

One Minute in the Morning

Monday

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out reverence for God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

In a world so full of distractions and temptations, purity is difficult. Even more than difficult, the call to purity often goes forgotten and ignored. Cheap grace is substituted for a call to passionate living. While we never want to give in to a "works righteousness," we also must remember that impurity through laziness, lack of commitment, or simple rebellion are contaminating to those claiming to be Christians and ruin our influence before the watching world.

Purify my heart, my life, my body, my influence, O God. May my words and my thoughts be blameless in your sight. I want to be holy as you are holy and honour you as only you are worthy of honour. You alone are God! Through Jesus I ask it. Amen.

Tuesday

"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. 2 Corinthians 7:1

In a world with skewed values, and false promises, and fleeting fame, what can we boast in other than the steadfastness of the Lord's love, the incredible riches of the Lord's grace, the incomparable supply of the Lord's blessings, the sweetness of the Lord's people, the mercy of the Lord's plan for our salvation, the promise of the Lord's tomorrow!

Lord of Majesty and Mercy, every good and enduring thing in my life I have because of you. While the words are simple, they are heartfelt -- In Jesus name, thank you!

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Wednesday

To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

The truth is often as simple as it is sweet -- if Jesus is our life, then our life has no end.

Eternal God, thank you for sending Jesus to show me your love and thank you for sending him again soon to take me home. He is my anchor in the storms of life and my light in the darkest nights, reminding me that you love me with an undying love. Through him I pray. Amen.

Thursday

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. Philippians 1:21

This statement is both a reminder of God's glorious grace and also of our need to share that grace with others.

Father of all nations, resurrect in your people a desire to spread your grace to every language, tribe, nation, and people. Empower us with your Spirit so we will speak the Gospel of Jesus with boldness and respect to a world that does not know him. Use us to help others come to life in the Son! Through whom we pray. Amen.

Friday

I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Philippians 1:21

There are many things that can trouble our lives, but none that can shake us loose from the grip of God's grace if our hearts remain close to Jesus as our Lord, and our hope remains focused on the Lord's return. If Jesus is our Lord, then all of life's greatest blessings lie ahead of us and we will let nothing rob us of this coming glory!

Holy Lord, you are worthy of majesty, honour, and praise. I lift up your name, O God, and place it above every name. As I look to the future, I want to honour you and find you there. Since I believe

you will never leave or forsake me, I will always look ahead to find you leading the way. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

Saturday

By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me -- a prayer to the God of my life. Psalm 42:8

I have always loved music. To this day, songs help unlock the part of me that is most yielded to God. It helps me declare my love for him and my praise to him. But as the psalmist says, at night, especially on those nights when sleep is hard to come by, his song is with me.

O God of my life, thank you for music and song. Thank you for giving me so many good things to sing joyfully about. Thank you for hearing my heart when I sing, not just my words or just the song's melody. I long, dear Father, for the day I get to hear you sing. Until then, fill my life with your song. Through Jesus I ask it. Amen.

Sunday

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, give us all things?

Romans 8:32

If God gave up his Son to save me, what would he not give up to bless us and keep us! That's Paul's point. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, he tells us we are bought with a price to encourage us toward holiness. Here, he makes the same point, but to give us assurance. Isn't it amazing how the truth of God's grace contains such a multifaceted blessing.

Almighty God, I am overwhelmed at your sacrificial love offered to me in Jesus. Father, please use your Spirit to stir me to service in response to your grace and have this Comforter build my assurance of the salvation and blessings that you so long to give me. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.