and have sought forgiveness through the precious blood of Jesus Christ will be gathered into Your loving arms and gently placed into Your Kingdom. Father, authentic "religion" is simply this - to confess our rebellion, to ask for forgiveness through Jesus Christ, to seek to live our lives to please You out of a genuine heartfelt thanksgiving for the salvation we have received, and to depend upon You for everything we need. Father, please work in my life today to make me this kind of man.

Psalm 51

Father, I was born a rebel from You. I was born with a heart that wants to rule my own life. I was born with a heart that rejects Your authority in my life. This rebelliousness is sin. It is a stain. It is a stench. It makes me impure. How can something impure be welcomed into Your pure Kingdom? It can't. It's not that You don't love the sinner. You desire all people to live with You throughout eternity. However, Your holiness demands purity and cannot tolerate any impurity whatsoever. Therefore, impure men and women cannot come into Your Kingdom. When You judge us for our impurities, You do so with justice and truth. There are no false charges against us. There is only one response to the indictments against us - we are guilty as charged. Is there any hope for us? Yes. We can be cleaned by something precious, pure, and perfect. It alone has the ability to wash away our rebellion, sin, decay, and corruption. The shed blood of Jesus Christ. Father, in Your loving kindness, forgive me of my sin because of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Pour the blood of Christ over my soul. It will remove every impurity in my heart. It will remove the stain. It will remove the stench. I will become clean. Father, help me then to live a life of joy knowing that I have been cleansed of all my sin. Transform my heart and mind so that I talk and walk like Jesus Christ did. Help me then to share the hope of salvation with others, bringing the gospel to them. Father, there is nothing You enjoy more than a broken and contrite heart. Does that mean You want us to be depressed and despairing? No. It means that we are humble before You, no longer trying to rebel against You. Father, help me to have a broken and contrite heart throughout the rest of my life so that I will not intentionally rebel against You again.

Psalm 52

Father, the wicked think themselves to be so clever. They mock Your ways and Your people. Not only do they think they don't need You, but they also think they will somehow talk themselves out of destruction if You actually charge them with crimes against You. However, You are not mocked. You never change. You still hate evil deeds today as much as You did 4,000 years ago. You don't compromise. You don't negotiate. You cannot be manipulated. The wicked will find themselves banished into an eternity without the love of God. However, those of us who confess and repent of our wickedness today, before our death tomorrow, have a different future to hope for. Because of the mercy You have given to us through Jesus Christ, we will spend eternity with You, praising You for the salvation we have received. Father, You are so good to give us the opportunity to seek forgiveness before it is too late. I want salvation through Jesus Christ this very hour.

Psalm 53

Father, I do not believe there is truly an intelligent "atheist". However, there are intelligent people who pretend they are "atheists". Anyone with intelligence will easily conclude that there must be a God. The reasonable, logical, and scientific evidence for design in the universe is everywhere. No, Father, intelligent people who say they are "atheists" know the

evidence is conclusively against them. Regardless, the "atheists" continue to argue that You don't exist. Why do they do that? Because they don't want You to exist. They don't want to be accountable to You. They don't want to think they will have to stand before You one day and give an accounting for their life. They want to be their own god, do their own thing, be who they want to be, and define truth for themselves. You are a stumbling block to that. You are the God who says we must live as You tell us to. The "atheist" hates that and show their anger and hatred of You in their posts on the Internet. They deal with the reality of You by pretending that You don't exist. If God doesn't exist, they theorize, they are free to do whatever they want in life, with no moral boundaries. Father, atheism is nothing other than rebellion from Your authority.

Father, there is another reason why people claim to be "atheists". They expect You to be their servant. Their "prayer requests" are commands, instructions, and orders for You to do immediately what they ask. You are the servant who is to do as He is told. However, when You exert Your sovereign authority over the "atheist" by denying their "prayer request", they conclude You don't exist. They believe that the true God is the great Santa Claus, the grandfather figure who lives to satisfy the whim of every person. Since they don't get their will each and every time, they believe You aren't doing Your job. In their anger towards You, they claim You don't exist. However, every "atheist" will stand before You one day and know You are very real. They will still have to give an accounting for their life to a God who is angered by rebellion of any kind. You will not be mocked.

Father, none of us are good. We share something in common with the atheist - we too have rebelled from You. In fact, there is no one who, by their own will, has the right heart for You. If someone is godly, they are so because You worked in their life to transform their heart and mind. Therefore, as I speak poorly of the atheist, I must also speak poorly of myself. I too have wanted to do as I please in this life. I too will have to give an accounting before You. This is why I confess my rebellion and ask for forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for all of my rebellion. I have placed my faith that my sin and rebellion has been washed away by the precious blood of Jesus.

Psalm 54

Father, I am under spiritual attack. Help! I know You hear my cry and help is already on the way. People will soon do things for me that You led them to do to help me. You answer many prayers through Christian community. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are inspired by You to take action to encourage us, to protect us, or to provide for us. Justice is often delivered for us through our church family who fight beside us in our moment of crisis. Father, I must be grateful and thankful for the believers in my life who have rescued me from spiritual attack. Father, use me to show Your love to them as well.

Psalm 55

Father, we like to pretend that we are our own god. We pretend that we can manage our lives, guiding ourselves, providing for ourselves and protecting ourselves from danger. When things are going well, we believe we can do this. We ignore You and neglect You. However, we are not god. We do not have Your understanding, wisdom, power, sovereignty, and knowledge. We soon discover that we are weak and vulnerable, unable to take care of ourselves. We may be persecuted. We may find life to be one disappointment after another. We may suffer because we are victims of evil, victims of life in a broken world, or victims of our own foolishness. The family and friends who we used to depend upon have become our enemies. We feel truly alone and lonely in life. It is at that time that we cry out to You for help. We may plead to You continuously for deliverance, temporarily apologetic for our rebellion in hopes we can manipulate You to rescue us. However, You are a rock in the storm of life only for those who truly confess their sin and rebellion, seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and then surrender their lives to Him. You give the Holy Spirit to those whose faith is genuine. He gives such people the fruits of the Spirit that helps them stay strong in the storms of life. Father, I confess I am a rebel from You. I can only be saved through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Help me to surrender my life to You so that I can receive the fruits of the Spirit. I will then have the character I need to stand strong in the storms of life.

Psalm 56

Father, there is an experience that is common to all believers. First, we are oppressed and persecuted by the cruelties of life in this evil and broken world. Second, we become discouraged, perhaps even depressed. We realize we are weak, needy, and vulnerable. We cry day and night about the horrible situations we are in. Third, we cry out to You for deliverance and surrender our hearts and lives to You. Fourth, we venture into ministry, showing gentleness, compassion, and mercy to people in need while also showing fearlessness to fight against the evil in our society. Fifth, we learn that You are faithful time and time again to protect us, rescue us, and deliver us. Sixth, we become more and more thankful and appreciative for what You have done for us. We also become confident that You can be trusted with any hardship we may face in the future. Father, let this be my story of hope and encouragement for my family, friends, and neighbors.

Psalm 57

Father, I thank You for my precious Shih Tzu who has taught me a significant spiritual lesson. When I take her to the vet, she stands on her back to feet and reaches up to me, begging me to pick her up. In scary times, she communicates that she is vulnerable and needy. She also communicates her confidence that I can protect her. Her "pick me up" has inspired me to ask the same of You. Father, when I face adversity and hardship, please "pick me up". Hold me. Carry me. I need You. While You hold me in Your arms You, and Your armies, will fight my battles and defeat my enemies, whomever or whatever they may be. When the coast is clear, You will put me down on solid ground. I will then praise You for Your deliverance and protection. When trouble comes my way again, I will not be anxious or worried. Since I am a believer in Jesus Christ, I will confidently ask You to "pick me up" again, knowing You will do that. Father, I need to tell the world about how You "pick me up" and take care of me in scary times. You want them to know that You will do the same for them. Help me to spread that message, Father.

Psalm 58

Father, the world likes to believe that we are generally good people. People become evil through experiences, circumstances and situations. However, Your Word tells us here that we are born evil. What is evil? It is the belief in the lie that we are our own god, that we can do as we please while ignoring God altogether. It is natural for us, displayed even as toddlers, to make ourselves the center of our universe. We are not. It is a big lie. Because we believe ourselves to be more important than anyone or anything else, we hurt others. We don't listen to God. We cause a great deal of pain and suffering for others. This is why the truly godly people fight to defeat evil and wickedness. Godly people do battle against rebellion from God. When godly people have victory over evil, the watching world sees the value in righteous living. Father, use me to do battle against evil in this world.

Psalm 59

Father, evil people find confidence when they conclude that either You don't exist or that You won't fight against them. They crush people's spirits with words, especially false accusations. Father, I too have experienced persecution at the hands of the wicked. I admit - I am not God. I cannot win this battle. I have been praying to You for help. However, You have not been answering my prayers. Is Your silence giving encouragement to the wicked who are observing my life? Father, I still trust in You. I know that You will one day rescue me. I just need to wait for it, to not take matters into my own hands. Father, show that You are sovereign all things by making me an example of Your deliverance.

Psalm 60

Father, our nation is divided as the "left" battles against the "right". It is a cultural civil war. There is great social unrest. Your Word tells us in this chapter that natural disasters, people's suffering, and social unrest are all signs that You are angry with us. We have rebelled from You. We have decided we don't need You. We want to be our own gods, ignoring You entirely. Father, there is only one hope for America. Your people must confess their rebellion from God, surrender

their lives to You, and then courageously fight against evil and wickedness by showing the love of God to people in every community who are in crisis. Every believer has been sent into battle by You. Every believer is to participate in evangelism and ministry. Father, if Your church does what You've called her to do, this nation will see a spiritual revival. Father, call me into the battlefield and help me gain victories for Your Kingdom by touching lives for Jesus Christ.

Psalm 61

Father, why is it that so many people are anxious and insecure? It is because they rely on themselves for provision and protection. Why do we do this? Because we want to be our own god. We want to be in control of our lives, making decisions ourselves about what is right and wrong. We don't want You, the God who holds us accountable, anywhere near our lives. Without the blessing that comes from surrender to You, You step back and let us try to take care of ourselves. We fail miserably. On the contrary, we feel safe and secure when we surrender our lives to You. When we place our trust in You alone, our soul feels safe and secure in Your fortress. Nothing can hurt us. However, when we leave the safety of Your ways, exiting through the gate, we venture into a scary world of evil figures, lurking in the dark, who are eager to pounce on us. Overwhelmed by anxiety and insecurity, we remember the last time we felt safe. "Oh, it was when I trusted in God." We run back to Your fortress and seek refuge once more. Because of Your great mercy, You open the gate and let us back in. Father, open wide Your gate and let me in. I am needy and vulnerable. I need Your provision and protection. Father, keep me from ever leaving the safety of Your fortress ever again.

Psalm 62

Father, we live in a dangerous world. It is a world where the ungodly, motivated by pure selfish ambition, hurt others. However, believers in Jesus Christ need not be afraid. You are our defense. We may get damaged by their self-centeredness, but evil can never destroy us. They cannot steal our souls away to a dark place of eternal fire. You will destroy them before they do. We don't need to be afraid of them. Justice is coming to them. All You need to do is to take their power away and they become nothing. Father, we are not dependent upon the wicked to be merciful to us. It is You who is merciful, and it is You who will lead the wicked to treat us with mercy. Father, thank You that the wicked are powerless against You and that we, who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, have every reason to be confident even in our darkest hours.

Psalm 63

Father, You are God and I am not. I was created to long for fellowship with my God. It's in my DNA. Every person has that longing for You. However, most of them mistake that longing for something else, such as fame, money, power, influence, and pleasure. Those who long for these other things are cursed and are spiritually dead - like I used to be before I placed my faith in Jesus Christ for my salvation. What is spiritual death? It is complete and total estrangement from You. The person doesn't know You and You don't know that person. You are strangers. The residents of hell will forever grieve at the gravestone that marks the loss of the opportunity they once had to have a relationship with You. It is You alone who blesses us with spiritual life. The evidence of spiritual life includes a spirit that praises You for who You are, a spirit that is thankful and grateful for salvation, and a spirit that is devoted to pleasing You and following Your commands. Father, satisfy my longing for You. Help me to have sweet fellowship with You where my every heart's desire is fulfilled by You. Give me a heart of praise, thanksgiving, and devotion to Your ways.

Psalm 64

Father, the world hates godly people. Why? Because godly people are proof that the godly life can be lived in the 21st century. When they stand before You one day and claim that the godly life was impossible to live, You will use the testimonies of godly people as evidence to prove they are wrong. In the meantime, the wicked continue to attack the godly to silence them and to destroy their testimonies. Their preferred weapon is to torment the godly with words that steal their joy and destroy their reputations. They do that in the media, on the Internet, and in social media. They do that anonymously and cruelly. Father, people hurt us with words about superficial things that they see in us. They don't take the time to dig deep to discover who an individual is. On the contrary, a godly person knows that an individual's thought life and

behaviors are the results of thousands, if not millions, of complex variables that only You can understand. Therefore, a godly person does not judge. They simply love others. Father, thank You for defending the godly against the false accusations of the ungodly. The godly will one day be vindicated, something every godly person will celebrate. Father, help me not to judge other people but to simply love them like You do.

Psalm 65

Father, You are sovereign over all things, including an individual's salvation. We come to faith in Jesus Christ because You bring the gospel to us and You open our eyes so that we understand it. What is the gospel? I have rebelled from You and I deserve eternal separation from You because of it. I can do nothing to wash away my guilt. I need to be saved by someone who is perfect and pure. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He died on the cross for my sin and rebellion. His precious blood has washed away my sin and I can now stand pure before You, as though I had never sinned. Our lives are made complete and fulfilled by the gospel of Jesus Christ. What is the only fitting response to the greatest gift that can be received? Worship and thanksgiving. We praise You not only for our own salvation but also for the salvation of millions of people all over history and all across the globe. We praise You for the good works You have done through Your church. We praise You for Your faithfulness to care for us and the planet that we live on. We praise You that You choose to use us to bring hope to the hurting world around us. Father, help me to live a life of praise and thanksgiving, not only with my words but also with my actions.

Psalm 66

Father, what should be my reputation with my family, friends, and neighbors? I should be known as a man of incredible joy and praise. I should be known as the man who talks about Your goodness and greatness. I should be known as the man who praises You for Your provision, protection, transformation, deliverance, and restoration. You change people miraculously, including me. I will experience total fulfillment when You have completed the work of refining my heart and soul. I have much to be thankful for. I should be known as the man who refuses to praise the proud. If I praise the proud, I am praising rebellion and sin and my prayers would not be heard. Father, make me a man of joy and praise. Lead me to invite others to join me in worship. Help me to share my testimony about how You transformed my life.

Psalm 67

Father, why do You call us to live godly lives in this imperfect world? You want us to set an example for others, to inspire them to repent of their rebellion, surrender their lives to You, and to have their hearts changed by the work of the Holy Spirit. You want us to encourage people to worship Jesus Christ alone. One day, we will live in a perfect world. Christ alone will rule. It will be a place of perfect worship and perfect fear of God. Father, sign me up because I have placed my faith in Your Son! Heaven is where I want to live.

Psalm 68

Father, believers are on the journey that leads to Your Kingdom. For all who have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, their spiritual footsteps are leading them to the coming society where Jesus Christ rules perfectly. Our hearts should be overjoyed because of what we will soon experience in His presence. No suffering. No loneliness. No pain. No wounds. No brokenness. In Your Kingdom, we will be everything that You designed us to be. Total fulfillment and satisfaction. You will perfectly provide for us and protect us. However, we find ourselves scorned, mocked, and hated by those we pass by on our journey. They aren't on their way to Your home. They hate You and want nothing to do with You. They have satisfied themselves with corruption, stench, and filth, playing in the sewage of sin and rebellion. They want to disrupt our path to You. However, we know You are watching. You care for Your people and You come to our rescue. You lead us untouched through the path lined on both sides by the godless. They are silenced by Your presence. Their pride melts. They dare not open their mouths in defiance of the almighty God who defends His people. One day, Jesus Christ will sweep through the land and clean it up, ridding the world of all the stench and stain of the godless. The land itself will

celebrate the purification that You bring. Father, lead me to Your Kingdom and defend me along the way. I want to live in Your perfect Kingdom forever.

Psalm 69

Father, help me! I am in a storm. I am suffering the consequences of persecution by the wicked. I am suffering the consequences of living in a broken world. I am suffering the consequences of my own foolishness. The waters of trouble have encircled around me. I am drowning and I can't put my feet on solid ground. I am terrified. I shout but no one hears my cries. There is no one who cares as I look to the horizon in any direction. If anyone comes by in a boat, they will show no mercy. They will tell me I deserve to drown. I am truly alone. Rescue me because I've learned the lesson You lovingly taught me, that I need You, that I am not God, and that I am weak and vulnerable. Pluck me from the waters and put me on the solid rock of faith in Your goodness. Show Your justice to those who were heartless when I was suffering. Father, please rescue me.

Psalm 70

Father, the world loves to find fault with Christians. They examine our lives and look for the smallest mistakes we have made. If they can't find anything, they make something up. They shout about it on the rooftops to ruin our reputation and destroy our testimony and ministry. Father, it is causing me great misery. Father, shame them and stop them from doing this. Embarrass them. Humiliate them. May the public shame they want for me fall upon themselves. Help me to be a man of God, who walks in total obedience to You, in whom no fault can be found. Father, I will live a life of worship and thanksgiving for Your deliverance.

Psalm 71

Father, my family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors know that I have placed my faith in You. They know that I am trusting You for provision, protection, and deliverance. They are watching, asking themselves "Will God come through for him?" Father, the wicked are hoping the answer is "No!" They want evidence that You do not deliver. They want evidence that You do not rescue. They are hoping that my suffering continues, giving them permission to continue to disbelieve in Your goodness, Your power, or Your existence. If You don't rescue me, the wicked will gain confidence in their rebellion, discounting that You have any relevancy to the human experience. Therefore, Father, for Your own honor and glory, deliver me from trouble. End my season of adversity and restore me. When You do, I will have a story to tell. "God does rescue! God does deliver! Listen to what He has done for me!" My testimony will humble the wicked who will have proof that those who trust in You really are delivered. It is my very testimony that will defeat their evil schemes. Father, rescue me so that I can tell my children about the deliverance that comes from only You. They will tell their children who will tell their children. My deliverance has relevance for generations to come. Father, come to my rescue even this very hour.

Psalm 72

Father, Jesus Christ is no mere human teacher. He was not just a good man who did good things. He was not just a man who taught us about love. He is Your Son, the creator and savior of the world. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will conquer all evil and wickedness. He will be sovereign over all nations in His eternal Kingdom, a kingdom whose people prosper because of His rule. He is the judge of mankind, sending people to heaven or hell at the final judgement. He is the defender of the meek and those who mourn for their rebellion from God. He rescues any person who cries out to Him for salvation. He attends generously to those who sacrifice their lives for the advancement of His Kingdom. The redeemed are blessed because of what Jesus Christ has done for them.

Psalm 73

Father, the wicked in this world seem to be having a good life. They have wealth, power, influence, and fame. They enjoy lives of leisure and pleasure. They rub shoulders with the rich and powerful. They have everything they need and, therefore, believe they don't need You at all. However, those of us who believe in You are poor, relatively speaking. We didn't pursue wealth, power, influence, and fame because we had higher ideals to pursue. This has left us powerless nobodies who are vulnerable to the whims of the rich and famous. This is unfair. Shouldn't it be the other way around? However, the truth is that the days of enjoyment will come to an end for the godless. They will die and face the God they rejected. They will arrive in Your courts without a dollar and with no power, influence, or fame. They will have nothing. They won't even have a relationship with You. Eternal torment and misery lies ahead for them. Am I jealous of that? Do I envy that? Would I change places with any of them? No way. You allow me to suffer in this life because You love me and want to transform me more and more into the man of God You intended me to be. In reality, the carefree life of ease is a curse, preventing the person from truly understanding their need for God. Father, I have everything that I need in You. As I live the live of "blind faith", You will provide me with whatever I need at just the right time. You will protect me from harm at just the right moment. Father, help me to share my testimony of Your faithful provision so that even the rich and wealthy can learn that all that we need comes from You alone.

Psalm 74

Father, there are wicked and godless people even in our churches. They pretend to be one of us but they are actually present to disrupt and destroy. Shine the light on them. Reveal their evil schemes. Put obstacles in their path so that they cannot harm Your church. Bring them to shame. May the one who kicked the moneychangers out of the temple kick out the malicious deceivers in our churches.

Psalm 75

Father, the beauty and wonder of creation is a love letter to us from You. The snow-capped mountains, bubbling brooks, fields of flowers, waves lapping at the beach, puppies playing in the park, and a little child snuggling with her mother is evidence that You have deep affection for the human race. You want us to enjoy life. You want us to enjoy You. However, life was meant to be enjoyed only when we fear You, love You, and live for You. The joys of creation were never intended for the enjoyment of the wicked, proud, and arrogant. No, the world they are destined to live in is a world of darkness and fire, a world absent of all the pleasures of life in Your Kingdom. Why do the arrogant boast about themselves when their destiny is disaster? Why do they boast about themselves when it is You who exalts and humbles people? There is a day coming when all of creation will be destroyed, replaced by a new heaven and earth, a world with no imperfection or death whatsoever. It will be the home of the righteous who are preserved by their faith in Jesus Christ.

Psalm 76

Father, kings and queens, politicians, celebrities, and military leaders boast about themselves. "Look how great I am!" However, the truth is that they are nothing compared to You. It is You who rule over nations, armies, and cultures. It is You who give us 15 minutes of fame, power, or influence. It is You who takes it away and gives it to someone else. It is You alone who does good and it is You alone who defeats evil. Who is really in charge? You. Father, help me to live my life as a gift of thanks to You that You, the God who is everything, remembered me, a nobody.

Psalm 77

Father, there have been times when I have been despairing and distraught. My spirit is bitter about the situation I have been in. I've been complaining, wondering why You didn't treat me better. Father, do You feel sorry for me? No. I am ungrateful and unthankful for the multitude of blessings You have showered abundantly into my life. When I complain, I am making a choice to ignore the evidence of Your goodness all around me. "There's evidence over there of God's

goodness", says my friend. "No! I'm not going to look at it!", said I, as I cover my eyes with my hands. "I want to be bitter! Leave me alone." I've been questioning Your goodness. What's the price that we pay for our bitter spirit? Anxiety. Insecurity. Insomnia. Father, as I lay in bed, unable to sleep, my mind racing for survival in a storm, You call me to examine my heart. "Wake up, man! Be grateful - now! This minute! List the many things You can be thankful for and then You will rest...in bed and in the day. Father, help me to be determined to be grateful and thankful at all times. Help me to never doubt Your goodness again. How can I gain more evidence of Your amazing love? Simply trust in You once more when times get tough. You will protect me. You will pour out Your love to me, especially through the kindness of others. You are awesome.

Psalm 78

Father, mankind likes to think we can improve the human experience. "If we all put our minds together, we can make a better world. Education. Propaganda. Let's give the elites domination over all of us and they will lead us to the perfect society. After all, we are more sophisticated today than the simpletons who merely had religious faith in the past." Progressivism. However, this psalm tells us to hold on to our traditions. Living for God has worked in the past. It works in the present and it will work in the future. We must tell our children. Father, how will our children be led astray if we are not careful? First, doubt creeps in after unanswered prayer. "Maybe God won't come through for me." When we doubt You, we are rebelling from You because You have told us that You will come through us. Our doubt essentially calls You a liar. Once doubt overtakes us, disobedience soon follows. Why obey a God that doesn't exist? Why obey a God who is powerless to deliver for us? Out of your love for us, You make things difficult so that we will humbly return to You. However, instead of turning our hearts back to You, we complain and grumble that You have disciplined us for our disobedience. There is a price to be paid for our rebellion. We will experience failure, anxiety, and insecurity. But You, Father, are merciful and kind. You are compassionate and generous. You are eager to restore us into fellowship with You. You have a plan of salvation and His name is Jesus Christ, our savior from the city of David and the tribe of Judah. Your wrath for our rebellion is poured out on Him instead of us. He has paid the penalty for sin and rebellion once and for all. Father, there is hope for our future because of Christ. There is hope for those not yet born because of Christ. Father, help us tell the story of Your goodness to the next generation so that they will cling on to the stories of faith from their ancestors.

Psalm 79

Father, if I may ask a few questions without offending You? What is on Your Christmas list? What gift do You want under the Christmas tree? What gift do You long for? Us! I think about this amazing and beautiful world, filled with delights and pleasures, that You created so that we could enjoy it. I think about a savior named Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We are so precious to You that You were willing to sacrifice Your beloved Son for us. Father, You want a relationship with each one of us. You want to spend an eternity walking and talking with us. You want to delight in our enjoying the fullness of fellowship with You. Father, forgive me and deliver me and then transform me into the grateful and thankful gift that You long to open and enjoy forever more.

Psalm 80

Father, You took my soul, a tiny seed in Your hand, and planted it into the ground. You nourished the soil through sunshine and rain. My soul began to grow, though no one could see any evidence I was transforming. You kept on nourishing it. One day, my soul appeared as a tiny leaf on a twig in the dirt. More sunshine and rain, good times and difficult times. My soul kept growing. Six inches. A foot. The more my soul grew, the more I was able to stand against the storms of life, rooted in Your Word and Your care. Now, today, I am a tree. I give shade to many people who are being burned by the heat of adversity. People come to rest on my branches that are made of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Father, thank You for transforming me into a source of hope, strength, and refreshment for the hurting world around me.

Psalm 81

Father, You have given us three things. You have given us freedom. We are no longer enslaved to sin and rebellion. We are no longer imprisoned by temptation and addiction. We are free to live the godly life and prosper. You have also given us deliverance. We are no longer destined to an eternity in a place where You are absent. We have been delivered from that sentence. Finally, You have given us transformation. We are not the people we used to be. You have changed us, making us into people who resemble Your Son, Jesus Christ. Father, thank You for allowing us to mess up our lives so that we could learn we cannot be our own god. It is from that lesson that we learned to trust in You only. It is from that place of trust that we have gone on to experience peace and joy like we never have experienced before. Thank You.

Psalm 82

Father, You look upon us as poor and needy people. You see our vulnerability and weakness. You see our affliction in a world that hates us. You see our foolishness and ignorance and that we are catastrophically deceived. You see that the institutions that we rely on are corrupted and unstable. In Your deep love for us, You protect us and hold things together. Father, if You ever let go, this world would fall apart in an instant. Keep holding on to us. Keep being the glue that our lives depend on. Father, we need You. We are not god and we cannot take of ourselves. Help us.

Psalm 83

Father, many of us in America have turned our backs on You. We want nothing to do with You. We conspire against Your people, doing what we can to silence and defeat the godly. Your ways are now considered immoral or unethical. What used to be considered corrupt, evil, or strange is now embraced as good and normal. The highest virtue in our rebellious land is to let everyone do whatever they want to do and be whomever they want to be. You contradict that philosophy, telling us that we are to do what You want us to do and to be the people You tell us to be. However, in times of trouble, we cry out to You for help. We expect You to ignore our rebellion and to be nice to us, rescuing us time after time even though we have no intention to obey or honor You. You remain silent. Crickets. You don't answer our prayers because of our rebellious hearts. Father, You are a loving God who allows hard times to come upon us. You want to teach us that we are not our own god and that we need You. You want to teach us that we will be blessed only when we repent and surrender our lives to Your authority and rule. Father, teach us in this land to serve and honor You alone. Lead people from coast to coast to confess their rebellion and to turn their lives over to You. When that happens, You will pour out Your abundant grace, mercy, and blessings on this land.

Psalm 84

Father, this world offers me nothing of value. Wealth? Power? Fame? Influence? Pleasure? They are all meaningless. I was created to enjoy relationship with You. My life experience will be abundant fullness and richness only when I am in complete fellowship with You. Nothing of these other things can ever satisfy that desire. Having nothing and being no one in Your Kingdom is far better than having stuff and being someone in this world. Father, do You hear my thirst for You? Please pour out spiritual water to satisfy my thirst. Turn my spiritual famine into an oasis of refreshing spiritual water for the thirsty to flee to and enjoy refreshment and new life.

Psalm 85

Father, the world walks in rebellion from You. They choose to do that. Oh, they may think that somehow, they are the victim of forces they cannot control. However, they are fooling themselves. It is their own heart that chooses to disobey You and the consequences of their decision is silence from You. Even as they cry out to You for help, they do so without any intention to repent of their sin and rebellion. You are not fooled. You know their hearts. That is why You can ignore their cries of anguish. Father, Your rescue of us requires that we first repent of our sin and rebellion. We are to turn from our evil ways and to commit our lives to following You. Restoration and healing come only after we have sought

forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Peace is given by You only to those who fear You, people who don't dare to intentionally offend You in any way. Father, You have rescued us in the past when we have rebelled from You. You made us aware of our need to confess, repent, and surrender. We need to be rescued again. Father, we have sinned against You again. We ask for forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ. He alone satisfies Your demand for justice for the crimes committed against You. He alone also expresses the fullness of Your mercy. Help us now to live a life of repentance, surrendering our thoughts and actions to Your will.

Psalm 86

Father, what evidence is there that someone has truly repented of their sin and rebellion? Continuous prayer that expresses confidence in Your goodness and power. A man who will not pray is a man who is trusting in himself. Such a man relies on their own understanding, strength, and resources to deal with the challenges of life. A man who prays some of the time but not always is a man who has only partially surrendered their life to You, which means they haven't truly surrendered their life at all. However, a man who prays unceasingly, trusting that You will hear and respond, is a humble man who knows his limitations, who knows he is not God, who fears You, and, therefore, has surrendered his life to You. Father, I am making a choice - I want You to make my life a testimony of total surrender to You so that others will follow my example. I ask that You pour out spiritual blessings into my life so that others know You are pleased by my total devotion to You.

Psalm 87

Father, why do You love Jerusalem so much? Can I hazard a guess? Jerusalem is where Your Son, Jesus Christ, was crucified for the world. There has never been, nor will there ever be, a greater gift of love than what transpired in this city 2,000 years ago. The love of Your life, Jesus Christ, gave His life for the other love of Your life, the human race. A long time ago You chose this city as the site of His crucifixion and resurrection. It was treasured by Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, David, and Solomon. New York, London, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, and Los Angeles share something in common - Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was never crucified for the sins of the world in that city. Father, Jerusalem is so treasured by You that You describe Your eternal city, the city where all believers in Jesus Christ will reside, as the New Jerusalem. Who may enter the gates of the New Jerusalem? Anyone who trusted that their sins will be forgiven by what Christ did in ancient Jerusalem. Anyone who was dead in their sin but who were then reborn with a new spiritual life thanks to their Savior. Father, thank You for what Jerusalem means to my salvation.

Psalm 88

Father, I am not yet ready to die. Why? There are lives that I want to touch with the love of Jesus Christ. If I am dead, I cannot share the gospel with those who are lost. If I am dead, I cannot share with the lost my testimony of Your transforming work in my life. If I am dead, I cannot demonstrate Your compassion and mercy on those who are in need. If I am dead, I can't set an example of worship, thanksgiving, and praise to my neighbors. If I am dead, I can't model how to live a godly life for others to follow. Father, why am I alive today? Because You have plans for me to do these very things. I breath today because there is at least one life I have yet to touch for Christ. What will trigger my death? The moment there are no more lives for me to touch. My life is no longer necessary in this world after I have completed the last good work You planned for me to do. However, my life is very difficult. I am experiencing great suffering. I am imprisoned by very difficult circumstances. I had some trouble and then I had even more trouble after that. I'm not thinking about touching lives for Christ. I'm thinking about survival. You haven't answered my prayers for relief. Father, for all intents and purposes, my ministry is already dead. If You want me to touch lives for Christ, I need relief from my suffering. Or, Father, I need indescribable peace and joy, despite my circumstances, so that people are stunned by my faith. If I have that grace from You, I may yet touch lives for Christ. I might yet have a purpose for Your Kingdom. I might yet have a reason to be alive. Father, please give me a testimony of Your abundant grace this very hour.

Psalm 89

Father, I say that I understand Your incredible mercy. You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to rescue me from my sin and rebellion against You. However, I don't believe I "really" understand it. Father, when I am in Your presence and take in Your glory, and consider my own past of sin and rebellion, I will have a much greater understanding of the magnitude of Your mercy. It will cause me to sing with incredible joy and thanksgiving. I truly will sing of the mercies of the Lord, forever. Father, my life story is another glorious example of Your mercy and I will share my story with my brothers and sisters in Christ today just as I will with my brothers and sisters in Christ from all generations who I will meet in Your Kingdom. We, the men and women who fear You, will continuously tell one another about Your faithfulness. We will celebrate the eternal righteous and just rule of Jesus Christ. We will celebrate You, the one and only living God, who has done great things. We thank You for the victories over our enemies that the gospel of Jesus Christ has given to us. The more we praise You, the greater our strength will be. We were made to worship You and it is in true worship that we enjoy the fullness of who we were made to be. Father, thank You for the provision of the Holy Spirit who guides us and directs us each step of the day. Teach me to worship and praise You every hour of every day of my life.

However, there are times that I do rebel from You. I go my own way. I do my own thing. I rely on my own strength and understanding. In Your great mercy, You discipline me to expose the rebellion in my heart. The consequences of my rebellion, which You have allowed me to experience, have caused me great anguish. However, I have learned my lesson. I confess my sin and repent, surrendering my life to You once more. Father, please be merciful to me, stop disciplining me, and restore Your kindness into my life. I will have another story to share with everyone about Your deliverance, forgiveness, and restoration.

Psalm 90

Father, my life is but a vapor. A mist that disappears in a moment. Just a moment ago, I was born. In a minute or two from now, I will die because I rebelled from You in my brief time under the sun. The world got along fine without me before I was born, and it won't miss me after I die. However, You have been sovereign throughout all history. You were never born, and You will never die. A thousand years, which is a very long time for us, is but a blink of an eye for the God who created time. You've examined the thoughts of every human who has ever lived as well as those who have yet to be born. Who can keep a secret from You? Father, my looming death should engender great fear in my soul for You. You are the God who can send me to heaven or hell. Father, I have placed my faith that my sin and rebellion has been forgiven through the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross for me. I will survive Your judgment because Jesus has paid the price for each crime I have committed against You. Father, now that I have been saved, I ask You to do good works in me and through me. Use my brief life on this earth, whatever time I have remaining, to give You honor and glory and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to my neighbors who are lost.

Psalm 91

Father, what incredible joys await those of us who have trusted in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation. We will spend an eternity in a place where there will be no suffering, fears, worries, anxieties, insecurities, or failures. We will enjoy total fulfillment and satisfaction. There will be no baggage from our past. No, we will be delivered from all of the problems that plagued us in this life. We will also witness Your final victory over all evil, wickedness, rebellion, and sin. Like a grieving widow needs to see her deceased husband before he is interred, to confirm his passing, so too will we witness Your destruction of all evil so that we will know wickedness will never threaten us again. Thank You, Father, for the hope that I have today for a glorious and eternal future with You, the God I love. Walk in fellowship with me today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, throughout the remainder of this life, and throughout eternity.

Psalm 92

Father, I have one key "to-do" item to complete every day of my life. "Praise God". Father, praising You is surrender. It is humility. It is fear of the Lord. It is gratefulness and thanksgiving. It gives us victory, for we are at our best when we are

praising You and celebrating Your good deeds. Father, the wicked don't see You the way Your people do. They think they can conspire against You and survive. They think they can defeat You or render You irrelevant. However, they are fools. You will prove to every one of them that You alone are God. Every knee will bow before You, the everlasting God. Your enemies will perish but Your people will not. We cannot be defeated, not with You taking care of us. You provide for us. You heal us, renew us, restore us, and transform us. You are making us into the people You intended us to be all along. We never have to worry that You may change Your mind and scrap salvation through Christ. Breaking promises is an act of evil and it is impossible for You to do something evil. Father, help me to praise You every hour of every day.

Psalm 93

Father, the majestic and Holy God, the earth is established, and it can never be shaken. The earth has not split in two. It continues to rotate each day. It continues to tilt on its axis to give us seasons. The sun continues to shine. The land hasn't collapsed into the sea. Mountains stand tall as they did thousands of years ago. Other planets have not crashed into the earth. Father, Your creation is stable because it reflects Your stability. You don't have good days and bad days. Your strength doesn't wax and wane. You don't fall asleep on the job or lose interest in caring for Your creation. You are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and the earth gives evidence to that truth. The men and women who fear that humanity can destroy the planet do not understand that it is You who protects and sustains life on earth, and You will continue to do so till the end of time. Did "climate change" cause a category 5 hurricane? This chapter reminds us that You are greater than the raging sea. Storms don't worry You. They don't frazzle You or stress You out. Storms do Your bidding. Father, that same strength and consistency You also apply to our lives. The man or woman who walks with You has the same stability in life. He or she also cannot be shaken. Our testimonies of Your transforming love are not going to break apart or unravel. They will have as much relevance and power in 10 years as they have today. Father, give me unshakeable faith and character. Use me to give others comfort. When their lives are in stormy chaos, may my faith in You, and in Your Son, Jesus Christ, be the rock that they turn to for hope and deliverance when everything else has failed them.

Psalm 94

Father, we experience an injustice and we seek immediate revenge. We take matters into our own hands. Why? Because we don't think You can or will handle it. We also make the injustice all about us and how we were victimized. However, revenge is not our business. Whatever injustice that was done to us was really done to You. If a person has done us harm, they had to disobey Your commands to do so. It is Your business when injustice is done to us. The wicked are rebellious and proud. They hurt the innocent and needy because they don't think You care or notice. However, You are the God who sees and hears all and who knows everything. Every act of rebellion is noted in Your court documents. There will be an accounting, at the great judgment, for every act of cruelty. Hell has been prepared for those who have hurt others and who do not have Jesus Christ as their savior to forgive them. Their defeat is certain. The destruction that the wicked plan for the innocent will, in the end, happen to themselves. Warning to those who shed innocent blood! God will get His revenge. As for the righteous, those who have trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, they will never be rejected by God. They are guided by the Word of God to avoid acts of wickedness that require God's punishment. They are comforted in their times of anxiety. They are protected from the schemes of evil. There will be a world one day where righteousness rules and the upright will be glad. Father, please forgive me for any injustice I have committed in my life. Help me to walk righteously and justly before You, never seeking revenge. Help me to wait for You to take care of every matter in Your time and in Your way. I have peace that no injustice done to me will never be overlooked by You.

Psalm 95

Father today is the day of salvation. What does that mean? I may never have another opportunity to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ again. I may die suddenly. I may become mentally incapacitated, becoming no longer able to confess my sins and to live a life of repentance. I may harden my heart later today and never again be willing to consider my need for spiritual rescue. I may have a moment of clarity and understanding this hour that may never come again. Father, if I have the thought that I need salvation through Jesus Christ, I must act immediately to secure my salvation and eternal home with You. Once I have accepted the gospel, I can celebrate that my sins are completely forgiven. There are no charges

against me anymore. There is no greater reason for joy and thanksgiving. I have become a sheep in Your pasture, watched over and cared for by the Great Shepherd. I can enjoy peace and contentment forever. Father, I ask today for forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who died on the cross for my sin and rebellion. Help me to now live a life that pleases You. You own me, like You own everything else. Father, help me to remember how great You are. You are the God whose entire creation rests in the palm of Your hand.

Psalm 96

Father, we seek our own honor. We seek to be celebrated by everyone else. We want to be feared for our strength and complimented for our beauty. However, honor, majesty, strength, and beauty want nothing to do with us. Their eyes are on You. Honor doesn't want to hang out with me. Honor wants to be in Your courts. Majesty doesn't want to be associated with me. Majesty wants to be associated only with You alone. Strength is not impressed with me at all. However, strength is certainly impressed with You. There's no contest for beauty when they need to choose between You and I. You receive the glory. Father, the very praise that we seek for ourselves wants nothing to do with us at all. They want to worship You and so must I. It is fitting and right for me to create new ways to worship You. Truth, that says only You are to be praised, demands that I spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to my neighbors and to people who live overseas. My life itself, including all I do and say, is to be an act of worship, letting everyone know that You alone are to be honored with praise for Your majesty, strength, and beauty. Father, help me to fear You so that I will join creation praising You for being the amazing God that You are.

Psalm 97

Father, humans are so possessive. "This is mine!" However, the truth is that we own nothing. Everything belongs to You. Whatever object we possess, it was made from the raw materials You own. It was designed by brains that You created. The designer and the manufacturer used the fingers You gave them to create what we enjoy. Father, I surrender - whatever I own is Yours. Whatever skill I have is Yours. It is You who deserves the glory. I have done nothing worthy of praise. What can humans celebrate? That a righteous God, You, who owns all things, is in control of everything. You are good and not evil. You are just and righteous. What would our lives be like if You were evil? A God of Your power and sovereignty who is wicked? The universe instructs us about who You are. The vastness of the universe speaks to Your immense power and strength. The order of the universe tells us that You are a good of standards, law and order, and process. The beauty of the universe tells us of Your incredible creativity and Your deep love for us. Father, thank You for being the good, loving, compassionate, forgiving, righteous, holy, and just God that You are. Thank You that not only are You not evil, but Your great power also destroys all evil. Father, thanks to Your grace and mercy, my brothers and sisters in Christ, the church, and I are forgiven of our rebellion from You. You watch over us, protecting us from all harm. You give us understanding and contentment. What a blessing to my owned by a good God!

Psalm 98

Father, "I did it" the people shout. "I accepted Jesus as my Savior." No, Father. You did it. In this chapter we read that we wouldn't know who Jesus Christ is unless You revealed Him to us. You took the action to open our eyes and to give us understanding of our spiritual need. Therefore, I will praise You for wanting my salvation. I will be ecstatic. This was no small gift. Because You reached out to me, I will not experience eternal separation from You. I will enjoy the blessings of living in Your Kingdom. I should sing and shout with joy all day long. "He did it! He did it for me!" I should be eternally grateful, never complaining again about anything. Father, I know You want all people to be saved from the coming judgment. Lead me to share the testimony of what You have done for me with my friends, family, and neighbors. Perhaps the message I share was planned by You long ago to be a key link in my neighbor coming to faith in Christ.

Psalm 99

Father, how dare I speak Your name! I am a sinner. I have rebelled from You. I am covered in corruption, unable to enter into Your pure Kingdom. Your name is precious. It is holy and pure. It is mighty and sovereign. A man who dares say

Your name must be pure of heart, soul, and mind. Father, that is impossible. I have violated Your laws. I am impure. I need to be rescued from my corruption. Who can save me? Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Though He hated my sin and rebellion, He loved the rebel that I was. He came down and lived the perfect life that I was never able to live. He then died on the cross for my sins. Thanks to what He has done for me, giving me credit for His perfection and taking from me the wrath that I deserved, I am now considered pure, holy, and righteous in Your eyes. It is as if I have never sinned. I am welcome in Your Kingdom. So, as You had a relationship with the great men of faith in the Old and New Testaments, so also You want a relationship with me. Thank You.

Psalm 100

Father, I see it in the news each day. People from all over the world are trying so hard to do things their way. They are trying to change our institutions and traditions in order to build a secular society where You are absent and/or irrelevant. Their efforts are doomed to failure. You tell us in this psalm that Your ways will endure till the end of history. The wicked cannot suppress, confine, imprison, weaken, or ignore Your laws. If they attempt to do so, Your ways will roar back and bite, proving their rightness and perfection. If Your ways tell us to not commit adultery, Your ways will make life miserable for us when we do. Father, You are my God and I am not. Thank You for Your eternal mercy that rescued me from my sin and rebellion. I will never doubt again that You are good.

Psalm 101

Father, I am alone in my house. No one can see through the closed doors and curtains. I could do anything unethical, immoral, foolish, or even strange and nobody would notice. I could then leave my home and pretend I am righteous. However, I know that You watch me every second of my life, no matter where I am or what I am doing. When I disobey Your commands in private, not only do You take note of them, but I also open a door for evil to infest my heart and mind. Father, what does a godly man do when he is alone behind closed doors? He obeys You 100% of the time. Knowing You are continuously watching his every move, he will avoid doing anything that offends You. Father, I want to have integrity. If I claim to be godly, I must be godly even when no one else is watching. If I allegedly hate the acts of wicked and evil people, why would I entertain them in my solitude? Father, please help me to avoid all temptation. This includes the temptation that comes from my own heart, the temptations that come from the world, and the temptations that come from spiritual powers. Father, I want to be the kind of man who will be found faultless, even if people peak into my home through a crack in the wall. I want to be the kind of man who is found righteous even if people gain access to my computer or my filing system. I want to be the kind of "perfect" man of whom not even You can find anything offensive. How can I be that kind of man? By seeking forgiveness of my rebellion and sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gave me His perfection in exchange for my imperfection, which He paid for on the cross. You invite a "perfect" man like me to serve You and to advance Your Kingdom. Help me to strengthen Your church as I keep myself completely separate from those who love wickedness and evil.

Psalm 102

Father, thanks to my original sin and rebellion from You, I am aging, rapidly approaching my death. I am running out of time. My body is breaking down. I'm having trouble sleeping. I am having trouble remembering people's names and faces as well as the details of my life. I am lonely, grieving the loss of loved ones. The world has forgotten about me. I am insignificant and irrelevant. I cannot save myself from my suffering. I don't have the strength of body or mind. I need You. You are my only hope. I know that You hear the prayers of the destitute. You search the world for needy people to rescue, just like me. I will one day be delivered from this life and I will be ushered into Your presence. I will behold Your glory with my renewed and refreshed body and mind. Father, creation itself is aging. It too will die one day, replaced by a new heaven and new earth. In that day I will be young and strong again and I shall continue to be throughout eternity. Father, after I am gone, new generations will come. Many yet to be born will serve You and enjoy fellowship with You, just like I have. You are the everlasting who will judge the nations. Thanks to what Jesus Christ has done for me, I will survive my day in Your court, and I will walk through the gates of heaven itself. Thank You.

Psalm 103

Father, Jesus Christ is absolutely awesome! Please, help me to make my entire life, all that I do and say, a blessing to Him. Look at who He is. He is our Redeemer. He bought us out of slavery at the expense of the shedding of His precious blood. He forgives our sins, so much so that they are erased from history as if they had never occurred at all. He heals us, transforms us, and renews us so that we can enjoy complete fellowship with You, a state of total satisfaction. He rescues the oppressed from evil. He provides for the poor. He protects us from all danger. His mercy towards us will never end. He blesses those who fear Him, and He blesses their children as well. May all of creation glorify the name of Jesus Christ. May all of the angels glorify Him as well. Most importantly, may my every breath be to His honor and praise.

Psalm 104

Father, You are the God who created the earth's inner core. You are the God who created the atmosphere. You are the God who created the seas and the land, separating the two with shorelines You drew with Your finger. You make refreshing streams of water flow for us from the ground. You grow plants that animals and people can enjoy. You give us treats, such as grapes on a vine that can be turned into wine that lift our spirits when we are discouraged. You take care of every animal, giving it birth, feeding it, and protecting it. You care for the fish in the sea and the birds in the air as well. Father, out of love for us You give us all of Your creation to enjoy. As wonderful as these things are, I have not yet mentioned the best thing of all. What is that? You are a personal God who wants to have a close relationship with me. You want to walk with me and talk with me along the road of life. You are my God, but You are also my best friend. Father, make it my life mission to praise You. Help me to live my life so that I put a smile on Your face. Father, help me to be a soldier in Your army, defeating evil wherever You call me to do so.

Psalm 105

Father, You have given me a job to do. I am to tell the world of Your faithfulness and goodness to me throughout my life. I am to talk about all the times You delivered me from trouble. I am to share those incredible moments when You did what seemed impossible in my life so that others in despair will have the hope of deliverance. I am to set an example for others by trusting in You again when the next adversity comes along. To do otherwise would compromise my testimony. I can be confident that You will deliver me again and I will celebrate Your faithfulness once more. You are the God who rescues and protects.

Psalm 106

Father, here we are, a people basking in Your love and protection. You give us all we need. We get a taste of peace and joy. However, we are not thankful and grateful. We feel something is missing and doubt You can provide whatever it is. After complaining to You, we squirm to escape from Your everlasting hug in order to do our own thing and be our own god. Our natural desire to rebel from You is that strong. We listen to the world when it shouts that godlessness is what we are all searching for. Our godlessness turns to violence and the crushing of innocent people. You become righteously furious with us. However, You are merciful. You call up leaders, even one solitary person, to lead us to confession and repentance. Just one godly man can lead many to return to the safety of Your arms. We can once more rejoice, all snuggled under Your wings, that we are all part of Your family. The universe will see the power of Your grace and celebrate salvation. Father, forgive me of my rebellion. Lead me back into Your loving arms. Help me to obey You 100% of the time. Make me that one man who leads others back to You.

Psalm 107

Father, what does a loving God do when His people are trusting in false gods? Does He strengthen their idols? Does He bless them? No. He makes certain that those idols will fail. He makes certain that trust in those idols will lead to a storm of trouble, chaos, and confusion. In the midst of the fury, we will cry out to that loving God for help. We acknowledge

our idols have failed. Such a loving God will be faithful to rescue us. His mercy will endure forever, in every situation of life. Rescued from the storm, we, a grateful and thankful people, a satisfied people, will tell the world of the salvation we received from that loving God. We will praise and worship that God. Father, You are that loving God.

Psalm 108

Father, what is my highest priority for today? To praise Your name. My praise is to begin when I awake. It is to continue throughout the day for the public to see. My final thoughts before I fall asleep tonight are to be praises for Your goodness. Should people praise me today I will give You the honor instead. It is You who give me any victory I enjoy. Father, there are many people and institutions who think of themselves as powerful. Hah. Only You are. Nothing and no one are like You. I will tell the world that throughout my day.

Psalm 109

Father, I am in trouble. I'm under attack by the wicked. What is the first thing I should do before asking You for help? I should praise You. You don't have to prove anything to me by first answering my prayers. The starting point is my faith in Your goodness.

What is the wicked person like? They are deceitful. They disregard the truth, choosing instead to believe lies. They are filled with hate. Rage, bitterness, and revenge against the godly drive their actions. They are ungrateful, putting on their mantel a list of their disappointments in life. They lack mercy for people in need.

Father, I'm asking You to punish the wicked. Don't allow them to succeed in their ways. Give them a short life so they impact less people. Give them intense adversity to distract them from their plans to hurt others. Don't entertain their feeble attempts at religion in their attempt to placate You. Charge them with crimes and find them guilty in Your court.

As for those who love Your ways, treat us well. Give Yourself honor by showing the world that You rescue those who fear You. Our greatest blessing will be the defeat of our enemies by You. Father, I praise You now for the deliverance that will come from You.

Psalm 110

Father, there is only one king. He is Jesus Christ. Every other leader in world history will bow their knee before Him and confess He is Lord. Every one of them will surrender to Him any authority they thought they had. Any world leader who dares to fight against Him will lose. They will end up in total submission to Him, being the footstool, He rests His feet on. Who eagerly fights His battles? The church. Father, Jesus Christ is not only our King, but He is also our priest. He atones for our sin as only He can do. Father, help me to live my life so that I honor and serve the King of kings.

Psalm 111

Father, godly people think about Your greatness every hour of every day. They join other godly people each day talking about how amazing You are. We celebrate the truth that everything is well with our lives because You are watching over us and taking care of us. We share with one another our stories of Your goodness. We never have to worry that You May turn evil one day. No, You promised Yourself that Your righteousness will be praised throughout eternity. Father, what is the proof that I truly love You and desire to honor You? I obey Your commands. Father, help me to obey Your commands today and forever more.

Psalm 112

Father, what blessings are in store for those who fear You and delight in obeying You? Their godly decisions keep them out of trouble and lead them down the path of blessing. This has an impact on their families. Their children will be spiritually blessed by their godly example. Next, their communities become blessed by their godliness. They become a blessing to the poor and needy. They will become heroes of faith in their community because of their courage and strength. Finally, the world will be blessed by their godliness. Their reputation will grow until even world leaders are moved by their godly example and become inspired to lead their nations to godliness. Father, You have big plans for those who are truly devoted to Your glory. The world needs their influence. Father, make me such a man.

Psalm 113

Father, look at the incredible compassion You show this world every day. The poor are given food and shelter. The sick are taken care of. The lonely are given friends. The despairing are given hope. What kind of God cares for people like this? A loving and compassionate God. Open my eyes to see all of Your acts of compassion throughout the earth. Open my eyes that I might see the work of ministries and charities. Open my eyes that I might see acts of kindness performed by generous people. May every story of grace and mercy be a celebration of who You are.

Psalm 114

Father, You choose one family to be the family through which our savior, Jesus Christ, would come. This family grew into a nation. You rescued them from slavery in Egypt and led them on a journey to the promised land, the land of Canaan. You dwelt among them, God being present with His people. When this family was crying out to You for help, You stormed into Egypt and terrified the government so that they would let Your people go. Father, the church is the family where the Holy Spirit dwells. When the church is oppressed, please bring Your terror to our oppressors so that they let us go too.

Psalm 115

Father, should I praise another man? Should I glorify a woman? Do I want their autograph? Do I want my picture taken with them? No. They are mere humans. They are broken and weak people. They are fools. They are spiritually deaf and blind. They are powerless to help me. They are not sovereign. In fact, they are needy and dependent. Father, only You do as You please on heaven and earth. Only You think about the needs of those who fear You and come to their rescue. Father, it is You alone who I will trust in my time of need. I will not trust my life with anyone who is not the God of the creation.

Psalm 116

Father, this chapter describes for us the content of a testimony. First, a person was in trouble. Second, they called out to You for help. Third, You rescued them in Your mercy. Fourth, the person becomes grateful and thankful for their deliverance. Fifth, they desire to express their thanks by trusting in You when trouble comes again. They desire to express their thanks by obeying Your laws and living for Your glory and honor. Sixth, they share their story with their brothers and sisters in Christ and with their neighbors. Father, You have given me a testimony just like this. Help me now to share it boldly and often. Use my testimony to give people hope in Your deliverance.

Psalm 117

Father, You will be victorious in the end. Your ways. Your truth. Your mercy and kindness. When a person truly understands the goodness of Your commands, they will celebrate Your victory. What a relief! A loving and merciful God, who loves people across the earth, will defeat evil of every kind. There is no uncertainty. We need not worry that evil might prevail. Thank You, Father. Thank You for Your inevitable victory.

Psalm 118

Father, You are good. Your mercies endure forever. There is no quota to them. No boundary. No limitation. If I receive one million mercies from You, there's still a warehouse of a billion mercies more that You are eager to give to me. If that warehouse becomes empty, there are millions of more warehouses stuffed with blessings You want to shower upon me. Father, I experience Your mercy in the goodness and care of my brothers and sisters in Christ. You call them to take care of me when I am in need as You call me to take care of them when they are in need. I don't fear man. What can he do to me when I have infinite mercies pouring into my life? One day, Christ will defeat all of my enemies and I will bask in the "Sonshine" of His presence. But in the meantime, I am surrounded by Your incredible mercies who will protect me as I obey Your call to do good works for my neighbors in need. Thank You.

Psalm 119

Father, what is the second greatest gift, after Jesus Christ, that You have given to the world? Your Word. Your Word shows us how to have a relationship with You. Your Word keeps us from the torment of everlasting suffering. Your word keeps us out of trouble in life. Your Word gives us all the wisdom we need. Your Word gives us purpose and direction. Your Word gives us meaning. Your Word teaches us how to worship You, enabling us to be fulfilled as only worship can do for us. Your Word teaches us to be thankful and grateful. Your Word gives us stories of faith that inspire and motivate us. Your Word teaches us about love. Your Word helps us to make sense of this chaotic, confused, and broken world. Your Word shows us how our characters can be transformed by You. Your Word comforts us when we are anxious or afraid. Your Word lifts our spirits when we are discouraged. Your Word details the promises You have given us. Your Word gives us hope of rescue and freedom, especially when we are enslaved by evil or by our own sin and rebellion. Your Word gives us the character and the message that can change lives in our communities. Your Word gives us truth that surpasses any reasoning of the ungodly. Your Word shows us how to avoid Your discipline and punishment. Your Word is without question the greatest gift we can ever receive, except for Christ Himself. Father, give me a heart that celebrates Your Word every hour of every day. Give me a heart that is never satisfied that I know enough of Your Word. Give me a heart that keeps coming back to the Bible for more and more instruction from You. Father, I ask that Your Word will be the center of my life.

Psalm 120

Father, I am weary of the evil and wickedness in this world. Why do You allow it to happen? Can't You destroy all godlessness and give Your people rest? Why don't You answer our prayers for victory? Father, You have. The believer in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Your Kingdom, a world without evil or wickedness of any kind. We will one day enjoy freedom from the consequences and misery of sin and rebellion. However, we remain in this sinful world for one critically important reason – You love millions of people who do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and You want us, Your church, to lead them to Christ. Father, they will resist our message, even hating us for challenging their rebellious hearts. They will lie about us, tarnishing our characters. Therefore, we will experience endure hardship in order to bring the love of Christ to our neighbors. Who else did that? Jesus Christ Himself. Father, help us to endure the evil that we must face in order to carry the hope of the cross to a blind world. Protect us from evil schemes and conspiracies so that we can minister to people who need evidence that the love of God is very real.

Psalm 121

Father, this chapter directs us to look up to the mountain peaks and to know we can find You there. Huh? Are You not also in the valley with us? Of course, You are. So, why should we look up to the hills for help from You? Father, the top of most mountains are places of solitude. No crowds are there. No villages. No buildings. People don't hang around at the top of a mountain because of the rocks, cold, snow, wind, and ice. If we reach the top, we are most likely alone. Father, I believe You are calling us here to find refuge in time of need through time alone with You. Away from everyone else. Just You and I talking together. Meditating on scripture. Worshipping You. What does this do for me? It gives me strength. It renews my soul and refreshes my spirit. It refuels me for ministry in a challenging world. Yes, I am to come back down the mountain, with a full tank of strength, and minister to the people in need in the valley. Father, I can find this mountain experience in a walk in the woods or in the privacy of my home - any place where I can be alone with You. Father, call me often to spend time alone with You - just You and I.

Psalm 122

Father, the greatest gift You have given to us is Jesus Christ. The second greatest gift is Your Word. What is the third greatest gift? The church. Father, thank You for the Christian community. Thank You for the millions of believers in Jesus Christ across the globe and the millions more who have gone on to be with You. They are all my brothers and sisters in Christ. Genuine Christian community, united through shared faith in Christ, is a refuge in an evil world. It is a place to regain strength and to be refreshed. It is a place of encouragement. It is a place of truth and justice. It is a place of joyous thanksgiving and gratefulness. It is a place of peace, free from anxiety and insecurity. It is a place for testimonies of Your goodness to us all. It is a place of compassion and mercy, a place of forgiveness. Father, help me to be forever grateful for the church. Increase my devotion to it. Watch over Your church, protecting it and building it. Empower it to transform lives, turning people into dynamic ministers of the gospel. Lead more and more people to find refuge in it. Give me tasks to do to bless my brothers and sisters in Christ who worship with me. They are my family who will be with me for eternity.

Psalm 123

Father, a puppy is taken to the veterinarian for treatment. It's a scary place. She turns to her human parent, puts her front paws on their chest, and pleads with her eyes, "Pick me up!" She is picked up and she stops trembling. She feels safe. She considers her human parent to be strong, alert, and loving. Father, this analogy has been a blessing to me. I need to seek safety from You just like my precious schitzu has often sought safety from me. I too am scared of this world. I too am weak and vulnerable. Father, please pick me up and carry me. The wicked are charging towards me with evil in their eyes. They intend to devour me. But if You pick me up, they can bark at Your feet all they want. I'll be safe in Your arms.

Psalm 124

Father, we have no idea how bad things could be for us. Yes, we live in a world with evil and suffering. However, this world could be "hell". What would this world be like if there were no boundaries for Satan? How miserable would our lives be if Satan did everything that he wanted to do to us? We certainly are helpless, and we couldn't defend ourselves. Why aren't things as bad as they could be? You protect us. You put restraints on Satan. You draw lines he dares not cross. You defeat many of his schemes. You outmaneuver him routinely, exploiting his vulnerabilities. You give yourself victories that humiliate him. Father, we thank You that You are our creator who watches over us and cares for us.

Psalm 125

Father, one of the many joys of heaven will be the absence of all evil. There will be no one setting a bad example. There will be no one trying to lead a rebellion from You. There will be no one burdening us with their wickedness and godlessness. There will be no corruption in society. There will be no one tempting us to sin against You. Why will we be

in heaven? Because of our trust in You. Those who trust in You will never be shaken, especially by temptation. Thank You for the hope that I have today that my eternity in heaven is assured to be free from all evil.

However, evil is still present in this world. I still have my sinful nature this side of death. This means I am vulnerable to temptation. I could rebel from You again. I could backslide, leaving behind my relationship with You to embrace the lusts of the godless. When I come to Your court, there will be no leniency for me because I used to follow You. I will receive no credit. Rebellion is rebellion in Your eyes, and it requires eternal separation from You.

Father, please help me to never rebel from You again. Forgive me of my rebellion and sin through my Savior, Jesus Christ. Protect me from temptation. Keep me in Your Word and give me a desire for continuous daily prayer. Surround me with brothers and sisters in Christ who help me to guard my soul.

Psalm 126

Father, ministry comes with many tears. The world rejects our message of Your love expressed through Jesus Christ. They don't want to hear it. The world mocks godly living and those who call for it. The world wants to silence the message of hope that comes through Jesus Christ. The world accuses those who spread the gospel of all kinds of false accusations. Even believers in You can be disinterested in ministry, failing to help ministers of the gospel with their time, encouragement, resources, and connections. The minister can feel very alone and weep many tears. "What's the use? I'm not seeing any progress and I'm so alone."

However, the minister is planting the seeds that You will grow. You turn a simple word of encouragement, a prayer, an act of compassion, or a generous gift into a life changing encounter for the recipient with the love of Jesus Christ. That seed will grow into spiritual rebirth and transformation. The recipient has grown into a strong tree of godliness. One day, the minister will return and see the results of the seed they planted so long ago. There will be much rejoicing.

Father, lead me to plant seeds of the gospel in people's lives. Then, after I leave, do Your work in their hearts and transform them. I would love to learn in heaven about how many lives were impacted for Christ by my seemingly insignificant acts of kindness on earth.

Psalm 127

Father, anything I attempt to build on my own is destined to failure. Such an effort is like trying to build a house of cards outside on a windy day. Oh, we may make some progress. Perhaps we can even build a small tower. But that strong gust is coming around the corner and taking aim at our feeble efforts. Destruction. Father, You must build for me the things You've called me to work on. Want me to build a house of cards on a windy day? I need You to block or redirect the wind. I need You to hold each card in position. I need You to tell me where to put the next card. Father, You don't expect us to build anything. You know it is You who builds everything good. But like a father, building a shed, let's his young son hammer in one nail, You welcome us to contribute in small ways to the things You are building. Father, how can I help You build something? What nail can I hammer in? Can I carry something for You? I want to help my Father in heaven.

Father, why do we try to build things on our own? Because we want the glory and praise. We try to build that house of cards in the wind because if we can finish it everyone will praise us. So, we keep trying over and over. We never cease. We never rest. We go without sleep thinking that somehow the extra hour of work will somehow overcome the wind. It never works.

Father, rest comes to those who aren't trying to prove anything to anyone. They can rest with the satisfaction that You allowed them to put a card or two on the tower You are building. Since it is Your work, all I have to do is my small part. That is enough. I can rest and relax knowing I contributed to my Father's work.

Psalm 128

Father, those who fear You can expect to receive blessings in every aspect of their life. Does that mean they will gain worldly wealth, power, influence, and fame? Not necessarily. Oh, You might allow a humble man or woman of God to have those things if they use them to Your glory. A wealthy believer can be generous to the poor. A powerful and influential believer can orchestrate the rescue of people from injustice. A famous believer can share the gospel message with the masses. However, I believe the multitude of blessings You promise are spiritual. Our characters will overflow with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Imagine all the good that comes to us from those character traits. Those traits will impact our activities and our relationships. Those traits will be useful to You in ministry, allowing us to touch lives for Christ. There's nothing better than that. Father, it all starts with fear of the Lord. Father, help me to fear You and to surrender my life to obedience to Your commands.

Psalm 129

Father, our culture lives to celebrate heroes. For example, a firefighter is praised for rescuing a young child from a burning building. Who is the greatest hero ever? Jesus Christ. This world was lost. It was destined for destruction. Jesus Christ came to rescue the world. He freed us from the chains of sin and rebellion. We will praise Him for eternity for His heroic love for us. Those who mock Him will regret their words one day when they see He is very real and He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. They will then disappear and be forgotten. Their self-importance will be shattered forever. Father, thank You for rescuing me through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help me to celebrate His heroism forever.

Psalm 130

Father, many in this world are in total darkness. They are lost, stumbling through life unable to make sense of it. Chaos. Confusion. They are deceived, believing in things that are not true. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a bright and glorious ray of light. It gives us hope. It gives us direction. It gives us clarity. There is nothing more illuminating than to fear You, to confess our sins, to seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and to live a repentant life. Father, help me to walk in the light of the gospel every day of my life.

Psalm 131

Father, our universities and the Internet are filled with knowledge. We like to think of ourselves as educated and sophisticated. We know all kinds of things. However, Your Word tells us that if we don't have a personal relationship with You, we know nothing at all. Striving to acquire all knowledge is silly when all we need to do is to walk and talk with our God who knows everything. When we are in fellowship with You, You teach us what we need to know to do what You want us to do. Father, many struggle to gain knowledge. They accumulate burdensome student loan debt. Others simply rest in Your arms, like a child resting in the loving arms of his mother. Their childlike trust in You gives them far more wisdom and understanding than the elites and the sophisticated with doctorates. Father, teach me all that I need to know by helping me to trust in You.

Psalm 132

Father, King David had a dream. He wanted to build a temple for You. Why did he not want to build a large tower? Or perhaps a pyramid to glorify his kingdom? He wanted to build a temple because of what the temple represents - You are dwelling with Your people. Imagine a man building a home for Jesus in the land next to his house. He wants Jesus to live with him, to be close by to him, every day of his life. David wanted the people to be blessed by continuous fellowship with You. His dream reflected his love for You and for his people.

Father, live with me. Dwell with me. I want You in close quarters with me. Come into my personal space. I can never be more blessed than when You live close beside me.

Psalm 133

Father, how wonderful it is to experience believers in Jesus Christ living together in unity. They welcome and invite one another to participate in all that the community does. They encourage and inspire one another. They provide for and protect one another. They have fun together, celebrating You. They embrace the uniqueness of each person and welcome their contribution to the community. They listen to one another. They don't tempt one another to sin or rebel from You. They walk with one another to make sure no one falls away. Father, this is certainly a description of life in Your Kingdom throughout eternity. However, let that be the experience of believers even this day in churches across America and around the world. If that is true, the local church will become a community millions of people will want to participate in. Father, help me to contribute to the building of this kind of church in the church that I attend.

Psalm 134

Father, people often reflect on what life will be like in heaven. Perfect world. Perfect bodies. Perfect community. Perfect government. These things are true, and Your people will enjoy them. However, heaven is primarily the place of perfect worship. It is where You receive the spirited and true praise from us that You deserve.

Father, a family goes on a holiday vacation to a beach resort in Southeast Asia. They are excited about all the fun things they are going to do. When they arrive, they ignore the people who work at the resort. The focus of the family is their own pleasure. The workers are insignificant, mere servants whose purpose is to make sure each detail of the family's stay is perfect.

Is that what heaven is like? No. I change the metaphor to reflect what heaven is really like. This same family travels to Southeast Asia with only one purpose in mind - to celebrate the people who manage the beach resort. It is the family's purpose to praise, appreciate, and bless each of the employees. The family wants to serve them and make sure each resort employee feels truly loved and appreciated.

Father, the focus of our life in heaven should be, and will be, Your praise, pleasure, and blessing. The perfect world we will be in? That's nice but not as nice as our opportunity to please You throughout eternity. Father, help me to refocus my vision of heaven, turning it into a place where I continuously live to please You and that fact alone is far more delightful than living in a perfect world.

Psalm 135

Father, we love our celebrities on earth. Sports stars. Movie stars. Recording artists. Conference speakers. Famous entrepreneurs. Writers. Social media influencers. Media personalities. We want their autographs. We want our pictures taken with them. We wear their jerseys and buy their books. We purchase the products they endorse. We follow their advice without hesitation. We admire them and we praise them. We think of them as gods.

And then they die. We forget about them entirely, moving on to praise some other celebrity instead.

Or they have a public moral failure. We forget about them entirely, moving on to praise some other celebrity instead.

There will be no human celebrities in heaven. No one will be impressed with anyone other than You. You will be the only famous person. You will be the only one everyone praises and admires. Why? Because You are the only true living God. All-powerful. All-knowing. All-wise. Holy. Sovereign.

Human gods are lifeless idols with respect to my salvation. They are powerless to save me. When I place my trust in their celebrity, I reveal the truth that I am spiritually dead myself.

However, thanks to Your compassion, You rescue me from my idolatry and reorient me to the worship of Yourself, the only true living God. Thank You. Father, become the only celebrity in my heart. Lead me to praise and honor You exclusively with everyone I meet.

Psalm 136

Father, You make one thing very clear in this chapter - Your mercy will endure forever. Twenty-six times You tell us. What does this mean? You will never change Your mind about salvation. There will never be a time when You will regret saving anyone through Your Son, Jesus Christ. You will never kick us out of Your Kingdom because You decide to forget about what Christ did for us and we should pay for our sins after all. Father, when we come to faith in Christ, Your mercy forgives us and then forgets our sin. You deliberately erase any record that we ever sinned against You. Your mercy cleanses us of any stain of sin. Truly Your mercy does endure forever because our record of our sin is erased forever. Thank You. Lead me today to live righteously before You I'm appreciation for the mercy You have given me that will endure forever.

Psalm 137

Father, You have blessed me with many skills and talents. Why? To use them to advance my agenda? No. To satisfy my pleasures? No. To bring glory to myself? No. You gave me skills and talents to get tasks done for the advancement of Your Kingdom. To please You. To glorify Your name throughout the earth. Father, help me to dedicate my skills and talents daily to Your honor. If I don't, why should You allow me to continue to enjoy them? If I won't use them for You, there's no need for me to have them at all. Such stubborn rebellion, refusing to dedicate to You what You've given to me, may lead to imprisonment, incapacitation, or death, conditions where my skills and talents are useless.

Father, one day the skills and talents You have given me will be perfectly employed in Your Kingdom. My "potential" will be realized and I will know total fulfillment. I long for that day as I suffer today through the ineffectiveness and failures of my work in this broken world. Father, please make me as effective as I can be today for the advancement of Your Kingdom.

Psalm 138

Father, there are billions of "little gods" on this earth. Each one of them think they are the center of the universe. They do as they please. They rely on their own strength and understanding. What message do You want me to say to them? That You alone are God. I am to praise You before them so that I am a witness to them that they are not the god that they think they are. I'm to praise You with my whole heart, not praising anything or anyone else but You. I am to praise You for Your loving kindness, Your truth, and Your Word. Where do I get the courage to declare, in front of "want to be" gods, that You alone are God? You. Father, give me that courage. Why should You give me that courage? Because I have humbled myself before You. I have confessed my sin and rebellion. I have repented and surrendered all authority to You. I have stopped trying to be my own god. Therefore, I have done what others need to do. There is no hypocrisy. Father, use me to glorify Your name and in so doing I shame those who think they are god themselves.

Psalm 139

Father, You know everything about us. Every detail. Every thought. Every word. Every action. When we enter into Your heavenly court, You will have perfect evidence awaiting our arrival for our trial. You know Your law perfectly and You perfectly apply the law to the evidence. Your judgments are laser accurate.

We cannot hide from Your total knowledge of us. You go everywhere we go. You see us in the dark of night like it is noon. When did Your total knowledge of me begin? When I was conceived. You not only knit together my body in the

womb, but You also planned my life in there as well. You've been with me ever since. You will never leave me while I walk through this life.

However, You will abandon me forever, when I walk through the gates of hell, if I have stubbornly refused to seek forgiveness for my sin and rebellion through Jesus Christ. Hell is the place where You are absent, and You no longer watch our every step.

Father, hell is for those who rise up against You. It is the place for those who hate You, Your ways, and Your people. Father, I don't want to go to hell. Don't count me among the wicked. Forgive me of my sin and rebellion through Jesus Christ. Examine my heart and get rid of anything that offends You. Set up boundaries to protect me from temptation. Look for my anxieties. They are symptoms of my rebellious heart. A godly man has no fears because of their complete trust in You. Teach me not to have anxiety, insecurity, and fear. Make me today the man I will be in Your Kingdom throughout eternity.

Psalm 140

Father, there are many evil people in this world. They conspire to hurt others. They seek to destroy the godly and their good works. They tell lies about the godly to derail their ministry. They mock them, attempting to crush their spirit, leading them to give up their godly living. When the godly refuse to turn from You, they suffer cruel punishment by the wicked.

However, You know all the plans of the wicked. You protect the godly in advance. You shield them and the work You've called them to do. The wicked end up frustrated, unable to stop the good works You've called Your people to do. You defend the innocent and the weak who have dedicated their lives to Your glory. Their destiny is to spend eternity with You, forever grateful for the total victory You gave them over the wicked.

Psalm 141

Father, my every inclination is to disobey You. Rebellion comes naturally to me. If I do not control my tongue, I will speak evil. If I do not control my actions, I will do evil. A man is alone treading water in the sea, with nothing but waves to the horizon in every direction. He must continue to tread water in order to stay afloat. The moment he stops, he drowns. In this analogy, the sea is my natural tendency to sin against You. The treading of water reflects my desire to be godly. The moment I relax in the pursuit of godliness, I quickly fall beneath the surface and sink into my natural desire to rebel.

Help me. I need someone to rescue me from this sea. Bring me salvation now, Father. I need someone who can literally walk on water and come to me. My hope is in Jesus Christ. He alone is capable of treading water for me, holding me in His arms, throughout the rest of my life until the ship arrives that will take me to the solid ground of Your eternal Kingdom. I need Jesus to help me to control my tongue. I need Jesus to help me to do only good works. I need Jesus to protect me from the wicked who want to destroy me and my ministry. I need Jesus to send into my life godly people who will join Him in keeping me afloat in a sea of temptation. Send Jesus out into the stormy sea so that He can delight in rescuing me from my sin and rebellion.

Psalm 142

Father, what is genuine and authentic prayer? It is the admission that You are God and I am not. If I was truly like You, in every way, I wouldn't need to ask anything of You. I could do everything myself. However, my prayers to You are admissions of my weakness, limitations, and mortality. What does it say when a man refuses to pray? It says that he thinks he is god. It says that he thinks he can manage his life on his own. It says that he thinks he has the strength, skills, resources, and information necessary to walk through life at the direction of his own counsel. A man who fails to pray is a man who thinks he is his own god.

Father, You love to answer prayers from humble men and women. Their hearts are not proud. They cry out to You for help because they understand they are in dire straits without Your intervention in their lives. Father, deliver the humble from the wickedness of this world. You already know the dangers they face. You are just waiting for them to cry out to You, asking You to rescue them from the bondage of sin and rebellion that entraps them. Father, please rescue every man and woman who, imprisoned by their sinful heart, their burdensome addictions, and by the consequences of the lawlessness of their past, cry out to You for deliverance. Father, deliver me from my chains even this very hour.

Psalm 143

Father, Your court is in session. “All rise. The Lord God Almighty is seated on His throne.” My case is called, and I now stand before You. I have to give an accounting for my life. “Wait! Please stop, Almighty God! Don’t judge me without my defense. He is coming. He will plead my case before You. He has rescued me from my sin and rebellion. He took away my sin and has replaced it with His purity and holiness. He lifted me out of my despair over my sinful heart and He gave me hope. There are no charges against me now because He took care of them for me. I’m trusting in Him alone to present my case before You, Almighty God. He is my deliverer. He is my protector. He picked me up and carried me. He caught me when I was falling. After rescuing me, He cleaned up my life and transformed my heart. I am a new person. Father, look. There He is. My savior, Jesus Christ. Please let Him speak for me now.”

Psalm 144

Father, a tiny moth flies by my face and lands on the table next to me. It appears that I have two choices. I could exterminate that moth with one powerful blow. Or I could let it be. It will eventually fly off and go on its merry way. I can feel like a god to that moth, having power over its existence.

However, I have not captured the true essence of what a loving God is like. If I were to be truly like You, I would look upon that moth with affection. I would give it a name. I would wonder if it is hungry or thirsty and if I would get it some food and water. I would scan the room for threats to the moth and I would protect it. I would examine its wings to see if it is injured and I would repair them with my spoken word. What? Someone is coming up the stairs and they are angry. The moth ate a hole into their wool sweater. It is ruined. They want this moth destroyed. If I were a god like You, I would take the moth’s place on the table. I would allow the angry person to exterminate my life with one powerful blow so that the moth does not have to experience that person’s wrath. The moth will continue to live in a new body and enjoy flying around my home for an eternity. I would restore myself to who I was before so that I can care for that moth forever.

Father, what is man that You were willing to care for us? We are so insignificant. We are weak, ignorant, foolish, powerless, and needy. We can accomplish nothing. We can’t offer You anything that You need from us. However, You give us names. You take care of us when we are hungry and thirsty. You protect us from all harm. You heal us and restore us. Most importantly, You take upon Your Son the punishment for our sin and rebellion that we deserve.

Father, I have every reason to praise and worship You. I have every reason to be thankful and grateful. You care about my life. You are my provider. You are my rescuer and deliverer. You are my rock. You are my protector. You give me victory over my enemies. You give me peace and joy. Father, help me to surrender my life to You, using the skills You have given me to create new things that honor and glorify You. This “moth” dedicates my life now to the one who did not crush me but who cradled me in the palm of His hand.

Psalm 145

Father, what is the very core truth of all that is? You deserve to be endlessly praised by us. An honest and wise study of all science, philosophy, and history leads to the conclusion that we should praise You with all of our heart, soul, and mind. Truth, logic, and reason will be esteemed in heaven and, therefore, we will praise You continuously there in our integrity.

What is praise? It is the celebration of Your glory as revealed by all of Your good works throughout history. Your good works are too numerous for us to recount. Many of Your good works cannot be directly observed, as You do so much for us quietly and invisibly off-stage.

Father, I know You will lead men and women in every generation, including those yet to come, to praise You. Your good works will continue throughout the ages which will lead our descendants to be grateful to You for them.

Father, we find Your good works in nature. We see Your good works in the amazing grace and mercy of salvation. We see Your good works through the transformation of corrupt hearts into hearts that reflect Your Son, Jesus Christ. We see Your good works through the provision for and protection of life on earth. We see Your good works by the total lack of evidence that You have ever committed any evil. We see Your good works through the millions of personal relationships You have with believers.

Father, it is true that You deserve my praise. However, it is not a certainty that I will praise You. I often make the choice not to. Why? I want to praise myself. I want to praise the idols of my heart. Father, forgive me for my rebellion. Make Your praise burst from my lips because I have surrendered my life to You. Help me to see the good works You have done in my life and help me to be eternally thankful for them.

Psalm 146

Father, what is a day like for You? What is it that You do? You help people in need. You create all that is good, like precious children. You give hope and encouragement to people who are despairing. You provide what all living creatures need. You protect people from evil. You frustrate and defeat the wicked. You give freedom to those who are imprisoned by sin. You open the eyes of the spiritually blind. You watch over strangers, the widowed, and the fatherless. You protect, defend, and advance truth and justice. You pour out Your love to those who fear You, to those who have become righteous through Jesus Christ. You give each person and animal every breath that they breathe. Am I breathing? I should praise You. However, I tend to place my trust in people. People whose deaths not only ruin each of their plans but also destroys my idols as well. Father, You are the most amazing and awesome God. All that You are and all that You do is good. Thank You for being who You are and for loving me the way You do. Please give me a thankful and grateful heart so that I might surrender my life to Your will.

Psalm 147

Father, what are You doing in the world this day? You are gathering people from every nation and every tribe into Your Kingdom. You are growing Your church rapidly as individuals on every continent embrace Jesus Christ as their personal savior. You will continue to build Your church until the day of the second coming of Your Son. The powers of evil cannot stop Your love from rescuing people from their sin and rebellion. The powers of evil cannot stop You from healing broken hearts. The powers of evil cannot stop You from lifting the spirits of the humble. The powers of evil cannot stop You from casting down the spirits of the wicked. The powers of evil cannot stop You from providing for people in need. Father, You are the all-knowing and all-powerful God of the universe. The powers of evil tremble as they face Your wrath. However, You smile upon those who fear You, who have placed their hope for salvation in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and who have surrendered their lives to Him. Father, You are smiling at me and, for that, I shall be grateful forever.

Psalm 148

Father, shall I praise a politician? No. I will praise the One the angels praise. Shall I praise a sports star? No. I will praise the One the heavens praise. Shall I praise a movie star? No. I will praise the One who spoke all things into existence. Shall I praise a recording artist? No. I will praise Him who never fails. Shall I praise a political platform or policy? No. I will praise Him who wrote the laws that never cease. Shall I praise the works of my hands? No. I will praise Your good works, unmatched by anything a mere man can do. Shall I praise the godless in our culture? No. I will praise Your church, the people whom You have chosen to be Your sons and daughters through their faith in Jesus Christ. Father, help me to fear

no man. Help me to not praise any man or woman, including myself, even those who do good. You are the one who has inspired all the good that has ever been done under the sun. We are merely Your instruments.

Psalm 149

Father, a man looks into the mirror and doesn't like what he sees. His life is a mess and the dysfunction is evident in his reflection. What should he do? See a psychiatrist? Get a self-help book? Listen to a guru? Get plastic surgery? Change his identity? None of these things will truly change his life. He needs You to do a "makeover" of his soul.

Confessing and repenting of our sin is not merely to save ourselves from eternal separation from You. It is also to beautify our lives in this world. The Holy Spirit, who begins our makeover when we receive Jesus Christ as our savior, makes people loving, joyful, peaceful, patient and persevering, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. This kind of transformation can never be achieved by anything the world has to offer.

Why do You want to give people this kind of a makeover? There is a spiritual battle on earth for the souls of our neighbors and You are calling us to be Your soldiers. Do Your soldiers fight with bombs and bullets? No. We do battle through prayer and acts of compassion for our neighbors in need.

Father, transform my heart this very day. Give me a makeover. Equip me to be a soldier in Your army and send me out to love my neighbors in Your name.

Psalm 150

Father, You are the creator of this beautiful and wonderful world. Therefore, I can be confident You care about what happens on this planet. You are my creator. Therefore, I can be confident You care about what happens in my life. You know everything that can be known. Therefore, I can be confident that nothing can ever happen to me that catches You by surprise. All wisdom comes from You. Therefore, I can be confident You will never make a bad decision that will impact my life. You are all-powerful. Therefore, I can be confident that You can do anything that needs to be done for me. You are just, good, kind, compassionate, and righteous. Therefore, I can be confident You will never do anything evil or malicious in my life. You are sovereign. Therefore, I can be confident that all evil powers who would like to hurt or destroy me will be defeated. You are the God who has unlimited resources. Therefore, I can be confident that You can provide me with everything I need.

Father, what is the power of praise in a believer's life? Praising You is the recipe to end all fear, anxiety, and insecurity in our lives. A man or woman who truly knows who You are is a man or woman at peace. Father, help me to praise You!

Proverbs

Proverbs 1

Father, wisdom begins when I fear You. Wisdom begins when I realize You are God and I am not. Wisdom begins when I understand that You will hold me accountable to how I live my life. Wisdom begins from the realization that You control my eternal destiny. Once I have this wisdom, I become teachable. I stop being foolish. I understand mysteries. Father, help me to never abandon the Biblical truths taught to me by my parents in my youth. My commitment to those truths will bring me honor. Father, the world around me hates how I follow Your ways. They want me so much to do what they do, say what they say, think what they think, and value what they value. They tempt me all day long. They tempt me to hurt others for my own advantage. However, they end up hurting themselves. Father, wisdom calls out in the streets to rescue people from hurting themselves. "Is there anyone who will follow my ways? Anyone?" No one responds. Wisdom laughs when people get into trouble because they ignored wisdom. They will beg for wisdom to rescue them, but wisdom will remain silent. The people will have to bear the consequences of their foolishness. Father, I want wisdom. Therefore, I fear You. I do listen to Your wisdom. Therefore, I will live safely and securely. I will not be afraid of what evil people may do to me. Thank You.

Proverbs 2

Father, wisdom is nothing other than trusting Jesus Christ, our Savior, for the forgiveness of our sin and rebellion from You. All wisdom builds from that. How should we live our lives? What decisions should we make? How can we make sense of a challenging situation? What should we do with our lives? The answers to these questions are all rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The search for wisdom is successful only when we search for Jesus Christ. We listen to what He has to say to us. We prayerfully apply it to our lives. We become wise. That wisdom will make us a resource for people who are seeking answers. That wisdom will protect us from harm. That wisdom gives us understanding in a world of chaos and confusion. What kind of man is a fool? The man who rejects Jesus Christ as his savior and lord. That kind of man will spend eternity separate from the wise, a distinction between hell and heaven.

Proverbs 3

Father, there are many who believe Your laws are recipes for misery. Your laws are said to be confining and restricting. We are told that Your ways limit us. They steal our happiness and rob us of pleasure.

However, the exact opposite is true. Your commands are the recipe for human fulfillment and joy. You know exactly how we were created and what will make us content. Your laws are the owner's manual for how to live a prosperous and blessed life. Memorizing Your law, and then applying it in the various situations we face, will give us incredible peace and satisfaction.

What is a simple definition of wisdom? Do everything the way You want it done. Wisdom surrenders and submits to Your authority. Wisdom dedicates our work to You. When we do everything the way You want it done, we will stay out of trouble. We will feel refreshed and renewed. We will be loving and kind to our neighbors. We will also hear Your voice and learn things that are never revealed to the godless.

Father, how amazing is wisdom? It says in Your Word that You used it to create the world. If You find wisdom that useful, why shouldn't I? Father, pour wisdom into my heart and mind. I want the kind of life that comes when people fear You and live in total submission to the owner's manual for our lives.

Proverbs 4

Father, when I wake up in the morning, I put on my glasses. I wear them all day and all evening, not taking them off until I return to bed. My glasses help me to see life more clearly. Similarly, I need to put on wisdom when I get out of bed and look at life through its lens throughout my day. Wisdom keeps me focused straight ahead on You and Your commands. I ignore the temptations to my left and to my right because I clearly see the blessings of wisdom right in front of me. Since wisdom loves me, she walks in front of me, helping me to avoid obstacles and dangers along the path. Wisdom makes me useful to You, a worker qualified to do Your work. Father, give me the lenses of wisdom each morning so that I might enjoy the blessings of godly living.

Proverbs 5

Father, wisdom likes to stay home and enjoy the simple life of godliness. While others go out on the town to party, wisdom delights in a quiet evening with her godly spouse. She understands that the temptations of the world seem beautiful at first glance but, in truth, they are a bitter pill to swallow. Worldly temptations only cause misery in the end. What does wisdom share in common with her spouse? The commitment to surrender their lives to You and to obey all of Your commands with joy. Father, make me the kind of man who enjoys the simple life of wisdom and may I enjoy that life with my godly spouse.

Proverbs 6

Father, it takes great discipline and self-control to stay out of trouble. As the ant works hard each day to survive, so to must I work hard to survive. I must study and apply Your Word in every situation. I must be in constant communion with You, seeking Your will and direction.

If I let down my defenses, even for a moment, I will surrender to temptation and create trouble for myself. I will break promises and become unfaithful. I will begin to resemble a wicked man, a man of immorality, obscenity, deception, and violence. I will begin to conspire with others to commit acts of evil. I will create conflict in communities. I will surrender my freedom to lust. In the end, I will suffer in agony from the fruits of my rebellion from You. My reputation will be destroyed.

Father, save me from this. Keep me in Your Word today and every day. Make me a man of prayer every hour. Give me the strength to work hard at the disciplines of my faith so that I will never step out of the light of Your truth and into the darkness.

Proverbs 7

Father, our culture lies to us from our early childhood. "Oh, you are so beautiful just the way you are. Be who you want to be. Do whatever you want to do. Follow your feelings and chase your desires. You can do it. Believe in yourself. Trust yourself. You are the god of your life." Young people believe these lies and step into adult life trusting in themselves. They are like the blind, stumbling through life on the edge of a cliff. Disaster, along with anxiety and suffering, is always just a step away from them.

Father, we were not created to rely on ourselves. We were created to rely on You. We are to be the people You want us to be. We are to do what You want us to do. We are to believe in Your strength. We are to trust in You alone. You are to be the God of our lives. When we live according to these truths, we are spiritually blessed with the fullness of good things from You.

However, we are a stubborn people. We refuse to learn that lesson. Instead, we step off the cliff time and time again, year after year. Eventually, we say to ourselves, “Being my own god isn’t working for me. Maybe I should turn my life over to God’s control.”

Ah, the wisdom of experience. The wisdom that comes from adversity and heartache. The wisdom of the older generation teaching the younger generation. “I tried being my own god and it didn’t work for me and it won’t work for you either. Turn your life over to God in your youth. Delight in the study and application of His Word. You won’t make the same mistakes that I did. Ouch. The rocks that you land on when you fall blindly from the cliff really hurt and cause permanent injury.”

Father, while I’m still young, lead me to surrender my life to Your loving control. When I am old, lead me to share the lessons of life with young people who have been deceived to believe they are the god of their lives.

Proverbs 8

Father, Your Word tells us that wisdom is always present. No matter where we are, what we are doing, or who we are with, wisdom is always there, saying to us, “Dude, what on earth are you doing? How’s this working for you? Have you had enough? Are you ready for some sanity? This is crazy. It’s time to get your act together. I’m here to help. Just ask the Father for wisdom and He and I will rescue you from this.”

What are the implications of this truth, Father? We have no excuse for our foolishness. We cannot say we didn’t know how to do any better. Your response to that excuse is to say, “Uh, wisdom was right there with you. All you had to do was call out to it?” Our failure to call out for wisdom when we are being foolish is a choice. It is a choice to do things our way. It is a choice to pay the price for rebellion. We choose to manage the consequences of our foolishness so long as we can continue to be in charge of our lives.

Father, please forgive me for my foolishness. I confess my rebellion from You, and I ask for forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Now please give wisdom a command. “Stay with him at all times. Shout in his ear when he is being foolish. Grab his arm and drag him to safety if you need to. Keep the gospel message ever before his eyes. Just don’t let this man ever become a rebellious fool again.”

Proverbs 9

Father, the ungodly can never be won over to wisdom through debate and reason. We can make eloquent, fact-intensive, and logical arguments for a moral position only to discover that the other party simply will not be persuaded. They look truth right in the face and deny its existence. Their blindness, which views truth as false and deception as truth, is deeply rooted and unmovable. They are lost.

Unless...

The gospel of Jesus Christ rescues them. Father, You use adversity to prove to us that we are not a god and we never will be. You use adversity to humble us and teach us that we are very needy indeed. You use the acts of compassion of believers to show us the abundance of Your love for us. You use the testimony of believers to open our hearts to our need for salvation through Christ. Your Holy Spirit creates the fear of the Lord in us which carries us to conversion and the transformation of our hearts and minds.

It is only after salvation, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that our eyes are opened, and we begin to understand the ways of wisdom. The arguments we used to reject in our ignorance now make total sense to us. Father, how do we convince a fool to the rightness of our beliefs, values, principles, and policies? We share the gospel of Jesus Christ, and our testimony, with them as we pour the love of Christ into their broken lives. Their fear of the Lord, and the consequences of their rebellion from God, will open their minds to the wisdom of the ages.

Proverbs 10

Father, a couple walks down a snow packed path in the woods. What's that? Footprints. Is it a rabbit? A deer? A fox? A human? The footprints are evidence that something, or someone, walked on this path before.

What are the footprints in the snow that give evidence that one is in the presence of a fool? The person does and says things without thinking. They follow their emotions, giving no consideration at all to evidence, analysis, logic, or reason. They don't consider the consequences of their actions. They do whatever feels right in the moment. We see fools tweet without thinking on Twitter. We see fools pose for embarrassing photos, shared on social media, that will come back to bite them in the future. We hear fools say horrible things to friends and loved ones, ruining relationships. We witness fools offend judges who were about to show them mercy. We see foolish media personalities lead off the news with an allegation before confirming the story with facts. We catch a video clip of a foolish politician mocking another politician who is giving a speech. We see security camera footage of a foolish sports star striking a woman in an elevator. Father, there are millions of similar illustrations of fools speaking and acting without thinking about it first.

Father, Your Word makes it clear – there are no fools in Your Kingdom. In the new heaven and new earth, every individual will think through the consequences of their actions before they act. “What does God want me to do? What would Jesus do?” Their regenerate heart will want to perfectly please the triune God and, therefore, they will make the rational choice to do the right thing every time.

There are many parents in this world who grieve the spontaneous foolishness of a rebellious child. You hear the parent's prayers and, in response, allow adversity to come into their child's life. The parents are given the opportunity to love their child in crisis, giving all glory to God. Broken and in great need, the child finally calls out to You for deliverance. Thanks to the testimony of his or her parents, the child embraces the gospel and they become wise. An intense desire to know and apply Your Word then drives them. Finally, after all the years of heartache, the child now thinks before acting, setting an example for their children, their friends, and their neighbors.

Father, help me to avoid spontaneous thinking. Such thinking has the signature of a rebellious heart that has deceived itself into thinking it can do no wrong. Instead, lead me to carefully consider what You want me to do every moment of my life. Make me an ambassador of Christ, leading people to faith, and introducing them, for the first time, to what rationality really looks like.

Proverbs 11

Father, another sign of a fool is self-centeredness and self-worship. “I've got to be me, wonderful me! I'm the man. I'm the best that there is. Admire me. Praise me. Serve me. Please me.” Such a man is heartless and thoughtless. Such a man cannot comprehend generosity, empathy, or compassion. They give no thought to the needs of others. The greater their image of themselves becomes, the more impoverished their soul becomes. They destroy more of their character each self-compliment that they utter.

Collectively, the policies of the proud destroy lives and institutions. They ruin whatever they touch. They engender new problems and crises for our nation in their feeble attempt to make heroes of themselves in the public eye. They resent the godly who call out their pride for what it is – rebellion from You. They arrogantly claim that even You are against the godly who esteem the commands of Your Word. Father, if it wasn't for the godly in our nation, our land would be smoldering in a sea of ashes by now. Your judgement is long overdue. However, You restrain Yourself because Your church still has lives in America to rescue from eternal destruction. In fact, You use the proud as pawns to bless the humble.

What is the destiny of the proud person? Humiliation. You will humble them because their pride deeply offends You. Their neighbors will humble them because they too are deeply offended by the “narcissist” in their community. The person will humiliate themselves, making poor choices based on their self-deception that they can do no wrong.

However, You are the God of indescribable mercy. That same man who was obnoxiously proud of himself is now sobbing on a street corner. They are broken and their life has become a disaster. You walk up to that person, in the body and personality of a believer in Jesus Christ and pour out compassion on them. They hear about forgiveness for their pride and selfishness that is available through Jesus Christ. They experience for themselves the beauty of mercy, generosity, empathy, and kindness given to them that they denied others in the past.

Father, will their humiliation save their soul? Will they learn humility? The clock is ticking, and their death is certain. There is no chance to humbly seek forgiveness and to repent beyond the grave. The proud are not slick enough to outmaneuver You in Your courtroom. If they wait till their death to humble themselves, their eternal destruction is certain.

Father, save the proud in America. Humble them but also pour out Your grace into their lives by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Use Your church to renew, refresh, and restore their lives. Give them respect, dignity, and honor, not because of their worldly achievements, but because of the sacrifice Jesus Christ has made for them. Turn the proud into Your servants and bless them because of their new desire to do good works for people in need.

Proverbs 12

Father, those who fear You find themselves implanted in solid ground, safely rooted when the storms of life come. We may bend but we will never be uprooted. When the storm has passed, we will still be standing strong. However, those who do not fear You are not rooted. They may think of themselves as a mighty tree but soon find themselves blown over. Their only remaining value is to be used for firewood, vanishing as smoke into the air. Father, how do we know that we have deep roots in spiritual soil? We are godly when no was in watching. We are godly in the privacy of our homes, behind closed curtains, and in the privacy of our smartphone and television screens. We are not two-faced, claiming to be godly in public while we lead a secret life of decadence in private. We know we are godly by our speech and the mastery we have of our tongue. We know we are godly when we remain gentle and calm even while being treated with injustice. We know we are godly when we have joy and contentment, even when life proves to be one hardship after another. We know we are godly when we want to give our best to You, working hard to achieve excellence in every detail for Your sake. We know we are godly when people in crisis ask us for advice because they know we have good character. We know we are godly when people examine our lives and can't find evidence of foolishness. We know we are godly when we trust that You will deliver us when difficult times come. We know we are godly when people won't ask us to lie because they know we are people of integrity. We know we are godly when people can't see in our words and actions any evidence of anxiety or insecurity, and the depression they cause. If this is who we are, we can have confidence that we are a strong tree, deeply rooted in Your soil, ready to take on the scariest storms that life in a broken world can generate. Father, give me deep roots in You and turn me into a mighty tree that cannot be toppled by anything or anyone.

Proverbs 13

Father, the wise person takes an interest in the stories of other believers in Jesus Christ. "What did God rescue them from? How did God rescue them? What did the person learn? How did God lead them to comfort other people with the comfort they received from Him? What can I learn from their experience? How can I apply it to my life?" Father, every testimony has value in Your church. Every testimony has value to every believer in Jesus Christ. Father, teach me to listen to other people's stories. Their stories will reinforce the key lessons of life You teach all of us. "Fear You and we will be blessed. Disobey You and we will experience disaster. Genuine and lasting fulfillment in life only comes from living to please You. Avoid evil like the plague or else it will kill our usefulness to Your Kingdom." Father, open my mouth that I may share the wonderful testimony You have written in my life.

Proverbs 14

Father, You designed the family to be the most important institution in every individual's life. Our parents are supposed to model godly living. They are to be actively involved in teaching us Your ways. If they do, we are very likely to fear You and surrender our lives to You. However, many parents are both childish and foolish. The impact upon their children is devastating. Their children search endlessly for truth and never find it. Their children are too frightened to examine their hearts and minds, afraid that they won't like what they see. Their children either believe there will be no consequences for their sin and rebellion, or they believe there is no hope for them because of their sin and rebellion. Their children are shadowed by sorrow and grief throughout their lives. Their children find themselves continuously in trouble. Their children are imprisoned by their emotions, blindly following whatever their feelings tell them to do. Their children are self-centered in a desperate effort to give themselves some reason to accept who they are.

Father, these people need the gospel of Jesus Christ. They need believers in Jesus Christ to be willing to step into their lives and rescue them, no matter how messy and unpleasant that gets. Father, extending mercy and grace to others is far more fulfilling than anything wealth, fame, power, influence, and pleasure can offer. Father, turn me into an ambassador for Christ, a servant who not only shares the gospel but who also models it through acts of kindness and compassion. Father, turn every member of Your church into an agent of grace in their communities. May every believer know that they have good works to do, in Your name, that will rescue their neighbors from destruction. The believers that don't respond to this call into ministry? Your anger awaits them.

Proverbs 15

Father, our words reveal everything about who we are. Our words reveal whether we are wise or foolish. Our words reveal if we are gracious and compassionate to others or if we are self-centered mocking tyrants who hate and bully others. Our words reveal if we are proud and rebellious or if we are humble and surrendered to Your authority. Our words reveal if we have authenticity and integrity or if our hearts are deceitful. Our words reveal if we have joy and peace in our hearts or bitterness, anxiety, insecurity, and fear in our hearts. Our words reveal if we have a grateful and thankful spirit or a complaining and whining spirit nobody wants to encounter.

Wisdom comes from the lips of people who have confessed their sin, asked for forgiveness through Jesus Christ, turned away from their rebellion, and surrendered their lives in total obedience to You. Foolishness comes from the lips of everyone else, the rebels from You who don't want or need You in their lives.

Father, words and actions are linked together, two wheels on the same axle. The godliness that speaks words of righteousness cannot produce acts of evil. Similarly, evil that speaks words of destruction cannot produce genuine acts of goodness. In the end, what a man does is more revealing of the true nature of their heart than what a man says. Your Word warns us that we cannot truly determine the hearts of people merely by their words. Evil is deceptive and the words of the wicked can appear godly when in truth their hearts are malicious and depraved. We need to watch what people do and observe the impact that they have on the people around them.

You are not fooled. You know who people really are. You don't evaluate people merely on their words and actions. You are not limited by mere human powers of observation. You push past a person's words, proceed down their throat, and turn on the light in their hearts. You can describe every nut and bolt in the engine that drives a person's soul.

Father, what are the sweetest words that You long to hear? Prayers. Humble, genuine, and heartfelt prayers from people who fear You and who love You with all their heart, soul, and mind. You love their words. You cherish them. Prayer is an act of surrender and an act of repentance from rebellion. Father, lead me to pray from my heart throughout each day of my life. May my words not only be acceptable to You, but may my words also become a fountain of refreshment and healing to the hurting people around me. Give me delight by giving me just the right words to say at the right moment. Father, a man or woman who speaks wisdom is a man or woman who You want others to hear. Father, enable me to touch as many lives as I can with the words of the gospel You have put on my lips.

Proverbs 16

Father, every good deed and kind word originates with You. If something someone did or said has encouraged someone else, it was Your idea to begin with. We are merely the conduits of Your kindness to others. In fact, You already have the checklist of good works for us to do ready to go before we are conceived in the womb. You then orchestrate events in our lives that lead us to the time and place where someone is ministered to by us in Your name. Leaders of business, government, and culture have been put into office by You because of the things You have on their list to get done for our society. Father, we can be confident that if You want something done, You make sure it gets done. You provide the knowledge and resources necessary for the completion of the task with excellence.

However, we have a choice to do Your work or not. If we choose to do Your work, we will be blessed. If we choose not to do Your work, there will be consequences. Your work will still get done, either by You forcibly making us do the things we don't want to do or by You finding someone else who will do the work.

What is Your work? Your work is to bring salvation through Jesus Christ to millions of people. Your work is to rescue, heal, and transform people who cry out to You for help. Your work is also to advance the cause of justice, defeating evil and advancing truth and goodness. Father, help me to accomplish the things You want me to do – sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, loving people in need, and fighting for truth and justice.

Proverbs 17

Father, it was Your intention that godly parents will train a child in the ways of godliness and righteousness. However, if that child does not receive such training, and they become a foolish adult, You use adversity to correct their way. Adversity teaches us that we are not like You, that we are helpless and needy, and that we are completely dependent upon You. In either case, as children or as adults, You are the only qualified teacher of all that we need to know for godly living.

The world begs to disagree. The world believes fools, especially those known as “celebrities”, can teach us how to live our life. We are expected to consider people wise who have never learned lessons about godliness from either their parents or from adversity. We are expected to consider people wise who hold grudges and won't forgive those who disagree with them. We are expected to consider people wise who start destructive conflict. We are expected to consider people wise who rebel from You, refusing to obey Your commands. We are expected to consider people wise who are proud and arrogant. We are expected to consider people wise who will do anything for money. We are expected to consider people wise who put their trust in themselves or in idols. We are expected to consider people wise who condemn the innocent and pardon the guilty. We are expected to consider people wise who make foolish decisions known by the public and tweet words they regret tweeting.

“Sure. Please teach us fools how to live a godly life. Not.”

Father, there is hope for a fool like me. The gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no one better to teach wisdom than the indwelling Holy Spirit, who takes up residence in our hearts after we confess our sins to You and seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ alone. The more we surrender our lives to Him, the more the Holy Spirit will transform our heart and mind, turning us into people of wisdom.

Fools travel the earth in search of the wisdom that is freely given to their next-door neighbor who has surrendered their life to Christ.

What is the sign that an individual has received wisdom from You? Unconditional love for their neighbor. Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, pour wisdom into my heart and mind so that I can be Your ambassador of love to the hurting people in my community.

Proverbs 18

Father, we were created by You to live in community. We were made to serve others, to help them, and to teach them. We were made to learn from other people's experiences and for them to learn from ours.

Fools, however, rely on their wealth instead. They can buy whatever they need. They certainly don't need people. The more independently wealthy a person becomes, the more tempting it is for them to live in seclusion, enjoying their pleasures without any consideration to the suffering present in the lives of their neighbors. Since they don't need people, they give themselves the luxury to hold grudges against people, even to hate them. It doesn't matter if their petty emotions ruin their relationships. They can always buy another friend.

Such a lack of consideration for others is a recipe for disaster. People don't want to do business with a heartless person. They won't do special favors for them either. They won't come running to help the heartless person in their time of need. The fool ends up all by themselves - needy, lonely and friendless.

However, You offer the hope of rescue. If we humbly confess our callousness about others, You will forgive us, heal us, and renew us. The funny thing, though, is that You use people as Your agents of healing. Compassionate, generous, and merciful people are often sent by You to rescue cruel and pitiless people. The people who we don't need when life is good are the same people we depend upon when life turns bad.

How does a believer in Jesus Christ minister to someone who has hated people throughout their life? The believer needs the fruits of the Holy Spirit. They need patience and perseverance. They need to show continuous and unrelenting kindness to the cruel person so the person's heart will eventually soften. The minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ understands that there are deep and dark reasons why a person becomes merciless. The minister slowly and methodically, through extensive time and conversation, digs deep into the person's past to find out why they are so unloving. Ministry to a nasty person is a long-term commitment, a commitment that Jesus Christ is willing to make.

Father, use me to rescue the solitary person who has rejected community and relationships. Help me to understand their bitterness and give me the words and actions that open their eyes to the love Jesus has for them.

Proverbs 19

Father, fools mess up their lives, but they blame You for it. They get caught in a lie and get in trouble. But it's Your fault. They are greedy, alienating family members and former friends. But it's Your fault. They disobey You and suffer the consequences. But it's Your fault. They empower other fools with leadership positions. But it's Your fault. They speak poorly of others and insult people. But it's Your fault. They fail to teach the younger generation. But it's Your fault. They criticize their spouses. But it's Your fault. They hold grudges and refuse to forgive. But it's Your fault. They are ungrateful and bitter with life. But it's Your fault. They refuse to help other people in need. But it's Your fault. They are lazy and give excuses for being irresponsible. But it's Your fault. They never open the Word of God, letting it gather dust. But it's Your fault. The fool raises his fists at You, blaming You for their miserable life, even though it was he who created all of the misery for themselves.

But... You still love such a fool. You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for them. You will get their attention, either privately or publicly. Their eyes will be opened, and they will understand that the misery of their life was not Your fault after all. It was theirs. Their hearts will become soft for the gospel. The moment they confess their sin and rebellion, seek forgiveness through Christ, and surrender their lives to Him, they will step into a new world of wisdom and understanding. Father, use me to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ so that fools who hear my message, and watch how I live my life, will be reborn as new creatures in Christ.

Proverbs 20

Father, what is rebellion from You? There is a throne for each one of us and the one who sits upon the throne is who our god is. That god tells us what to do and say, whom we should be, what our purpose is, and what we should believe. In truth, the only one qualified to sit on our throne is You. However, we want to sit on it. We want to be in charge of our lives. We want to be our own god. We essentially storm the throne and attempt to overthrow Your authority in our lives. This is rebellion. This is treason. This is what every one of us has done. We are all guilty of this. There is no one who is innocent. It is our natural desire from birth to manage our own lives. We are born into sin and rebellion.

However, You have a plan for our rescue. You have provided forgiveness for our rebellion through Your Son, Jesus Christ. You provide us with godly parents who train us to surrender our lives to You and to put You back on the throne. You give us a conscience so that we remember to follow You and obey Your commands.

But Father, few people surrender their lives to You. Many talk the talk, but few walk the walk. Most of the population are spiritually lazy, not planning ahead for their spiritual future. They break Your commands as if You aren't watching or as if You don't care. However, the God who created eyes sees all things. The God who created ears hears all things. You are not fooled, and we will all be held accountable one day when we appear before You in Your court. In the meantime, the life of rebellion is not all pleasant. In fact, it's quite miserable. We never truly enjoy living in disobedience to You. We have much heartache and brokenness.

However, we stubbornly hold on to the fantasy that we can be the god of our lives. We refuse to surrender. You are left with no choice but to send trouble into our lives that we cannot ignore or brush off. The adversity opens our eyes to the reality that we truly are not God. We are left dazed and confused because we don't understand that we have a "rebellion from God" problem. It takes godly people to work with us, diving deep into the dark waters of our beliefs, experiences, and influences, to help us to see that we have rebelled from You and it is the cause of all of our suffering. Once we understand our rebellion from You, we confess our sin, seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and then surrender our lives to Him.

What's next? We take responsibility for our lives, no longer depending upon others to take care of us. We are faithful to our promise to surrender our lives to Christ. We follow You as You lead us step by step along the journey of life. We avoid evil and evil people. We seek truth and justice and support the law-and-order that You have put in authority over us. The assignment You have given government is to eliminate evil from the land and to spread Your mercy and compassion throughout the population. Such a righteous government will never be overthrown by appreciative citizens.

Father, I ask for forgiveness for my rebellion from You in the name of Jesus Christ. Help me to surrender my life to Him and then to walk the walk, setting an example for my family, my friends, my neighbors, and my community. You have promised to bless my loved ones if I walk in Your ways. Thank You.

Proverbs 21

Father, I am not You. I cannot look into someone's heart and see who they really are. What I can do is to evaluate the words they say and the things they do. A godly man's behavior is noble, mature, sane, and dignified. A fool's behavior is strange and bizarre, if not insane.

Why is this? The godly man is not anxious and insecure. He knows that You are good and that You will provide for him and protect him. He has peace and joy in his heart, and it is from that peace and joy that his respectful behavior comes. The fool, on the other hand, is highly anxious and insecure. He doubts that You are good, and he doubts that You will provide for him and protect him. His heart is filled with chaos and confusion, a constant thrashing about in search of stability and grounding. He tries being religious but on his own terms. "I will worship God as long as I remain in control of my life." You are not deceived. You know the man has not surrendered to You. He does not feel remorse for his rebellion. Therefore, his religion is powerless to save his soul, to improve his situation, or to transform his character. He moves on to try something else, anything whatsoever to bring him the serenity and security he longs for. Another religion. A philosophy. A political movement. Such things will not make a difference for him. He will become more desperate,

embracing increasingly absurd beliefs and behaviors in hopes that they will save him. The more desperate they become, the more abusive of others they become. They will lie and steal. They will cheat and bribe. They will put on false faces, masks of competence and confidence that hide their true self-hate. They will step over people in need, worried only about their own survival.

The godly man, on the other hand, patiently waits for You to work in his life. He understands that when a man surrenders his life to You, You begin to manage each step in their life. Life becomes an adventure as the man doesn't know where You will take him tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year. You want the man to simply trust that You will do the right thing. When You call such a man into a ministry of compassion or justice, he works hard at it, not sure what You will do with his work but certain that he must give his best effort. You will reward his blind faith with a multitude of spiritual blessings. You will also protect him from spiritual attack. The wicked gather together to conspire against the godly. You hear every spoken word and know every detail of their plans. You devise Your own plan to disrupt, derail, and destroy the evil they concoct. Your godly people are protected time after time after time.

How does a fool ever learn? Adversity. You remove one of the legs of the three-legged stool they stand on. Perhaps You remove the leg of their wealth. Perhaps You remove the leg of their health. Perhaps You remove the leg of their reputation. Whatever it is, You remove it and the fool collapses. In Your grace and mercy, You extend Your hand out, offering to pick them up and dust them off. You invite them to receive the forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ. If they choose to accept that offer, their behavior will change. They will become noble, mature, sane, and dignified in all that they do. The world will witness their dramatic transformation. They will be honored, and You will generously reward them for their faithfulness to You. Such a wise man, the former fool, can now defeat well-equipped armies by Your power at work in their life. You will give him the victory because You want his work to build Your Kingdom.

Father, forgive me of my rebellion in the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Drive the foolishness out of me. Turn me into an honorable man of God to whom others look up to with respect. Use me to build Your Kingdom.

Proverbs 22

Father, perhaps the most coveted possession of a fool is their microphone. "I will tell the world what I think. I'll lift up my skirt and reveal every depraved thought that I have. I will sledgehammer my name and reputation with each hate-filled post on social media. Just as long as I have money. That's all that I need." What are the consequences for such a fool? Humiliation. Grief. Loneliness. Insecurity. Depravation. Victimization. Imprisonment.

However, the godly enjoy a different experience. There is nothing more important to them than their good name. They do everything they can to present themselves to the world with class, dignity, and honor. They don't draw attention to themselves. In fact, they'd rather go unnoticed as long as what they do and say pleases You. As a result, they enjoy the world's admiration and respect. Yes, even fools admire the character of the genuinely godly man. The godly man is afforded opportunities the fool will never see. They are treated generously.

Father, the godly man and the fool will both have to give an accounting for their life when they stand in Your court. The fool won't be found guilty because of his depravity. The godly won't be saved by their godliness. No, there is only one determination as to where an individual will spend eternity? Did they receive Jesus Christ as their savior for their sin and rebellion? If the answer is "yes", they will spend eternity in Your Kingdom. If the answer is "no", they will spend eternity in a place where You are totally absent. Father, the man who accepts Jesus as his savior will receive the Holy Spirit in return. It is the Holy Spirit who will begin to transform them, from being a "fool" into becoming "godly". While a man cannot be saved by godly living, the man's godly living is evidence that they have been saved by Jesus Christ.

There is only one way to live. Godliness. Oh, the fool yells and screams about tolerance and acceptance. "The fool's ways are also acceptable to God!" No, Father, they are not. The godly are "narrow-minded" because Your Word tells us there is only one way to salvation and that is through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Fools reject Him and the grace and mercy He offers. Broad is the path to destruction. Father, Your grace and mercy, Your love and compassion, don't leave us trapped onto the "highway to hell." You allow adversity to come into the fool's life to shake him up; no, to wake him up. "What on earth am I doing? This foolish life isn't working for me." You then lead them to the source of all wisdom, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Father, thousands of years ago You established the guidelines for wisdom and blessed living. We were created to enjoy life in totality when we obey all of Your commands faithfully day after day. However, fools have another idea today. They tell us Your ways are outdated and are no longer relevant to 21st century America. They invite us to embrace their depravity and insanity and become lunatics like them. "We've learned there is a better way to live than God's way. Join us...or else we will persecute you."

Father, let them persecute me. I, and my family, will gain wisdom from the gospel of Jesus Christ and the treasures to be discovered between Genesis 1 and Revelation 22.

Proverbs 23

Father, Your Word tells us to "fear the Lord". What does that mean? Obedience. It means continuously doing only those things that You have commanded us to do. It means avoiding doing anything that is against Your will. To "fear of the Lord" is to be motivated to please You, to put a smile on Your face as we speak and act in this world. We fear You because You have the power, the judgment, and the will to punish us for disobedience. We "fear the Lord" because You alone have the authority to decide where we will spend eternity - in heaven with You or in a hell, a place where You are absent. What does it look like when someone "fears the Lord"? They have integrity. They do not lust after the pleasures of this world. They don't plot evil or conspire with the wicked. They learn about You, and how to live for You, from the gospel and from Your Word. They love their vulnerable neighbors, rescuing them from their troubles.

However, the fool cannot understand the "fear of the Lord". Their god is themselves. They don't want to do anything against their desires. They are motivated to give themselves pleasure. They fear their own judgement. They make their own plans and then don't want to let themselves down. They determine for themselves the criterion for admission into heaven and they expect You to obediently conform to their desires. They are drunk on their pride and narcissism. As a result, they hurt themselves over and over as they stumble and sway through the streets of life, with the bottle of rebellion in their fingers.

Father, please rescue me from any foolishness in my heart and mind. Teach me to fear You every moment of every day so that I will not sin against You. Then, use me to rescue the fools who are passed out in the street, intoxicated with rebellion from God. Help me to lift them up, sober them up, clean them up, and then straighten them up. Why? I want them to enjoy eternity with me, celebrating the wonderful blessings of "fearing the Lord" forever.

Proverbs 24

Father, this generation has access to far more information than any previous generation. However, fools conclude that our wealth of information has made us wiser than all who came before. A core premise of this belief is the idea that humans make the right decisions based on proper analysis of available information. Ergo, the more information available, the better the decisions. Another core premise of this belief is that humans are the ultimate decision-making authority. Our society's mantra seems to be "compile the information you need and then make the final decision yourself."

Your Word tells us that wisdom is separate from knowledge. Knowledge is the ability to describe how the car works. Wisdom is the decision to drive the car slowly through a school zone during afternoon dismissal. One can have incredible knowledge while at the same time being an incredible fool. The source of wisdom is separate from the source of knowledge. Knowledge comes from reading textbooks. According to Your Word, wisdom comes from...

...the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Wisdom is rooted in the belief that we are all self-centered dolts who, left to our own devices, will continuously hurt ourselves and our neighbors by our words and actions. Wisdom is rooted in the belief that, because of our tendency to foul everything up, we need to be controlled by laws, created by a just and loving God greater than ourselves, that maintain order in society. That just and loving God is You and Your laws can be found in the Bible. Your Word tells us how to

get along with one another and how to avoid trouble and conflict. We merely need to obey them in order to enjoy a blessed society.

However, we've got a huge problem. Even though the prescription for the perfect society shouts at us as we turn the pages of scripture, we choose to disregard it. We deliberately ignore Your commands because we want to be in charge of our lives and not You. Even though Your Word may tell us not to touch the hot iron or we will get burned, we touch the hot iron anyway, and get burned, because we didn't like You telling us what to do. We want to be our own god, managing what we can or can't do on our own. We are essentially telling You that You, and all of Your ways, are fired and that we will replace You with ourselves. This is rebellion. It is treason. Treason is punishable by eternal spiritual death, dwelling in a land where we get exactly what we said we wanted - a world where You, and all of Your goodness, will never bother us again.

Those who don't want to spend eternity in "hell" have only one option. They can ask for the forgiveness of their sin and rebellion, their treasonous behavior, through the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus will credit all who seek salvation through Him with the perfect life that He lived on earth. He will also take from them their sin and rebellion. A believer in Jesus Christ can then stand before You, holy and righteous, free of sin and without any condemnation from You. The believer then receives a precious gift - the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who gives...

...wisdom.

Wisdom takes the form of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The believer becomes loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. These character traits have a name: "wisdom". It is these character traits that lead a man to drive his car slowly through an active school zone.

Father, these truths have been around for thousands of years. Loving Your neighbor is as relevant today as it was when spoken to us by Jesus. The wisdom we need in our society in the 21st century can come from only one source - salvation through Jesus Christ and the subsequent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Ah, but the Einstein's in our culture want to get rid of the gospel, burying it in the ground. They believe themselves to be so much more educated than the silly writers of the Bible. They want to replace Your Word with the Google search engine, without any moral instruction from You. Therefore, we now have millions of fools, absent of wisdom, with all kinds of diplomas and degrees, many hold political offices while others wear judicial robes, leading our society over the cliff.

Father, if I'm going to build a house, I must first build a solid foundation. Without it, the walls will come tumbling down. Knowledge is built upon wisdom. Knowledge without wisdom leads to catastrophe. Knowledge is built upon the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without Christ, knowledge is powerless to transform lives, families, groups, organizations, communities, or nations for good. It is only the wise, those who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ, who truly understand how to use knowledge for good. Fools concoct theories, philosophies, and political platforms that are devoid of the gospel and are destined to failure and spiritual poverty. The weaknesses of these ideas and plans are revealed when adversity strikes. Fools open their mouths when in crisis and reveal the uselessness of their knowledge.

I will not envy the fool who denies Jesus Christ as their savior. I will not envy those who are blind without the gospel of Jesus Christ. I don't care how "smart" they claim to be. I don't care how many degrees hang on their walls. Their destiny is destruction and the work of their hands destroy all that they touch. However, Father, You love them, and You want me to rescue them. I am to prayerfully show them the love of Jesus Christ. I am to share my testimony as I share the gospel with them. Your Word, spoken through what You have taught me, is powerful and will change their life. Father, the greatest gift I can give an intellectual is the gospel, empowering them with a gift that they can use to truly change society for good. Father, give me the wisdom I need to use Your love to open the eyes of those who have been blinded by their admiration of their own intelligence.

Proverbs 25

Father, it is so refreshing to encounter a godly man. He is humble. He knows he doesn't know everything and he's not ashamed to admit it. He has integrity and he can be trusted. A person can know that he truly is the person he appears to be and that he will never take advantage of them. While others are searching for meaning, fame, fortune, power, influence,

and pleasure, the godly man is searching for a relationship with You. A godly man, inspired by Your Holy Spirit, gives priceless gifts that money cannot buy - thoughtful acts of kindness and words of encouragement that are exactly what someone needed at the perfect moment they needed it. A godly man is forgiving. There is hope of the restoration of a relationship with him. A godly man is courageous and strong. He is not afraid to take on the evil. A godly man has insight, knowing when to speak and when to keep quiet. Father, please make me a godly man who is useful to Your Kingdom. Make me a godly man who refreshes others, a cool shaded tree that others come to for relief in the heat of their struggles in life.

Proverbs 26

Father, fools are praised in our culture. What would it be like if our cultural leaders were forced to tell the truth?

“Tonight, we celebrate a legend. He has been rebelling from God for decades now. His dedication to rebellion sets an example for all of us to follow. He has achieved phenomenal success by his own efforts. He didn’t need God. Hah. In fact, he is god. Don’t we all want to be like him? He has shown us how ridiculous and out-of-touch godly people are. Thanks to his work, we can be confident the Bible, and the message of the gospel, offers us nothing of value. As we give him this award tonight, let us all strive to be like him. Wealthy. Powerful. Famous. Influential. In love with ourselves. Man, come up here, receive your reward, and tell us how to worship ourselves and to have a good time in life.”

The lies that we hear in such “entertainment” resonate with our own hearts. We too want to think of ourselves as our own gods. We too want to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. We too want to do what we want whenever we want to do it. We too want to be whoever we want to be. We too don’t want to be accountable to You for how we live our lives. We too don’t want the Bible to have any influence upon us. Therefore, we idolize these godless celebrities. We hang up posters of them in our rooms. We buy the movies they make and the products they endorse.

Your Word tells us that honoring foolishness is a recipe for disaster. The man who thinks he is a god expects life to give him everything he desires without having to work. He becomes lazy. The man who wants to be a god becomes anxious, fearful, and insecure because he knows he is not a god at all. The disparity between what people think of him and what he knows to be true about himself often leads people like him to escape into drug and alcohol addiction. Hoping to prop up the belief that he is a god, the man counsels himself to believe he is better than the “little people”. He resents, if not hates, his fans because of the pressure they put on him to be perfect.

Father, Your Word also tells us that we cannot save this man from himself through logic and reason. Your ways do not make sense to him. He truly believes that self-worship is the only moral certainty in life. He is blind and deaf, completely lost to the spoken message of the gospel.

However, You love fools just like You love the godly, who were formerly fools themselves. You want their eyes to open and for them to see the truth that can only be found through the gospel of Jesus Christ. How can we communicate to them when words will never work? It is simple. We will work in tandem with You. You will bring adversity into their lives that proves to them that they are not god. We then show the incredible and extraordinary love of God to them in their time of need. Prayerful acts of ministry, fueled by grace and mercy, have the power to save a fool from his folly.

Father, help me to be humble before You. You alone are God. I need You every hour of every day. Forgive me for my rebellion through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Help me to obey You. Help me to live for You, to surrender my life to You. Lead me into ministry where I can rescue the proud from destruction through incredible acts of love.

Proverbs 27

Father, I am alive today for one of two reasons. Either there are things You want me to do today to honor and glorify Your name or I must be prepared today for the things You want me to do tomorrow to honor and glorify Your name. The moment You no longer have purposes for my life to honor and glorify Your name, You will take me home to be with

You. The fact that I am breathing today means there is some unfinished purpose that You have for my life to honor and glorify Your name.

Ah, but here's the thing – often we don't recognize a purpose You have called us to until it has passed, and we are looking at it through the lens of history. In other words, it is not necessarily true that You will invite us to participate in the planning and orchestrating of Your purposes for us. Things happen in our lives that You planned but come us complete surprises to us. Therefore, it is foolish for us to say we will do A, B, and C tomorrow because You may have planned X, Y, and Z for us. If we are walking with You, people are going to cross our paths who immediately need our ministry, thereby changing our plans. We should say we will do A, B, and C tomorrow "IF it is in Your will." Those who are proud, arrogant, and rebellious should be especially hesitant to boast about their plans. You may bring illness, suffering, difficulties, failure, and even death into their lives at any hour. If they are not going to honor and glorify Your name, they are living on borrowed time.

We have an enemy who wants to derail us from honoring and glorifying Your name. He wants to kill us through disease, violence, or tragedy. He appears in Your court to accuse us of great moral failures so that You will end our lives in Your wrath. He wants to publicly embarrass us so that we will be silenced, and Your name will not be honored or glorified. He piles on the hardships in life so that we will eventually feel overwhelmed and then succumb to temptation and quit the work of honoring and glorifying Your name.

Father, how can we prepare for the attack of the enemy? Through the study of Your Word and devotion to prayer, we can recognize the work of Satan and run away from it. We can live a simple life of obedience to Your commands. The more complicated our lives become, the more monkey wrenches Satan can throw into our ministry. We can "inquire of the Lord", asking You what changes we need to make or new directions we need to go in to overcome the obstacles Satan puts in our path. We can surround ourselves with godly family and friends, who live nearby and know us well, who encourage us to fight through an evil attack. They may carry us or fight beside us in our battle against evil.

Why would people stand with us and support us? They are grateful and thankful for the godly wisdom we have shared with them. They enjoy our humility as we leave it to others to speak of the things we do well. They respect the character of our children who have learned godliness from us. They respect the way we have handled adversity, proving the authenticity of our faith in trying times. Father, we have the support of godly friends and family because of the good name that comes from having surrendered our lives to the purpose of honoring and glorifying Your name.

Father, am I living a life that does not honor and glorify Your name? Rebuke me privately. If I fail to surrender to You, rebuke me publicly. Bring godly men and women into my life who will challenge me to be thankful and joyful for all the good things You have blessed me with. I want to honor and glorify Your name this hour, this day, this week, this month, this year, and this lifetime. I want to wake up each day excited about the adventure of life, wondering how on earth You will use me today to do Your will.

Proverbs 28

Father, millions of Americans suffer from anxiety disorders. "Why am I anxious all the time? I've got to worry less. Help me." The pharmaceutical companies come running to help, offering expensive prescription drugs. Book stores dedicate entire sections to do-it-yourself psychiatry. Many people watch the videos of gurus, or cult leaders, who advocate for the latest sure-fire five-step programs that will reduce or eliminate anxiety. Many others try to escape from their anxiety through drug, alcohol, and other destructive addictions.

All of these solutions are in vain. Your Word tells us why people are anxious and insecure - we try to be our own god. We try to rely on our own strength. We try to rely on our own knowledge and understanding. We try to rely on our own definition of what is right and what is wrong. We deceive ourselves to believe we our sovereign in life, having control over everything that goes on in our lives. However, the reality is that we can't control our own behavior, let alone other people. We are weak and we lack resources. We understand very little about ourselves and the world around us. Our definitions of right and wrong don't pass the smell test of reality. In short, we create trouble, chaos, and confusion for ourselves when we try to be our own god.

We then make matters worse. Anxious people, who believe it is quite natural to rely upon self, praise celebrities who appear to be "successful" being gods. We elect politicians whose political platforms advocate for the god-like authority of human government and the removal of Your influence upon our society. Talk about the blind leading the blind. The masses joyfully follow their leaders over the edge of the cliff and to certain destruction on the rocks below. The wickedness and foolishness of our society is the harvest from the seeds of rebellion we have sown. We have unleashed the worst of human nature upon our land. Pure selfishness and disregard for other people's suffering. Greed. Narcissism. Mental health crises. Violence. Tyranny. Corruption of power. Bribery. What was right is now wrong and what was wrong is now right. Hypocrisy. A two-tiered justice system that benefits only the elite in power.

Father, Your Word makes it abundantly clear - anxiety is defeated in our life when we place our confidence and trust in You alone. You are the all-powerful and sovereign God who can do anything for us that You determine we need. You are the all-knowing God who is never caught unaware by something that happens to us. You are the all-wise God who never makes a bad decision managing our life. You are the loving God who wants to have a relationship with us and to do us good all of our life. You are the righteous God who cannot be evil or malicious. You are the gracious and merciful God who forgives us of all of our sin and rebellion through Your Son, Jesus Christ. You are the gift-giving God who gives us the Holy Spirit whose mission is to give us peace, contentment, and joy in our hearts.

What is a man like who has surrendered his life to Jesus Christ? He has a peace that passes all human explanation. He is thankful and grateful for all the things You do for him. He understands genuine truth and justice, unlike the godless around him. He understands that worldly success, such as obtaining wealth, fame, power, influence, and the enjoyment of pleasure, does not make one wise. In fact, worldly success is more often than not a recipe for foolishness. "Look at how great I am," says the successful fool who speaks to his friends or who speaks to his reflection in the mirror.

Father, You go to war against our rebellion from You. You defeat human arrogance and pride. You humble the man who defies You. You mock and humiliate the man who thinks of himself to be a god. You decline to hear the prayers of those who enjoy their rebellion from You. You are angered by the prayers of those whose self-importance ignores the plight of the poor and needy around them. You bring disaster upon a nation who has put arrogant and proud people into positions of power and influence.

Is there any hope for the foolish? Yes. They might learn from the suffering they experience in their life. They might learn that they are not their own god and that they are in desperate need of rescue by the true living God, You. They might learn from the influence of godly people who demonstrate the extraordinary love of Jesus Christ while at the same time take an unshakeable stand for righteousness. If they haven't learned from these things, they may learn from the destruction of the godless around them, opening their eyes to their inevitable fate if they don't surrender to You.

Father, we can't be proud and trust You at the same time. We cannot serve two masters. Help me to humble myself and to surrender my will to Your authority in all things. Make me an agent of change in this society, leading other men and women to humble themselves before You as well. Not only will I be a man of peace and contentment but such work in my community will foster the end of the anxiety that plagues my family, friends, and neighbors.

Proverbs 29

Father, we learn from the pages of the Old Testament that You are a God who warns before punishing. You give us Your law in advance, detailing blessings for our obedience to it and curses for disobedience to it. When we disobey You, You discipline us so that we will seek forgiveness and repent of our rebellion. You are eager to forgive and eager to restore blessings. As we continue to rebel against You despite Your loving correction of us, the severity of the discipline intensifies. If we stubbornly rebel against You, despite all kinds of discipline and hardship that were designed to lead us to repentance, Your patience may come to an end. This happened to the ten northern tribes of Israel, the two southern tribes of Judah a few hundred years later, and it happens when You have enough of an individual's rebellion and end their life, calling them into Your court of justice to give an accounting for their life.

It is a wise man, who understanding his inevitable appearance in Your court, takes action to avoid eternal punishment for his rebellion. He confesses his rebellion, seeks forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, and then surrenders his life to His authority and control. You give such a wise man the Holy Spirit, enabling him to live a godly life. He will obey Your laws because he knows obedience to Your commands is the recipe for a good life. He guards his words and actions, keeping himself out of trouble. He is compassionate to people in need. He lives securely because he pursues truth and justice. Though he fears only You, and no other men, he is nonetheless admired and respected by many because he is a humble man. He learns lessons from adversity, growing in his faith and walking with You.

Godliness is key to a healthy society. Ten people stand in total darkness in a room with no windows. One man lights a candle and there is now a dim light in the room. He lights the candle of the person next to him and the light is brighter in the room. When all ten people have their candles lit, darkness is gone. Father, our society is in total darkness, lost in sin and rebellion. The gospel turns on the light of one man. He shares the gospel with another who then shares with another. Father, the gospel can transform an evil and broken society into a godly and healthy society.

However, it is an evil and wicked man who refuses the gospel of Jesus Christ. He refuses to have his candle lit. He refuses to light the candles of anyone else. He prefers the darkness where he can flatter people maliciously, create conflict, hate others, mock the godly, and spread foolishness like the plague. The price he pays for his rebellion is costly – anxiety, insecurity, fear, mental illness, careless and foolish decisions, broken relationships, and suffering without the hope of peace and joy.

The godless gather together to fix their problems. Though they seek for them with all their heart and mind, relief and healing allude them. You alone rescue people but only those who humbly seek forgiveness for their sin and rebellion through Jesus Christ. Those who refuse Jesus Christ, but who seek solutions through other means, are like baseball batters who swing and miss at every pitch thrown to them in their baseball careers.

Father, help me to learn the lessons You want to teach me through Your loving discipline. Help me to learn from seasons of adversity and suffering so that I will not sin against You again. Father, then make me an ambassador of the gospel of Jesus Christ, spreading the light to the lost.

Proverbs 30

Father, I asked a fool, "what is the greatest moral virtue in life?" He said confidently, "to let everyone do whatever they want." I asked another fool, "in the ideal world, who do you want to rely upon in a difficult situation?" "Myself", he exclaimed. I asked a third fool, "do you deserve to be punished by God?" He replied, "Of course not. I'm a good person. I let everyone do whatever they want."

Your Word warns us that these three fools are on the road to death and destruction. The greatest moral virtue is to fear You and, therefore, to obey all of Your commandments. Your Word tells us that we are to trust in You alone to deliver us from trouble. Your Word tells us that not one of us is a good person. We have all rebelled from You. Our souls have become disgusting and offensive to You, too offensive to enter Your home.

Father, You are pure and so is Your Kingdom. There is no corruption where You are. Our foolishness is to You like an open barrel of dog feces is to us. We wouldn't want that barrel brought into our home and neither do You. The fool needs to be purified of his foolishness if he expects to live with You. However, He cannot clean himself. Only Jesus Christ can remove the stench and filth of his rebellion from You. Jesus Christ washes away our corruption with His precious blood, shed for the forgiveness of sin. He gives to those who trust in Him the credit for the perfect life He lived on earth. Christ purifies us so that we can be declared holy, invited and welcomed into Your perfect, spotless, and pure Kingdom.

Father, now that I have been cleaned by the blood of Christ, help me to surrender my life to Him. Help me to live for Him. He is everything and I am nothing. Please keep me humble in Your eyes by giving me a life of balance. Don't give me too much good news or I will become proud and boast about my accomplishments. Don't give me too much bad news or I will become proud and whine and complain about my miserable life. I ask for the perfect balance that keeps me focused on You and not myself.

Proverbs 31

Father, thank You for a godly wife. Thank You for a wife who does good things for her husband every day. Thank You for a wife who loves others, who has a heart for people who need the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank You for a wife who is obedient to Your commands, a dignified woman who earns the respect of others because of her godliness. Thank You for a wife who is emotionally healthy and who exhibits the fruits of the Spirit. She is loving and kind, caring for those in need. She is gentle and patient. She trusts in You and, therefore, is a woman at peace. She is persevering and self-controlled, never engendering strife or conflict. Thank You for a wife who praises You, worshipping You from a heart of thankfulness and gratefulness. Thank You for a wife who loves to study Your Word, privately, with her husband, and in community with other women. Thank You for a wife who fears You, wanting to please You each hour of each day. Thank You for a wife who is a hard worker, contributing to the success of her employer and to the finances of our home.

However, I thank You the most that my wife desires her husband to be the spiritual leader of the home. I thank You that she treasures my words, spoken before dating, "find a man who loves God more than you." Those words were the most romantic words she believes a woman can ever hear. A man who loves You more than his wife is a man who will love his wife more than any man can ever love a woman without You. Why? If a man loves You, he will love whom You love. Whom do You love? His wife. Father, a godly woman will marry a man who loves God more than her. A godly woman like that will then encourage and support his spiritual leadership of the home. A wonderful and miraculous thing happens to a man whose wife desires him to be the spiritual leader of the home. He will become one. He will transform before her eyes, gaining wisdom and understanding that he shares with her to her joy and delight. He will become a man whose character reflects Jesus Christ, his Savior and Lord. He will become a man of ministry, touching people's lives with the hope of the gospel.

Father, thank You for a godly wife who desires her husband to love God far more than he loves her.

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1

Father, the human heart desires its own glory and praise. It wants to be affirmed. It wants to be complimented. It wants to be admired. It wants to have a lasting impact. Above all, it wants to be remembered. However, the truth is that, no matter what we accomplish on earth, we are forgotten by history. Names like Martin Luther, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Winston Churchill, John Wayne, and John Lennon will remain in our history books till the end of time. However, we don't think of famous people as we go through our day. Do we think about John F. Kennedy when we are at the grocery store? Do we wonder what Bob Hope is experiencing right now in the afterlife? Do we imagine having conversations with Babe Ruth? Do people go through their days thinking about Billy Sunday, Dwight Moody, or Billy Graham? Do we express gratefulness for Thomas Edison for the discovery of electricity? Do we thank Alexander Graham Bell every time we make a call with our cell phone? The answers are "no" to all of these questions. Famous people are forgotten after they die. All of us, including the Mark Zuckerbergs and Bill Gates of the world, will be forgotten by history.

However, this doesn't stop us from striving for lasting fame. Inventors continue to invent. Politicians continue to run campaigns. Young people still move to Hollywood in hopes of their big break in acting. Singers still compete on television talent competitions like American Idol. Young men continue to compete for excellence on the ball field in hopes of stardom in professional sports. Writers continue to write books. Professionals work hard to rise through the ranks at their employers, with their goal being the corner office in the executive suite. The sobering reality is that when we achieve the things we wanted so much, we discover how unfulfilling they are. We think we just need more wealth, power, fame, and influence and then we will be satisfied. Nope. That's not how it works. You designed our hearts to feel total satisfaction and fulfillment from only one thing - praising and honoring Jesus Christ.

We came into this world without anyone knowing anything about us. We depart from this world only to discover that no one is impressed by our accomplishments at all. To tell the truth, whatever we think we uniquely accomplished in life has already been accomplished before. There were songwriters, film directors, singers, musicians, entrepreneurs, preachers, teachers, politicians, inventors, and writers before us and there will be songwriters, film directors, singers, musicians, entrepreneurs, preachers, teachers, politicians, inventors, and writers after us. We are not unique. However, there is one very unique person upon whom all eyes will gaze. He is only celebrity in heaven. He is the Son of God, the creator of all that is. His name is Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, who sacrificed His life for the forgiveness of sins for billions of people. He has rescued just as many lives throughout history, transforming them and making them reflections of Himself. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Before Him every knee will bow, on heaven and on earth. It is He alone who is worthy of praise and worship. The kings, queens, and celebrities of the earth will stand unnoticed before His throne.

Father, there is something priceless a follower of Jesus Christ can take with him beyond the grave: the people who came to know Jesus Christ through his ministry on earth. On Monday my neighbor doesn't know the Lord. I share the gospel with him on Tuesday. On Wednesday he comes to faith in Jesus. On Thursday we both die in a fire in our apartment building. Because of my ministry to my neighbor, he will stand beside me on Friday in eternity, worshipping our Lord and Savior with all the other millions of saints.

Father, help me to understand that, compared to Jesus Christ, I am a nobody who has accomplished nothing. Help me to understand that I will be forgotten on earth and that I will be insignificant in heaven. Such understanding is wisdom. May this reality keep me humble. However, may I also gain strength from the truth that Jesus Christ loved this nobody so much that He rescued me from my sin and rebellion. He wants me to join the chorus of heaven praising His name. I am invited to enjoy the blessings of His Kingdom forever.

Ecclesiastes 2

Father, scientists discovered in the 1800s that we carry around a blueprint for the construction and maintenance of our bodies. DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid, is a molecule that contains all the genetic instructions for our development, functioning, growth, and reproduction. This was Your design to guarantee that the cells in our bodies never fall into chaos and anarchy.

Father, You have also written code into our souls, instructions for how to experience total fulfillment and contentment in life. What is that code? It is the total surrender of our hearts and minds to Your authority. Those who completely surrender to You will experience incredible peace and joy. They have confidence that You will provide all that they need. They have confidence that You will protect them from all harm. They have confidence that You will deliver them from all trouble. They have confidence that You will guide them in the paths that they should go. They have confidence that their obedience to Your commands will keep them out of trouble. They have confidence that Your Word provides all the answers to the questions of life.

When we study Your Word, we learn that You created us to worship and honor You. We learn that humanity enjoyed paradise when we understood that You are our God and we are your humble and submissive creatures. We learn about our rebellion from You and the eternal consequences of that rebellion. We learn about the depravity of our hearts and minds and our inability to rescue ourselves. We learn about Your deep love for us and the provision of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sin and rebellion. We learn about Your provision of the Holy Spirit for those who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We learn about how the Holy Spirit helps us to return to the place we were before we rebelled from You, a place of total surrender and submission and all the fulfillment and contentment that comes from that.

Father, what name can we give to the act of total surrender to You? Wisdom. A wise man is the man who has confessed His rebellion from You, asked for forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and then surrendered his life to the authority of the Holy Spirit. There is no other wisdom crafted by mankind that can compete against the true and authentic wisdom that comes exclusively from total surrender to You.

When a man asks You for wisdom, what is he really asking for? “Lead me to salvation through Jesus Christ and then lead me to surrender my life to Him.” Is a man reluctant to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior? That man will never be wise. Is a man reluctant to turn his life over to the authority of the Holy Spirit? That man will never be wise.

Father, I want to experience total fulfillment and contentment in my life. I will never experience fulfillment and contentment through wealth, fame, power, influence, and pleasure. The DNA of my soul gives no consideration to these things. What my soul is coded for is my total surrender and submission to Your will and authority. Father, help me to completely surrender my life to You so that I can experience incredible peace and joy. Father, give me wisdom and make me wise a man.

Ecclesiastes 3

Father, our circumstances in life don't define who we are. They define what our character is like. Does a man obey Your commands when he is healthy? Will he obey Your commands when he is sick? Does a man obey Your commands when he is rich? Will he obey Your commands when he is poor? Does a man obey Your commands when he is young? Will he obey Your commands when he is old? Does a man obey Your commands when he has many friends? Will he obey Your commands when he is lonely? Does a man obey Your commands when he has power and influence? Will he obey Your commands when he is powerless and irrelevant to society? Does a man obey Your commands when he is free? Will he obey Your commands when he is in prison? Does a man obey Your commands when his marriage is good? Will he obey Your commands when his wife is unfaithful to him?

Father, our circumstances test the strength of our character and our faith in You. We say we love and trust You when life is easy. Will we love and trust You when life is hard? We called upon Your name when things were hard? Will we forget about You when things go easily for us? The different seasons of our life test the true state of our relationship with You.

The authentic man of God, the man with wisdom, will be the same in victory as he is in defeat. He will be the same man in prosperity as he was in struggle. His faith is not shaken or altered by the circumstances of his life.

Father, it is true – You do bring seasons of struggle into our lives. Sometimes we need to be humbled by discipline from You, a reminder that we are not You; we are only human. Other times we struggle because You desire to give us greater unconditional love, hope, faith, patience, peace, thankfulness, and joy. Those character traits can only be developed during seasons of adversity. There are times when You allow us to experience seasons of hardship to demonstrate to the world how a godly man handles adversity.

We have a choice in each season of life. Will we choose the way of life by trusting You? Or will we choose the way of death by doubting Your goodness and trusting in our accomplishments and good works? This chapter is a reminder that it is foolish to trust in our accomplishments and good works. The work that we do on our own is useless to You. It has no value in Your Kingdom. The man who brings to Your throne the work he has accomplished during his lifetime, for himself and by himself, will be ashamed as You throw it all in the fire.

The only work that has value to You is the work that You have given us to do. You crafted a master plan thousands of years ago to accomplish Your objectives. You gave us tasks to do in the 21st century to impact our family, our friends, our neighbors, our employers, and our communities. When we come before Your throne, on judgment day, You will evaluate whether we accomplished those tasks.

Father, what is the secret for fulfillment and satisfaction in a life filled with different seasons? We are to accomplish the work You've given us to do, regardless of the circumstances, and to be thankful for the opportunity to do our part. You didn't need us but, by Your grace, You invited us to participate in the accomplishment of Your master plan. Father, show me the work You want me to do and then help me get it done for You.

Ecclesiastes 4

Father, an estimated 1.1 million people were killed between May 1940 and April 1945 in Auschwitz, the Nazi-operated extermination camp. People in every nation are repulsed and appalled by such horrific cruelty and pure evil. However, the architects of that camp demonstrated the inevitable destination of the human heart when our rebellion is unrestrained.

The journey to wickedness begins with the belief that an individual can do or say as he pleases. He considers You, and Your laws, irrelevant. "I am the ultimate authority. I control my life," he shouts defiantly. "I must have what I want, and I must be able to do whatever I want to do. I must be praised for who I am."

Such a godless man quickly runs into conflict with other people. Other people have their own agendas too. Other people battle for the same limited resources. Other people refuse to praise him because they want to be praised themselves. Therefore, in order for the godless man to achieve his objectives, he must defeat his competition. In fact, he must dominate them and make them submissive. He must silence them. They must fear the godless man. If they refuse to surrender, the godless man commits murder, terrorizing the witnesses into total submission.

Father, Your Word tell us that all good works are authored and inspired by You. Therefore, the rebel is going to hate the good works that we do because those works praise and honor You. It has been said that "no good deed goes unpunished". The godless don't want any moral resistance in society to their narcissistic and tyrannical pursuit of power and control. As a result, those who do good deeds often experience harassment, ridicule, false accusation, injustice, and violence by the hand of the godless. Their intent is to silence all righteous acts in our society, done in the light, so that they can pursue their godless agenda in the darkness. Therefore, the doing of good deeds can cause the godly great physical and emotional suffering in this life. No individual can work alone in ministry, doing good works, without succumbing to the attacks of the godless.

However, You have given us relief. Our godly friends encourage and support our good works. They inspire us when we've lost enthusiasm for righteous living. They roll up their sleeves and help us carry the load of ministry when we become weak. Father, good works get done in this world because two or more of Your believers work together to achieve them.

We need each other in the church to accomplish the good deeds You've called us to do because the world hates those good works vehemently.

Father, what is the good work You've given every believer in Jesus Christ to do? To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their neighbors. Help me to work side-by-side with my brothers and sisters in Christ to bring the gospel to our local community.

Ecclesiastes 5

Father, we tend to limit our good works to the making of promises. We think that if we say we will do the right thing, we've fulfilled our responsibility to be good. We can do nothing to help others but still pat ourselves on the back for our promises, assured we are praiseworthy because of our good intentions.

Why do we do this? Father, we love ourselves more than our neighbors. We strive to be our own god. We want to exclusively focus our attention on the things we believe we need to accomplish that will lead to our adoration by the people around us. We want to focus only on those activities that will satisfy our own desires. Doing good works is a distraction from our purpose in life. However, since we want to be praised by others, we will talk the talk of good deeds even as we do nothing to help others. "As soon as I accomplish my goals for the achievement of my glory and honor, I will do good works for others," we tell ourselves in private. Our promises for all the good works we were going to do are lowered into the grave with us after the funeral.

Father, this is what we do to You as well. We think You are satisfied with our promises to do good things. We expect that You will not hold us accountable for our failure to do good works because we "meant well". However, Your Word tells us in this chapter that a godly man doesn't make any promises. He quickly gets off his back end, ignoring the excuses, and does the good work that his neighbor needs. Obedience to You has nothing to do with empty promises to obey You.

To tell the truth, the pursuit of the praise of others, at the expense of good works, is worthless in the end. People praise us because they want something from us. If we are wealthy, they will praise us so that we give them some cash. If we are powerful and influential, they will praise us so we can do them a favor. If we are famous, they will praise us so they can fit in with the crowd. However, the moment we lose our wealth, power, influence, and fame we lose the praise of the people around us. We put off good works for something that isn't real and will not last. We die without friends, without the reputation we wanted so much, and without a legacy of doing the good works that could touched many lives.

Father, help me to be the kind of man who stops what he is doing to immediately help my neighbor in need. Help me to be a man of ministry action and not a man who makes meaningless promises to do good. Help me to not pursue the worthlessness of wealth, fame, power, and influence. The less of that kind of baggage I have to carry, the more freedom I will have to love others. There is nothing more fulfilling than to touch lives for Jesus Christ by doing the good works He has called me to do for my neighbors.

Ecclesiastes 6

Father, question: how can a man gorge himself with food but die of starvation? Answer: He fed himself the wrong food. In our rebellion from You, we feast on the lusts of life but then find ourselves famished. We consume wealth, power, fame, influence, and pleasure but find ourselves starving for something else. Why are we never satisfied? Our souls need food, just like our bodies. Matthew 4:4 quotes Jesus as saying that a man does not live by bread alone but by every word that is spoken by You. You designed us to prosper only when we are in relationship with You. Our souls feel satisfied only when we trust in You, obey Your commands, and surrender our lives to the purposes You have for us. However, billions of people have ignored that reality throughout history. They ignore their spiritual condition and get caught up in their unending desire to satisfy their every desire and to make a name for themselves. They have gone to their graves with bloated stomachs but with souls that were only skeletons. Father, Your Word tells us that You provide everything the godly need in life. You protect the godly from harm. Therefore, if we dedicate our lives to the feeding of our souls with Your Word, we will have everything we need as well. It is a recipe for peace, joy, contentment, and fulfillment, regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves in. If we are in fellowship with You, we can be poor and still enjoy life to the full.

Father, give me the bread of life that I need every day. Call me to Your Word. Direct me to the passages that You want me to read. Open my eyes and unplug my ears so that my heart will be transformed by Your Word. I will then have a deep satisfaction, understanding the mysteries of life, that those who starve their souls cannot comprehend.

Ecclesiastes 7

Father, a godly man is a man of sorrow. He mourns his own spiritual condition. He rebelled against You, deeply offending the most important Person in his life. His life has been a tale of suffering for the consequences of his rebellion. His legacy is one of failure after failure in his vain attempts to be his own god and to rule his life without You. He looks at the world he lives in and sees tragedy all around him. Death. Destruction. Godlessness. Foolishness. Violence. Suffering. Crime. Corruption. Evil. This was not the kind of world that You intended for us to enjoy. We were made for paradise, the state of dwelling in perfect relationship with You in a place where everyone else has a perfect relationship with You as well. A godly man who examines this world will be a man of sorrow.

Father, it is good to be a godly man of sorrow. Sorrow keeps us focused on our relationship with You. It drives us to prayer and to Your Word. It gives us the fear of God that we need so much. It enables us to fight off temptation. It makes us attentive and teachable when You instruct us through adversity and seasons of suffering.

Having said that, the man of laughter ignores You. He would rather party than to spend time with You. He'd rather do anything else but spend time in Your Word. He doesn't fear You or obey Your commands. He gives in to every temptation that comes his way and thinks nothing of it. He is blind and deaf, unable to learn anything from the hardships of his life.

Can a godly man laugh in his journey through life? Certainly. However, it is a different kind of laugh. It is not the laugh that comes from the hearing of a vulgar joke. It is the laugh that comes from a heart that is deeply satisfied in its relationship with You. It is a laugh that comes from the joy of the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is a laugh that comes from a spirit of peace and contentment. It is a laugh that comes through a right relationship with You.

However, the godly man also understands that his total fulfillment and pleasure will only come in paradise. Life in this world will continue to be full of sorrow, even for those who walk with You. To finally be free from the tears of this world, one must die and experience the resurrection of the soul, the declaration of innocence in Your court through the blood of Jesus Christ, and the warm welcome into paradise where sorrow is gone forever. Truly a godly man's death, when You call him home, is so much better than his birth.

In the meantime, while we await our call home, we must walk through life with all of its sorrow. We must be patient, persevering, and long suffering. We must remain in control of our emotions. We must never abandon Your ways or neglect our relationship with You. If we remain in fellowship with You, we will receive the wisdom we need to avoid trouble or to diminish the impact of the trouble if it comes into our life.

Father, suffering is not a measure of godliness. Many godly men have suffered intensely in this world. Sure, many suffer because of their foolish rebellion from You. However, many others have suffered because they are the victims of the foolish rebellion of others. Many have suffered because it is through suffering that You build people's characters. Many have suffered because suffering provides a stage for the godly to model the miraculous qualities of joy, faith, hope, peace, and contentment

Father, sorrow for sin is the absolutely essential first step before a man repairs his relationship with You. It is through that sorrow that he confesses that he has sinned against You. It is through that sorrow that he confesses that he has rebelled against You and that he deserves eternal separation from You. It is through that sorrow that he confesses that he cannot save himself but that he needs a Savior. It is through that sorrow that he turns to Jesus Christ for deliverance, trusting in Him alone for eternal salvation. It is through that sorrow that he then surrenders his life to Christ, obeying His commands every day of his life. The Holy Spirit then blesses such a man of sorrow with joy, faith, hope, peace, and contentment to make life in this miserable world bearable.

Sadly, few men ever have the sorrow for their sin and rebellion that saves their souls. Many laugh themselves literally to eternal spiritual death. Father, not me. Please give me godly sorrow for my sin and rebellion. Give me godly sorrow for

the condition of this world. Help me to long for the paradise I will experience forever on the other side of the grave thanks to my salvation through Jesus Christ. Help me to remember that You did not create a world of sadness. We, us rebellious humans, created the sadness in this world ourselves.

Ecclesiastes 8

Father, we try so hard to look good to one another. We put on makeup. We buy stylish outfits. We lose weight and get into shape. We silently hope that our social media posts, with our selfies, self-promotion, and “look at me” tales of our lives, will make others jealous. Why do we do this? We want to be accepted by others. We want to fit in with the crowd. We want to receive affirmation and praise. We want to feel good about being the little gods we fancy ourselves to be.

However, we will grow old and there is no makeup or plastic surgery that will hide that reality. Just when we get into shape, we experience a disabling injury and now we must use a walker to get around. People aren’t thinking about us during their day, envious of our lives, no matter how many times they “like” what we post. Celebrities, who are adored by their fans, discover no one takes them seriously when they make public comments about current issues or offer advice about how people should live their lives. It is impossible to gain the lasting honor and respect of others that we crave so much through achievement and self-promotion.

What fools we are! We fancy ourselves as little gods, but we know nothing about the future. If we were so smart, wouldn’t we know what’s going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year? However, we are completely blind about what will happen next in our lives. We are not “all-knowing”. This means we cannot claim to be in control of everything. We are vulnerable and exposed. There is no honor and respect for such foolishness.

Speaking of the future, we will eventually die. Our death may be five minutes from now. There’s nothing we can do to stop our appointed time, no matter how many billions of dollars are poured into research by the geniuses who are trying to conquer death. There is no honor and respect for such foolishness.

Father, we cannot change the weather. We cannot force our favorite professional sports team to win the key game against a division rival. We cannot even get our children to make their beds. Yet, we claim to be little gods worthy of praise, worship, honor and respect? Frustrated with our inability to peacefully control the world, we decide to earn honor and respect by force. We become little tyrants, domineering our neighbors by physical strength, injustice, or emotional abuse. However, instead of becoming revered and adored by others, we become hated and vilified. Others conspire to overthrow us and to humiliate us. Our despotic rule will be short-lived. You are the only God who knows how to love unconditionally while having ultimate power and authority. The rest of us can’t handle power and authority without hurting and crushing others. There is no honor and respect for such foolishness.

Ah, but there is one path to lasting honor and respect that relatively few in society ever walk down – it is the path of wisdom. A man who is wise looks good no matter how much weight he has. A man who is wise looks good no matter how ugly he may be. A man who is wise looks good no matter how dull his outfits may be. A man who is wise looks good no matter how poor he may be. A man who is wise looks good no matter how boring and unnoteworthy his life may be. A man who is wise looks good no matter how powerless and vulnerable he may be. A man who is wise will be honored and respected as others memorialize him after his death.

Father, what is the source of all wisdom? Salvation through Jesus Christ. A man is wise when he confesses his rebellion from You, seeks forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ, and then surrenders his life to the obedience of Your commands. The Holy Spirit pours wisdom into the mind and soul of such a humble and repentant man. Such a man, saved by grace and faith alone in Jesus, will gain the respect and honor of others as he says and does incredibly wise things as directed by the Holy Spirit.

A wise man understands that there is only one right action for each and every situation. What is that action? It is what You would do if You were in our shoes. Is there a right way to address a child’s bad behavior? Yes. It’s what You would do as the child’s parent if You were in our shoes. Is there a right decision about a troubled employee? Yes. It’s what You would do as their manager if You were in our shoes. Is there a right way to carve a turkey for the Thanksgiving dinner? Yes. It’s how You would carve the turkey if You were helping us in the kitchen prepare the meal.

Father, You are God and we are not. You are the only one who can do whatever He wants. You are the One who provides for us and protects us each day. We can't know Your plans or predict Your actions. The more we embrace these truths, the greater honor and respect we will have. You pour out wisdom into the hearts and minds of those who stand humbly before You. As they demonstrate that wisdom to their friends, family, and neighbors, they gain honor and respect. Father, I fall on my knees and I bow before You. I need You. I'm nothing and I am no one without You. Forgive me for my sin and rebellion through Jesus Christ. Help me to surrender my life to Him. I will then become a man who is honored and respected in my community.

Ecclesiastes 9

Father, in this world there is disaster, destruction, and death. Explosions. War. Crime. Tornados. Hurricanes. Floods. Earthquakes. Ice storms. Lightning strikes. Injuries. Disease. Plagues. We wake up in the morning saying, "Today, I will do such and such. Tomorrow, I will do this and that." Little do we know that our lifeless bodies will soon be buried under rubble, waiting to be discovered by first responders.

Disaster happens to the wise and the foolish alike. The same twister that destroys the home of a fool also destroys the home of his wise neighbor who lives next door. We cannot expect to avoid calamity because we are godly. On the contrary, calamity is an opportunity for us to prove to the world around us that we are godly. The world responds one way to a crushing experience. Despair. Bitterness. Confusion. The godly responds in an entirely different way. We trust in Your goodness and faithfulness. You will rescue us. You will deliver us. You will provide for us. You will make sense of this misery one day. You are doing something good in our suffering. You have called us into ministry as we, bloodied and in excruciating pain, limp over to our neighbors house, gather all of our strength to move the refrigerator off of our neighbor, and then share the gospel with him minutes before they pass away in our arms.

Father today is the day for obedience to Your commands. Today is the day for ministry. Today is the day to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others. We are not promised tomorrow. We are not even promised the next hour. We don't need to accomplish anything before we do the good works You've appointed us to do. We don't need to get prepared. We just need to obey You, right here and right now, doing whatever we can to rescue our neighbors from eternal separation from You. Once we die, we can never again share the love of Jesus Christ with the living.

Father, how is it that I even know the gospel of Jesus Christ? You shared it with me. You opened my eyes to understand it. Therefore, I cannot claim it as my own, to keep for myself. My faith is Yours and it is my neighbors as well. I have no excuse for ignoring the work of ministry and evangelism when both my spiritually lost neighbor and I may be dead within the hour.

How does a man put a smile on Your face? He does the work of ministry and evangelism, dedicating his life to the rescuing of his neighbors from an eternity separate from You. Father, turn me into a man of ministry and an evangelist this very moment. Create divine appointments for me to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others. The time is urgent, and the clock is ticking. I'm a few breaths closer to my death than I was when I typed the last sentence.

Ecclesiastes 10

Father, this chapter is prophetic. Written thousands of years ago, it describes America in the 21st century. We have fools in positions of leadership in government, industry, media, academia, and the arts. Fools are passing laws, making business decisions, producing movies, teaching our children, and tweeting their opinions to millions of followers. It is not surprising that what used to be right has now become repugnant, if not illegal, and what used to be wrong is not only now esteemed and celebrated but it is also the policy agenda items for politicians running for office. As a result, our society is breaking down, becoming increasingly divided, chaotic, and, in many respects, "insane". Your Word tells us that the more tolerant our society is of foolishness, the quicker insanity will come to us all.

Who is to blame for this? We are. We have rebelled against You. We have rejected the wisdom that can only come from a repentant heart, a heart that is transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without godly understanding, we follow our own "logic" and "reason", a decision to rebel from You further. We put our emotions on the throne and allow them to dictate

our words and actions. As our troubles and hardships increase, we then seek salvation by placing our trust in other childish men and women, empowering them, often with our votes, so that they can have very public temper tantrums that we admire and applaud.

Father, how can we identify a fool? First of all, we must confess our sin and seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We must repent and surrender our lives to Him. We must welcome the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Second, we must study the Word of God. We must understand Your ways and know Your commands. We must understand Your definitions of wisdom and foolishness. Third, we must walk with You through life, learning valuable lessons about wisdom as You teach us in our seasons of adversity. We will then have then discernment to know what is wise and what is foolish. Fourth, we listen to what people have to say and we watch what they do, continuously measuring their words and actions against the wisdom You, and Your Holy Spirit, have taught us. The godly man will be able to spot a fool as easily as someone can find the ocean while standing on the beach.

Fools think their words are profound and ingenious. Fools think their actions are praiseworthy. However, the only thing their words and actions do is to place more and more “I’m an idiot” bumper stickers on their reputations. It is hard to scrape off those kinds of stickers. They stick to us for the rest of our lives. Father, the godly should be warned. After years of godly living, a man’s reputation can be destroyed overnight with one humiliating moral failure. No one will remember his former righteous lifestyle. It will be hidden under the hundreds of “This guy is a fool” stickers that strangers slap on the bumper of his soul as they pass by on the street.

This nation is in desperate need for the leadership of godly men and women. We need leaders who have surrendered their lives to You. We need leaders who “cling to their Bibles.” We need leaders who have been taught valuable lessons of wisdom by You through their seasons of adversity. We need leaders who navigate through the storms of life with the moral compass of Your commands. We need leaders who have strong and courageous characters, determined to persevere and honor You no matter what challenges confront them on the path. Father, save this nation from the fools that now lead it. Defeat the fools. Take their microphones and pens away from them. Put them out into the pasture, away from positions of leadership, so that they will do no more harm to our nation. Replace them with godly men and women. Put righteous men and women into positions of leadership in government, industry, media, academia, and the arts. Father, make me the kind of godly man who inspires tomorrows leaders to surrender their lives to Christ today.

Ecclesiastes 11

Father, everyone fancies themselves to be a prophet. “I predict that John Doe or Jane Smith will win the election.” “I predict that the Philadelphia Eagles will win the Super Bowl.” “I predict that five inches of snow will fall in the next 12 hours.” “I predict that this young musician will become a star.” “I predict that our new product will earn us millions of dollars.” Thanks to the failures of human prediction, we understand words like “humiliation” and “embarrassment” and phrases like “I was wrong.”

We have no idea what is going to happen in the future. There is no guarantee that the train we have been riding for the last 300 miles won’t derail two miles from now. There is no guarantee that the storm that appears to be approaching our region will actually deliver snow at all. It might take a turn out into the sea or pass over us without a snowflake falling. There is no guarantee that our favorite basketball team will win the game, even if they carry a 12-point lead into the fourth quarter. There is no guarantee that our preferred political candidate will hold on to their 5-point lead in the polls with two weeks to go before the election. It takes just one political gaffe to ruin a campaign.

Father, we also have no idea which of the good works that we do, in Your name, will bear any fruit. We may share the gospel of Jesus Christ with Kaitlyn, Steven, Maria, Robert, David, Jillian, Tara, and Ashley but we have no idea which one of them, if any, will accept Jesus Christ as their savior. We may feed the homeless, care for the sick, visit with the widow, and minister to the prisoner but we have no idea which one of those acts, if any, will lead to the person’s spiritual transformation. You don’t necessarily tell us the outcome of the good works You call us to do. You simply tell us to do those good works and leave the results up to You.

Father, help me not to waste my time anymore. Help me to stop making excuses for avoiding ministry. May it not be said that I wasted my youth and now, in my old age, I have precious little time left to touch lives for Christ. Help me to become

productive this very hour, planting as many seeds as possible. Give me an abundance of good works to do and help me to get it done. The more seeds I plant, the more You will have available to You for You to do what only You can do – transform broken and godless people into strong trees of righteousness that stand tall as symbols of godliness in our wicked culture.

Ecclesiastes 12

Father, what is wisdom, plain and simple: to fear You and to obey Your commands. Nothing else matters.

There is a scene in Steven Spielberg's movie *Schindler's List* where the Jews are told to get onto a train. They are told to leave their baggage behind, promised that their belongings will be reunited with them at their new destination. However, the contents of their suitcases are emptied, sorted, and tossed into piles. The Third Reich repurposed their valuables for the benefit of the government. Why would anyone heading to the gas chamber need a suitcase of belongings anyway?

Father, we will all step onto the death train. Our luggage of accomplishments in life will be left behind. Our educational degrees will be tossed into one pile. Our wealth will be tossed into another pile. Our trophies and awards are placed into a third pile. The songs we wrote and sang are tossed into a fourth pile. Our positions of power and influence are tossed into a fifth pile. Our beauty and good looks are tossed into a sixth pile. Our relationships are tossed into a seventh pile. Naked we entered the world and naked we depart from it.

However, we are given one possession to hold onto on that death train. A ticket to a destination. We are either getting off in heaven or staying on the train all the way to hell. What determines which ticket we will be given? Did we fear You and obey Your commands? If the answer is "yes", we have a ticket for heaven. If the answer is "no", we have a ticket for hell.

What determines whether we feared You and obeyed Your commands? The gospel of Jesus Christ. The only command that we must obey to receive a ticket to heaven is to accept Jesus Christ as our savior and then to repent of our sin. It is our fear of You that motivates us to embrace the gospel for ourselves. As James writes in the New Testament, we reflect the authenticity of our salvation and repentance by living a life of obedience to Your commands. A man shows his love for You with all of his heart, soul, and mind by thankfully and gratefully obeying Your commands. A man shows his love for his neighbor by thankfully and gratefully obeying Your commands.

Nothing else matters. Father, I seek to become a man of wisdom this very moment. I confess my sin and ask for forgiveness of my sin through the only name by which I can be saved – Jesus Christ. I will now show my appreciation for the salvation You have given me by living to put a smile on Your face by obeying Your commands from this point forward.

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Gramazin Inc. is a Massachusetts non-profit ministry headquartered in Gloucester, MA. We have filed for 501c3 status and expect to receive our Letter of Determination from the IRS by early fall 2024. Once received, all donations in 2024 will become tax deductible.

Our Mission

To encourage believers in Jesus Christ across America to share their testimonies of what Jesus Christ has done for them with their neighbors who are searching for hope. To encourage the sharing of such testimonies on the websites of churches that profess that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.



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Our Vision

Hundreds of teams of believers in Jesus Christ throughout the United States work together to help local Bible-believing churches publish testimonies on their church websites. Those same teams promote the testimonies published on local church websites to the public.

One day our unchurched and despairing neighbors will search for hope on local church websites because it has become routine for churches to publish testimonies (“stories”) of how Jesus Christ really does change lives in the 21st century.

Our Founder

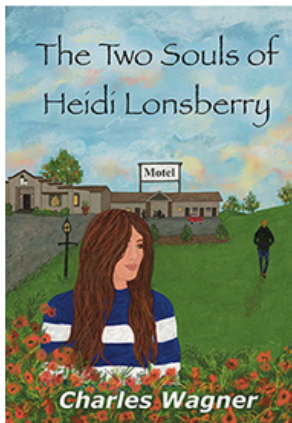
Charles Wagner, the Executive Director of Gramazin Inc., experienced a long season of hardship from approximately 2002 through 2012 that led to his hospitalization for suicidal ideation. He searched for hope by accumulating stories of individuals who had overcome adversity by their own strength. However, the Holy Spirit spoke to Charles one day: “What are you doing gathering stories of people who didn’t turn to Jesus to rescue them?” From that point forward, Charles’ focus became the gathering on church websites the stories, testimonies, of how Jesus Christ really does change lives in the 21st century.



Charles Wagner’s Publications

- **Take Every Thought to Prayer**, a two-volume series containing over 700 prayers for various circumstances in life.
- **Take Every Passage to Prayer**, a two-volume commentary of the New Testament. The commentaries are written in the form of a letter to God and contain hundreds of prayers.

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Charles Wagner's first Christian fiction novel, released March 2024.

In a smoke-filled room in a seedy motel, Heidi Lonsberry cried out to God to rescue her. The 31-year-old single mother on welfare, estranged from her mother, has had a hard life. With tears streaming down her cheeks, she thought about overdosing on the cocaine that was available down the hall. However, she makes one final appeal for a miracle. God hears her prayer and sends her friend Troy Ashford, a despairing and broken 44-year-old divorced man, to her motel to comfort her. Their lives are radically transformed in that room by the divine creativity and power of God. An angel named Witness shares the story with us as we encounter lessons about the stubborn rebellious heart of people, God's discipline and compassion, divine planning, testimony sharing, prayer, identity, Biblical counseling, spiritual transformation, discipleship, mentoring, Christian community, and what it means to be a godly man or woman.

Visit <https://www.gramazin.com/books> to purchase books.



The Gramazin New England Testimony Challenge

Charles Wagner is on the radio. His show, The Gramazin Testimony Report, airs on WEZE 590 AM each weekday at 6:55 AM and at 8:15 PM. The show also airs each weekday on WROL 950 AM at 4:00 PM. The focus of **Testimony Tuesday** is to spread awareness of the Gramazin mission. Each **West Hunter Thursday** Charles airs a 1930s-styled radio show with one tip for local outreach ministry. The **Gramazin New England Testimony Challenge** is Charles Wagner's goal to air **one testimony from every Bible-believing church in New England**. These testimonies are presented every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Partner With Gramazin and Join the Movement

- **Pray.** *Dear Father, please raise up a team of prayer warriors to support our mission. We can do nothing without prayer but with prayer all things are possible. Amen.*
- **Give A Gift.** *Dear Father, we love You and we have enthusiastically surrendered our skills, talents, and energy to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the building of Your Kingdom. Father, it costs money to do what we do, money we have in short supply. Please raise up brothers and sisters in Christ to financially support our ministry so that we can stay on the radio and spread our mission throughout New England and beyond. Amen.*
- **Purchase Our Books.** *Dear Father, Charles Wagner loves the Word of God and has written five books to share Biblical truths with others. Please lead people to purchase the books for themselves or for others as gifts. Please use the sales of the books to draw readers into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and to fund the Gramazin ministry. Amen.*
- **Volunteer.** *Dear Father, we need brothers and sisters in Christ to roll up their sleeves and help us simply because they love the idea that believers across America will be inspired and equipped to share their testimonies with our despairing neighbors. Please raise up believers to contact us and ask what they can do to help! Amen.*
- **Follow Us.** *Dear Father, we need believers across New England to know what Gramazin is all about. Please lead our brothers and sisters in Christ to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Please lead believers to sign up for our newsletter. They can visit www.gramazin.com to gain access to all our social media channels and to our newsletter. Amen.*
- **Testimonies.** *Dear Father, please lead our brothers and sisters in Christ to be the one person from their church to share their testimony on the Gramazin Testimony Report radio show. Amen.*