

The Watchman's Journal

99 Days on the Wall



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A WATCHMAN'S JOURNAL

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Watch, Warn, Pray and Finish Well

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99 DAYS ON THE WALL

Watchmen and Watchwomen serve the King of Kings. We watch, warn, witness, and represent Christ to the world in these tumultuous Last Days.

The position is not easy. We were never promised it would be easy, but know this - you are not alone. Other Watchmen and Watchwomen are serving on other walls in their cities. This devotional includes pieces by Watchmen in many countries. Nehemiah 4:17-20 says,

*"Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon. As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter stood near me. I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, **"The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another. At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."***

Watchmen can grow weary of the constant attacks of the enemy. We can be misunderstood and maligned, even by those closest to us – family, friends, even other Watchmen. It can be a heavy burden and difficult lifestyle.

The more Watchmen we connected with, the more we heard the same story, and the more it became evident that God wanted us to step in and provide the encouragement and refreshing for that difficult daily walk on the wall.

The 99 Days on the Wall journal has been a collaborative effort. The daily devotionals were written from the heart by Watchmen across the globe. They are more friendly than formal, and designed to instruct as well as encourage. Read them as messages from Watchmen, for Watchmen.

These devotionals are deliberately short. Most can be read in less than 5 minutes. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit fills in the blanks and speaks to each Watchman precisely the message they need to hear.

No Watchman can live on the wall 24/7. You need rest. If you are a worn out Watchman, you are not a hero, you are a target. You cannot spend all your time watching End Times videos and reading the *Jerusalem Post*. God rested. You need rest. When it's not your shift on the wall, we pray you find that rest in the pages of the *Watchman's Journal*.

Blessings on you Watchmen. Live well. Rest well. FINISH WELL!

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Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the many hundreds of Watchmen and Watchwomen who inspired this project. You are the motivation for who we are and what we do. Many Watchmen from around the world wrote devotionals for this book. Some did not write the pieces, but you contributed your favorite Scriptures, your personal stories, and most of all your hearts. We thank each of you.

Thank you to our I Am A Watchman staff writers - Randi, Chris, and Gary who contributed tirelessly to the writing, prayers and tears which appear on every page of The Watchman's Journal. Each member of the team played a unique and God-given role. The cover design, title, and content all spring from your Watchmen's hearts, and it shows.

Foreword

My passionate goal in life is to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. I strive to keep God's people informed concerning the prophetic times in which we are living, how what's happening in our world lines up with the Word of God and our daily lives. I want to equip believers to rightly divide the Word of Truth - as faithful ambassadors of the Kingdom work.

The Watchman's Journal: 99 Days on the Wall devotional is a vital addition to the spiritual arsenal of every Watchman. We are living in the most profoundly prophetic days since the first coming of Jesus Christ. This devotional guide will be a tremendous navigational tool as you endeavor to advance the Kingdom of Yeshua!

Carl Gallups, Pastor, Top 60 Amazon Best Selling Author of GODS & THRONES, and GODS OF GROUND ZERO.

DAY 1

WHAT ABOUT MONDAY?

"*This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it.*" (Psalm 118:24)

There is a saying around I Am a Watchman Ministries – "What about Monday?" It's an odd question, but it keeps us fixated on God's calling, immersed in the eternal. What is, *What About Monday?*

Sunday was a good church service: worshipful music, inspirational preaching, and great fellowship; but as you got in your car, you found yourself wondering, "What should I do with that tomorrow? How will it fundamentally change my life, or work, or school, or family? What will I *DO* with Sunday's message 24 hours from now?"

What about Monday?

Watchmen are not immune to facing the daily normal and becoming so lost in the stuff of our watch. This is a Monday Map, add your own Tues - Sat.

- Meet with the King – look on God's face before you look on man's.
- Create praise – as you walk, sing your own song to the Lord.
- Prophecy into your day – The Lord's purpose will be done through me.
- Pray for your country – leaders, churches, individuals.
- Choose (again) to share Christ.
- Rebuke the darkness – Not my city. Not today.
- Pray for other Watchmen and their countries.
- Study the Bible. Study the news. Know what both sides are up to.

Prayer

Jesus You walked here as I will today. Open my eyes to people with needs. Show me that place in the wall I can repair, no matter how small. I offer you my Monday.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 2

LET US NOT GROW WEARY! Guest Watchman Toney

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10)

One of the most thankless jobs in the military during times of peace is the job of the sentry. No one takes notice of them when there is not much on the line. During times of combat, however, all that changes. It is the sentry's job to be the first line of defense for those sleeping. To be the first to see the enemy coming and make ready to defend. It is also the sentry's job to wake all to an impending attack so they can be ready too.

Such is the case with those who are appointed Watchmen. God has gifted us who are called to be Watchmen to be able to see and discern, the times we are in. We see that there is an attack of the enemy coming, and it is our job to rouse everyone from their slumber. The Watchmen cannot lose heart if we do many are doomed. We cannot grow weary in doing that which our Lord has called us to because we are the first line of defense in these last days.

The enemy wants us to join the slumber, to grow weary in sounding the alarm. Being called to be a Watchman is a gift of the Spirit, and we must use this gift to awaken all, especially those of the household of the faith because the enemy is at the gate. Now is the time to be ready.

Prayer

Lord fill me with Your Spirit and give me the strength to endure as Your appointed Watchman until we are safely in Your arms.

Journal

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DAY 3

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

"Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**" (Acts 2:18-21)

As long as the world is filled with broken, hurting, lost people, the Church is open for business. There are over seven billion people on Earth; people with physical, mental and emotional needs. Not one of those needs compares to their need for Jesus.

The Church has a mission – one mission. Go into all the world and preach the message that Jesus is the only way to God. That's it.

Churches feed the hungry, but that's not their mission. They often assist the poor, but that's not their mission. Churches build centers for worship and teaching, but that is not their mission. Many churches offer marriage and funeral services, but it's not their mission. People often receive counseling at church, but churches do not exist for counseling. It's not their mission.

Many churches offer Bible college, daycare, after-school programs, music lessons and family crisis intervention. Those are all good programs and services that meet needs, minister to families and build up the Body of Christ. But... none of those programs or services or ministries are the mission of the Church.

Watchmen, please separate church *stuff* from the Church *mission*. We can become distracted by the good and helpful and generous; so much that we lose sight of the one mission—bring the world to Christ.

The world needs Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, I want to have a clear mission. Give me discernment to know the difference between what is good, and what is eternal.

Journal

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DAY 4

ONLINE ENVY

"A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot." (Proverbs 14:30)

With social media at our fingertips, it's hard to miss the highlight reel of your friends' lives as you check in at the end of the day. Sometimes it feels like everyone is getting married. Having a baby. Securing the new homes and promotions. Vacationing in Aspen again. Comparison begins to steal our joy. Why does their apparent happiness have the power to diminish ours?

Maybe we're the ones posting good news, knowing that our highlight doesn't show the messy house, the job we just lost or the way we were fighting with our spouse an hour before. Is the underlying goal to make others feel envious of *our* lives?

We must examine our hearts as we choose what to dwell on and what to share. Proverbs tells us that envy *rots our bones*. It corrupts us from the inside out. Let us remember that we never see or share the whole picture. So motivate yourself to motivate others! We have an unprecedented opportunity for our thoughts to be broadcast to a group with just a few clicks. What a gift!

Watchmen use social media as a platform to encourage. They make it a place to share your faith, hope and joy as you go through life.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the opportunities of today. Guard my heart and help me glorify You with every tap of the keyboard!

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DAY 5

PRAYER – STANDING IN THE GAP

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."
(Ezekiel 22:30)

Watchmen weep over people who don't understand just how desperate and short the time is before Jesus returns.

We stand in the gap between the world and the God they need but a God they refuse; we stand in the gap of unbelief and introduce them to God Who believes in them.

We stand in the gap for family who is parted over doctrine, and denomination and religion. We stand in the gap of confusion and bring truth.

We stand in the gap for those fighting illness and conditions that debilitate the body and shorten their time on earth. We stand in the gap fighting sickness and proclaim, "God heals!"

We stand in the gap for those who have lost everything – homes, businesses, life savings. We stand in the gap and rebuke failure and despair and say, "God has not forgotten you."

We stand in the gap between children and their parents. We see the divisions and know they can be bridged. We stand in the gap of broken families and bring God's divine nature of relationship.

People know there is more. They realize God exists. In their hearts they have a yearning to know that God. Watchmen pray for those who are close to being saved. We stand in the gap and point to the Savior.

Prayer

Father we see the world separated from You. We kneel in their place. We stand in the gap.

Journal

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DAY 6

WATCHMEN MAKE MISTAKES

"...in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.'" (2 Peter 3:3-4)

On January 13, 2018, paradise surrendered to terror. "Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill." The faulty message happened because a worker clicked on the wrong option from a drop-down menu believing this was not a test. Three days later, a similar message went out from a Japanese news station announcing an incoming North Korean missile. Both sets of horrified recipients quickly learned the messages were in error, but "quickly" is an eternity to frightened young children and their parents.

The compassion I feel for these families and their past ordeal is not as great as what I fear for their future. What happens when the alarm is sounded again and this time, the threat is real? Each time a warning goes off with no actual associated danger, the recipient is increasingly unlikely to take shelter. It happens with smoke detectors; it can happen with the warnings Watchmen give too.

Watchmen dare not sound the trumpet when no real danger is approaching. We cannot proclaim imminent moral collapse and Jesus' return next week, based on our interpretation of changing fashions, musical beats, or celestial events. Yes, morals *are* collapsing, and Jesus *is* coming back. But not every change in society or in the sky is an indicator of the world's destruction.

Prayer

Father, I want to be balanced in my presentation of truth. Give me discernment and courage. Then I will know when to sound the alarm without hesitation or regret.

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DAY 7

ALL YOU HAVE IS ALL YOU NEED

"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
(2 Corinthians 9:8)

When you come to the place where Jesus is all you have, you realize Jesus is all you need. This piece could end right there.

God's blessed me. I've been a teacher and coach at 3 Christian schools, a youth pastor, an assistant pastor, a marketing director overseeing 400 Christian bookstores, a board member of a non-profit that fights bullying, a published author, and now editor and co-founder of I Am A Watchman. What a story of God's faithfulness!

However... just before the bookstores, my wife of 24 years passed away suddenly; leaving six children three grandchildren and me – all wondering, "God, where does *THIS* fit in Your blessings?"

In prosperity, we fight pride. In tragedy, we fight despair. How we deal with adversity demonstrates how big we believe our God is. Does He have a plan that can overcome this disaster? Yes, He did. I've had the blessing of marrying the greatest woman in the world – twice. We love our now 10 grandkids and 2 great-grands. And God has birthed this ministry, which will reach a broader audience than all the others combined.

When Jesus was all we had, He demonstrated He would be all we need. Pain may come. Jesus may indeed be all you have. At that exact moment, you discover,

He is all you need.

Prayer

Father, I submit to Your plans. I trust You with all I have. Be all I need.

Journal

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DAY 8

PRAYING UNDERCOVER PRAYERS

"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

Jesus often prayed alone and in private, just Him and His Father. Watchmen are God's spiritual covert operatives—unseen and unheard. A Watchman's work is often more effective *because* it is unrecognized. You may have never considered it, but you have the authority to pray undercover prayers. God can take your prayers anywhere.

Think of them as a Watchman's covert prayers.

People who would never speak to you in person have no defense against your prayers. Your prayers penetrate prison bars. Your prayers raid crack houses. Your prayers liberate enslaved children. Your prayers can go into places you could never go yourself. Prayers have unrestricted access to the enemy's strongholds because the Word says, *"greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4)

Today, focus on your intercessory prayer life. Pray for those who would least expect it, but most need it. Pray for Christ to become real to people who are searching for something, and they don't even know it's Jesus. Pray for other Watchmen. Pray God raises up more intercessors.

Pray beyond your borders. Stand with Watchmen you cannot stand beside. Breathe Jesus into the darkest places. Intercede undercover.

Prayer

Lord, take authority over areas of my city where I cannot go or do not know about. Please use my prayers to break down those dark walls so the light of the Gospel shines in.

Journal

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DAY 9

PRAYER – WATCH AND PRAY

"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'" Mark 13:33-37 (NASB)

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to "watch and pray" as He went into travail over His upcoming crucifixion. He even told them that he was grieved to the point of death. Yet they fell asleep – three times! We are told in Matt 26:41 that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Even Jesus' most trusted advisors fell asleep on the job, even when He needed them the most!

In Mark 13:33 and Luke 21:36, we are told to be both watchful and in prayer regarding the last days. Watchfulness requires alertness, attentiveness, patience, and persistence. It requires discipline to stay vigilant and not fall asleep. The spirit is always willing, so it is a matter of getting our flesh to line up with our spirit.

As a Watchman, be diligent to keep your flesh submitted to your spirit so that you will be ready for whatever God is asking you to do or to pray. Who needs you to be alert and in prayer for them today?

Prayer

Father, thank you for the honor of being a Watchman. Today I commit to doing my best to keep my flesh submitted to my spirit so that I can be alert and prayerful. May I be found ready to meet any need that arises. Amen.

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DAY 10

THE FEARFUL WATCHWOMAN

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?" (Psalm 27:1)

As Watchwomen, we observe the world through the lens of the Bible. But have these observations ever left you feeling paralyzed with fear? Fear for your children, and the world they will inherit. Fear for the politics, the wars, the school systems, the corruption. Perhaps your fear is for your friends or family members who don't know Christ. The dread that comes from the darkness of the world can weigh us down and cloud our thoughts, our decisions, and our judgments.

Yet the Word gently reminds us that we need not dread anyone or anything because *the Lord* is our light and our shield. He shielded us on the cross when He died for our sins, and He still shields today. As much as we love our children, as much as we love our parents, spouses, and friends, we must remember – *Christ loves us more.*

So continue heeding the call to watch on the wall. Don't let what you observe put fear into your heart, but let it encourage you to action. Help others fall in love with Jesus. Make wise choices for your time and your families. The world may fall, but we are safe in Christ.

Prayer

Jesus, in this dark world I choose to focus on Your light. Guide my thoughts and actions so I may be the Watchwoman you've called me to be!

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DAY 11

PRAYER THAT SHAKES THE WORLD

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

There was a sign on the wall that read,

"If God answered the prayers you're praying, would it change anyone's world but your own?"

Ouch, and *"God Please change my prayers and the reason I pray them."*

Watchmen influence the world. They are responsible for the view from their wall. They are individually watching over their own city, but they are also part of the collective who has been commissioned to watch over the world.

Is that realistic, imaginable, or even remotely possible? Not without people who have the capacity to see the bigger picture, cast a bigger vision, and be the conduit for a God-sized influence.

God sees and loves the entire world. We have a human version of that residing in our hearts—the Holy Spirit. We need to make sure that message is coming out of our mouths.

You've prayed this week; probably every day. You've wept for the lost, maybe several days. You've shared Jesus with someone, anyone who would listen. We do our 'job,' and we love Jesus, and we're thankful for our unique calling. We influenced some. Let's influence more.

Pray for others. "I know my needs, how will I know theirs?" Ask. Ask God? No. Ask people. "Can I pray with you?"

Prayer

Jesus. Today I will pray for others, only others. Capture my attention and show me who needs connected to You. I will pray for others who do not pray for themselves.

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DAY 12

SEIZING TODAY

"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath."
(Psalm 39:4-5)

We've all had days, weeks, even *years* that feel unproductive and wasted. At the end of the day, it can feel like our time is flying by and out of control. It can feel like we're just passengers in our own lives, leaving us with no idea how we got so off track.

Step back. Take a breath. We all need to reset once in a while. The good thing is: we don't need to wait for January 1st to make new resolutions or to set new goals for ourselves. Christ *wants* us to keep in mind that our days are limited, and He desires that we make the most out of the gift of life that He gave us. Think about where you are and where you want to be. Consider the routes that will get you there and pray each day for your journey. Write it down! Track your progress.

We are called to be the Watchers, and this requires us to leave the dead ends behind and make our way to the best vantage points. So lace up your shoes and go – one step at a time.

Prayer

Oh Lord, help me to seize every single day that You give me. Help my eyes to see the path ahead and give my heart the strength to follow it.

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DAY 13

RUN LIGHT, RUN FREE Bro. Dan Gonzaga, Watchman in the Philippines

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

Watchmen are like Scout Rangers.

In a war, a Scout Ranger regiment is sent on a mission to track enemy location and advise the other advancing party what route is the safest and has less resistance. For us, Watchmen, we are the spiritual Scout Rangers of the Lord. We advise other believers what road to take, what is waiting for us ahead so that others will be guided to victory. In doing these tasks, we must run light with less or nothing that will hinder us in executing our God-given tasks. Sin and other non-essential things that occupy our mind clouds our visions and keep us off track.

"God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives." (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

Let us lay aside those non-important things, especially those that lead us to sin and focus more on the task that is to be done. We can only endure the race if we run light and run free from sin.

Is there something holding you back from doing your task effectively? Have you surrendered it to God? Nothing can replace the joy of serving God and inspiring other servants to do the same. Stop for a while... Unload those heavy hearts... Remove those sins that slow you down and rededicate your life to Him!

See you in the clouds!

Prayer

Lord, grant us the will to focus more on the task that You have laid before us. Give us the strength to stay away from things that slow us down in serving You. As we dedicate our lives, may we inspire others with the kind of life we are living. Amen!

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DAY 14

SIMPLE KINDNESS

"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience..." (Colossians 3:12)

My mother's first heart attack twenty years ago required quadruple bypass surgery lasting eight hours. The waiting was made a little more bearable due to the kindness of a man I did not know. This man was a pastor but not my mother's. He was the Bible teacher at the school where they both worked. To show love to a friend and her family, he took time to get someone else to watch the students he taught. I get the feeling he communicated more through his actions than his words.

He did not initiate many conversations, but he was available to talk when we felt the need. The words he offered informed us of the quarters weighing his pockets. He made them available if we needed to make a call.

I don't remember this man's name, but I remember his kindness. His actions didn't help the surgeon successfully complete his task. But he helped my family and me through a stressful day in our lives. A man whose profession relied on his mouth instead used his heart to meet our need.

Prayer

Father, it's so easy to open my mouth and so hard to open my heart. I want to give kindness more than I give counsel. My words are so empty, but my heart has much to bestow.

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DAY 15

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but not the signs of the times! A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." (Matt. 16:3,4)

The most accurate Sign of the Times is located in the New York City subway at the Grand Central stop. You'll find the sign above a blue box just outside the token turnstile. It says, "New York Times \$2.50."

Colored moons, magic math for 666, dates on calendars that didn't even exist when the Bible was written, will it ever end? What should Watchman do with all the information and the *dis*-information?

What is the most important End Times sign? The most important End Times sign is – people will be begging for a sign. People don't need a sign, they need a Savior. Many people seek signs. Jesus is seeking the people.

As a Watchman, you know the core End Times Scriptures: Ezekiel 38; Revelation 6; Matthew 24; 1 John 4; Daniel 9; 1 Thessalonians 4. Ample current events information is available. It's essential every Watchman sees the truth, and how to explain it, but is that enough?

People could memorize Daniel and go to hell when they die. The world needs Jesus, not "signs." We can't answer all the questions, but we can focus on the Answer. You can be an effective Watchman by knowing one thing. Just one – the A-B-C's of salvation (Romans 10:9,10).

Prayer

Father, today I will make sure Jesus is part of my conversation. Point me to people who need You. I'll be ready.

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DAY 16

STAGEHAND OR SKEPTIC

"Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail because of Him. Yes! Amen!" (Revelation 1:7)

Christians see a different world. To say it more accurately; Christians see the same world, but they observe the people and activities unlike others watching the same event. Christians see more than the details, and because they see more, they get involved. Seeing isn't enough.

We read or hear the same news, whether on TV or online. We see the same terrorism and trauma. Yet, like Watchmen, we discern a different message.

Jack Hibbs is Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills; a frequent speaker on End Times programs and respected Bible Prophecy expert. He made this observation on the state of the world.

"In all that is going on in the world right now, believe it or not, God is at work. He's preparing things. We are not sensationalists on one end, and as the pendulum swings, we are not skeptics on the other end. So we're not skeptics, we're not sensationalists; as Bible-believers, what are we?

We're watching the stage be set. In a sense – with Bible open and news on – we are stage-setters."

Watchmen see the world through their own eyes, but they interpret what they see through God's heart.

Prayer

Father, I see more than many, You see more than all. Reveal what I cannot see. Empower me to explain it to others. Stir up the wisdom You have sown in my spirit, so I correctly interpret what You show me.

Stagehand or Skeptic

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 17

WHAT SIZE IS YOUR GOD?

*"Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.** And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."* (1 Samuel 17:45,46)

Tough words from a soldier. Bold for a strong man, who's not a soldier. Defiant words from a youth with a sword. Brash words for a brave young man with a bow firing arrows from afar. Bizarre words from a teenager with an attitude, and a few rocks. Words of faith from a shepherd who knew nothing of war, but knew God well.

Watchman, you may come to this moment with no idea why God chose you, no ministry experience, and many questions.

The question is, how well do you know God?

David knew it was a big task—10 feet tall! He knew it was unfamiliar work. He knew other much better equipped and more experienced fighters were available. Why me?

Because you believe God is bigger than the problem. You don't tell God how big the problem is. You are the one who, like David, tells the problem how big your God is!

You have the one essential weapon for an epic victory. You have absolute faith in the One Who already won the battle. Your only function is to remind the enemy and everyone else, you serve the God Who wins this kind of battle all the time.

Prayer

God, I'm insignificant in the battle for eternity. You are all I need. I take confidence in the fact You gave me this role. I will speak Your words to the problem. The solution is in Your hands.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 18

ANSWERING THE CALL

"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God." (2 Corinthians 3:5)

Have you ever looked in the mirror and wondered why God chose *you* for anything? When we're overworked, overtired, living with depression, sick in spirit or body, homebound – why would God choose *us*?

Maybe our eyes have wondered to the neighbor, the one who seems to naturally have it all together. Healthy and happy, she volunteers at the church, she raises polite kids, and every other sentence from her mouth is bringing glory to God. Yet in our Father's eyes, *we are the same*.

God doesn't have special requirements we must meet before He chooses to call us. In fact, we don't even necessarily have to be *willing* at first (remember Moses?). None of us are sufficient on our own. None of us are qualified to enter the spiritual battlefield for Christ no matter how good we look on the outside – not without His help. God doesn't discriminate against the weak, the stubborn, the sick or the sad. We all have a calling to fulfill in this life, and our Father gives us the means to act upon it when our heart chooses to say yes.

So, listen for the calling. When it comes, and it will, claim His sufficiency and choose to move.

Prayer

Lord, take away my feelings of inadequacy. I claim Your sufficiency and say yes to this day and Your call!

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 19

A WATCHWOMAN'S OPEN EYES

"Blessed are the eyes that see the things you see." Luke 10:23

We witness a million tiny things each day without really thinking about them. We see the child in the store. We see the long fingernails of the woman at the gas station. Our brains have learned to tune out what we deem is unimportant information, though we still see it. But what if instead of just seeing, we tried *noticing*?

As Watchwomen, we are called to do just that: *watch*. Not just see but *notice*. Perhaps the child has been separated from the mother, and you can reconnect them and begin a conversation with the grieving new widow. Perhaps the young girl's long fingernails are wiping her face as she cries, and you have the chance to offer hope. Our opportunities as Watchwomen aren't confined to a specific time or place. We don't have to have our eyes closed in prayer, waiting in a location where we think God may move. We must ask Christ to *open our eyes* to the needs in front of us in our daily routine! He is waiting for us to notice the opportunities He sets in our everyday lives.

We witness a million tiny things each day without really thinking about them. Instead, let us try to look with the eyes of Jesus, and *be a witness* each day!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, light up my daily path so I may see with Your eyes and act with Your love.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 20

BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS

"And of Benjamin he said, 'The beloved of the LORD SHALL DWELL IN SAFETY BY HIM; AND THE LORD SHALL COVER HIM ALL THE DAY LONG, AND HE SHALL DWELL BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS.'"
(Deut. 33:12)

I put my son on my shoulders for the first time when he was two. He quickly made it clear he did not like it and begged for relief. A few days later, I tried the experiment again. He stayed longer this time but soon wanted down. I don't know if he was uncomfortable because of the height or the lack of my arms wrapped around him.

The more times I put him high in the air without incident, the less fear he had; his trust grew. His endurance and daring also increased each time. He'd lean forward or backward and then side to side. We almost gave his mother a heart-attack multiple times as she stared at the two of us horsing around. The thing that once terrified him became his greatest desire. Whenever he said, "shoulders," I knew both of us were in for a ride.

How long has it been since you have ridden on your Father's shoulders? I know it can be scary. You feel so out of control. But that's where you are closest to your Father. It is there His voice is easiest to hear. And though your feet are not on the ground, they are enclosed in His arms. He won't let you fall. Enjoy the view.

Prayer

Father, being on Your shoulders is safe, but it can be scary. I've been there before; I'm there once again. Grow my trust, open my ears, and increase my view.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 21

HOT SPARKS, SHARP IRON

"As iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend." (Proverbs 27:17)

Many people quote that phrase "iron sharpens iron" but it's possible some of the quoters have never sharpened anything.

Things become 'dull' in many ways. People experience the same kind of erosion, often from the same conditions that cause a tool to become dulled: mishandling, improper use, striking at something tougher than the tool, an unexpected hidden object, overuse, age, or poor maintenance. We lose our 'edge' just from the constant wear and tear of life.

We need re-sharpened. When that's necessary, it's good to have that friend, old movie, song, book, or Bible verse, to sharpen our metal and make us functional and effective again. You should know a few tool-sharpening facts before you completely embrace being "sharpened." When you sharpen a metal object like an ax, or a knife, you will encounter some or all of the following:

- 1) Sparks will fly
- 2) A lot of heat will be generated
- 3) Dull tools don't always cooperate
- 4) Metal particles can get under your skin
- 5) It can be a noisy activity
- 6) It requires some abrasion
- 7) Even if done correctly, there's still a chance you'll get cut

Good friends and good habits keep us sharp, and that's a good thing, abrasive but good. It's important to remember that becoming productive, efficient, or empowered is not always a gentle process.

When "*Iron sharpens iron...*" we become more effective Watchmen.

Prayer

Father, place people and events and opportunities in my life today that sharpen me and make me more useful for You.

Hot Sparks Sharp Iron

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 22

WHO ARE YOU?

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8)

To know who you are, you must first know who God is. Too many times when we come to a crossroads, or we find ourselves in a desperate situation we cry out to God, "What do I do next?" The Word answers "seek My face..." In our desperation for answers, or to have some circumstance corrected, we become disoriented. We fixate on the situation, difficulty, or problem; and take our eyes off the Problem Solver.

We can become double-minded so easily when we seek God's Hand and not His Face. The hand of God is awesome and powerful. He can deliver us out of the mess we're in, but it is only a temporary fix, not a life-changing solution.

That only comes from relationship, which comes through intimacy. When you are intimate with someone, you truly learn who they are, what their heart is, and more importantly how deeply they care for you. Then comes the revelation. That is when you know who God really is in your life.

Once you know Who He is in your life, you discover who you are, and you know all things are possible with God. That is when we begin to walk in His divine purpose, authority, and power. That is when we see our lives change, and see God change the atmosphere around us, wherever we go.

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for only chasing after Your Hand and Your blessings. I humbly admit my failure and stand in repentance. Thank You for Your grace and Your faithfulness. Give me the grace to fast and to pray, that I may seek Your face.

Who Are You?

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 23

THE DESTINY DETOUR

"Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." (Proverbs 24:14)

What is your dream? Your passion may not be your profession. Perhaps you have a burning desire to be on a NASCAR pit crew, but right now you sell copiers. Your manicurist may secretly long to be a professional skateboarder. Your barista may see herself on Broadway, but right now, for a little while, she makes lattes.

Life isn't a predictable path. College, for many, is an *education* so to speak. Statistics show one-third of students change their major at least once. Plans change. Some of us had clear plans at age ten, but we soon discovered there is a short list of princess and Batman job openings. Reality became more ...realistic. Good news, you didn't miss your destiny. Your 10-year old brain hadn't experienced its first reality collision.

Don't let your present govern your future. God created dreams. He placed a destiny inside each of us when we were created. Destiny is an idea Christians avoid, but it needn't be. Destiny is not an ethereal cosmic experience reserved for psychics and superheroes.

Watchmen understand destiny is linked to calling and spiritual gifts. It's a one-of-a-kind future God designed with you in mind. We come nearest our dreams when we stay closest to His.

Prayer

Father, I am determined to pursue Your dreams for me. Guide my decisions and shape my choices to reflect Yours. My dream—is following Yours.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 24

SHEPHERD, WATCHMAN, KING

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature...For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'" (1 Samuel 16:7)

David was the only King listed in the Bible who began at the lowest position in his society. How did a shepherd become king? The real question is not How, but, Why? God ruled everything then as now. He didn't lack a king's power, He needed a shepherd's heart.

David was a Watchman shepherd. The King duties might seem far removed from a shepherder's, but many are the same. David was being prepared for the palace while he sang to sheep under the stars.

Kings lead the nation to prosperity and peace. Shepherds lead by still waters, in green pastures. A King is sworn to guard his people, so he faces the enemy. David guarded sheep and killed lions, bears, and a 9 ft. Philistine. Some roles were very different, yet God used both in similar ways. The king was venerated, and people bowed. Shepherds are lowly but were the only ones *invited* to the Kings birth.

How? Watchmen serve alone in the darkness. Why? We work for the King.

Prayer

Father, I am a called, anointed and commissioned Watchman. I will always kneel to hear You whisper before I stand to proclaim Your Word. I have no authority, only Yours. I see from a high wall, but not because of my status only because I work for the Highest.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 25

FILL IN THE BLANK CHRISTIANITY

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews, I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

Fill-in-the-blank Christianity is a dangerous thing. Every other week there is a new book, video, TV show or newsletter. Each one tells you that your Christian life will dry up, fail, or completely collapse if you don't read this, eat that, or don't eat that, wear this, grow it out or cut it off.

Watchmen are susceptible too. In our attempt to reach as many as possible, it can be tempting to go beyond Paul's example trying to be all things, to all people ...all the time.

Paul's objective (and ours) is to find a crack in the door that will allow us to reach someone's heart. For some it's relaxing the formalities; wear jeans to church. For others, a suit and tie are appropriate. If you are speaking to teens, you can joke about Miley Cyrus's latest haircut, but if you're talking to the seniors, it's better to joke about Wheel of Fortune.

In our desire to separate Christianity from worldliness, we've instead become separated from reality. A lost and dying world needs to hear the Gospel from someone who speaks their language, wears a pair of jeans, and might even occasionally listen to Country music.

Paul said, "...to all: become all, by all means, reach some. [Most importantly] I do it all for the Gospel.

Prayer

Father, reveal where I've become ineffective because I only see the sin and not the sinner. I give you my life to be like You, and reach some.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 26

FAITH IS A PLACE

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb.11:1)

Live in faith. Stay in faith. Move in faith. Abide in faith. Walk in faith. Those are common phrases. They mean, don't go to the opposite of faith – doubt.

Doubt God? Doubt His plan for your life? Doubt that He will keep His promises? Doubt His Word is true? Doubt God wants what is best for you? How could we doubt any of those?

We want to walk in faith – believe God can do what He said, and believe He keeps His promises; He will do what He said. Why is faith so easy to say, yet so difficult to do? Your faith depends on where you live. What? If I live in Guatemala, do I have more faith than the Watchman who lives in New Jersey?

Living in faith is not about geography, it is not your theology, or philosophy. Faith has nothing to do with your genealogy, eschatology, archaeology, or inequality. Faith is where you live spiritually.

Faith lives in our Conviction—what we believe enough to die for it.

Faith lives in our Expectation—God is as big as what you believe He can do.

Faith lives in our Confession—salvation begins at confession (Rom. 10:9,10).

Assurance, confidence, devotion, and loyalty *describe* faith, but faith LIVES where your mind spends most of its time.

Prayer

Father God, my faith is small, but You are big – bigger than anything I can imagine. You are FAITH-FULL.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 27

ZERO – GOD’S FAVORITE NUMBER

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that **any** should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9)

God loves numbers. He wrote a whole book about them!

Some have suggested certain numbers in the Bible have special significance. For example, seven is often connected to completion or divine perfection. God rested on day 7 of Creation. Isaiah 11:27 lists 7 qualities of Messiah, 7 priests blowing 7 trumpets marched 7 days around Jericho (Josh. 6:3,4). Forty is a common number in the Bible: 40 days and nights of rain (Gen. 7:4); Israel wandered 40 years; Jesus tempted 40 days and nights.

Numbers are an interesting Bible study, but in the overwhelming majority of uses in the Bible—numbers are just numbers. They won't help you win the lottery or find secret codes to discover where the Ark of the Covenant is hidden. However, you can find God's favorite number; not 7, or 40, or 490.

God's favorite number is zero.

Billy Graham died at age 99. Over a span of 50 years, he preached to billions through radio, TV, and city-wide crusades. He preached the Gospel to Presidents, professional athletes, astronauts, and Watchmen. There is not way to know how many people are in Heaven because of Billy Graham's ministry. His oldest grandson Will told one pastor, "It doesn't matter how many are in Heaven because of his ministry because he only cared about the zero. *"God is not willing that any [zero] perish."*

Watchmen will warn and rescue millions ...because they focus on zero.

Prayer

Father, my focus is the world. One zero at a time.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 28

GOD HAS A NAME

"Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." Now they may say to me, "What is His name?" What shall I say to them?'" (Ex. 3:13)

Moses was different with God than any person before. Moses knew the Creator of the universe by reputation. It wasn't until the wilderness that God first spoke to Him.

Most have ventured questions they'll ask God when they see Him. I doubt many will ask them, at least not for the first billion years. But Moses' conversation with God was founded on questions.

Moses asked God, "Who are *You*? What is *Your* name?" God identified Himself as Jehovah—the Self-existent unchanging One. Moses lived his first forty years in a culture that celebrated multiple gods. They needed names to distinguish one from another. God is the only true One.

Why does God have a name, and who gave it to Him?

The first human went by "man." Man saw his wife and designated her "woman." She didn't answer to Eve until God made it clear she would birth children. When you're the only one of your kind, you don't need a name. What you *are* is fine.

But God *does* have a name. He chose it Himself. Moses was the first to ask and first to hear it. More than anything else, a name signifies the desire for relationship. His name deserves honor, but it also opens the door to a friendship.

Prayer

God, You deserve worship, but having a name means You want more. *I can be in a relationship with God?* It's amazing! Thank you for calling my name and telling me Yours.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 29

GOD LOVES PEOPLE MORE THAN ANYTHING

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:9-11)

The group, *Point of Grace* recorded this song in 1995. The message is simple.

"God loves people more than anything. More than anything He wants them to know He'd rather die than let them go. God loves people more than anything."

God loves the weary when they're too weak to try. He feels their pain, He knows their shame. He cries with those who cry.

He won't give up or walk away when other people do, cause God loves people more than anything.

More than anything He wants them to know, He'd rather die than let them go, cause God loves people more than anything.

God loves the wounded who's stumbled into sin. He reaches down and pulls them out, and cleans them up again. He will heal the broken heart that's given up on love 'cause God loves people more than anything.

"More than anything He wants us to go, and show the world so they will know, that God loves people more than anything."

Watchmen understand the times. In all the headlines and events, let's not forget what's important. God loves people. More than the planet or animals, more than the galaxies and black holes. None of it matters without people.

God loves people more than anything.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your love. In the middle of all the facts and events of prophecy, I will focus on the people.

More Than Anything © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Universal Music Publishing Group, BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT US, LLC Songwriters: Cathy Dennis, Thomas Mark Harmer Nichols, Timothy Daniel Woodcock

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 30
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
(1 Cor. 10:31)

God's glory. It's simple. That's why you do your task. But those who fight can easily lose sight of their original high motivation.

24-year-old American Olympian Mirai Nagasu placed tenth in the 2018 women's individual figure-skating. Realizing she had no chance of medaling for her country, she proclaimed her desire to skate for herself. With a smile on her face and the pressure relieved, she landed a triple-axle—something no other American female skater had achieved. It was her audition for an opportunity of a different sort. She wanted the chance to earn the mirror ball trophy from *Dancing with the Stars*.

Miss Nagasu endured a great deal of scrutiny from the press and probably from others. I tend to think her words reflect the stress she's been under most of her life rather than some desire for self-glory. I could be wrong. Only she really knows.

Only you know why you stand on the wall. Is it the thrill and adventure of never knowing what's next? Are you an adrenaline addict? Maybe you like putting a notch on your belt—another demon defeated and another soul rescued. Your motivation could be protecting yourself and your loved ones. While these goals might not be bad, they don't rise to the height God requires.

We do it for Him because only He is worthy.

Prayer

God, Your actions benefit me, You died for me. Yet there is no higher motivation than Your glory. My sacrifices benefit others when they bring You worship.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 31

GUARD YOUR HEART

"*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*"
(Proverbs 4:23)

You're a Watchman. You guard your territory well. You have years of experience and a lengthy resume of successful service. Still, past performance doesn't mean you're qualified to stand on the wall today. The King asks you a question as He passes by checking on the new recruits.

How's your heart?

It seems like an odd question. He's asked you questions before—about the enemy forces, the tactics you plan to use in the battle, the strength of the wall and the readiness of the soldiers. You were ready for those. This one caught you off guard – How's your heart?

Jesus knows the heart is the enemy's greatest battlefield. We can get so focused on protecting others that we forget to protect what is most vulnerable—ourselves. Satan attacks our hearts with fear, inferiority, lies, discouragement, loneliness, covetousness, pride and a host of other weapons. If Satan can gain an entrance at the heart level, the city we guard will soon fall.

So how do you protect your heart? By filling it.

"*Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.*"
(Psalm 119:11)

Prayer

Lord, I need you. I need your reminders that I am not invincible and that I must always be on guard against the enemy's attacks, not just against *them*, but against *me*. Overflow my heart with Your truth so there will be no space for the enemy to occupy with his lies.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 32

GOD WORKS IN THE GAPS

"I waited patiently for the LORD, And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm." (Psalm 40:1,2)

God moves in the gaps. I have these pauses in my purposes; they hesitate – breathe – then re-awaken. These pauses don't last, and when God's Presence fills them, they overflow every time, no matter how cavernous the original void.

Faith has phases – micro, but certain. They're instants, flashes, pulses; they're not planned, and I believe that's why God inhabits them. He loves to show up when we haven't planned His arrival.

God's plans aren't drawn in straight lines. They meander across the pages and arrive at exactly the right place at the perfect moment. A symphony score has gaps, but it wouldn't be a symphony without them.

God puts dashes where we would rather have a period or exclamation point. But "Wait" is not a four-letter word.

The Holy Spirit inserts a *while* where we'd rather have a *when*. Watchmen are familiar the pause between waves of battle. It's uneasy and tense. God is in that pause. The silence hasn't taken Him by surprise. He knows what is next and He loves to move in those moments.

Have you mapped God's exact landing zone? Erase the circle, stop filling in the cracks. Leave the hesitation where God put it. Gaps are God's favorite places.

Prayer

God, I will embrace the moments when You wait and welcome the gaps You are waiting to fill. I believe God's timing has a tempo.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

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I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 33

THE DIVINE POWER SWITCH

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

When you are born again in Christ the Holy Spirit comes to live within you, so you can experience, feel and sense the Lord Jesus Yeshua giving you the supernatural power to resist the devil and overcome the evil of this fallen world. Overcoming all unclean spirits like unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, and fear.

Just as most people have electricity in their homes today, that electricity is wired into your house which is connected to the station where the power is generated. When you enter your home at night, all you need to do is switch on the light, and the darkness disappears. The Gospel message is like the cables that connect your holy temples (mind, body, spirit, and soul) with the supernatural power station of God Almighty.

The finished work of the cross of Christ opens a divine connection for the lines of truth from the ultimate power from the throne room of Papa God. Through Jesus Christ of Nazareth that power is available to all who simply ask to be connected. When we ask the Lord for help to heal or overcome any temptations in our life the power of God begins to flow through us just like turning on a light switch.

So, let your lights shine on my friends.

Watchmen, trust Papa God for every detail. Stay in faith. All things are possible with God! May the Lord's supernatural peace, healing, provision, and protection cover you always. May oceans of agape love flood over your life and ministry in the almighty name of Jesus Yeshua!

Prayer

As a Watchmen for the Kingdom of God, I pray in the almighty name of Jesus Yeshua that I am an imitator of Christ in everything I think, say and do.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 34

HOW BRIGHT IS YOUR LIGHT?

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Nehemiah had no cell phone. His Watchmen had only two warnings: on the same wall, a trumpet; far away, a fire. The scene from *The Lord of the Rings* shows this Watchman's communication. Wall-to-wall, city-to-city, mile-by-mile: "The enemy is near! Make ready!"

One Beersheba Watchman sees the enemy. He cannot yell to Jerusalem, so he lights his fire. The tall bright blaze is seen on Mt. Moriah. The Watchman in David's Tower forwards the warning North to Mt. Ebal. That Watchman sends light to Mt. Gerizim, Mt. Tabor passes it to Mt. Carmel. It is visible across the Sea of Galilee on Mt Hermon. What began with one tower soon reaches the entire country.

Watchmen understand it is not about your name, or your skills, or your title, or your experience. Only one thing matters – how bright is your light? Two things matter in these last days. They are profound yet solemn.

One, Watchman need to be connected. One Watchman with one light cannot reach the world. Many connected lights reach many.

Two, make the message clear. *"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression..."* (Is. 58:1a)

How bright is our light Watchmen? Who hears our warning? How many lives are spared eternal judgment?

Prayer

Lord, today I will proclaim the truth with clarity and warmth, in truth and in love. I will not fear the enemy because I know You are my protection.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 35

HOW BIG IS YOUR FAILURE?

"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

God's plans are always bigger than your failures. You cannot make a mistake big enough, or fail miserably enough, that you become 'impossible' for God. You can never fail so much, God doesn't have the power to redeem you.

Maybe you wonder, "What if I do fail BIG?" God has a bigger plan for that too – restoration. Israel disobeyed God repeatedly, and God forgave and restored them. They failed again, God loved and restored. We fail. God restores. It is part of His plan for our lives. Is it so we can sin as much as we want and God just forgives and forgets? No. God restores because He knew we would sin and stumble.

Watchmen make mistakes. We are human, and humans sin. God is perfect. So, He has a perfect plan to restore us when we fail. God sees our sin, but He celebrates our victories and forgives our failures and sins when we ask. We fail. We disobey. We stumble. We confess and seek forgiveness. God picks us up and cleans us off.

If you are looking at your many mistakes, you are looking at the wrong thing. Our failure is always smaller than God's plans for recovery and restoration.

He has big plans, and bigger plans, and *much* bigger plans.

Prayer

Almighty God, I have failed many times. Please forgive, and restore, and renew Your purpose for me.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 36

INSIGNIFICANT POSTS

"And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone." (Matt. 27:66)

How did the guards react when they found out they would be guarding Jesus' dead body? Angry because success would bring no glory or advancement? Relieved because the assignment was safe? Or embarrassed because their commanders apparently thought this was all they could handle? The Bible doesn't record their reaction, just their obedience.

Your current assignment may be something equally mundane or nonsensical. You may long for a place on the wall that has more action and carries more prestige. Know this: your position may have something to do with your skill and experience, but it has nothing to do with your value. *Every* portion of the wall needs a guard. The enemy can attack at the dung gate just as easily as he can at the valley gate.

The issue is not your appreciation for your assignment; the issue is your trust in the King.

He has placed you where He wants you and where He believes you can be of greatest service. So if you lead a church of 30, guard them with the same passion you would 3000. You never know what 30 well-protected saints can do. It only took 12 to turn the world upside down.

Prayer

Forgive me, Father, for seeing any place of service you give as small. Please give me the motivation and vision I need to accept my position as a statement of your trust rather than as a manifestation of your displeasure.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

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I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 37

ARE YOU EXHAUSTED AND HOPELESS? Ivana - Watchwoman in Croatia

[Editor's note: To benefit Watchmen in Ivana's home, and so the message is clear, this devotional appears in Croatian on the next page.]

"But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." (Psalm 73:2,3)

I find these words so accurate in our days. Every time I turn and look from the Word and my Lord to my circumstances, I'm tempted to fall into this enemy's trap. I see righteous people suffer in many tribulations: diseases, poverty, debts, persecution, mockery, threats, violence in home, in school, at work...

I see wicked people prosper: in wealth, in health, in society, in business, in the eyes of the World, they are successful. My heart is aching, and so often I cry out to the Lord.

"Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning."
(v.13)

Yes, our body is weak. Yes, the World is cruel; everything seems to go against us...but our God!

Oh, how great is our God! His grace covers all our weakness, His Holy Spirit strengthens us and guides us and gives us comfort. He did not forsake us or leave us! He is in control in every storm in your life, and he will lead everything to good to those who love Him.

In His mercy and love, He opened our eyes and hearts and gave us hope.

"Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." (v.17)

I pray Dear God, *"So foolish was I and ignorant, I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless, I am continually with thee. Thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward, receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee."* (v. 23-25)

My prayer and comfort for you are:

No problem in this passing world is bigger than our God. Lift up your eyes, be of good courage, keep the faith – our redemption is truly near! We can't have any problem that Rapture can't fix! Awaiting His return, I keep you all in my prayers and love you!

Maranatha!

Are You Exhausted And Hopeless

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 38

Jesi li umoran i beznadežan?

“A meni umalo noge ne posrnuše, zamalo koraci ne okliznuše,
jer zločincima zavidjeh motreći sreću grešnika.” [Psalam 73]

Nikada mi se ove riječi nisu činile tako žive i ažurne kao danas. Svaki put kad svratim svoj pogled sa Gospoda i njegove riječi na moje okolnosti, nađem se u iskušenju da upadnem u ovu zamku.

Vidim pravednike koji prolaze kroz mnoge i teške nevolje, patnje, bolesti, siromaštvo, nasilje, mučenje, progone u školi, na poslu, u vlastitom domu...

Vidim bezbožnike kako napreduju, sve im ide na dobro, čini se da nemaju nikakvih problema. Zdravlje, novac, moć, uspjeh, društveni status...u očima svijeta oni su mjerilo sreće i uspjeha.

Gledajući njihovu nepravednost, srce mi se slama i zavapim Bogu:

“Jesam li dakle samo ja uzalud čuvao srce čisto i u nedužnosti prao svoje ruke
kad sam primao udarce svaki dan, i kaznu jutro za jutrom?”

O, prijatelji dragi, kako je lako upasti u ovu zamku samosažaljenja i gorčine.

Da, naše tijelo je slabo. Da, ovaj svijet je okrutan. Sve izgleda da je protiv nas...ali Bog!!!

Naš Bog je velik! Njegova milost pokriva sve naše slabost, njegova ljubav pokriva sve naše grijeha, Njegov Duh Sveti nas osnažuje, tješi i vodi. Nije nas zaboravio ni ostavio! U svakoj našoj oluji On je potpuno u kontroli i sve izvodi na dobro onima koji ga vole.

Slavimo ga jer nam je u svojoj ljubavi otvorio oči i srca da spoznamo i dao nadu: “Promišljah tada da bih spoznao: al mi se učini mučno u očima mojimsve dok ne nađoh ulaz u Božje svetinje pa prozreh kakav im je svršetak.”

Naš Bog je velik i pravedan, ništa njemu nije skriveno. On zna svaku patnju koju prolaziš, On briše svaku suzu koja klizne niz tvoj obraz.

Neka ovo bude naša molitva i predanje:

Al' ću odsad uvijek biti s tobom, jer ti prihvati desnicu moju:

vodit ćeš me po naumu svojem da me zatim uzmeš u slavu svoju. Koga ja imam u nebu osim tebe? Kad sam s tobom, ne veselim se zemlji.

Dragi prijatelji, nijedan problem u ovom prolaznom svijetu nije veći od našeg svemogućeg Boga. Podignite oči, budite hrabri, čuvajte vjeru jer naše otkupljenje je uistinu blizu.

Ne postoji nijedan problem kojeg Uznesenje Crkve ne bi moglo riješiti!

Čekajući njegov dolazak, blagoslov i mir s vama! Maranatha!

Jesi li umoran i beznadežan

Temeljnice

Šlušam gospodina
Što ti Duh Sveti govori?

Molim se gospodaru
Napiši današnju molitvu svojim riječima.

Ja slušam lorda
Kako ćeš doživjeti ovu Pobožnu danas?

DAY 39

THE END IS (PROBABLY) NEAR

"The end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land! The end is now upon you, and I will unleash my anger against you. I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices." (Ezekiel 7:3)

Many believe these are the Last Days; this scribe among them. A dear family friend is one of those famous TV hosts who expected the Rapture since his 40's. He's now 90+ and still expecting the Rapture in his lifetime. I tease he may need to live to 150, and he might.

Now, the part we avoid: the simple fact is, the Rapture may *not* happen today. Paul thought he was living in the last days, as did John, author of Revelation. Mathematically, if Christ returns anytime between now and the year 3840, His return is still closer to my lifetime than John's.

That verse, clearly in the present tense, was written between 593 and 571 BC, and Ezekiel expected its imminent fulfillment.

It's 2018. Every Scripture which must be fulfilled before the Rapture has been fulfilled. So, should Christians panic or prophesy? Neither. It's time for the Church to engage, not enrage; to plead, not protest. The unsaved will still be here tomorrow if the Rapture occurs today. Will what the Church believes about homosexuality, or smoking, or politics, or rap music save the world? I'm not suggesting churches avoid tough subjects, I'm saying that message won't save people from Hell.

If you're going to have a message, and every Watchman must make it a message that matches God's greatest message – a Person. A Gift. His Love.

Prayer

Father, I commit to love, not alienate the world. Increase my love for the lost.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 40

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? Guest Watchwoman Joanne

"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."
(Titus 3:1-2)

In the days we live in, this concept gets harder and harder. We don't always like or agree with those who are put in leadership, and many do things that go against God and His Word. I think of David and how King Saul hated him trying to kill him, yet, when David had the opportunity to kill King Saul, he wouldn't do it because he could not lay his hand on 'God's anointed one' and he wouldn't let anyone else either.

We know we are accountable to God first, but we must trust that the Lord puts kings and rulers in places of leadership for the times and seasons in which we live. We are seeing the Word of God come to life right before our eyes through the Scriptures and have a front row seat to Bible Prophecy being fulfilled. How then are we to live in light of this?

We are to be about our Father's business doing all that He calls us to do. Speaking evil of no one is a hard thing as we see so much evil in our world and it's infiltrating every facet of our society, even our churches, and pulpits. Christians are more divided than ever these days. Wouldn't it be more profitable if we put our focus on Jesus Christ and encourage others and be peaceable, gentle, loving and extend grace as we have been given grace in our salvation?

Our message will be louder and clearer, and our light will shine brighter and have a more significant impact on others as we get closer to our Lord's return.

Prayer

Abba Father, we pray that we would be a light in the darkness, extending beyond ourselves to others what You, through your Son Jesus, would want us to be in these days and times.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 41

MISERY, TRAGEDY, PAIN AND REJECTION

"For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15).

You've had a difficult day or week. Perhaps you know a lifetime of hardship and sorrow. Some Watchmen live in war-torn cities. You may have faced death yourself or lost family to those tragedies.

Jesus was the ultimate Watchman. He was misunderstood. He was weary, hungry, his friends and family were murdered. He ran for His life – more than once. He was slandered and falsely accused: in the courts, in the marketplace, *and in the Church*. He was tortured, humiliated and crucified.

He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came to His own, and His own received Him not." (John 1:10,11)

"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain." (Isa. 53:3a)

If you are a seasoned Watchman, you know. If you are new, be warned. It is not pleasant, but it is absolutely true.

One day you will endure rejection, possibly by family and friends. Christians, possibly your own church will call you "extreme." Tragically, other Watchmen may betray you. The majority of those you warn will disregard, or even mock you for trying to rescue them. Would you still be a Watchman if you knew?

Jesus *KNEW* it would happen – all of it. And yet He came.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for Your suffering and death that gave me new birth. Thank You for the opportunity to be a Watchman. Strengthen me to be like You.

Journal

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I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

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I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 42

THIRTY-EIGHT SECOND TRAFFIC LIGHT

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him..." (Psalm 37:7)

Life isn't running, or flying, or fleeting—it's *evaporating*. Life isn't stationary. It is played at the speed of Olympic ping-pong, not world championship chess.

A lifetime includes years, months and days; but also minutes, seconds and moments. We love some moments that end too quickly. Others last longer than they should—some seem to last forever.

One traffic light near our home stops me every time. I don't think I've ever arrived when it was green. Not only does it make me stop, it always makes me late - for work, church, doctor's appointments. "How is this possible?" I wonder. So one day I decided to time the light. "Just exactly how long is it red? It must be 10 minutes, or at least 5." I thought. No, thirty-eight seconds. The light stays red only 38 seconds! Why does 38 seconds feel like forever?

On the other end, I can hold one of my grandkids for hours, and it seems like I have to let them go too soon. Time with Jesus feels that way. When I'm in His presence, time stands still. When I hear Him speak, or see His power at work for me, it never lasts long enough.

In all our watching, and warning, and serving, Watchmen must stop and enjoy the moments God gives us.

Prayer

Father, I live for the time with You. Make me aware of Your presence in my life: daily, hourly, moment by moment.

Journal

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I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 43

A BOUNDARY I WILL NOT CROSS

"There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God? As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her." (Gen. 39:9-10)

Joseph didn't know it yet, but God had sent him to Egypt to provide a wall of protection between the famine and his family. Joseph's ability to submit to the limitations of his environment and of his God eventually enabled him to bestow generous blessings on those he loved. Joseph knew the value of walls. Not everyone around him shared his appreciation.

Potiphar's wife almost derailed God's purpose for Joseph. She, who had never learned boundaries, propositioned him expecting he would have tired of the walls he endured. "How could Joseph say no to the open gate I put before him?" she thought.

So imagine her dismay when the man who had previously refused none of her demands had the gall to say "NO" to this one. We do not know how strong Joseph's temptation was. We do know the strength of his wall. It held. Persistent bombardment could not bring it down, nor could it produce any cracks. His wall went up long before it came under attack.

As a Watchman, the most important wall you guard is the wall you build around yourself. You can't protect them if your wall goes down. Determine some boundaries in your life that you *refuse* to cross. Don't wait until you're under attack to evaluate your defenses. By then, it will be too late.

Prayer

Father, strengthen the barriers I have established for my protection. If I fall, how will I ever be able to help those you've put in my care?

Journal

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I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 44

GOD STUFF

"But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

"You have something on your coat." I brush it off and wonder where it came from – blue paint?

There are some places, moments, people or music that carries an extra anointing—*God stuff*. If you've experienced it, you know exactly what I mean. If you haven't, you've likely felt the other form of it, contaminated or toxic; but in a spiritual sense.

Ever walk into a room and you could instantly *feel* someone had argued there? Have you ever stood near someone and instantly felt uneasy? Did you ever have the sensation you should leave a place? You felt some kind of "stuff."

God stuff is the opposite. The Holy Spirit can go anywhere, with anyone at any time. *God stuff* follows. It lingers in some rooms after music or prayer. It isn't visible or tangible. You can't put it in your pocket, but you know it's there.

Watchmen have that. People want to be around them, and when they walk away they feel different. Some of that God stuff rubbed off. It goes with them all day. It's just there. Where does it come from? How can you get more? One way. Spend time in God's Presence. I don't know any other way.

Prayer

Father, I want to reflect You so powerfully people notice. I will carry You with me today; touching what I touch, speaking through my voice, rubbing off on people who need You.

Journal

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DAY 45

FAMOUS DORCAS

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

October 15th, 2018 was a sad day. Dorcas Reilly, age 92, passed away. Who was she? A scientist? A professor? A doctor? No, Dorcas was an inventor.

According to the Campbell's Soup Company, some 20 million American households will celebrate the famous invention of Dorcas Reilly this Thanksgiving. What is it? Campbell's calls it, "the mother of all comfort foods." It's famous 6 ingredients take just ten minutes to prepare and 30 minutes to bake. What did Dorcas Reilly create that is now so famous? She called it, Green Bean Bake. My family calls it, "green bean casserole."

In 2002, Reilly's original yellow recipe card was placed in the National Inventor's Hall of Fame. It shares that honor with Edison's lightbulb, and Enrico Fermi's first controlled nuclear reactor; not bad company.

What will people remember about you when you're 93? Will it be a recipe? What about a book you wrote or a class you taught? What will your family talk about at your funeral? When an old high school classmate discusses you with a friend, they'll begin with, "Remember the time..." How will that sentence end?

What are you doing now, Watchman? What did you say today that will be remembered? What did you do that changed a life? Ten deeds? Two? One? They add up. You don't become Dorcas Reilly ON your 92nd birthday. You become that person one day at a time; beginning today.

Prayer

Lord, give me the words or the actions, that will touch someone's today and change their tomorrow and forever.

Famous Dorcas

Journal

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I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 46

IS YOUR WARNING WORKING?

"so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." (Colossians 4:2-6)

Watchmen warn well.

You warn – lovingly, clearly ...repeatedly. You faithfully pray from your wall. Yet no one listens, nothing changes. You're warning, but are you warning well? When you speak does your city understand the danger?

If you're warning with no response, examine the delivery; not the message, the method, not the need. If you're offering Christ and no one is saying yes, it's not because Christ isn't needed.

"Jesus is coming. Get ready." Easy to deliver, but difficult to accept. Jesus IS the only hope, and He IS returning, but if no one cares it may be time to change your approach or language. The Bible has 31,000 verses. Quote your message differently. God wrote the message multiple ways. Quote a new version. Explain a Watchman's duty to a friend. Do they understand? If not, strangers definitely won't.

If a tornado is coming you don't say, "It's windy." That's not urgent enough. If you are yelling, "I see ants on a stick!" That's urgent, but people don't care. Speak the truth in love and urgency so people listen and understand and get saved. Deliver the message so people notice, their eternity depends on it.

Prayer

Father God, Give me the method to make the message clear. Give me a fresh understanding of what is most important to the world. Give me the words to make the message clear so I can make the message important. Give me a *new* way to deliver an *old* message.

Journal

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I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 47

GOD ANSWERS KNEE MAIL

"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me..." (John 11:41,42)

You've prayed this week; probably every day. You've wept for the lost, maybe several times. You've shared Jesus with someone, anyone who would listen. We do our 'job,' and we love Jesus, and we're thankful for our unique calling. We influenced some. Let's influence more. Jesus prayed often, silently and alone and out loud in public like the verse above.

This may sound simple and redundant to a Watchman, but here it is – Pray for people. We know our needs, that's easy. How will I know theirs? Ask. You mean ask God? No, ask people. "Can I pray with you?"

Over the last several decades I've known the Lord I have prayed with many people for many needs, challenges, heartaches and tragedies. Some were people I knew for years, others were strangers God brought into my world or me into theirs. In all those years of praying for all those people, I have only had a few occasions where someone said, "No, don't pray for me."

Many others wanted prayer, some wept, some thanked me, some just walked away when we were done. Some day in Heaven we will meet some of those people and at the Great White Throne, God will tell us how that one prayer changed their entire life. Keep praying. Keep asking.

Prayer

Jesus. Today I will pray for others, only others. Capture my attention and show me who needs connected to You. I will pray for others who do not pray for themselves.

Journal

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I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 48

LADDER TO HEAVEN

"And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!" (Genesis 28:12)

Jacob saw angels ascending and descending a ladder. The ladder had no profound theological meaning; it was an illustration, not a critical detail. God wasn't giving Jacob a lesson about how angels get in and out of Heaven. God wanted Jacob to see He was actively working all around him. The point of the vision was not ladders, angels, or even Heaven; it was about God and Jacob.

Watchmen, God wants your full attention. Signs (and videos) are everywhere. It's easy to be distracted by the events of prophecy and forget the Person. Say, "End Times" and people think Revelation. The very first verse tells us the book of Revelation is about a Person.

"This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon come to pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who testifies to everything he saw. **This is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.**" (Revelation 1:1)

Know prophecy details; the signs, characters, and activities are important. But don't let the action obscure the main point.

The world needs to know Jesus is coming, but more importantly, they need to know God is already here, and He loves them. Jesus *IS* the Revelation!

Prayer

Lord, I want to be effective not distracted. My focus is not on the end, it is on You – the Beginning and the End.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 49

CAUTION – CONSTRUCTION NEXT 80 YEARS

"LORD, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am." (Psalm 39:4)

"So teach us to number our days, that we may present a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

Many futurists, including doctors, nuclear physicists and molecular biologists believe we can "cure" aging. Some believe we can live a thousand years with the right technology and some scientific tweaking. A thousand years?(!)

In Genesis and through much of the Old Testament people lived for hundreds of years. The average lifespan of the Patriarchs was 612 years! Men like Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Methuselah, Cainan, and Isaac ranged from Joseph who died at age 110, to the Methuselah who lived to 969! Adam, Enos, Seth, Cainan, Jered, Methuselah, Mahalaleel and Noah all lived to be more than nine hundred years old. That was then. The latest figures show the life expectancy in the US is about 78 years; a little less for men, more for women. The year I was born the average life expectancy was 54. I'm beyond that already. My parents are way ahead, they're 85! But honestly, they don't expect to live till they're 100. Their bodies aren't the same. They have aches that weren't there only a few years ago; so do I.

We are under construction for our years on earth. We were not created to live here for a thousand years; we were created to live in Heaven for eternity. Christ is our life, our peace, or reason for life now and the reason we have eternal salvation. We have one function while we live – tell as many others as we possibly how they can have eternal life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, my life is wrapped up in Yours. Send me to the world, and bring the world to me, so I can show them eternal life in You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 50

A WATCHMAN'S INFLUENCE

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me. This He said, signifying what death He should die." (John 12:32,33)

This week I saw a sign that read something like this,

"If God answered the prayers you're praying, would it change anyone's world but your own?"

Wow. Oh. ...and Ouch.

"God Please..."

God sees and loves the entire world. We have a human connection to that power—the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit empowers our daily ministry, we need to pray God's power and Presence into the world around us. What did my prayers sound like this week? "God, watch over *my*... Father fix *my*... Lord, heal *my*... They were prayers for me. Is that wrong?

Watchmen are world-influencers. We are responsible for the view from our wall—our city; we are also part of the Watchmen community, selected by God and commissioned to reach the world. The world?

Is that realistic or even remotely possible? Not without people who can have a bigger vision, people like you, a God-sized influencer. It's not about your access to the whole world; it's about influencing your little corner of it. You may never travel the world, speak to thousands on TV, or write a bestselling book on Bible prophecy, but if 10 people in your village of 50 get saved because you faithfully prayed and witnessed, you influenced the world just as much as that author or speaker.

Does the Bible discourage us from praying for ourselves? No. So, why is it part of a Watchman's responsibility to pray over the world? One reason—because they cannot pray over themselves.

Prayer

God, today is Your day. I will serve Your purpose no matter how big or small it may seem. I am Yours. I will reach one, or thousands at Your command.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 51

A WATCHMAN'S TIMING

"Saying the right thing at the right time is like a golden apple in a silver setting. Wise advice to a listening ear is like gold earrings or fine jewelry." (Proverbs 25:11-12)

As Watchmen and Watchwomen, we observe many things in the world from our vantage point. Do you ever find yourself wanting to jump from the wall, run to the world and tell them what you are and what you know? Shake a cynic in the streets and tell them the good news? Write in a public forum to a politician with warnings of the consequences of their path?

The Word makes sure to include the word "*listening*" when talking about the ones who will benefit from our advice. We cannot merely talk *at* people. First, we must earn their attention. As believers and followers of Christ, it is imperative that we say the right things, at the right time, in the *right way* in the war for souls. Real, raw *relationships* will make the difference and open the doors for you to speak into lives!

So pray and ask Christ for these opportunities. Pray unceasingly for love, for patience, for timing, and for the Holy Spirit to move through your words at the right moment. We may never have the opportunity to see the harvest – but God calls us to plant the seeds in the right season.

Prayer

Father, I ask you to open my eyes and my heart to the people around me. Guide my opportunities and my tongue as I strive to point the lost to You in the right way at the right time.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 52

A WATCHMAN'S JUSTICE

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:19-21)

As the Watchers on the wall, we witness many injustices. Likewise, as followers of Jesus, we may be persecuted for our faith. Perhaps we feel we have enemies among our fellow believers! It can be tempting to try to rectify these situations ourselves.

There are countless movie plots and popular songs about taking revenge on someone who deserves it. Our society often praises a good revenge story and labels it "karma" when someone's ill intent leads to future suffering. It can be very tempting to take on the burden of delivering justice ourselves when someone does us harm.

Yet it is impossible to raise our hands to Christ in worship when they are still clenched and ready for a fight. Scripture reminds us that vengeance is the Lord's! Christ calls us not just to tolerate our enemies, but to *love* them. To *pray* for them. Even to serve them! The Lord sees our efforts and blesses them. If our overtures of peace fail and our words of faith fall on deaf ears, we can shake the dust from our feet and move on. We can stand strong for ourselves and for Christ without being taken advantage of, and without seeking vengeance.

Pray for a clear path to freedom for yourself and your enemies through the muddy waters of worldly justice.

Prayer

Jesus, I pray for wisdom to know when to speak, when to walk away, and for the self-control to leave justice for my enemies in Your hands!

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 53

A WALL OF WATER

"The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left." (Exodus 14:22)

Israel was sandwiched between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. One moment they were rejoicing over their sudden release and riches; that quickly turned to fear, anger and complaining. They doubted Moses' motives and his competency—again. Death was on the horizon.

But that night, God used a pillar of fire to blind the Egyptians and enable Israel to see two walls of water forming before them. God dried the seabed and commanded Israel's advance. Had the Egyptians not been present, the easily frightened people would have never moved forward. How could two walls of water protect them from death?

If you've ever stood in the water as the ocean waves move in, you know that water is no force to be trifled with. Try standing your ground as high tide arrives. You'll be lucky not to come up sputtering and spitting.

From Israel's perspective, two threats faced them that day. Not until the next morning did they understand. The obstacle before them was the pathway to escape the enemy determined to destroy them.

Prayer

Father, what lies before me scares me just as much as what lies behind. It seems there is no way to turn. Where You lead, I'll follow even if the only thing protecting me is water.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 54

RETURN TO ME

"From the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. **Return to Me, and I will return to you,**" says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' (Malachi 3:7)

God is perfect, so we revere Him. Because of His authority, we obey Him. He is omniscient, so we trust Him. Because of His mercy, we can approach Him. The Father says, "Return to Me."

Why do we need to *return*? Where did we go?

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL." (Isaiah 53:6)

The most recent statistics show that 85% of American churches are either plateauing or declining. While the Church flock may be leaving, the unsaved are flocking to anything remotely spiritual. The major TV, cable, and paid programming have, active or in production, 48 programs or series with supernatural themes; some coupled with horror. At least 12 have overtly Satanic or demonic themes.

God created every person with a spiritual hunger. They will swallow anything that feeds that part of their being. Some Christians despair over our fallen world. Watchmen see this spiritual hunger as the perfect opportunity.

Watchmen see a world that has fallen lost its way. But there is good news, Jesus is the Way.

Prayer

Jesus this is Your world, Your creation. They are seeking You, even though they don't know it. Lead me to that person today whose spirit is prepared to meet You. Lord, trust me with that person nearest eternity today. I will be faithful to show them the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 55

FILLING EMPTY SPACES

"Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being of one mind, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose."
(Philippians 2:1)

New York Times Crossword Editor Will Short once said, "We have a natural compulsion to fill in empty spaces." That's true for more than just puzzles in the newspaper. God instilled in each of us that creative desire when He made us to be like Him – creative. We fill in the empty spaces in the house with wall art or plants. We fill in the spaces in our wardrobe with a shirt or shoes or handbag. We fill in the empty spaces in our hearts with music, and art, and Scripture, and other things that build us up in the Lord.

God created a perfect creation, perfect creatures, in a perfect relationship; sin broke all of them. We each have empty spaces in our lives. Spouses reach across the space of silence and learn to communicate. Teens try to stay off drugs, but stretch out a hand to friends on the other side who didn't make the right choice. And Watchmen reach out to the lost, the scared, the cynical, and those in denial. They say, "I know the Way. Hold onto my words, trust that my faith will lead you to find yours."

Watchmen fill in the space between God and man. They pray man's needs up to Heaven and they pray God's blessing and healing and intervention down to man. Watchmen are ambassadors of Christ' Kingdom.

Prayer

Father, open my heart to hold more so You can use me to pour into others. Enrich my words so people hear Your voice and sense Your presence in their life.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 56

Who Am I? Your Humble Watchman

"And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" (1 Sam. 18:18)

One of the most powerful statements in the Bible is a question – Who am I? It is not a question of self-discovery. It is a question that is a declaration, not declaring who I am, but declaring Who God is.

Who am I – unworthy. Who am I – undeserving. Who am I – the least of the lowest of the low. God, who am I to deserve Your love or mercy or grace?

Prophets and kings, Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Paul, who wrote half the New Testament. We know who they are, and yet each of them humbly asked some form of the same question – Who am I?

The implied answer is, I'm nobody. I'm nothing special. I don't deserve this mercy or special favor. David didn't see himself as Goliath-killer King of Israel. He knew it was only possible with God. That is the key, for these amazing saints and for us—it's never what we can do, it's all about what God can do.

David asked the same question each of us should ask. Who am I that I should be a child of the King of Kings. Who are we to be loved by God?

Prayer

Lord, Who am I that You can use me a Your Watchman? I submit to Your will, Your leading, and Your purpose for my life.

Who am I? Moses.....(Ex. 3:11)

Who am I? Solomon.....(2 Chron. 2:6)

Who am I? Mephibosheth.....(2 Sam. 9:8)

Who am I? Elizabeth.....(Luke 1:43)

Who am I? Job.....(Job 9:14)

Who am I? Gideon.....(Judges 6:12-16)

Who Am I? King David.....(1 Chronicles 29:14)

Variation – My lord King - Bathsheba.....(1 Kg. 1:31)

Variation – What shall I do Lord? - Saul the Persecutor.....Acts 22:10)

Variation – Least of the apostles - Paul the Apostle.....(1 Cor. 15:9)

Who Am I? Creation.....(Philippians 2:9-11)

Who are we? Lumps of Clay.....(Isaiah 64:8)

DAY 57

WHO AM I – MOSES

*"But **Moses said to God, 'Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?' And He said, 'Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.'"*** (Exodus 3:11,12)

If you know who you are, you'll know what to do.

Moses was a keeper of flocks, a herdsman. He owned sheep, camels, oxen – maybe hundreds of animals. We would more likely call him a rancher. If you asked Moses, he would have told you proudly that he was a herdsman; and a very successful one. But that would change.

God chose Moses to be a leader of people – thousands, hundreds of thousands, eventually millions. That's a leap from shepherd. It was more than a change of what he did, it was a change of who he was.

Moses' Who am I? moment was one we all need to have. When Moses asked Who am I? the answer did not reveal who Moses was, it revealed Who God was.

When Moses asked God, *"Who should I say sent me?"* God answered, *"Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* (Ex. 3:14) Moses, who are you now?

Who are you? Are you a business-Watchwoman who owns a media firm? Are you a Watchman-plumber? Or are you retired after a little of each? Your vocation is not your calling. It doesn't matter what's on your business card. Lord, Who am I ...now?

Prayer

Father, I am Your Watchman. You have re-created me and prepared me for a new purpose. Who I am now, I cannot be without You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 58

WHO AM I – SOLOMON

*"The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. But who is able to build Him a house, since heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain Him? **Who am I to build a house for Him, except as a place to make offerings before Him?"** (2 Chron. 2:5,6)*

Solomon is King of Israel. By his God-given wisdom and political savvy, he increased the wealth and status of Israel. He was envied by peers, feared by enemies, wealthy beyond imagination, and renowned as a great ruler.

Solomon's Temple would be grand and majestic, suited for the God of the universe. He assembled craftsmen and tons of gold and silver and the finest cedar, and tapestries.

The project took 7 years. To build the temple today, using those materials; it would cost over \$800 billion. Add the cost of housing and feeding 180,000 workers for 7 years. Include the cost of the grand opening, and the total cost in today's market would be about \$1.3 trillion dollars!

The first Temple—Solomon's Temple. Yet King Solomon said, "Who am I to build a house for God?" Who are *you*? You're king! No one deserves it more. You *literally* paid for it.

Watchmen invest heavily, personally and emotionally in their calling. They "pay the price." Watchmen serve God, not for accolades or personal gain.

Solomon saw more value in the purpose than the praise. Your work is just as valuable to God as the Temple – more – God didn't *need* a house. He does need you.

Prayer

Father God, my place on the wall may be high and elevated, but I am not. I offer everything I have to You. Use it for Your Kingdom.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 59

WHO AM I – MEPHIBOSHETH

"Mephibosheth bowed low again and asked, "Who am I, your servant, that you would pay attention to a dead dog like me?" (2 Sam. 9:8)

Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle. As Mephibosheth's nursemaid fled the palace in fear, she dropped him and both his feet were broken. He would spend his life lame.

David becomes king, Mephibosheth becomes, well, nobody. Then one day... *"David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9)*

Mephibosheth is located and brought to the palace. Imagine his reaction. "I'm the last heir of Saul. Is this the end?" David's motives are entirely the opposite. He restores to Mephibosheth all the land his family owned and decrees that the crippled boy eat at the king's table the rest of his life.

This is one of the most beautiful and prophetic moments we will ever see in Scripture. Mephibosheth, by no power of his own, and with no right to anything is given a place at the king's table. Not because he deserved it, not because he earned it, but for one reason alone – who his father was. Rightly, Mephibosheth asked, "Who am I to deserve a place in the King's house?"

We are broken, like Mephibosheth, by no fault of our own. We deserve nothing, and yet we are given everything—life, salvation, and eternity at the King's table. Because of Who our Father is.

Prayer

Lord, I deserve none of the blessings you give. I serve at Your pleasure. I proudly tell anyone who listens that I belong to You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 60

WHO AM I – ELIZABETH

*"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She exclaimed with a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! And **who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me?** For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:41-44)*

Elizabeth's conception was a miracle. Her son would be John the Baptist. Mary visited Elizabeth because they were family and because they were both carrying miracle babies. The verses above describe that visit.

Yet Elizabeth made the same statement as others – "Who am I?"

Was Elizabeth unworthy because of sin in her life? No, in fact quite the opposite. Luke 1:6 records, *"They were both righteous in the sight of God, following all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly."*

You faithfully serve the Lord. You have a clean public 'record.' Of course, you've sinned, but not in some egregious way that brought reproach on the name of Christ. You're Elizabeth or Zechariah.

This righteous woman, with a miracle child in her womb, must have felt an incredible favor from God. She could have pointed to her service record and said, "See, I deserve this!" but she did not.

Elizabeth's "Who am I?" came from a humble heart. She had a clean record publicly before the 'church' and privately before God. Elizabeth asked "Who am I?" not because of her unfaithfulness, but in comparison to God's faithfulness.

Prayer

Lord, I am Your servant. My service is at Your pleasure, as large or as small as You require. Please accept my offering of service as praise to You. I submit to Your purpose, Your will, Your calling.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 61

WHO AM I – JOB

"So *who am I, that I should try to answer God* or even reason with Him?

Even if I were right, I would have no defense. I could only plead for mercy." (Job 9:14,15)

Have you ever wondered, for a nano-second, "Does God know what He's doing?" Job may have. Read Job 1:13-19.

While tending Job's 500 donkeys and 1,000 oxen, his workers are robbed and killed; all but one, who escaped to inform Job. Verse 16, 17 and 18 all begin the same, "*While he was still speaking...*" As herdsman number one is describing one event, shepherd number two stumbles in choking, "7,000 sheep gone. Shepherds slain." He's interrupted by guy number three – "3,000 camels taken, ...all herdsmen... dead."

While he is still speaking, guy four crawls into Job's house. "A tornado destroyed your oldest son's house!" My ten children? "All dead."

That entire scene could have unfolded in five minutes! Nightmare? Worse. Reality. Eight chapters of suffering later Job says, "*Who am I to reason with God?*" Job felt the anguish, yet at the moment most would have lost all hope, Job saw what others could not. He saw his life – good and evil, painful and pleasant – as one story. Job's biography, authored by God.

This scribe lost his wife suddenly. Friday with me, Saturday with Jesus. In one of those moments, we can say, Why me? Or we can say, Who am I that the Lord gave me 24 blessed years?

We, the creation, could argue with our Creator. Let that sink in.

Prayer

Father, I only see today. When my world is in turmoil. I will trust You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 62

WHO AM I – GIDEON

"The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, **"The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior."** Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." The LORD looked at him and said, "Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?" He said to Him, **"O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house."** But the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man." (Judges 6:12-16)

God declared Gideon a "mighty warrior" before he did a single thing. That was how God saw Gideon. The second part was how Gideon saw Gideon. We know God spoke the truth, but so did Gideon.

To Gideon, it was simple—family. You can pick your friends, but you're stuck with relatives! The least (youngest) in his house—can't change that either. When Gideon thought, "Who am I?" did he say, "Who are You calling warrior?" God saw what Gideon did not, and He said what Gideon had never heard. Only God's opinion matters. How do we get past our view, and see God's view?

- Stop calling yourself what God does not. God doesn't call you stupid, or failure, or worthless, or second-class.
- Begin calling yourself what He has already declared over you. Blessed. Anointed. Gifted. Family.
- Re-name the worst of your faults, it only takes a little practice. "My ugly scarred knee" becomes, "My epic skateboard fail trophy" Or, "My Horrible hair-day" is, "See how I rock this all natural look!"
- Declare the man or woman you and God want you to be. "My past is only God's beginning." And, "God sees me finished, complete and holy."

Jesus is at God the Father's side, always interceding. (Rom. 8:34) What does God hear Jesus calling you?

Prayer

Father, today I will live out the name You have given me. Warrior. Princess. Valued. Forgiven. Yours.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 63

WHO AM I - KING DAVID

*"But **who am I, and who are my people**, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."* (1 Chron. 29:14)

King David is called "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22). Was David perfect? No, he had weaknesses and downfalls. His failures affected an entire nation. What elevated David above all that failure to become a man after God's own heart? One thing—he *understood* God's heart. David wrote,

"I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD." (Psa. 40:1-3)

Watchmen are not perfect. If that were a job requirement, only God would qualify. Perhaps your downfalls – like David's – were visible, excruciating ...and repeated. Maybe your blunders weren't made in public, but private failure is just as painful.

David knew failure all too well. His failures were, well... royal. When David asked, "Who am I?" he knew God knew his past. David knew God's heart because he had broken it. Do you know God's heart? If you do, you know He forgives.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I've fallen from the wall ...again. I have sinned against You, but I want to be used by You. I beg Your forgiveness, cleansing, healing, and restoration.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 64

WHO AM I – BATHSHEBA

"...as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel... 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day." Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage...and said, "May my lord King David live forever!" (1 Kings 1:30,31)

David and Bathsheba's story is ugly, sordid, murderous, sad; yet, when David died, Bathsheba's son Solomon became king. Several centuries later – Christ appears in her lineage. (Matt. 1:6)

David was to blame for the affair. He ordered her husband's murder. He could have easily (and lawfully) sent her away, or had her executed, but he showed mercy. Bathsheba also sinned, and she knew she was at the king's mercy. Her statement, "May my lord King David live forever!" was her way of saying, "Don't you remember what I've done? Why bless me? Who am I?"

Have you ever felt that sentiment: one part joy, one part remorse; half shame, half devotion? "God, are you sure you meant *me*? Don't you remember when I..." No, He doesn't remember.

Isaiah 43:25 says, *"I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for My Own sake and will never think of them again."*

I am not worthy of this Watchman calling, nor are you, none of us. We are not here by our merit, we are here at the mercy and grace of the King. He owes us nothing, yet He gave us His Only-begotten Son. Who are we?

Prayer

God, thank You for Your mercy. Today I will demonstrate that mercy to someone who does not deserve it. Thank You for a calling that allows me the highest privilege – the privilege to be like You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 65

WHO AM I – SAUL THE PERSECUTOR

"And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, Whom you are persecuting.' Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'" (Acts 22:7-10)

Saul was a good man, not only in his eyes, in society as well. He was a respected teacher in the synagogue—Rabbi Saul. He knew the Hebrew Bible backward. (some of you got it) Paul was a businessman, and a Christian-killer. He hunted Christians down and presided over their deaths. That was Saul. Then came Paul.

The man described in Acts 22 had an encounter with Jesus. That's something you never forget. Saul was the least likely convert. He was feared by the Christian community, and he liked that reputation. God had another plan. The risen Christ appeared to Saul and gave him a new heart, a new profession, and a new name—Paul. Imagine his reaction when the risen Christ spoke to him out loud, in a bright light, in the middle of the Damascus road. Others with Saul saw the light and heard something, but didn't know it was Christ. Saul's eyes were blinded by the Light, but opened to the truth.

I'm Saul, the murderer! Who am I to warrant a vision of Christ Himself? Who am I to be spared the penalty I imposed on others? Who am I? Jesus answered the questions with one statement. "You are no longer Saul."

Prayer

Lord, I am no longer me, I'm Yours. My new heart and new mind have a new message. Give me new words to share it.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 66

WHO AM I – PAUL THE APOSTLE

"For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." (1 Corinthians 15:9)

The apostle Paul wrote at least 14 books of the New Testament and planted at least 14 churches (likely closer to 20). Ephesians and Galatians were written to "the churches..." Philippi began with two house churches. Paul also mentored young pastors of those churches, and they would have started more churches like their mentor Paul.

Paul was mightily used by God, but Paul was also imprisoned, shipwrecked, tortured and left for dead, and ultimately beheaded for his faith in Christ. With that impressive résumé, Paul was probably the second most prominent character in New Testament teaching; second only to Christ.

Paul said, *"Follow me as I follow Christ."* (1 Cor. 11:1) His obedience began the DNA chain that would spread the Gospel across the Roman Empire and into Asia. Simple obedience is powerful; more powerful than spiritual gifts, programs, strategies or personalities.

Who are you, Paul? Who am I? Just an unworthy, imprisoned, beaten, hunted and hated obedient servant. I've never been any of those except obedient servant. What about you Watchman? You do not need to be tortured to be obedient. Follow Christ. Mentor others. Sow seeds of obedience, and trust the harvest to God.

Prayer

Father God, who am I to be trusted with Your plans? I do not see how much or how little may come from my simple obedience, but I will obey.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 67

WHO AM I – ALL CREATION

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11)

The book of Philippians was written in Greek. The Greek word translated "every" is a very unique and specific term. It means, *every*. Not many, not most, not the majority—*every*. Paul writes, *"Every knee will bow..."* Just to make sure there is no confusion, he lists all the possibilities: spiritual beings, human beings, animals, plants, angels, demons, things on the earth, inside the earth, above the earth (as in the universe).

Every

Paul wrote Philippians. He was an educated man. He held an elevated social status as a Pharisee. He had traveled through much of the known world. He was respected by ordinary men and women, and professionals like himself. He knew God's Word. He would, one day, be responsible for writing half the New Testament. Paul was a business owner, church planter, mentor to young pastor Timothy and martyr for his faith.

Paul understood authority. When he wrote that every knee will bow, he was making a statement for his time and for our time and for a time yet to come. One day, the entire world will be responsible for how they treated Jesus. How they treated Him? He's been gone for 2000 years! Yes. Which makes the above verses even more important.

Watchmen understand authority. They know that 'every' is on the way. Warn as if 'every' was tomorrow.

Prayer

Lord, today I will make it clear to someone, that everyone, will one day answer for how they treated You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 68

WHO ARE WE – LUMPS OF CLAY

"But now, O LORD, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

The potter and clay are a vivid description of God and us. If you've worked with clay, you understand. It's appalling but appealing. Equally hopeful and dismal. It's messy but gratifying. In the end, it's an original; a perfect reflection of the potter's mastery.

Isaiah: *"Shall the potter be considered equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding?"* (Isaiah 29:16)

Jeremiah: *"But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as it seemed best to him..."* (Jeremiah 18:4)

Job: *"I too am a piece of clay."* (Job 33:6)

Paul: *"Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel to honor, and another to dishonor?"* (Romans 9:21)

The potter removes un-moldable rocks. He kneads it like dough to loosen stiffness. He removes air bubbles—they explode under heat. He marks the base with his name. Then, the clay is baked and becomes a useful, beautiful creation.

Who are we? Eventually beautiful and perfect—for now, Clay.

Prayer

Lord, I submit to the process. Mold me and make me useful. Create what You need me to be, out of what I am not.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 69

BE A RIVER NOT A SWAMP

"whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life."
(John 4:14)

"I am the Bread of Life." (John 6:48)

There are two things a human cannot live without – food and water. You would die without food after 45-50 days. Most people could last only ten days without water. Jesus represents both, the Living Water and the Bread of Life.

When Jesus saw a need, He met it: wine, vision, hearing, freedom, rescue, light, forgiveness, food or water. Whatever the needs, He met them. He illustrated many truths using food or water. He fed 20,000 with fish and bread, made wine for the wedding celebration, and cooked a campfire breakfast for eleven discouraged disciples.

Anyone who believes in Christ as Savior will have eternal life (John 6:47). So when Watchmen tell the world about Jesus, they are literally saving people's lives—for eternity. Jesus is the Water, but we are the well. *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* (John 7:38)

We must be a well of fresh water. No one wants to drink from the swamp or the mud puddle. Be a clean well. Be a refreshing well. Be that source people go to when they need life, eternal life.

Clean out the fungus and mud and dead fish. Be a living water source for someone who is dying of spiritual thirst.

Prayer

Jesus, make me a refreshing witness that people want to be near. Clean my heart and flow out of me and into the world who is thirsty.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 70

A GRIEVING HEART

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

Grief has a way of finding us all. No one is ever ready for it when it strikes.

Maybe we're battling the crushed spirit that comes with losing a friend, a spouse, a parent, a child. Maybe we're grieving a dream that won't come to fruition or a nightmare that has become a reality. Whatever the circumstances are, focus on this: *the Lord is near*.

When we're in pain, it's natural to look around for something that can take it from us. Numb us, restore us, *fix us*. There are no perfect words to erase our pain. No 12 step plan will restore our hearts to their old beating patterns. But our heavenly Father *will* help us bear the weight of the burden of grief as we draw near to Him. There is such comfort in knowing we are loved, we are cherished, and we are never alone. He cares about the things we care about. He watches His Watchpeople. Seek His shelter in your grief, and let Him stand guard through your long night.

The Father holds your grieving heart, and He will see you through all of your tomorrows.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, hear the cries of my heart. I come to You with my grief and heavy burdens. Let me find rest in Your shelter. Bring light where there is darkness and the joy that comes with the dawn.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 71

ANGER FOR A MOMENT – FAVOR FOR LIFE

*"Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name. **For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime;** Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning."* (Psa. 30:4,5)

Momentary anger, eternal favor—fair deal.

The world title boxing match was set. The winner would get 5 million dollars, the loser, 1 million. A fan said, "I'd take one punch for a million dollars!" He figured the pain of one punch would be worth the money. Another man said, "You'd never live to spend it."

God's anger follows sin, rebellion, rejecting His Son. We're also told God grieves over sin (Gen. 6:6; Eph. 4:30). Jesus grieved that the Pharisee's hearts were so hardened against the truth.

"And Jesus looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored." (Mark 3:5)

God is holy, just and righteous. We are none of those without Him. We deserve anger and wrath; we have all grieved Him, and He is justly angered over sin. We can imagine God saying, "You'll pay for this!" but God loves us. His anger lasts only until Jesus leans over and says, "I already paid for that sin."

"Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them." (Heb. 7:25)

Watchmen are privileged to share the good news to balance their warnings. God's not angry, and... His favor lasts a lifetime.

Prayer

Father, forgive me where I have sinned and grieved You. Thank You for the favor I do not deserve.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 72

GOD'S MASTERPIECE

"Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You. **O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You.**" (1 Chronicles 29:17,18)

God does *average* work. He made creation *pretty good*. His salvation is *adequate*. His grace is *satisfactory*. His love is *tolerable*. He's good ...enough.

No!

God is perfect. His work, salvation, grace, and love surpass description. There is no language or vocabulary to fully express God's perfection. He never does anything *almost* perfect. He created the universe in 7 days, but He spends years working on us – on our hearts. IRIS is an international missionary ministry. The co-founder wrote,

"[God] spends an entire lifetime working on a believer's heart. The heart is His greatest masterpiece, His greatest creation. That's what He's interested in—your heart." - Rolland Baker

We fail. We fall short (Romans 3:23). We are not perfect. We are human, but when we rely on Christ, we have access to all that He is and all He can do. The perfect God of the universe gives His sons and daughters, ALL of His ALL.

No need is too big. No prayer is beyond His ability. God is never barely enough. He is always more than enough. God is *WAY* more than we need, and when we need more, He is more.

He is proving His perfection by perfecting your heart.

Prayer

Father God. I am not perfect, but You are. Please continue working on me and perfecting my heart. I want my heart to look and sound and work like Yours.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 73

GOD'S VALUABLES

"Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman [Watchman] who needs not to be ashamed; rightly dividing the Word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

You see the world with singularity. One reason you walk your wall is your ability to see from God's perspective. You see the world at its worst and its best. You are privileged to view people as God does.

God will bring someone to you today who desperately needs to be valued. Watch for that person, then open your heart. Hear what God would say if He were there, then say it.

Some people feel valued when they know they're needed. Some feel valued when they are recognized for their accomplishments in public. Others feel valued when you compliment their appearance. Some receive an act of kindness as value. Today, your mission is not warning, it is adding value to people.

Approval is not bestowed, and cannot be purchased. Approval is not the automatic result of a completed checklist. Approval carries disclaimers.

"study to show yourself approved." Study, show – think quiz.

You are approved. You need no external validation. God values you so much His only Son died for you. Demonstrate how much God values you by valuing others. People listen when you make them feel important, noticed, valued. Say it. Show it. Repeat it.

Prayer

Lord, I want to prove to the world You value them. Show me who needs to feel valued today. I will sow seeds, and trust You to grow the fruit. Today, each time I hear Your voice and feel Your value I will value someone else.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 74

LORD, I

"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." (Mark 10:51)

How many of my prayers begin that way? What about yours? God gets first place – "Lord..." I'm second – "I..." Most of my prayers include a 'please' often followed by a request, many times for me.

Jesus first, always. Me second. God cares about me, and He wants His very best for me. He sprinkled promises throughout the Bible just for me. It's ok to ask for God to help, or fix, or do something for me. Jesus asked many people what they wanted or needed. Like any parent, He wants what's best for me, and He always knows what that is. He isn't offended when we say, "Lord..." and then "I..."

"Lord...I" proves I know only God can help me. I'm not embarrassed to admit I need God. Nothing in my world works perfectly unless He does it.

"Lord...I" connects me to God's power. Lights don't light without electricity. I know He holds the power, and I do not.

"Lord...I" means I recognize His authority over me. We ask, we don't demand from God. He freely gives (Matt. 10:8).

"Lord...I" is the purest form of worship – just me and God together.

Children aren't afraid to ask when they need help, or relief, or safety. God Almighty has invited us into His throne room! (Psalm 100:4) If you knew that your daddy had a gift for you, something you would love...would you refuse it or would you ask to have it, maybe even beg? "*Pleeeeeze Daddy!*"

Prayer

Lord, I... Lord, we... Today, just LORD.

Lord, I

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 75

MORE WITH US

"So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'" (2 Kings 6:16)

I don't know what Elisha's servant expected to see that day, but what greeted him at sunrise filled him with fear. His eyes adjusted to the light, and the rays revealed the enemy surrounding the city. He ran to wake Elisha with the terrible news of their impending death. The servant had to have been surprised at Elisha's lackadaisical reaction.

Elisha had an advantage. Though his eyes were closed, his vision was not clouded. He saw with eyes of faith. Yes, the enemy surrounded the city. But God's forces surrounded the enemy.

The wall you stand on is under attack. Maybe you saw it coming; perhaps the enemy surprised you with his rapid advance. And you thought it was going to be just another carefree day. It's natural to panic when danger is close, and you feel outnumbered.

The enemy's greatest weapon is to strike us with fear. When you are tempted to give the enemy more credit than he is due, remember there are less with him than there are with me and you. God's got this!

Prayer

Lord, my prayer is not that You open my eyes like You did for the servant. My prayer is that You open my heart so that I can believe like Elisha. Please help me remember that when I am beside You, I always have more with me than they will ever have with them.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 76

PASS IT ON – A WATCHMAN’S HERITAGE

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1,2)

Noah, Abraham, Adam, Isaac... they're all in the Bible ...*somewhere*.

Men and women like Adam, Noah, Sarah, Esther, Abraham, all have very different Bible stories told in various books, but many of them shared Adam's family tree (some of you got that). Genealogies in Numbers, Chronicles, and Genesis, prove their lives overlapped.

Adam and Noah's father Lamech lived concurrently. Adam surely told the creation story to Lamech. Noah heard the creation story from his dad, who heard it directly from Adam. Abraham and Noah shared the planet for almost 100 years. Imagine that family reunion – Noah and Abraham telling stories! "Nice yacht. How many camels does it take to tow that thing?"

This scribe's family is spread across the country, New York to California. We are separated by great distance, but we are connected by the stories we tell. I love hearing them talk about things they remember.

What we know about God, His Word, the Church, the End – it makes us the Watchmen and Watchwomen we are today. What we pass on determines the spiritual heritage of the next generation.

Your story, like Adam's, is the key to someone's spiritual life and possibly their eternity. Learn much. Live well. Pass it on.

Prayer

Father – that one word gives my life meaning. Holy Spirit, fill my words with the wisdom and weight that will endure generations. Take my love of Jesus and make those seeds produce even more in my family.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 77

PLANT – WAIT

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will **reap a harvest** if we do not give up."* (Gal. 6:9)

*"**Sow** righteousness for yourselves, **reap** the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until He comes and showers His righteousness on you."* (Hosea 10:12)

*"Those who **sow** in tears shall **reap** with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing a trail of **seed**, will surely return with shouts of joy, carrying sheaves of **grain**."* (Psa. 126:5,6)

*"Those **sowing** in tears, with singing do **reap**"* (Psa. 126:5)

The examples of Planting and Harvesting (or Sowing and Reaping) are found throughout the Bible. It is an essential principle which illustrates God's faithfulness (Psalm 31:23), justice for good or evil (Galatians 6:7), how we influence the world around us as Watchmen (Matthew 13:32), salvation and eternal life (Mark 4:13-20), and the rewards that await us in Heaven someday (Proverbs 11:18).

It's an incredibly gratifying experience to plant something that grows from a tiny seed until it eventually becomes a fruit or vegetable or product you can eat or use. It's a process I know well, because I grew up on a farm. I remember when I was very young planting the seeds, then running out there every day to check on my beans or corn or tomatoes. I wanted to see them all grown and ready to eat, but that process takes weeks or months.

For a 5-year old, waiting is the hardest part of farming. Plant...W-A-I-T...Eat.

Growth is mostly waiting. Plant, Water, Sunshine, Plow, Fertilize, all are part of growing crops, but the process is mostly that one word – *wait*. Be patient Watchman. You sow. You wait. You water. You wait. One day, that person you've witnessed to ten times will get saved. It's worth the wait.

Prayer

Lord the harvest is Yours. You want people to be saved even more than I do. I will sow. I will pray. I will wait. You will grow the harvest.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 78

PRAYER AND SOLITUDE

*"Early in the morning, while it was still dark, **Jesus got up and slipped out to a solitary place to pray.**" (Mark 1:35)*

*But the news about Jesus spread all the more, and great crowds came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet **He frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray.** (Luke 5:15,16)*

*"One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and **He prayed to God all night.**" (Luke 6:12)*

Jesus often prayed alone. He left the thousands to be with His Father. On some occasions, He took the disciples (Luke 9:28; Mark 14:32; Matt. 26:36), but He also instructed them to "come apart." He meant, get away from the crowd. Find peace. Find God. Watchmen must "come apart." Climb down from the wall, or find a quiet corner on the wall, and be alone with God.

It's impossible to be effective as an army without effective communication. A military uses radios, satellites, lasers, codes, flashing lights, and many other means to communicate. If the entire army is not moving together, they are all at risk. To succeed, an army must know the commander's plans. They must talk, so they move as one unit. A Watchman who does not communicate with God – often and alone, will be out of sync with the Commander's master plan.

Jesus prayed in a crowded Temple and in a quiet garden named Gethsemane. We must be men and women of prayer, but also solitude. You will have talks with God alone that you will never have in a room of others, even if they are all strong believers or other Watchmen. You need time alone, in private, in silence to have conversations with God that no one else would understand.

Where do you come apart, so you don't fall apart?

Prayer

Jesus, speak to me in this quiet, private moment. Please tell me Your plans.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 79

PRAYER – TRAVAILING AT PREVAILING

"And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. **When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob**, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."** And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, **"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."** Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" **And there he blessed him.**" (Gen. 32:24-29)

There is no prevailing without travailing.

God is not displeased or frustrated by persistent, intense, even forceful prayer. He never says, "Not *her* again." Or, "Will he ever stop nagging Me?"

Jacob wrestled with God – his future depended upon God's blessing. We can feel for Jacob. He had no hope of winning, but he didn't quit. You go, Jake! We understand begging, even arguing with God. We get Jacob.

But why did *God* wrestle? We know Who wins that match every time.

I believe God wrestled because He *wanted* Jacob to struggle. God wanted Jacob to travail. It was painful – Jacob walked with a limp the rest of his life, but he also learned that on the other side of struggle is strength. On the other side of travail, is prevail. On the other side of broken is a blessing.

When Watchmen travail in prayer it's spiritual leverage. Movement takes place in the heavenlies. Watchmen don't just pray, they contend, persist, push. Increase the intensity of your cries for your city, your country, your family. Aggressively defend your wall!

Travail! Go bold! Pray forcefully! God is not overmatched by your requests. God is pleased with a Watchman's forceful prayers. *Travail*.

Prayer

Father, thank You for the pressure of prayer, the resistance of persistence. I give you my struggles. Please give me Your blessing. Many are lost. I plead for their lives.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 80

SCRABBLE PRAYERS

"Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few."
(Eccl. 5:2)

Solomon, who had much, knew the value of little especially when it came to words. His wise counsel is to limit their quantity when you are in the King's presence. The King's time is valuable.

That doesn't mean your prayers can't be lengthy. It means that God isn't impressed by your words—their size or their number. Don't treat God like Scrabble. You don't get more points with Him because other people have to look up your verbiage in the dictionary or because your prayers are so long the hearers fall asleep. Get to the point.

Long, eloquent prayers might impress people, but you're not praying to them. They're not God, and they can't produce what you're after. If your goal is to impress God, try faith and humility. It doesn't take long to express belief in God's power and gratitude for his grace.

Solomon's admonition has nothing to do with God's lack of interest in your concerns or His pre-occupation with His own. God is always working, but He's never busy. The God of the universe has time for you. Come to Him humbly, simply, and without pretension. Let your words be few.

Prayer

Father, thank you for taking the time to spend with me. I love you. I'm so glad you love me. I look forward to an eternity spent in Your presence.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 81

SERIOUSLY FUNNY

"He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."
(Isaiah 53:3)

Jesus experienced human emotions: sorrow, anger, satisfaction courage, and joy. A significant question persistently enters my mind – Did Jesus know the pleasure of laughter?

Jesus' mission was serious. He was mankind's Savior. The stakes were high. He knew the cost. Some would receive His words, but He mingled each day with others He loved who would face eternity separated from God. The only laughter that realization produces is the maniacal kind coming from those who find joy in others' pain.

My concern may seem irrelevant or even irreverent, but it has eternal ramifications. One day, when I kneel at Jesus' feet, what will it say about me if I can laugh in that place knowing that those I warned as a Watchman are not there? My laughter then and now says two things—I am made in the image of God, and I believe He is trustworthy.

Some of God's first recorded words communicate I am like Him. He, who knows the horrors of life and eternity better than I, still laughs. He must laugh because He instilled me with a love of laughter. Yes, darkness is all around me; it's not hard to find. But God's light is here too.

Prayer

God, may I never laugh at another's pain or at something that brings You sorrow. Take my laughter as a statement of faith. I know you've got this, and I don't need to fret. You, my Father, always do what is good and what's right.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 82

WALK THE WALK AND TALK THE TALK

"Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. The men of Gilead defeated Ephraim...When any of the fleeing Ephraimites said, "Let me pass," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he answered, "No!" they would ask him to say "Shibboleth." If he said "Sibboleth," not pronouncing it exactly right, they would seize him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites fell at that time." (Judges 12:4-6)

Shibboleth is an obscure but important, biblical word. 3000 years ago, before military uniforms, Gilalite soldiers (the good guys) discovered enemy soldiers had infiltrated their ranks. This represented a *clear and present danger* to the people of Gilead. A simple test was devised to distinguish a **true** Gilalite from a fraud. The test? *Correctly pronounce the word, **shibboleth**.*

Evidently, the people of Gilead had a peculiar accent, which their enemy could not easily duplicate. This variance was especially evident when pronouncing the word *shibboleth*. Gilalites pronounced the word, **shibboleth**—their enemies pronounced the word, **sibboleth**. Gilead's leaders organized a surprise pronunciation test—a failing grade meant death by the sword.

Many *looked like* they belonged to the tribe of Gilead. They could dress the part and blend in, but they discovered that *looking the part* was not enough. There is an essential spiritual parallel. Being a *Watchman for the Lord* requires more than attending worship services, memorizing Scripture and *looking the part*. God wants those who lead and serve as *watchmen* to "walk the walk" and "talk the talk."

Over 3000 years ago a test was given to determine who was on the Lord's side—those who could not pass paid dearly. True believers and *Watchmen for the Lord* are (and help others become) faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to be true to You, and bold for You. Help me pass every test so that at the final judgment I will see Your smile and hear the words, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 83

WALKING ON WATER

"...Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' (Matthew 14:29b-31)

Humanity is captivated by stories of the those who accomplish the impossible. Movies like *The Lord of The Rings*, or *Star Wars* use this theme. But real-life stories are the best. Nadia Comaneci's perfect score in the 1976 Olympics, Roger Bannister's record-breaking four-minute mile in 1954, or Bob Beamon's breaking the long jump world record **by nearly two feet** in the 1968 Olympics are monumental moments in sports. We cheer when the amazing happens. Many long to taste that kind of victory—to know the feeling of accomplishing what "can't be done."

The story of *Peter walking on water* (Matthew 14:22-33) is known inside and outside the church. It is a story that both peaks interest and touches the heart. But it is *more* than just a story about what happened some 2000 years ago—it demonstrates how God desires to work in us today. Here's the truth: *God desires to add 'extra' to our 'ordinary' so that we can accomplish the extraordinary. The impossible becomes possible when we follow God's leading, place our faith in Him, and operate in His power* (Matt. 19:26).

When we boldly follow His leading, we will live an incredible life and accomplish incredible things. This is the 'abundant life' Jesus spoke of in John 10:10. Go, believe, receive the impossible.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to keep my eyes on you and to trust in you. Help me to believe that *all things are possible* when I exercise faith and embrace Your perfect will for my life.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 84

SHORT WATCHMEN

"And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward." (1 Sam. 10:23)

Saul and I have something in common. No, I'm not a king; that's not our similarity. Both of us have unusual heights. He was tall, and I am, shall we say, "height-challenged."

If I were living at the time men physically watched from the wall, I would not be the first choice for this position. Height gives a natural advantage to one whose primary function is to watch and warn of danger's advance. It also gives them greater ability to repel the enemy's attack. One downside: height makes them a more tempting and accessible target.

Saul's stature excited the people; he *looked* like a king. When he led them in battle, the enemy was more likely to take Israel seriously or so they thought. But it was another of Saul's characteristics that caused God to choose him. Not his tallness, but his smallness (1 Sam. 15:17).

God doesn't need our height or our position for us to be effective in our ministry. The enemies we watch for can't be seen with human eyes, so height gives no advantage. But God requires humility from Watchmen. "Tall" in our eyes or in the eyes of those we lead can result in misplaced trust and devotion.

Prayer

Father, thank You that in Your wisdom, You made me short. It increases my dependence on You. It also helps those I lead to see You more clearly because I have nothing which might block their view.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 85

WATCHMEN BELIEVE GOD HAS SPOKEN

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." (Heb. 1:1-2)

We Watchmen tend to focus on God's revelation of the future in the book by that name—the Bible's final chapter, the end of the beginning. Other prophetic books increase our understanding of what God has in store. God presents what is coming. There's no doubt this future history is thrilling, but it's not the revelation God most wants us to know.

The only way to get to the right future is to take the right steps today. For that to happen, we need more than God's direction. We need Him.

As Israel began its journey toward the Promised Land, God threatened to show them the way but not walk with them. The thought of getting to their destination without God's presence was unbearable. Moses was more interested in God revealing Himself than in His revealing what lay ahead. God granted His request.

Do you marvel that God has spoken? Do you know what a miracle that is? To think that the universe's creator took time to communicate Himself to sinful men is mindboggling! It's even more amazing when you consider that He hasn't just spoken to men in general; He's spoken to you. And the more you crave His presence, the greater His revelation of Himself will be.

Prayer

God, I will never get past the awe I feel when you speak. Why? Why are you mindful of men? Why are you mindful of *me*? Thank you for not keeping silent. I would be lost without you.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 86

WATCHMEN BELIEVE IN FIGHTING

"He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them." (John 10:12)

Watchmen are soldiers fighting a spiritual battle. As long as they perform their task, does it really matter what they believe or that what they believe is true? "Just follow orders! Don't think or ask questions!" Countless militants have done their duty after hearing those harsh, demeaning words. Is that what Jesus calls us to?

When warriors don't know what they're doing, for whom they're doing it or why their loyalty and sacrifice diminishes. At best, they run when they see the enemy coming. Worse, they indiscriminately destroy everything in sight. Their lack of understanding led them to enlist for the wrong cause resulting in a terrible outcome.

God doesn't consider you cannon fodder, or expendable pawns on the chessboard whose only job is to draw out the enemy. He wants us to know battle details and goals. As a commander, He is not distant or unseen, we fight shoulder-to-shoulder. He desires an intimate relationship. He values us enough to show us what is true and gives us evidence to prove it.

What a Watchman believes determines who and for whom he will fight. It governs his tactics. That belief moved us from the enemy's camp into God's, and that belief will bring an end to the battle.

Prayer

God, You have the right to call me into battle without telling me why. Your grace gives me the truth to believe. Thank You for bringing me into the light.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 87

WATCHMAN BELIEVE THE BIBLE

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

That may sound an odd thing to say. The reason Watchmen stand on the wall is because of what God's Word says. Of course, Watchmen believe the Bible! But do you?

What about that word "all?" You have no trouble believing the Bible's parts that describe a future no one has seen. What others doubt, you easily accept. You wonder how they fail to see what is so clear to you.

The Bible speaks of far more than the future. It speaks of laziness, sexuality, relationships, and finances. It commands us to speak the truth and do so in love. It promises strength and renewal to those who wait on the Lord. Jesus warned His disciples that persecution was coming but gave them instruction to respond with forgiveness and kindness. Do you believe these things too?

Let's test your belief. The last portion of the verses above describe God's man as "adequate" and "equipped." Do you believe that means you? Try saying it out loud: "I am adequate." "I am equipped." It almost sounds unspiritual to say. This is not prideful; this is faith. The adequacy comes from God, not from you. Do you believe what God says? *Everything* He says?

Prayer

Father, believing the Bible when it describes me as dirty and deserving of Hell is easy. But statements of my adequacy for the task You have given are much harder to accept. I want to please you, and faith is the only way.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 88

WATCHMEN EAT PIZZA

"Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey." (Matt. 3:4)

Why does the Bible describe John's diet? It probably says something to his humility, ability to be easily satisfied, self-sufficiency, and the fact that he had a strong stomach. Me, I need pizza, and not the kind that has locusts and honey for toppings. I've heard of some weird pizza additions, but most places don't carry these.

Pizza seems to be a common food choice for Watchmen. For a while, one of the indicators something big was happening in Wash, D.C. was the increase in pizza deliveries. People who defend our country frequently rely on pizza for their source of nutrition.

Jesus said what you put *in* your stomach doesn't create a spiritual problem. What flows *from* your mouth is the indicator of internal health. John's words were just as unusual as his diet. "Repent, for God's kingdom is coming (Matt. 3:2)." He was a Watchman when Watchmen were rare. He was healthy in an environment suffering from a deadly spiritual disease.

Pizza in moderation gives us something to enjoy. It can also draw a crowd. When it does, why not turn a chance to feed your face into an opportunity to feed their souls. Reserve the honey for biscuits. Keep the grasshoppers out in the yard. You don't need unusual toppings. An unusual but necessary message will do.

Prayer

Spirit, thank you for pizza! But thank you more for the mentors who use pizza and top it with love and a message to shape the lives of the young.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 89

SIX INCHES OF VISIBILITY

"Gideon said to God, 'If You will save Israel by my hand as You have promised— look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You said.' And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water." (Judges 6:36-38)

Life sometimes feels like it's passing in a fog. Sometimes our path isn't clear, and we're doing the best we can to place one foot in front of the other. If only we had a sign from above, we would know if we should take up watch in that new city, take that job or choose that church. It can be tempting to stop in our tracks and ask God for a sign before making a move.

Sometimes we are blessed with clear signs from our Father directing our path, yet sometimes we don't have the fleece as proof in the morning. So how can we make big life decisions when we're not sure what the future holds?

It is hard to have faith when our visibility is limited. Yet Jesus said those who trust without ever seeing Him are blessed.

Have you been waiting too long to see the proof in the fleece? Trust in His plan for you. Lift all things up to the Father. Spend time in the Word. There is wisdom in waiting, but don't remain stuck there. Believe that the Lord is working behind the scenes in your life, even if you don't see the signs today. You may be working with 6 inches of visibility, but God may be waiting for you to move in faith. The blessings will follow.

Prayer

Father, give me ears to listen, eyes to see, and the wisdom to know when to move. Let me trust in Your plan for my life!

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

Day 90

THE THIRD DAY

"From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and that he must be killed and **on the third day** be raised to life." (Matthew 16:21)

Can you imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus was crucified? In Don Francisco's song, *He's Alive* Peter describes the despairing disciples.

"The gates and doors were barred, and all the windows fastened down. I spent the night in sleeplessness and rose at every sound. Half in hopeless sorrow, and half in fear the day, would find the soldiers breaking through to drag us all away."

The Bible does not detail the disciples' emotions, but clearly none of them expected to see a risen Lord Sunday morning. Don Francisco was right, the disciples were miserable for three days—but why? Jesus said He would die (Matt. 16:21), and would return. Hosea 6:2 prophesied Messiah's return the third day. We can trust God's promises and timing.

God's blessing often came on the third day, foreshadowing the Resurrection, and God's perfect timing. God provided a substitute sacrifice for Abraham on the *third day* (Genesis 22). Joshua led Israel across the Jordan *on the third day* (Joshua 3). King Hezekiah was forgiven and healed *on the third day* (2 Kings 20). Esther approached the king and saved her people *on the third day* (Esther 5). Jonah was rescued *after three days* (Jonah 2).

Have hope Watchmen; be patient. God comes at the perfect time. *"Therefore do not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap the harvest, if we do not give up"* (Galatians 6:9)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to be patient, and perseverant to trust You when times are challenging.

The Third Day

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 91

ARE YOU AN ANGRY WATCHMAN?

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city." (Prov. 16:32)

There is so much to provoke anger. Turn on the news—local or national—and you will hear accounts that make you angry and others that resulted from anger. So you turn off the TV and pull up YouTube.

After you tire of the funny cat videos, your search produces a message with false truth. Here at least, you can give a reply. You're tempted to hit the ALL-CAPS button and pound your keys in response as if that will give greater weight to your comments. You're angry, and you want someone to know it!

Sin and lies *must* make us angry. They motivate us to action. But anger can't be what characterizes a Watchman's service. Righteousness and love are the things others must see.

You say, "Didn't Jesus show anger?" Yes, He did. But how many times can you point to? And how does that compare to the number of times He had just cause to yell? Jesus got angry, but He never allowed anger to get Him. He was always its master.

Prayer

Lord, as I sit at my keyboard and contemplate how to respond, help me to follow Your example instead of following the enemy's. You, Who could have destroyed Your accusers, chose silence instead. Help me to know when to speak and how to communicate so *Your* message gets through.

Are You An Angry Watchman?

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 92

DEFENDING HOPE

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15)

Perhaps you've made a million and one excuses to not speak up when it comes to sharing your faith (you're not alone). Your mouth will almost move, and then the doubt hits like a ton of bricks. What if they ask a question I can't answer? What if I misquote scripture? What if I look crazy? What if I fall short of representing Christ?

Sometimes the idea of sharing our faith can be overwhelming. But when Paul wrote to the people of the early churches, he encouraged them to be able to defend their own hope. Not perfectly defend the faith, not beautifully debate apologetics or semantics, but defend their own hope.

Some don't share anything because they feel like they have to know everything. Yet Christ calls on us to share what we know. Share what He has done and is doing in your life. You don't have to know every name and date and detail to speak of the hope that lives within you. Be brave. Paint a word picture of how Christ has shaped your story. Perhaps it will be the start of a new chapter for someone else.

Prayer

Father, I pray for an opportunity to share your love with someone around me today. Grant me courage and wisdom to best represent you with the story you've created in me!

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 93

YELLING ABOVE THE CROWD

"and my word and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith may not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:4,5)

Yelling at the crowd is not warning the crowd. Some teachers yell. When there is an unruly classroom, they get louder to be heard above the noise. Some parents do the same. If the child is loud, the parent speaks louder. It doesn't work. In either case, the children also want to be heard, so they get louder. The circus only ends when the authority threatens or demands the right to be heard. I did the same, as a teacher and parent.

My elementary supervisor taught me the secret. It's so simple, most overlook it – lower your voice. Speak quietly. The noisy class can't hear so they hush. You must be heard, loud is ok for *"Get out of the street!"* For "This will be on the test" quiet is better. Why must they hear your directive? Because you see the danger or have the truth.

Watchmen risk always screaming. The world is uncontrolled ...and in danger. Will louder preaching, more bombastic videos, or more threats of doom work? For some. But God knows the secret—not fires, or earthquakes or tornados, no. a still small voice. The world needs more *still small voices* (1 Kings 9:12). Authority with love. Truth with grace. Warning, urgency and control. The Authority is in your words—His words.

Prayer

God of truth, authority, mercy, and love, I want to speak with all of those. I will learn to sound like Jesus and win a loud uncontrolled world to You.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 94

IDENTIFYING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8)

Each one of us has something special to offer to the world: a spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit. It's exciting and empowering to know that we have so much potential within us. But how do we identify these gifts?

The best place to start is on our knees. Our spiritual gifts honor the Lord, and the work we do to discover these gifts honors Him as well. Ask the Father to help discern your strengths. Wait in faith that He will guide your heart and thoughts and help you uncover your potential.

As we pray, we can also actively test our strengths. By testing ourselves, we can begin the process of discovery. With trial often comes error, and the key to testing our strengths is to not become discouraged when we don't succeed right away. Ask the Father to give you direction, give different gifts a try, and hold onto what is good. Don't be afraid to try again and again. Each attempt brings us closer to knowing ourselves, and learning our weaknesses can help us discover our strengths!

So if you don't wake up each morning automatically knowing where you spiritually excel, don't lose heart. Our gifts are continually growing and changing as we do, and sometimes we have to dig a little before we uncover our own potential.

Dig. The world needs what you'll discover.

Prayer

Lord, help me unlock the potential you've given me. Strengthen my gifts and show me how to use them for Your glory.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 95

APPRECIATE YOUR SPOUSE

"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD HAS BEEN A WITNESS BETWEEN YOU AND THE WIFE OF YOUR YOUTH, AGAINST WHOM YOU HAVE DEALT TREACHEROUSLY, THOUGH SHE IS YOUR COMPANION AND YOUR WIFE BY COVENANT." (Malachi 2:14)

You're a Watchman or a Watchwoman. You stand on the wall. You can't do what you do alone. You freely acknowledge that you rely on Jesus and the contributions of other Watchmen. You know it's a team effort.

Remember, your spouse is your greatest ally. Most of you proclaimed your marriage vows before you knew what a Watchman or Watchwoman was. Two became one. Now, one watches for the enemy while the other prays for a safe return. You stand together, ready to battle whatever foes you face.

You may be tempted to keep battle details private. It may feel noble to bear your weight alone, but if you do, you limit your spouse's view of the conflict. It doesn't shield them; it exposes them to attack. You're not the only one affected by your sacrifices.

God gave the first man and wife to each other as helpmates. God prepared yours to be the same. Your vows to God as a Watchmen or Watchwomen don't supersede or nullify the promises you made to each other. Protect your spouse first, not *from* the battle but *in* it. The more devotion you give, the more effective a Watchman or Watchwoman you'll be.

Prayer

Jesus, you know the struggles of marriage. How much should Watchmen communicate and when? We want to see our spouses not just as someone we protect, but as a God-sent warrior who stands by our side on the wall.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 96

WATCHMEN SIN by Watchman James Q

"If we continue to confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from every unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Scripture is clear: when the believer confesses a sin to God, God forgives. To merely report a sin, however, is not confession. Confession is agreeing with God that we sinned against Him (Psalm 51:4). Confession also requires repentance. We agree with God that we sinned against Him (confession), we turn from our sin (repentance) and return to God.

To conclude we deserve punishment for our sin is neither confession nor repentance. God forgives those who repent and confess, He does not punish confession and repentance. Biblical repentance is sorrow for rebellion against God, accompanied with the sincere intent to change our behavior so the rebellion is not repeated.

When the believer confesses sin, Christ addresses the Father (1 John 2:1), "Yes Father, that person sinned and deserves death. Remember I paid for that sin on the cross when I suffered Your wrath and My physical death. The debt is paid, and this saved person, Our child, must be forgiven. They have confessed and repented of sin and must be restored to fellowship and service."

God doesn't forgive sins just to be a nice guy. God forgives sins because Christ paid the penalty for every sinful act any believer might commit past, present, or future (1 John 2:2). We are always forgiven when we agree with God.

Prayer

Father God, I agree with You and Your Word. I have sinned. I repent. Christ suffered and died. I am forgiven.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 97

A PILE OF ROCKS

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:15,16)

Altars and Wells appear throughout the Old Testament. Building an altar, or digging a well was a sacred act. Wells brought the water of life. Altars made sacrifice to God, but there was much more to it than water and rocks.

Altars were symbolic and sacred. They were used when they were built, but they were often left standing for future generations. Children, grandchildren, and unrelated future generations told the story of each altar. Altars share several characteristics which Watchmen understand and build into their daily walk and the legacy they leave future generations.

- Something always died there. Sacrifice never turned out well for the sheep. We lay down our lives to walk the wall.
- The place became holy. A prayer altar established holy ground. Have a sacred place where you meet God.
- Altars remind another generation. Always be sowing seed. You may reap a harvest, or you may not, but always be sowing.
- Redemption was not earned, it was burned. Christ' death is our eternal sacrifice. The next generation must be told.
- Cold dead stones bring life to the world. The same is true at the wall. It is your platform, but also the place of sacrifice.

Becoming a Watchman defines sacrifice. The world needs your warning. The Church requires your witness. Family follows your faithfulness. Build altars.

Prayer

Lord, my small sacrifices do not compare to Yours. Sanctify my sacrifice with Your presence. Touch the next generation with Your message.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 98

I AM A WATCHMAN

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD shall take no rest for yourselves" (Isaiah 62:6)

I will never forget the moment I became a Watchman. For several years, I had watched and contemplated the alignment of world affairs with Bible Prophecy. I recall hearing a Watchwoman say, "Things are not falling apart. They are falling into place" but what did that mean for me? I was on a business trip, and noticed one of the other passengers reading his Bible...for well over an hour. Something deep within me was stirred by his demonstration of faith and obedience. That event caused me to take the final step.

I had to mentally, emotionally, and spiritually step over a line, and never look back. I made my commitment at that moment. When I got off the plane, I told the gentleman of his influence and my decision!

The calling to be a Watchman or Watchwoman is an open invitation, but it requires a firm decision. We must subjugate fear, and instead be motivated by the urgency of the times. Love motivates: love for extended family, work relationships, social circles, and our general sphere of influence.

May you find the resources, the testimonies, the many facets of this ministry deeply nourishing. May you discover a welcome place to be a member of this very generation of Watchmen and Watchwomen that are setting aside childish things, focusing on preparing ourselves and those we love. We are all witnessing incredible times leading up to His soon return! Behold, our Savior is coming soon!

Prayer

Father, this is a moment of eternal decision. I accept the call. Please give me Your vision to be a Watchman.

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

I'm praying Lord Write today's prayer in your own words.

I'm Obeying Lord How will you live out this devotional today?

DAY 99

FINISH WELL, NOT ALONE

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7,8)

Watchmen Finish Well.

You've read that and heard that who knows how many times. Finish Well. To some success is winning the race—Finish First. To a Watchman, arriving at the finish line is only a success if they arrive surrounded by a crowd. Watchmen do not want to Finish Well, but alone.

In the Olympics, one runner is first. First wins. For Watchmen, first is failure if they finish alone.

Paul did not write, "I **won** the fight. I came in **first**." Paul wrote, "*Fought a good fight. Finished the race.*" Watchmen fight well, they finish the race. They complete their mission, but they also see that last line – "*not me only*" Paul did not finish alone. He rejoiced that he finished surrounded by other runners and fighters.

Running alone is not a race, it's only taking a fast walk. Who is coming with you? Who got a Bible verse text message from you? Did a cashier receive a dollar bill from you this week with "Jesus Loves You" written on it? Who prayed with you today?

How many will Finish Well with you?

Prayer

"Lord, I know Your heart. I love people You love. Anoint my words with Your Spirit. Let the world hear You when I speak, so they heed the warnings, and we all Finish well ...together."

Journal

[ENTER ANSWERS IN EACH SECTION USING YOUR DEVICE KEYBOARD]

I'm Listening Lord What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

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Project editor, Joe Kerr is Managing Editor of iamawatchman.com He is author of books and Bible studies including, youth journal *De Dia a Dia*, the 40 Days Spiritual Adventure, women's journal *Stories Written*, and coffee devotional *Cup O' Jo, Caffeine for the Soul*. Joseph watches from a wall overlooking the Florida Gulf Coast; sharing the view with his wife Susan and several very cantankerous Sand Hill Cranes.

The world is headed for Armageddon. You see it coming far off, slowly edging closer day by day. You know there will be violence and destruction and death. You warn everyone who will listen. You pray for those who will be caught up in the chaos. You urge friends family and strangers – Be Ready! You are a Watchman on the Wall.

This journal speaks to all Watchmen; all who feel the same sense of urgency and the same massive calling to warn the world. Nehemiah spoke to the Watchmen in Jerusalem,

"Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: "The work is great and extensive, and we are spread out far from one another along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us!" (Nehemiah 4:19, 20)

The Watchman's Journal 99 Days on the Wall provides inspiration, rest, encouragement and strength to continue the most difficult of callings in these Last Days. Watch, Warn, Pray, and Finish Well.