

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, August 22**

Psalm 146 *I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.* (v.2 NIV)

David was passionate, incredibly blessed by God, and honored by his people—yet susceptible to temptation. Throughout the Bible, there are many references to death. Death in this case means “separation from God.” In this passage, David is referring to the period of time when he ran away from God, caused by the guilt of his transgressions. Once David repents and asks for forgiveness, the mercy he receives from God is undeniably gracious.

Have you ever strayed from God? I have and I experienced a deep sense of agony. In Romans 8:1:2 it reads, “Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.” Father God, thank You for sending the gift of Your Son to reconcile us to You.

2 Samuel 24:1-2, 10-25; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23—4:7; John 8:12-20

### **Monday, August 23**

Psalm 1 *But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.* (vv.2-3)

The tree being continuously nourished by the streams of water surrounding it and then blossoming when in season is symbolic of our relationship with God. God plants us where He wants us and forever feeds us.

One of my greatest joys in this world is to look back at my life and see how I have grown in times of anguish. This has been achieved by devouring God’s word and relying fully on Him. Once we reap the harvest of God, it becomes our responsibility to spread the seeds of His joy. “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord” (Ephesians 5:8-10).

1 Kings 1:5-31; Psalms 2, 3; Acts 26:1-23; Mark 13:14-27

### **Tuesday, August 24**

Psalm 5 *In the morning O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.* (v.3)

Every day is an adventure with God. Part of my morning prayer is, “Father God, please guide my path in the direction I need to follow today, and permit me to be a blessing in someone life for Your glory.” A prayer such as this works in many ways. My stress level is reduced dramatically when I let Jesus carry me through the day, prioritizing all the details for me. In this harried world we live in our “to do” lists get longer and longer, drawing our focus away from God. He has given us the Holy Spirit through His Son Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the power of God given to all who are “born again.”

The other day, as I was calculating the time it would take to run my errands, the phone rang. I hesitated and something inside urged me to answer it. It was a friend who was struggling and needed encouragement. I took the time to listen and then ventured out to do my “to do” list for the day. As I was driving, the traffic ahead was halted, there had been a terrible accident involving many automobiles. If I hadn’t stopped to listen to my friend in her time of need, I could have been one of those vehicles. Proverbs 3 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in everything you do, and he will direct your paths” (vv.5-6).

1 Kings 1:38—2:4; Psalm 6; Acts 26:24—27:8; Mark 13:28-37

### **Wednesday, August 25**

Psalm 119:1-24 *Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.* (v.2)

Walking with Christ and living according to his word does not come without sacrifices; a small price to pay considering the ultimate sacrifice Jesus endured for us. In my experience, I have had to make sacrifices in my associations with people. God has either altered a relationship slightly, removed me from the situation temporarily, or even permanently. As disheartening as that may seem, or feel, God does this because He loves me. It is for my benefit because some relationships can potentially lead me astray—away from the teachings of Jesus. If Jesus convicts me to take this course of action, I obey. I have learned that if I don't listen, I wind up being hurt more than I would if I had initially followed his leading. To cope with a situation such as this, I pray, read my Bible, and wait patiently for matters to be resolved. The glorious results and the lessons received are always greater than the sacrifice.

1 Kings 3:1-15; Acts 27:9-26; Mark 14:1-11

### **Thursday, August 26**

Psalm 18:1-20 *The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.* (v.2)

Throughout the psalms, there are many references to God being our shield, rock, and fortress. A few years ago, I decided to visit my parents who lived 13 hours away from where I live, with our two young children. Due to his work schedule, my husband could not take time off to accompany us.

I knew I could not make this trip in one day, and I was certain God would protect us from any perils along the way. During our lunch break the first day of our road trip, I was pleased with the hospitality and kindness we received at the restaurant. Our waitress went above and beyond the call of duty, and several other staff members helped us as well.

When I pulled off the highway to find a hotel for the night I had two choices. Directly in front of the entrance of my first hotel choice was a police car. I rolled down my window and the police officer rolled his and said, "Are you planning to stay here tonight?" Yes, I replied, wondering about his concern. This hotel was quite a reputable chain. He said, "You would be safer at the hotel down the road." I thanked the policeman profusely, and praised God for his mercy. The children and I were, once again, showered with kindness at the hotel where we stayed the night. The next day we arrived safely at my parents' house. God is always our Almighty Protector.

1 Kings 3:16-28; Acts 27:27-44; Mark 14:12-26

### **Friday, August 27**

Psalm 16 *I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.* (vv.7-8)

David is thanking God for His gracious provision and care. As Christians, we are able to live our lives with a sense of security and confidence through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As the days of my life go by, I feel more and more fortunate I received a call from God and recognized it. Nothing saddens me more than to see someone who is not cognizant of God's presence in our world. For this is reason I am compelled to share the "Good News" of Jesus Christ with others. I pray such as, "Lord, allow me to be an instrument of Your word to someone today. I hope to glorify you in an inoffensive manner, and exemplify Your love through my actions and language."

I was recently engaged in a conversation with someone who boldly asked me if I thought Jesus was the answer. I was dumbfounded by the words that flew out of my mouth. I graciously replied, "Well, I have seen how my life has been transformed." Then I shared the story of my salvation through Jesus Christ. I don't know the outcome, but I believe God chose the person, the time, and the words.

1 Kings 5:1—6:1, 7; Psalm 17; Acts 28:1-16; Mark 14:27-42

### **Saturday, August 28**

Psalm 20 *May he give you all the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed.* (v.4)

This verse stirs my heart. I love to hear testimonies from people who unexpectedly happened on an opportunity, have accepted it, and been blessed by God beyond their imagination. Usually, while I am listening to this type of personal account, you can hear the excitement in their voice and see the glow on their face. They have finally found their true passion in life.

Two years ago, I was conjuring up businesses in my mind that would fit into my schedule and not take time away from my family. None of my ideas came to fruition. Then, months later, I was presented with an opportunity that fit perfectly into my lifestyle. I resisted at first, and then decided to run with it.

Within the last two years, I have been able to recognize how God has been preparing me for this career for years; even going back into the days of my youth. God knows our hearts better than we do. In the book of Proverbs 13, it reads, “hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is the tree of life” (v.13).

1 Kings 7:51—8:21; Psalm 21; Acts 28:17-31; Mark 14:43-52

*by Julie Garcia*

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