

The book cover features a scenic landscape. In the foreground, a path leads towards a waterfall cascading down a grassy hill. The water is bright and shimmering. The background shows rolling green hills under a blue sky with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Quiet Moments with God

Prayers and Promises
for Each New Day

Lloyd John
Ogilvie

Quiet Moments with God

Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie

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QUIET MOMENTS WITH GOD

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To
Antoinette and Senator Mark Hatfield
*Whose magnificent impact on America
is empowered by their daily prayers.*

Preface

These are personal prayers for daily devotions at the beginning of each day of the year. They are written in the first person singular to express our deepest hopes and hurts, delights and difficulties.

Over my 40 years of pastoral ministry I have listened to the needs and aspirations of people. These prayers articulate the longing for a profound, intimate relationship with God. They are not just my own personal prayers, but my wording of the prayer requests I have heard from people through the years. Therefore, these prayers are not in stained-glass language. They are meant to be an honest, open expression of those who seek to know and serve God.

Portions of a few of the prayers were first prayed at the opening of the United States Senate and then personalized for inclusion here. This especially would be true for prayers for the nation, patriotism, citizenship, and special national holidays. The need for a spiritual awakening in America is a consistent theme. My hope is that these prayers will help prepare your mind and heart for God's blessing on our beloved nation.

You will note that there is no formal ending to these prayers. For good reason. My desire is that the prayers will be "prayer starters" for you and will instigate further prayer during your quiet time and throughout the day. A good ending, if you want to insert one after you have added your own extended prayer, might be, "To be continued throughout the day, in Jesus' name."

I am grateful for the assistance of Susanne Lorenzini in typing and editing the prayers for inclusion in the manuscript. Also, I appreciate the encouragement for this project

from Kathy Rust, who formerly worked as my Assistant. And, as with all my books through the years, my wife Mary Jane has been the faithful, enthusiastic cheerleader.

Now, my prayer is that *One Quiet Moment* will help fill all the hours of your days with joy and peace.

—Lloyd John Ogilvie
Washington, D.C.

JANUARY

1



*Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and He will say, "Here I am."*

—ISAIAH 58:9

Almighty God, You said through the prophet Isaiah that when I call, You will answer, and while I am speaking, You will hear. I thank You that prayer begins with You. It originates in Your heart, sweeps into my heart, and gives me the boldness to ask for what You desire to give.

In my communion with You, Lord, may the desires of my heart be honed by Your greater desires for me. Then, Lord, grant me the desires of my heart. And may my human understanding be surpassed by Your gift of knowledge, my inadequate judgment with Your wisdom, and my limited expectations with Your vision.

May this day be one continuous conversation with You. I ask this not just for my own peace and security, but for my responsibility to loved ones and friends around me. The margin of human error is an ever-present concern. So I yield my mind, heart, will, and imagination to be channels for the flow of Your divine guidance. Without Your help I will hit wide of the mark. But with Your power, I cannot fail.

JANUARY

2



Let us draw near [to God] with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

—HEBREWS 10:22

Sovereign Father, as I begin this new day filled with responsibilities and soul-sized issues, I am irresistibly drawn into Your presence by the magnetism of Your love and my need for your guidance. I come to You at Your invitation; in the quiet of intimate communion with You, the tightly wound springs of pressure and stress are released and a profound inner peace fills my heart and mind.

Ihear again the impelling cadences of the drumbeat of Your Spirit calling me to press on in the battle for truth, righteousness, and justice. My mind snaps to full attention, and my heart salutes You as Sovereign Lord. You have given me a mind capable of receiving Your mind, an imagination able to envision Your plan and purpose for me, and a will ready to do Your will.

Help me to remember that no problem is too small to escape Your concern and no perplexity is too great to resist Your solutions. I know You will go before me to show me the way, behind me to press me forward, beside me to give me courage, above me to protect me, and within me to give me wisdom and discernment.

Lead on, oh King Eternal . . . in Your all-powerful name.

JANUARY

3



Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.

— 1 SAMUEL 3:9

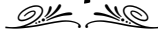
Almighty God, I dedicate this day to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. I am challenged by the realization that the Hebrew meaning of “walk humbly” is “to walk attentively.” And so I commit my mind and heart to listen attentively to You.

Speak to me so that what I speak may be an echo of Your voice, which has sounded in the depth of my receptive soul. In the din of the cacophony of voices demanding my attention and the pressure of self-seeking forces willfully dominated by self-interest, help me to seek to know and do Your will for what is best for those around me.

Lord, grant me the greatness of a mind tuned to the frequency of the Spirit’s guidance. Free me of any tenaciously held opinions that may not have been refined by careful listening to You. Be with me, lest I forget to listen to You.

JANUARY

4



O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. . . . What is man that You are mindful of him, and the Son of Man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the work of Your hands.

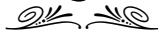
—PSALM 8:1,4-6

Gracious God, ultimate Sovereign of our Nation and Lord of our lives, I am stunned again by Your majesty and the magnitude of the delegated dominion You have entrusted to me. I respond with awe and wonder and begin this day with renewed commitment to serve You.

In a culture that often denies Your sovereignty and worships at the throne of the perpendicular pronoun, help me to exemplify the greatness of servanthood. You have given me a life full of opportunities to serve and enabled me to live at full potential for Your glory. I humble myself before You and acknowledge that I could not breathe a breath, think a thought, make sound decisions, or press on to excellence without Your power. You alone are the One I seek to please. I have been blessed to be a blessing. And so I greet this day with, “Life’s a privilege!” intentionality and “How may I serve?” incisiveness. Grant me grace and courage to give myself away to You and to others with whom I work this day.

JANUARY

5



*You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for
Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.*

—PSALM 31:3

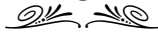
Almighty God, You have promised strength for the work of this day, power to handle the pressures, light for the way, patience in problems, help from above, unfading courage, and undying love. In the stresses and strains of living, often I sense my wells have run dry. Life has a way of de-powering me, depleting my resiliency, and draining my patience. People can get me down and perplexities stir me up.

Lord, I pray for a fresh flow of Your strength—strength to think clearly, serve creatively, and endure consistently; strength to fill up diminished human resources; silent strength that flows from Your limitless source, quietly filling them with artesian power.

You never ask me to do more than You will provide the strength to accomplish. So make me a riverbed for the flow of Your creative Spirit. Fill this day with serendipities, unexpected surprises of Your grace. Be Lord of every conversation, the unseen guest at every meeting and the guide of every decision. In the name of Him who is the way, the truth and the life.

JANUARY

6



God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—GALATIANS 6:14

Give God the glory!

—JOHN 9:24

Lord, forgive me when I try to grasp the glory for myself. It's so easy to take pride in my accomplishments and what I've accumulated in my self-made kingdom of thingdom. Help me to not miss the real purpose of life: to know You and emulate Your love, justice, and righteousness. Help me turn from all my lesser goals of grandisement and focus my life on Your ultimate calling.

I commit this day to seeking that which delights You. I want to give You the glory for all I have and am, and for the opportunities to serve You by being a servant to others and caring for what You have entrusted to me.

Make me an example of what it truly means to live life to Your glory and honor. Help me to point to You as the source of all that You have provided and all that You have enabled me to accomplish.

To You be the glory!

JANUARY

7



You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.

—ISAIAH 64:8

Holy Father, You created me for Yourself and I realize my heart will remain restless until it rests in You. I confess my ambivalence. I want You to be Lord of my life, and yet sometimes I sense reservation within me. I want Your direction in my life, but at times I feel troubled about losing my own control. I need Your love and yet fear the implications of loving others as You have loved me. I pray for America to be a great nation under Your sovereign reign, but there are times when I am reluctant to ask You to begin a vital spiritual awakening in my own heart.

Yet I am willing to be made willing. Help me to see what my life could be if I loved You with all my heart and removed the self-erected obstacles to trusting You completely. I want to open my mind to think magnificently with the wisdom of Your Spirit, commit my will to seek the guidance of Your Spirit, and face the challenges of this day with the power of Your Spirit.

JANUARY

8



*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength
is made perfect in weakness.*

— 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Thank You, Father, for receiving me as I am with unqualified grace. Thank You for the strength, security, and serenity You provide in the midst of strain and stress. To know You is my greatest privilege, and to grow in the knowledge of Your will is my greatest need. My plans and ways are insufficient; bless me with Your eternal strength and wisdom. My vision is incomplete; bless me with Your hope.

Thank You for enabling me to make the most of this day. Empower me to emulate Your faithfulness in my responsibilities and relationships today. May I be a person on whom others can depend. Help me to say what I mean and mean what I say. I want each decision to be guided by You. Give me light when my vision is dim, courage when I need to be bold, decisiveness when it would be easy to equivocate, and courage when others are tempted to be discouraged.

JANUARY

9



Call to Me, and I will answer you.

—JEREMIAH 33:3

Almighty God, as I begin a new day filled with opportunities masquerading as complex problems, I claim Your promise, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3). I know that no matter how intense my problems, You are with me. The bigger the problem, the more all-encompassing Your abiding presence will be. And the more complex the problem, the greater will be the wisdom You offer. Equal to the strain of each problem will come the strength You give.

Thank You for this time of quiet with You in which I can receive the peace of knowing that I am loved and forgiven, the healing of the hurts of harbored memories, the answers to problems that often seem unsolvable and the vision for solutions that otherwise would be beyond my human understanding. I praise You that to know You is my greatest joy and to serve You is life’s greatest delight. I pray this in the name of Him who came to give us abundant life.

JANUARY

10



I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

—PSALM 34:1-3

Lord, what You desire from me You inspire in me. You use whom You choose; You provide for what You guide; You are working Your purposes out and know what You are about. I trust You with all my heart. Inspire me with Your Spirit and use me.

I praise You for the challenges of this day, which will force me to depend more on You. I know that You will never forget me; help me to never forget to ask for Your help. Set me free of any worry that will break my concentration on what You have given me to do today.

Keeep me mindful of the motto of abundant living: “Without You we can’t; without us You won’t.” Think Your thoughts through me, speak Your truth through my words, radiate Your love through my actions. When this day is finished the only thing that will really matter is hearing You say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

JANUARY

11



Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

—ROMANS 12:10

Gracious Father, You have given me the privilege of caring for others. Each is a never-to-be repeated miracle. You have called me to a ministry of intercession and to release Your blessings when I pray for others.

Lord, I entrust to Your care my loved ones and friends—especially those who are confronting difficulties or illness. Help me to be sensitive to the needs of the people I meet today. Enable me to be to others what You have been to me. Help me to live this day as if it were the only day I had left.

If there is any kindness I can show, any affirmation I can give, any care I can impart, Lord, help me to express it today. May I be an encouragement and not a burden; a source of courage and not of cynicism. This is the day You have made, and I plan to rejoice and be glad in it. In the name of Him who gave us the Commandment, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

JANUARY

12



Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!

—ISAIAH 6:3

Praise and honor be to You, Lord most high. Lord of creation, recreate my heart to love You above all. Ruler of the universe, I invite You to reign over me as my personal Lord.

As I begin this new day, I confess with humility that I am totally dependent on You, dear God. I could not breathe a breath, think a thought, or carry out my responsibilities without Your constant and consistent blessing. I praise You for the gifts of intellect, education, and experience. Most of all, I thank You for the gifts of Your Spirit, which make it possible to live supernaturally. Beyond the level of talent and training You alone are the source of wisdom, discernment, knowledge, and prophetic vision.

All that You have done in me has been in preparation for what You want to do through me now. I am here by Your divine appointment. Thank You, Lord, for the gift of life!

JANUARY

13



Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

—PSALM 103:1-2

Father, You have created me to glorify You and enjoy You forever. You have developed in me the desire to know You and have given me the gift of faith to accept Your unqualified love.

You turn my struggles into stepping stones. I know Your promise is true: You will never leave me nor forsake me. You give me strength when I am weak, gracious correction when I fail, and undeserved grace when I need it most.

And just when I think there is no place to turn, You meet me and help me return to You. I love You, Lord. My heart overflows with gratitude. My mind, emotions, and will are like parts of an orchestra. Tune them to bless Your name.

May my thoughts, attitudes, and actions this day be an expression of my grateful worship to You.

JANUARY

14



Behold, I make all things new.

—REVELATION 21:5

Father, the psalmist expresses my need: “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” (Psalm 42:1-2). Nothing and no one can satisfy my inner restlessness. I praise You for this longing to reaffirm my relationship with You. My primary purpose is to know and love You. And yet, yesterday there was so much that distracted me from serving You and disturbed my commitment to putting You first. Forgive me for the things I said and did when my priorities got messed up.

Last night I went to sleep before I’d finished praying. No wonder I didn’t sleep soundly and woke up feeling unrested. But here I am with a new day heavy on my hands. Then it occurs to me that the only way for today to be different from yesterday is to get it off my hands by committing it unreservedly to You.

Thank You for the freedom to close the door on yesterday and walk through the open door of opportunity You have set before me today. I surrender the needs of the day ahead and trust You completely. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)!

JANUARY
15


Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Almighty God, You are the Lord of history who calls great leaders and anoints them with supernatural power to lead in times of social distress when Your righteousness and justice must be reestablished. Along with my fellow Americans of all races, I celebrate today the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

I praise You, O God, for Dr. King's life and leadership in the cause of racial justice. You gave him a dream of equality and opportunity for all people which You empowered him to declare as a clarion call to all America.

As the memory of this truly great man and courageous American is honored, I ask You to cleanse any prejudice from my heart and help me to press on in the battle to assure the equality of education, housing, job opportunities, advancement, and social status for all people regardless of race and creed. May I take part in this ongoing challenge to assure the rights of all people in this free land. Help me to start in my circle of influence, where I work, and in my church and community.

JANUARY

16



God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

—2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Peel back the icy fingers of the fist of fear that holds my heart in the grip of grimness . . . that makes me cautious when faced by great challenges, and causes me to be timid in life's testing hours.

Iopen my mind, heart, will, and body to the infilling of Your power. Infinite Intelligence, grant me power to understand Your solutions to my problems. Unlimited Love, fill my heart with healing love from which deeper affirmation of others may flow. Liberating Spirit, set me free from the bondage of will so intent on what I want that I often miss the guidance You have for me. Artesian Strength, energize my body for the arduous pressures of the day ahead.

Spirit of life, help me pull out all the stops so You can make great music of joy in my soul. Radiate Your hope through me. Make me a positive person who is expectant of Your best for me and those around me. Give me the authentic charisma that comes from Your grace gifts of wisdom, knowledge, discernment, and love. And so, lead on! This is the day that You have made. I will rejoice and be glad in it!

JANUARY

17



Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

—ROMANS 12:1

Gracious Lord of all life, help me never to separate what You have joined together.

All of life is sacred to You. Forgive my imposed dichotomy between the sacred and the secular. Every person, situation, and responsibility is sacred because everyone and everything belongs to You. Give me a renewed sense that all that I have and am is Your gift. May I cherish the wonder of life You have entrusted to me. I want to live with an attitude of gratitude. Therefore I make a renewed commitment to excellence in everything I do and say.

You have taught me the inseparable relationship between intimacy with You and the integrity of my life. You've shown me that authentic intimacy results when the real I meets the true You in an honest, open, unpretentious relationship. It's when I come to You as I am that You whisper in my soul, "You are loved now!" Then the consistent experience of Your unqualified love gives me the courage to be genuine, loyal, and faithful to You in my relationships with others and the responsibilities You have entrusted to me.

JANUARY

18



The body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

— 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Almighty God, You are the source of unity in the midst of diversity. Enable me to accept my awesome calling to live and work together peaceably with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Help me to communicate my convictions without censure of those who might not fully agree with me. Free me from any false assumptions that I might ever have a corner on all truth. Unsettle within me any pious posturing that pretends that I alone can speak for You.

You created me in Your image; help me never to return the compliment. May I restrain from adopting the spirit of judgment so prevalent in our society. Forgive me when I presume Your authority by setting myself up as a judge of the worth of those who disagree with me.

At the same time, Lord, I know You have not called me to indulgence when it comes to seeking truth. Nor do You encourage me to buy into the mindset of appeasement and tolerance, where everything is relative and there are no absolutes. What You do ask is that with other believers I will seek what is Your best for this world and work to achieve that with them. To that goal I commit this day.

JANUARY

19



I delight to do your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.

—PSALM 40:8

Almighty God, Creator, Sustainer and Lord of all, You who have brought light out of darkness and have created me to know You, I praise You for Your guidance.

As I begin this day, I acknowledge my total dependence upon You. Revelation of Your truth comes in relationship with You, and Your inspiration is given when I am illuminated with Your Spirit. Therefore I want to prepare for the decisions I make this day by opening my mind to the inflow of Your Spirit.

I confess that I need Your divine intelligence to invade my thoughts and Your light to flood upon the dimness of my understanding. I know that my life and the lives of those around me will be shaped by the decisions I make.

And so I say with the psalmist, “Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:4-5).

JANUARY

20



Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.

— PROVERBS 16:3

Gracious Lord, Your Spirit is impinging on me, hovering around me, ready to enter me and give me power to live this day to the fullest. You have shown me that commitment is the key that opens the floodgate and receives the inflow of Your incredible resources for living today to the fullest. Remind me that there is enough time and You will provide enough strength for what You have called me to accomplish today.

Lord, may this day be one of constant conversation with You. Help me to listen as You give me Your insight, discernment, wisdom, and vision. Help me to focus my attention on Your solutions to my problems. I now commit this day to being a day in which I work with freedom and joy.

I picture myself free of worry and anxiety, and able to enjoy the day as it unfolds. It's wonderful to know that this vision for today is exactly what You desire for me. Thank You for giving the day and showing the way.

JANUARY

21



Pray without ceasing.

— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Almighty God, You have promised that if Your people will humble themselves and seek Your face and pray, You will answer and heal us.

Lord, I know you have called me to be salt and light in the bland neglect and darkness of what contradicts Your vision for this world. Give me courage, then, to be accountable to You and Your commandments—even when it means I might not receive the approval of those around me.

Lord of new beginnings, help me to be among those who encourage others to a spiritual awakening. Count me among those of Your children who pray for the needs of those whose understanding is darkened.

Help me to repent of the pride and selfishness that prevail in our society, and to manifest—in an infectious way—a justice and righteousness that honors You as the one true Sovereign of our nation. I know that renewal must begin with repentance and humility. I am ready Lord; begin with me.

JANUARY

22



If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

—JAMES 2:8

Gracious God, help me to get inside what is happening to others so that I may see with their eyes, think with their minds, and feel with their hearts. Strengthen me to be as kind to others as I want them to be to me. Empower me, by Your Spirit, to be as faithful to others as You have been to me in spite of my shortcomings and failures.

Help me to make the same allowances for others as I would want them to make for me. Help me to express the same empathy to others as I would want them to express when I hurt. And help me to understand others as I would want to be understood.

I commit this day to seeking to be to others the giving and forgiving love You have been to me . . . through Him who taught the secret of serving others.

JANUARY
23


God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

Father, I claim this promise from Your Word as I begin this new day. Thank You for Your amazing grace, Your unqualified love, and the forgiveness that flows from Your heart into mine, filling up my diminished reserves.

Enable me, this day, to clarify my priorities and commit myself to seek first Your will and put that above all else. It is liberating to know that You will supply all my need, in all sufficiency, to discern and do what glorifies You. Grant me wisdom, Lord, for the decisions of this day. I ask this not for my personal success, but for the sake of Your kingdom.

Your mighty abundance is for the purpose of making me a channel for Your work in the world. You provide for what You guide. The great need in the people around me is for Your grace. May I abide in You so I can abound in Your grace. May Your grace be on my face!

JANUARY

24



Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

—EPHESIANS 6:10

Almighty God, I praise You for empowering me to stand with strength and courage in the midst of spiritual warfare. I come to the armory of Your presence to be suited up with Your whole armor for today's battles of the mind and spirit.

Thank You for the breastplate of righteousness, which makes me secure in Your unqualified love and forgiveness. Shod my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace and help me to stride forward with the inner calm of Your perfect peace, which surpasses all understanding. Give me the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of satanic influence. Place over my head the helmet of salvation and protect my thoughts from distorted half-truths and confused direction. And help me to grasp the sword of the Spirit . . . Your words of guidance for hand-to-hand battles with evil. On time and in time, whisper in my soul the exact word of encouragement and strength I need.

Lord, I gladly accept Your whole armor as You prepare me for today's battles—in the name of the One who vanquished evil and is my victorious Savior.

JANUARY
25


Do not fear, for I am with you.

— GENESIS 26:24

Lord God, You are infinite, eternal, unchangeable and the source of wisdom, holiness, goodness, and truth. Today I come to You with two biblical admonitions. I am told that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10), but also that I am not to fear (Genesis 26:24). Help me to distinguish between the humble awe and wonder that opens me to the gift of Your guidance, and the negative panic that so often grips my soul when problems arise.

Give me a profound reverence for You that keeps me on the knees of my heart. May I never presume that I am adequate for a day's challenges until I have received Your strength and vision. Give me the confidence that comes from trusting in Your reliability and resourcefulness. I know You will never let me down because You always endeavor to lift me up.

Lord, liberate me from all the fears that haunt me: the fear of the past, the fear of failure, and the fear of what is ahead. I may not know what the future holds, but I do know that You hold the future. And that's why I can replace my every fear with total confidence in You who never leaves nor forsakes.

JANUARY

26



*My tongue shall speak of Your righteousness
and of Your praise all the day long.*

—PSALM 35:28

Gracious God, You have made praise the secret of opening my mind and heart to You . . . the key to unlocking the mysteries of Your will . . . and the source of turning difficulties into opportunities. When I praise You even for life's tight places and trying people, I am strangely liberated. You have made praise the highest form of committing to You my needs.

I begin this day, then, with praise to You for the blessings I neither deserve nor could earn, and for the problems in which You will reveal Your supernatural guidance and power. I dedicate this day to be one in which I constantly give You praise in all things—especially the perplexities that force me to seek You and Your limitless grace.

Most of all, my heart is filled with praise for You, dear God, for who You are as my Father, Lord of my life, and indwelling power. Praise to You Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

JANUARY

27



*Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?
... He who has clean hands and a pure heart.*

—PSALM 24:3-4

Gracious God, whose dwelling place is the heart that longs for Your presence and the mind that humbly seeks Your truth, I eagerly ask for Your guidance in the work I do this day. I confess anything that would hinder the flow of Your Spirit in and through me. Heal any broken or strained relationships that would drain off creative energies into the eddies of anxieties. Lift my burdens and resolve my worries. Then give me a fresh experience of Your amazing grace, which will set me free to live with freedom and joy.

Now Lord, I am ready to live this day with great confidence, fortified by the steady supply of Your strength. Give me the courage to do what I already know of Your will so that I may know more of it for the specific challenges of this day.

In disagreements or conflict, help me to listen attentively to others. May I never think I have an exclusive corner on the truth. Enable me to be open to aspects of the truth You will provide through the voices of those who may differ with me. My dominant desire is for Your best in my life and the lives of others You have given me in my family, my friends, or those with whom I work. Make me a responsible communicator of Your encouragement and hope.

JANUARY

28



Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of Your heart.

—PSALM 37:4

Father, You have shown that You want to guide what we pray so that You can grant us the desires of our hearts. I want to begin this day with King Solomon's response to Your question, "Ask! What shall I give you?" (2 Chronicles 1:7). Solomon asked for an "understanding heart," and confessed his inadequacy and need for strength to fulfill his responsibilities.

It's moving to know that the Hebrew words for "understanding heart," literally translated, refer to a "hearing heart." Solomon wanted to hear both Your voice and the voices of the people who came to him with their needs. He wanted to be able to respond and speak to those needs out of the depth of wisdom that came from a heart tuned to Your Spirit's supernatural power.

Lord, make me one who longs to have a wise and understanding heart. May I be one who listens carefully to Your heart speaking to my heart. Help me to listen to You today and always!

JANUARY

29



*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind
is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*

—ISAIAH 26:3

Jehovah Shalom, I thank You for this marvelously direct and uncluttered promise. You seek to give me profound inner peace, but sometimes I find it difficult to stay my mind on You. I want to focus on You, yet often my attention wanders. I want to listen to You, but my heart sometimes is cluttered with the static of distracting voices. I want to trust You, but years of self-reliance make it difficult to wait patiently for Your answers.

You alone, Lord, can keep my mind stayed on You. All I can do is ask for the miracle of a day lived in constant awareness of Your abiding presence. May this be a day filled with spectacular moments during which You keep my mind focused, my heart calm, and my will alert to Your will. Lord of peace, help me keep my mind on You.

In the name of the Prince of Peace, who promised, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

JANUARY

30



The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

—PSALM 24:1

Creator and Sustainer of all, I humbly accept Your calling to be a diligent steward of the resources and riches You have so bountifully given to me. You have blessed me with opportunities and provided for my material needs. I ask for only one thing more, Lord: a grateful heart.

May I turn to You, then, when it comes time to decide how to use the resources You have entrusted to me. Help me to know how best to care for what is really Yours . . . for the benefit of Your children, Your kingdom, Your world. And enable me to do what is best with the blessings You give me today.

Fill my grateful heart with generosity. Help me give myself away to serve others. May I share what I've learned from You without pious superiority and the lessons of life without arrogance. All through this day I want to point away from myself to You—the Author of my life story.