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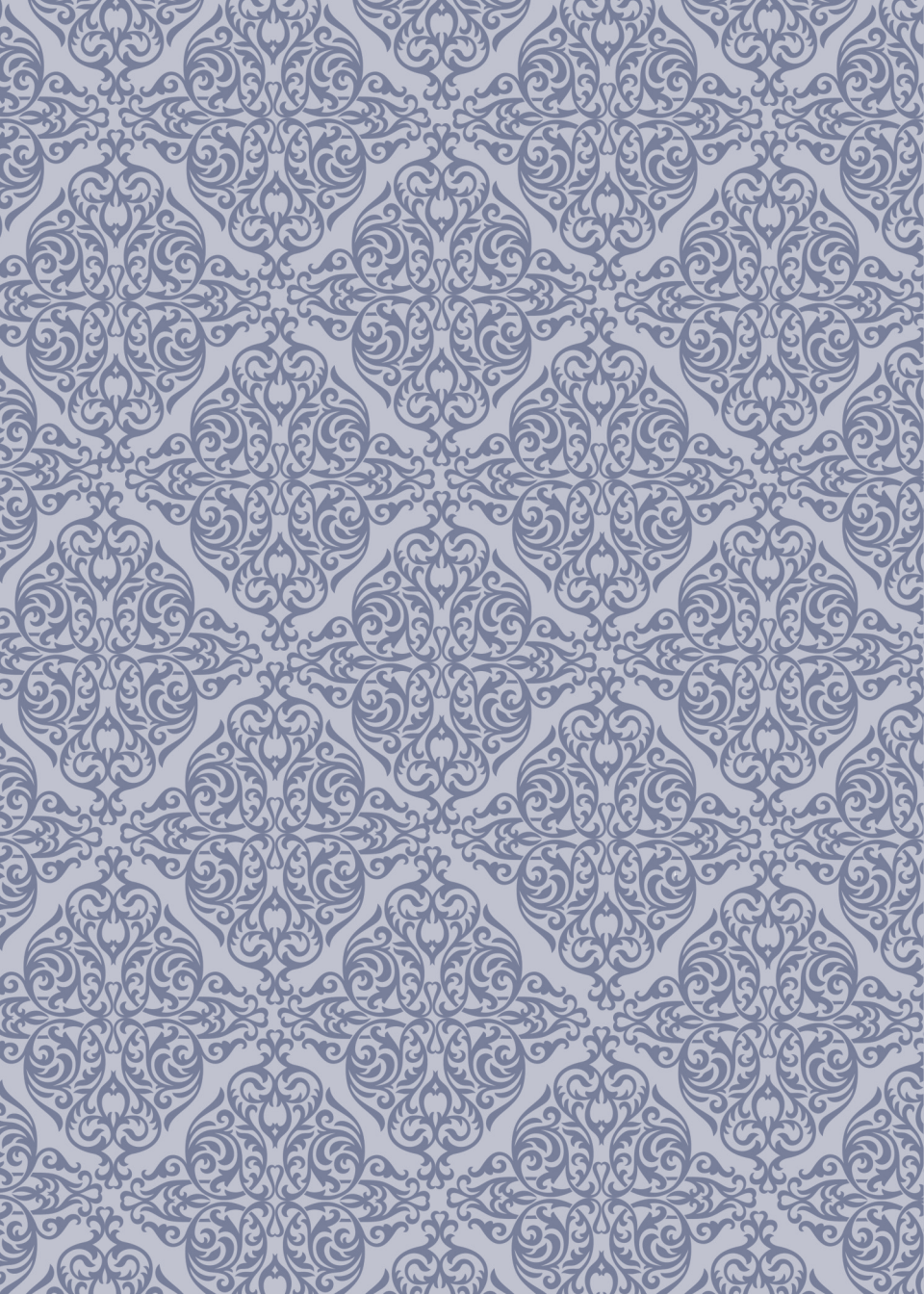
From

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On date

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DONNA K. MALTESE



365 Devotions
ON THE
POWER *of*
PRAYER



Daily Inspiration from Classic Prayers

BARBOUR BOOKS

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Our mission is to inspire the world with the life-changing message of the Bible.



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INTRODUCTION



For thousands of years, men and women of faith have penned powerful prayers, for themselves and the masses. Here, for the first time ever, 365 classic prayers are available under one cover for readers who want to tap into the power of the ages. Each daily reading begins with a short devotional reading and a supporting Bible verse, followed by a classic prayer that can reach across the oceans of time to touch the heart, lift the spirit, embolden the soul, brighten the mind, and strengthen the faith. Included in the back of the book are brief biographies of the authors of the classic prayers. There you will also find an index of topics—such as adversity, aging, blessings, contentment, discouragement, faith, fear, guidance, hope, joy, plans, relationships, purpose, thoughts, truth, and more—so you can access specific help any day of the year!

May this book be a blessing in your life, helping your prayers pick up power, fueled by the belief that:

*All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in
prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

MATTHEW 21:22

DAY 1

Each morning we choose which path we are going to follow: our own or God's. If we choose our own, we may find ourselves drifting off course in turbulent waters. But if we align our will with God's at the outset and listen for His voice throughout the day, we know we'll be cruising in the right direction, with God at the helm. Which course will you choose as you launch yourself into this day?

And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you. . .blessed are all they that wait for him. . . . Thine ears shall bear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. . . . And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard.

ISAIAH 30:18, 21, 30

Afresh I seek thee. Lead me—once more I pray—
Even should it be against my will, thy way.
Let me not feel thee foreign any hour,
Or shrink from thee as an estranged power.
Through doubt, through faith,
through bliss, through stark dismay,
Through sunshine, wind, or snow, or fog, or shower,
Draw me to thee who art my only day.

GEORGE MACDONALD, *DIARY OF AN OLD SOUL*, MAY 15 READING

DAY 2

Each day we take pains to make sure we look good on the outside. But we all know beauty is only skin deep. What lies in our heart is the true teller of who we are. Spend some moments today becoming heart healthy by seeking to follow Jesus' example. It will change your life.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

PROVERBS 4:23

Dear Lord,

May I be no man's enemy, and may I be
the friend of that which is eternal and abides.

May I never quarrel with those nearest me;
and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly.

May I never devise evil against any person.

If any devise evil against me, may I escape
uninjured and without the need of hurting them.

May I love, seek and attain only that which is good.

May I wish for all humanity's happiness and envy none.

May I, to the extent of my power, give all needful
help to my friends and to all who are in want.

May I respect myself.

May I always keep tame that which rages in me.

May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be
angry with people because of circumstances.

May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has
done, but know good people and follow in their footsteps.

EUSEBIUS OF CAESAREA

DAY 3

God requires our obedience. Not because He wants to make life difficult for us, but because He alone knows what's good for us. For when we are walking in His will and way, we're able to avoid the pitfalls and predicaments that distract and discourage us. In fact, when we live in obedience, we find ourselves enjoying all God has planned for us. Whether or not we think, from our limited knowledge, what He's telling us makes sense, and whether or not we understand, with our limited perspective, where He's leading us, we can trust that the Father truly does know best and sees all.

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country. . . . For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

HEBREWS 11:8-10

Almighty and everlasting God, only speak to us that we may hear thee. Then speak to us again and yet again so that when in our hearts we answer thee by saying No, we may at least know well to whom we say it, and what it costs us to say it, and what it costs our brothers, and what it costs thee.

FREDERICK BUECHNER

DAY 4

God wants our hearts totally devoted and dedicated to Him. Yet sometimes His gifts to us get in the way. When we're feeling well, have a full stomach, and are successful in our work and relationships, we may begin making God a secondary priority. But when those gifts are removed, when we're ill, in want of food, or facing failure, we may find ourselves suddenly on our knees, crying out to God, making Him our *first* priority. Remember that all you have—health, food, success, and more—is not yours but God's. And none of those gifts are to stand between you and Him. God is giving you all of Himself. And that's what He wants back—all of you. For then His strength becomes fully active.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

Lord, you gave me health and I forgot you. You take it away and I come back to you. What infinite compassion that God, in order to give himself to me, takes away his gifts which I allowed to come between me and him. All is yours. You are the Lord. Dispose everything, comforts, success, health. Take all the things that possess me instead of you that I may be wholly yours.

FRANÇOIS FÉNELON

DAY 5

Nothing will happen today that God hasn't already seen coming. So rest assured that God's got you. That His constant thoughts toward you are filled with peace as He works out His plans for your life. Secure in that knowledge, you can have patience and be at peace no matter what your day brings. You and your life are in God's hands.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:11-13

I do not know, O God, what will happen to me today,
I only know that nothing will happen to me but what has been foreseen by you from all eternity, and that is sufficient, O my God, to keep me in peace. I adore your eternal designs. I submit to them with all my heart. I desire them all and accept them all. I make a sacrifice of everything. I unite this sacrifice to that of your dear Son, my Saviour, begging you by His infinite merits, for the patience in troubles, and the perfect submission which is due to you in all that you will and design for me.

ÉLISABETH OF FRANCE

DAY 6

Why not make your whole being—mind, body, soul, and spirit—a united expression of gratitude to God! Give Him a standing ovation for all the blessings He’s poured down upon you—within and without, seen and unseen. Thank Him for all the intangible and tangible blessings you’ve received. Thank Him for all the blessings in His storehouse waiting to pour down upon you. You’ll be blessed when you do. For thanking God not only gladdens you but Him as well!

Come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

PSALM 100:2-4

May my whole being, O God, be one thanksgiving unto Thee; may all within me praise Thee and love Thee; for all which Thou hast forgiven, and for all which Thou hast given; for Thine unknown hidden blessings, and for those which, in my negligence or thoughtlessness, I passed over; for any and every gift of nature or of grace; for my power of loving; for all blessings within and without; and for all which Thou hast yet in store for me; for everything whereby Thou hast drawn me to Thyself, whether joy or sorrow; for all whereby Thou willest to make Thine own forever. Amen.

EDWARD B. PUSEY

DAY 7

Silence. It can be hard to come by these days. But it's in the silence and stillness where you can find your way to God, to His presence, to a place where you can hear His still, small voice and feel His touch. Jeanne Guyon, the French mystic and author of *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*, advised people to “practice silent prayer for a long, uninterrupted period of time.” For a person new to this idea, she suggested combining “spoken prayer with silent prayer.” Below today’s Bible verse are three different expressions Guyon said could be offered to the Lord—but they must be offered from the heart. See if one speaks to your inner spirit. Then take it with you as you enter the silence of heaven and come before your loving Lord.

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. . . . And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints.

REVELATION 8:1, 3

“Oh my God, let me be wholly Yours.”
“Let me love You purely for Yourself, for You are infinitely lovely.”
“Oh my God, be my all! Let everything else be as nothing to me.”

JEANNE GUYON

DAY 8

Where do you go when trouble comes knocking at your door? To whom or what do you turn for courage to face whatever's coming against you? In the prayer below, Oswald Chambers reminds you to go to God. To look to Him for all the help you need. To take courage from God's promise that He is your helper. He will never leave nor forsake you. God says so. So you know it's the truth. You know it's a solid promise. Because God will never leave you, you can boldly say, "I will not fear." Make it your outlook this second, this moment, this day, this life! When you do, God will not fail you! Because His help is not on its way—it's right there within you!

*He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

HEBREWS 13:5-6

The Lord is my helper, I will not fear—I will not be haunted by apprehension. . . . I will remember God's say-so. I will be full of courage. . . . "The Lord is my Helper, this second, in my present outlook. . . . I will not fear." It does not matter what evil or wrong may be in the way, He has said—"I will never leave thee. . . . I will in no wise fail you." The Lord is my helper.

OSWALD CHAMBERS, *MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST*, JUNE 5 READING

DAY 9

Troubles, abounding for believers and nonbelievers alike, can become downright depressing, making us feel we're in the belly of Jonah's whale. Deep waters engulf us. Seaweed wraps around our heads. Just as we're about to sink to the bottom, we remember God, His love for us and ours for Him. And we pray. We become quiet, awaiting God's deliverance, knowing it will come. It's then we're spit out on the shores and find our footing on the Rock of our faith.

*The waters compassed me about, even to the soul:
the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped
about my head. . . . When my soul fainted within me I
remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee.*

JONAH 2:5, 7

O Lord, my God! The amazing horrors of darkness were gathered about me, and covered me all over, and I saw no way to go forth; I felt the depth and extent of the misery of my fellow-creatures separate from the Divine harmony, and it was heavier than I could bear, and I was crushed down under it; I lifted up my hand, I stretched out my arm but there was none to help me; I looked round about, and was amazed. In the depths of misery, O Lord, I remembered that Thou art omnipotent; that I had called Thee Father; and I felt that I loved Thee, and I was made quiet in my will, and I waited for deliverance from Thee.

JOHN WOOLMAN

DAY 10

God instructs you to “work with your own hands” so you’ll “have lack of nothing” (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12). Sounds like a good plan, for you know that if you do your work for God’s pleasure, He will praise you, saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). Yet problems may arise when you look to the results of your work instead of just doing your work. God wants you neither diverted by what prospers you nor worrying about the outcome of your efforts. He doesn’t want you comparing your work to that of others either. Instead, endeavor to leave all the results of your work in God’s hands, to keep your attention on Him alone, and to improve upon the talents He’s given you.

*In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not
thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper,
either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*

ECCLESIASTES 11:6

O God, who has commanded that no man should be idle, but that we should all work with our hands the thing that is good; grant that I may diligently do my duty in that station of life to which thou hast been pleased to call me. Give me grace, that I may honestly improve the talents thou hast committed to my trust, and that no worldly pleasures may ever divert me from the thoughts of the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SABINE BARING-GOULD

DAY 11

God is exactly what you need when and where you need it. He's the pillar of fire going before you, leading you through the darkness of the wilderness path. He's the star above you, the bright light guiding you to the child-King. He's the smooth path that lies below you, keeping you on your feet. He's the good and gentle shepherd behind you, steering you to still waters, a place where He can restore your soul. God is all those things before, above, below, and behind you every moment of your life. And He will never take away His guidance, His provision, or His promises, nor remove Himself from you. Allow this all-encompassing God to meet your needs in this moment, to be what and where you need Him today, tonight, and forever.

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

EXODUS 13:21-22

Be thou a bright flame before me,
Be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a smooth path below me,
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today—tonight—and forever.

SAINT COLUMBA OF IONA

DAY 12

A society can begin to fracture when children no longer respect or obey their parents. That's why God made it one of the ten commandments—and the only one with a promise! When kids respect their elders, things go a lot better—for you, them, and society as a whole. At the same time, parents are not to provoke kids, not to aggravate them.

If you have an argument with your parents or children, be humble enough to consider that you may have been wrong. Consider apologizing, if needed. And forgive them, just as God forgives you. Respecting and loving each other is a two-way street. Bless all children and parents. Love them. Respect them. Pray for them. When you do, things will be well with you, them, and God.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

Give, I pray Thee, to all children grace reverently to love their parents, and lovingly to obey them. Teach us all that filial duty never ends or lessens; and bless all parents in their children, and all children in their parents.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

DAY 13

Discouragement can bring you down, so low that you feel as if God's at a distance, too far to reach. But it's not He who's moved; it's you. Remember, God's constantly pouring out His love upon you, yearning for you to just look up at Him. When you do, you'll find yourself uplifted. For He's there, ready to satiate your hunger, quench your thirst for Him. Look up.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

PSALM 42:1-3

O Lord, our God, we desire to feel Thee near us in spirit and in body at this time. We know that in Thee we live and move and have our being, but we are cast down and easily disquieted, and we wander in many a sad wilderness where we lose the conscious experience of Thy presence. Yet the deepest yearning of our hearts is unto Thee. As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so pant our souls after Thee, O God. Nothing less than Thyself can still the hunger or quench the thirst with which Thou hast inspired us. Power of our souls! enter Thou into them and fit them for Thyself, making them pure with Christ's purity, loving and lovable with His love.

SAMUEL McCOMB

DAY 14

How awesome that nothing can overcome the light of Jesus (John 1:5). And that Jesus has charged you to spread His light among others (Matthew 5:16). Even more amazing—because you're a believer who's given up yourself for Christ, you, like Him, are a sweet fragrant sacrifice to God. Today, pray for Christ to totally possess you so that you become more and more like Him, more of a shining and fragrant conduit of His light and aroma. When you do, others will look at you but see and smell only Christ.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-15

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others.

MOTHER TERESA, FROM THE VIDEO *EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE*

DAY 15

Do you pray with a sense of expectancy? Do you believe that God has heard your prayers and that He will, if your desire is in line with His, answer those prayers with a resounding “Yes!”? Know this: God *requires* you to live in a state of expectancy. For Christ has promised “if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14–15). That means God *will* answer your prayers. And you put more power behind them when you expect God to answer in the affirmative—and go beyond what you’d imagined. Andrew Murray writes, “Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do.” That’s powerful stuff.

So don’t delay. Pray. Expect. And believe God will do more than you could ever ask.

*I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the
God of my salvation: my God will hear me.*

MICAH 7:7

Teach us, O gracious Lord, to begin our daily tasks with fear, to go on with obedience, and to finish them in love, and then to wait patiently in hope, and with cheerful confidence to look up to thee, whose promises are faithful and rewards infinite; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GEORGE HICKES

DAY 16

God knows exactly what you need before you even ask Him. It's true! Jesus says so (Matthew 6:8)! Yet He still wants you to come to Him, to put what you desire into words so that you're clear on what you're asking. And God Himself will separate the good desires from the ones that are not so good for you, making sure you get all the best. What God *doesn't* want you to do is worry about the when, what, where, or through whom of how He's going to provide for you. Be content to leave all those details to Him. Just continue seeking, praising, and worshipping your provider. Trust Him for all. He's got you covered!

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

PSALM 34:8-10

Almighty God, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: Set free thy servants from all anxious thoughts for the morrow; give us contentment with thy good gifts; and confirm our faith that according as we seek thy kingdom, thou wilt not suffer us to lack any good thing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

DAY 17

God has been with you since the day you were created in your mother's womb. He's still with you today, in this moment, as you read these words. He'll be with you tomorrow and the next day, until you are old and gray—and He'll be with you in the heavenly beyond. So keep on trusting God no matter what the days bring.

O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. . . . Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. . . . Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

PSALM 71:5, 9, 18

Almighty God, by whose mercy my life has continued for another year, I pray that, as my years increase, my sins may not increase.

As age advances, let me become more open, more faithful and more trusting in you. Let me not be distracted by lesser things from what is truly important. And if I become infirm as I grow old, may I not be overwhelmed by self-pity or bitterness.

Continue and increase your loving kindness towards me so that, when you finally call me to yourself, I may enter into eternal happiness with you, through Christ my Lord. Amen.

SAMUEL JOHNSON

DAY 18

What do you do when faced with the seemingly unconquerable? Pray, right? That's what King Jehoshaphat did when armies threatened to invade his kingdom. On his knees, he sought God's face and prayed for deliverance. He proclaimed his own helplessness, as well as his faith in God, saying, "We have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee" (2 Chronicles 20:12). God responded by saying, "No problem. I've got this." The next day, the king told his people to just believe. Then he had his singers (praise) go out ahead of his army (strength), and "when they began to sing and to praise" (2 Chronicles 20:22), God went to work, defeating the enemy and leaving the spoils for Jehoshaphat's people. The point? It's great to pray. But end in praise. When you do, God brings the victory!

Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. . . . He appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 CHRONICLES 20:20-21

Open wide the window of our spirits and fill us full of light;
open wide the door of our hearts, that we receive and
entertain Thee with all our powers of adoration and love.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

DAY 19

Waiting *continually* on God (Hosea 12:6) with calm endurance seems almost impossible. And it is—without God. But with God, all is possible. Psalm 37 gives some tips on how to get there from here: Trust in God and do good where you are. Feed on your faith while you're waiting. Rest in God without worry, knowing He's working things out according to His plan, has everything under control. Just keep calmly walking in the way He's already laid out for you. The next thing you know, you'll have let go of your worry and gained His peace.

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. . . . Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself. . . . Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.

PSALM 37:3, 7, 34

God, teach me to be patient, teach me to go slow,
Teach me how to wait on You when my way I do not know.
Teach me sweet forbearance when things do not go right
So I remain unruffled when others grow uptight.
Teach me how to quiet my racing, rising heart
So I might hear the answer You are trying to impart.
Teach me to let go, dear God, and pray undisturbed until
My heart is filled with inner peace and I learn to know Your will.

HELEN STEINER RICE

DAY 20

It's great to read the Bible, memorize verses, study different passages, and hear sermons. But if you don't put the message into action, if you don't put God's Word to work, both you and the world suffer. So don't just love the Word, live it. Be God's hands and feet. Put His plans, will, and ideas above your own. Let His light shine through you and thus onto the people around you. Follow as Jesus follows. Speak as He speaks. Love as He loves. Shine as He shines. Glow as He glows. When you put the Word into action, everyone prospers.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

JAMES 1:22-24

We most humbly beg you to give us grace not only to be hearers of the Word, but doers also of the same; not only to love, but also to live your gospel; not only to favor, but also to follow your godly doctrine; not only to profess, but also to practice your blessed commandments, to the honor of your Holy Name, and the health of our souls.

THOMAS BECON