

April 1

Money

Psalm

*O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.*
Psalm 131:1

Meditation

Millions reap the dire results of the mad rush after more than they need who at last die in helpless poverty which indeed they must do even if they succeed.

Beware: you can shut out the sun, yea, all heaven from your vision with the smallest coin that ever came from the mint if you hold it close enough to your eye. It is not the amount you secure but the closeness and affection with which you hug the delusion to your heart that works your ruin.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 178

Scripture

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:23-25

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in your compassion free me from the love of money. May possessions not find their way into my heart, but may my treasure be in you alone.
May I give generously to those in need as you became poor for my sake.

April 2

Turning the Heart

Psalm

*Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.*

For forty years I loathed that generation and said,

"They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

Psalm 95:8-11

Meditation

Prayer implies certain conditions that cannot coexist with impenitence, such as faith in God, a proper reverence for his name, consciousness of our spiritual needs, and a hungering and thirsting after righteousness. The impenitent have no taste for prayer. The desire to pray is about the first sign of true penitence.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 81-82.

Scripture

Note then the kindness and the severity of God:

severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness toward you,

provided you continue in his kindness;

otherwise you also will be cut off.

Romans 11:22

Prayer

Father, turn my heart toward you. Soften my heart and grant me true repentance that I may turn to you in faith. This day let me proclaim your kindness to all I meet. May I never put you to the test, O Lord, and please deliver me from the time of testing.

April 3

New Covenant

Psalm

*By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and
there we wept when we remembered Zion.
How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*
Psalm 137:1, 4

Meditation

Under the new covenant, the best covenant, founded on better promises, they are not in it by virtue of the first, or natural birth, but being born again; not on the ground of being born of parents in the church, but a spiritual relationship to God; not in the covenant in ignorance to God, so as to have to be taught to know the Lord, but by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 212

Scripture

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.
Jeremiah 31:33-34

Prayer

Father, I thank you for remembering my sins no more. Keep me faithful to your covenant this day. May I claim and embrace your promises and fulfill the vows I have made to you.

April 4

The King of Glory

Psalm

*Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.*

Who is the King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Psalm 24:7-8

Meditation

He is admitted, crowned king—angels, principalities, and powers are made subject to him. The Holy Spirit is dispatched with the joyful tidings from heaven to Jerusalem...

T.W. Brents, *The Gospel Plan of Salvation*, 160

Scripture

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

*triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Zechariah 9:9

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I crown you king of my life. Reign in my heart today. Come quickly, so that every knee will bow and every tongue confess you as Lord.

April 5

Comfort

Psalm

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

Psalm 51:10-11

Meditation

A heart that is cold and callous, and insensible to the sorrows and woes of the world, and to its own perils, may not feel the need of prayer; but a heart, tender and responsive to others' woes, and realizing the awful peril of sin, and with a sympathy so deep and wide that like the Master it can weep over the sins and sorrows of others, would break but for the solace and strength found in prayer.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 76

Scripture

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction,
so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with
which we ourselves are consoled by God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Prayer

Father, comfort me with your forgiveness. Give me a new and clean heart.
Keep me close to you through your Holy Spirit. Open my eyes to those who
need your comforting presence.

April 6

Suffering

Psalm

*Turn, O Lord, save my life;
deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.
For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who can give you praise?*

Psalm 6:4-5

Meditation

Where are the mourners in Zion? Where are the tears whose fountain is the heart, bursting from streams from the eyes of Christians for the desolations of the world? Where are the sacrifices made for their recovery? Alas! Where?

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 274

Scripture

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and
the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

Philippians 3:10-11

Prayer

Father, let me share in the sufferings of Christ, sufferings for others.
Almighty God, bring justice and healing to those who are downtrodden. Give
me compassion for others. Empower me to put that compassion into action
this day.

April 7

God Hears

Psalm

*But I call upon God, and the Lord will save me.
Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan,
and he will hear my voice.*

*He will redeem me unharmed from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.*

Psalm 55:16-18

Meditation

Come then, in childlike confidence, to our blessed and glorious Father; not as a formality, nor merely as a duty, but because you need his Almighty Arm to protect and shield you in the midst of the evils in the world, and finally to save you.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 193

Scripture

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

John 12:27-28

Prayer

Loving Father, as Jesus trusted you in the hour of trial, may I also trust when pain and suffering falls on me. Lord, hear! Lord, save!

April 8

The Last Supper

Psalm

*Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.*
Psalm 143:8

Meditation

To every disciple he says, "For you my body was wounded; for you my life was taken." In receiving it the disciple says, "Lord, I believe it. My life sprung from thy suffering; my joy from thy sorrows, and my hope of glory everlasting from thy humiliation and abasement, even unto death."

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 310

Scripture

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Mark 14:22-25

Prayer

Lord Jesus, words fail me in praising the great gift of your love, the gift of your own life. May I live as part of your body. May your blood constantly cover me.
Lord, may the day come quickly when I drink with you forever.

April 9

The Death of Jesus

Psalm

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.*

Psalm 22:1-2

Meditation

Through his death God has brought to light incorruptibility and life, and the greatest crime ever committed by humanity has been made to us the richest blessing.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 32

Scripture

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory.

1 Peter 1:10-11

Prayer

Father, thank you for the gift of your Son. Lord Jesus, praise be to you for the blessing of salvation. Holy Spirit of God, fill my life this day that I might live in the glory of God.

April 10

Our High Priest

Psalm

*Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.*

Psalm 27:3

Meditation

So far as we can comprehend this wonderful subject, we are more and more deeply penetrated with the conviction, that nothing inferior to the voluntary sacrifice of the Son of God could put away sin; and make it both just, and merciful, and honorable, and safe, on the part of his God and Father, to forgive and save one of his rebel race.

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 49

Scripture

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Prayer

Father of grace, I approach your holy throne boldly, asking for mercy in my time of need. Through Jesus, my great High Priest, I ask for forgiveness, strength, and help.

April 11

The Resurrection

Psalm

*Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.
With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?*

Psalm 118:5-6

Meditation

How ennobling to contend thus against death and thus with Jesus to wage a warfare against the powers of darkness. How noble the enterprise which the Christian shall thus achieve, and how vain the triumphs of earth's proudest conquerors when compared with the victory of life over death—the rescue of the ransomed from the grave.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 37

Scripture

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19-20

Prayer

Christ is risen! Gracious Father, I praise you for raising him from the dead and raising me with him to new life. Risen Christ, live in my heart and life today. May my every breath proclaim that you are risen indeed.

April 12

Victory

Psalm

*O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.*
Psalm 98:1

Meditation

And may the fullness of grace and truth wherewith Christ hath blessed us,
flow out, in life-giving streams, to the barren wastes of other lives and make
them as fruitful gardens of the Lord!

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 45

Scripture

*"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to
you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among
you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan
and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.*

*But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible
for him to be held in its power.*

Acts 2:22-24

Prayer

Loving Father, who won the victory over death through the resurrection of
Jesus, triumph over sin and death in my life this day. May your love overflow in
my heart to bring streams of healing to those around me. May my trust be in
you, not in my own power.

April 13

The Holy Spirit

Psalm

*The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.*
Psalm 103:8-10

Meditation

But by the reception of the Spirit, the Scriptures are experimentally known in their power and glory, and the person renewed in knowledge after the image of him who created him. They are no longer led by the flesh but by the Spirit—they follow not after the flesh, but after the Spirit—they are justified and saved from sin, are new creatures, created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works.
Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 9

Scripture

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
John 14:16-18

Prayer

Father, thank you for the great gift of your Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus, thank you for not leaving me an orphan, but for your continued presence in me through the Holy Spirit. Continue to give your Spirit to me so I may walk in your ways!

April 14

Deliverance

Psalm

*O Israel, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.
O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.
You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.*
Psalm 115:9-11

Meditation

The exit of Israel was designed of God to shadow forth and throw into bolder relief the major fact or feature in the future Messianic order of things—namely, “Redemption.” Their civil and religious deliverance from Pharaoh and idolatry, is therefore but a type on the lower level of thought, analogous in its general features, however, to that redemption from death and sin by the Messiah which the Christian religion offers to our faith on the higher scale of spiritual perception.

Walter Scott, *The Messiahship*, 81-82

Scripture

*The time that the Israelites had lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years.
At the end of four hundred thirty years, on that very day,
all the companies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.*
Exodus 12:40-41

Prayer

God of love, I praise you for delivering me from the slavery of sin through the resurrection of Jesus. You are my help and my shield! This day protect me from temptation and deliver me from evil. May I trust in you.

April 15

Making Disciples

Psalm

*Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.*

*He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.*

Psalm 148:13-14

Meditation

There can be no growth nor progress in the Divine Life without activity. And hence it is that God has most wisely and benevolently permitted us to cooperate with him in the great work of saving ourselves and redeeming the world.

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 475

Scripture

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:17-20

Prayer

Jesus, my Savior, be with me always as you have promised. Work in me this day that I may go and make others your disciples. Father God, I praise your name for raising up Jesus as my Savior.

April 16

Our Resurrection

Psalm

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Psalm 118:17

Meditation

Our great Deliverer has cleansed our souls from sin, in his own blood, and, by his omnipotent power, raised us from the dead and freed us from the fetters of the grave forever. He has lifted us up and seated us at his own right hand in the holy city, and has given us riches, and glories, and honors, transcending all human description.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 477

Scripture

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

I Corinthians 15:54-58

Prayer

Dear God of life, help my unbelief. Increase my trust in the resurrection of your son, Jesus. May I believe what is too wonderful to believe, that I will live again after death, live with you eternally. May I give my life to you in serve this day, knowing that my labor is not in vain.

April 17

End of Sorrow

Psalm

*The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.*
Psalm 145:17-19

Meditation

As voyagers across the ocean soon forget the storms and billows which filled their souls with fears, and made their passage uncomfortable, when they have reached their destination and are welcomed by kind friends, so we, tempest tossed passengers on life's stormy sea, when safely anchored in the quiet haven of everlasting peace, shall find our past sorrows and afflictions swallowed up in the supreme delight of the beatific vision.

J. H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 110

Scripture

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
Isaiah 25:8-9

Prayer

Father, show me your face this day so my sorrows and tears will be wiped away. Lord Jesus, come quickly so I may see my God face to face. Lord God give me patience to wait on your coming.

April 18

Untroubled Hearts

Psalm

*They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.*

Psalm 112:7-8

Meditation

It is indeed in the assembly of the saints that gladness and rejoicing should fill the heart. It is here that we are, in an especial manner, permitted to draw near to Him that is the source of every pure and blissful emotion. In his presence there can be no sorrow, for there all tears are wiped away and there are “pleasures forevermore.”

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 5

Scripture

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
And you know the way to the place where I am going.”*

John 14:1-4

Prayer

God of all comfort, grant me an untroubled heart today. Keep me from all fear. May I know and follow the way to you—Jesus the Way, Truth, and Life.

April 19

New Birth

Psalm

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.*

Psalm 2:8

Meditation

Into the future and ultimate kingdom of glory we enter, soul and body, by being born from the grave. As Christ, the first-born from the dead, entered the heavenly kingdom, so must all his brothers and sisters. And as to this kingdom of which we speak, as now existing in this world, Jesus himself taught that into it no person can legally enter who is not born again, or "born of water and the Spirit."

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 160

Scripture

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Prayer

Gracious Father, I thank you for giving me new birth into your holy family. May I enjoy the blessings of my inheritance this day, and enjoy them more fully in the age to come. Increase my faith. Confirm my hope. May I know this day I am your beloved so I in turn may love.

April 20

Protection

Psalm

*But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
so that those who love your name may exult in you.
For you bless the righteous, O Lord;
you cover them with favor as with a shield.*

Psalm 5:11-12

Meditation

Are there lessons here for us? Yes. What are they? God provides, and rules for our good, and He is ready to hear our requests if we in faith measure up to his promises.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 18

Scripture

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

John 17:15-16

Prayer

Father, I run to you this day for refuge. Protect me from all harm today, particularly keep me safe from the evil one who would destroy me. Give me an unwavering faith in your promises to care for me.

April 21

Abiding in God

Psalm

*But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.*
Psalm 13:5-6

Meditation

Take heed to yourself, and learn this truth, that without the Holy Spirit you can do nothing. Christ the great teacher of the world never preached the gospel until he was full of the Holy Ghost. His apostles were forbidden to leave Jerusalem and preach the gospel until they had received the Holy Spirit of promise—endued with power from on high.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 258

Scripture

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

Prayer

Father, may I trust your unfailing love. Jesus, my savior, may I always abide in you. Holy Spirit, fill me with your power for ministry and service.

April 22

Exiles

Psalm

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
so I shall be saved from my enemies.*

Psalm 18:2-3

Meditation

I have no deep-rooted affections in this earth, and I desire to become daily more and more indifferent to all its fascinations, that my spirit may be purified as the spirit of my master is pure, and that I may be thus transformed into his likeness even while tabernacling in clay.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 218

Scripture

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Prayer

Father, make me less at home in this world. Let me feel myself an alien and stranger, knowing that you have brought me into your home. Deliver me from those enemies who would rob me of that home.

April 23

Idolatry

Psalm

*Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.*

Psalm 16:4

Meditation

Idolatry is the last and lowest degradation of humanity and required extreme penalties. These people had seen God's hand stretched out to save them. He had borne them out of Egypt from their cruel taskmasters. They had heard his voice from the mount. Was it possible for them to forget him? It was.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 24

Scripture

"If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

Daniel 3:17-18

Prayer

Holy God, lead my heart away from idolatry. May I worship you alone and not the gods of this age. May I be willing to face the fire of ridicule rather than to conform to this world and its gods.

April 24

Asking God for Help

Psalm

*The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion.*

Psalm 20:1-2

Meditation

But what a blessed boon it is, that in every emergency of our lives, it is our privilege to ask help from God: in sickness, to ask for health; in danger, to ask for protection; in temptation and trial, to ask for strength; in moments of perplexity and doubt, to ask for wisdom and guidance.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 75

Scripture

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exodus 17:5-6

Prayer

Gracious God, give me what I need this day—water, bread, healing, protection, and guidance. I praise you and thank you for all your good gifts.

April 25

Victory Over Sin

Psalm

*For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.*

Psalm 149:4

Meditation

The Holy Spirit is, then, the author of all our holiness; and in the struggle after victory over sin and temptation, “it helps our infirmities” and comforts us by seasonably and bringing to our remembrance the promises of Christ, and “strengthens us with all might, in the new or inner person.”

Alexander Campbell, *The Christian System*, 66

Scripture

Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.

1 John 2:15-17

Prayer

Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit this day, so I may have victory over sin and temptation. Pour your love into my heart through your Spirit so I may love you and not this world.

April 26

God's Care For Us

Psalm

*The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.*
Psalm 9:9-10

Meditation

If God is our Father, really, truly, always, it follows that he hears us, for our earthly parents hear us, when, in our distress, we cry unto them. Our earthly parents not only try to supply the wants of their children, but they anticipate their wants, study their wants, and even suggest them. Is our heavenly Father as good and thoughtful as this? Beyond a single doubt.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 33

Scripture

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:6-7

Prayer

Thank you, that I can call you Father. I live in your tender care and trust you as my fortress against all trouble.

April 27

Love Not the World

Psalm

*O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.*

Psalm 26:8

Meditation

No Christians then considered ought they possessed their own, but the Lord's, and cheerfully resigned them to promote his cause on earth. The Christians then loved not the world, not the things of the world. They were crucified to the world, and the world to them.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 144

Scripture

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:11-14

Prayer

Holy God, I confess the world is too much with me. Keep me from every idol that would capture my heart. May I live content in your kingdom this day.

April 28

The Son of God

Psalm

*Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.*
Psalm 38:21-22

Meditation

The Divine Spirit, by the many predictions found in the Ancient Scriptures, had assumed the attitude of a voucher for the Messiah; that in his person and ministry certain great deeds should be accomplished by him.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 136

Scripture

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matthew 3:16-17

Prayer

Holy Father, I thank you that I am your child. Holy Spirit, fall on me as you did on Jesus. Son of God, Messiah, cleanse me from sin by the power of your obedience. May I know this day that I am beloved by God.

April 29

Mature in Christ

Psalm

*Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.*

Psalm 37:4-5

Meditation

That is to say, every disciple of Christ, in his measure, is to be a divine incarnation—an embodiment of the grace and virtues, and of that quality of life and character which belong to God.

J. H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 41

Scripture

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Colossians 1:27-29

Prayer

Father, thank you for placing Christ in me through your Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus live in my heart and my life. Give me hope, wisdom, and energy to be mature in Christ.

April 30

The Face of God

Psalm

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

*If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me,
you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.*

*As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.*

Psalm 17:1-3, 15

Meditation

Happy are they who are permitted thus to approach to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ as he appears in his holy temple, and to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Who can behold without loving him? Who can love him without joy? We set our affections on things above when we place them upon Jesus.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 62

Scripture

But now, dear lady, I ask you, not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning, let us love one another.

2 John 1:5

Prayer

God of love, may I seek your presence this day by placing all my desires on Jesus.