

# Early Morning Devotions

Do you have eyes but fail to see,  
and ears but fail to hear?  
And don't you remember?

Mark 8:18

Dear God,  
I want to see and hear and remember you,  
your works and your teachings.  
I love you and I believe in the work of your Son, Jesus Christ  
Today I ask that you "help my unbelief."  
I am created in your image and saved by your grace, therefore  
change my heart  
make clear my duty  
strengthen my will  
build your kingdom,  
glorify your name  
I desire to live a life worthy of the calling I have received through grace.

## Life Verses

Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, "Come along now and sit down to eat"? Would he not rather say, "Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink"? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say: "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty."

Luke 17:17-20

For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better.

Philippians 1:21

... Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2

## LESSONS LEARNED

Lord, help me to live by the Spirit

Lord, help me to do the things I want to do, not that which I do not want to do

Lord, help me not to be a half way Christian--there is no prize for second place

Lord, help me to remember and focus on the good things in my life, not the bad

Lord, help me to keep you the strength of my Life

Lord, help me to me to make feelings like fear and guilt drive me towards you

Lord, help me to fill my life with good, in order that I might rid myself of the bad

Lord, help me to see the hurt person on the side of the road

Lord, help me to have discipline, so that I might know you more

Lord, help me to be responsible to the small things, so that I might be trusted with greater things

Lord, help me to pure and good motives for all that I do

Lord, help me to remember you at the start of everyday, so that I will never forget you

Lord, help me to take each day at a time, planning for the future, but living in the present, and in each day: to live every moment to the fullest which is to your glory

Lord, help me to know you intimately

Lord, help me to remember that I am a stranger, a citizen of a different kingdom

Lord, help me to remember that action is greater than words, and thought must come before both, and thought leaps from the heart

Lord, help me to have a humble heart, following the example of Jesus

Lord, help me to remember that I have two eyes and two ears and just one mouth

Lord, help me to have ears that understand and not just hear; to have eyes that perceive and not just see

Lord, help me not to forget the importance of living the example of Christ

Lord, help me to love my neighbor and pray for my enemies

Lord, help me to have self-control, because my integrity is a measure of my maturity in Christ

Lord, help me not to just have knowledge but to use it

Lord, help me to realize that in all my actions I either serve you or I deny you, for I cannot serve two masters

Lord, help me to show mercy to others, for I have been shown mercy, and will be judged according to the same measure that I use

Lord, help me to understand your personal mercy towards me

Lord, help me to remember that I serve you as an expression of thanks for your grace

Lord, help me to act in ways that reflect sensitivity to the feelings of others

Lord, help me to listen to others and give them the attention you give me

Lord, help me to do mighty works for your glory

Lord, help me to look for opportunities to encourage with a pure heart

Lord, help me to read your Word daily, because it does not change like the shifting shadows

Lord, help me to remember that your love for me is not based upon what I think or say or do; but because I am your creation

Lord, help me to remember that spiritual growth comes from your power, and without it, I cannot grow

Lord, help me to remember that when I sin I trample the cross; in this denial of the cross, I believe your love too small

Lord, help me to know that to lead, I must also follow

Lord, help me to submit to authority and to question with discernment

Lord, help me to love Misha as myself

Lord, help me to recognize distractions—especially the small ones—and to focus on Christ

Lord, help me to see people instead of dates, times, schedules, and tasks

Lord, help me to ask myself, "What would Jesus do?"

Lord, help me to live as filled with awe and wonder of you and your creation; to live with joy as one set free.

Lord, help me to remember you in all that I do, for you are in me; and in all that I do, I either honor your name, or dishonor it.

Lord, help me to confess my sins to you nightly; to admit my action, to acknowledge my fault, and to never do so again; for I do not want to trample the cross

Lord, help me to remember that image is all important (for we are your ambassadors) and that image must be grounded in reality

Lord, help me to be the last to speak my opinion; and to only do so for the benefit of others; cover my face, for few understand

Lord, help me to see the works of your hands, and the wonder of your deeds

Lord, help me to be more silent around others; so that my few words—which should be your words—might have greater impact

Lord, help me to see the needs of those you have entrusted into my care

Lord, help me to commit all of my work to you

Lord, help me with your peace that surpasses my understanding; with you, with myself, and with others

Lord, help me find the acts of service (great and small), give me the desire to do them—for the moment I put myself above servanthood, I deny the very essence of your commands

Lord, help me to remember that every decision is an excellent test, and it always results in either victory (truth remembered) or defeat (truth learned), both are reasons to rejoice

Lord, help me to be aware of other's perceptions--about me, about you, about truth--so that I might add to them according to your will

Lord, help me to act in constant love toward you, to live continually in your presence, aware of you, thinking of you in all things

Lord, help me to accept the criticisms of others without bitterness or biting replies

Lord, help me to argue only when it matters to you

Lord, help me to communicate with individuals with compassion and without arrogance

Lord, help me to know when I should be led by those I lead, remove my pride that I may follow

Lord, help me to connect deeply with a few people

Lord, help me to see the specific details of your work in others, so that I may encourage your growth in them

Lord, help me to love those whom are immature like children

Lord, help me to make the most of every opportunity, resource, and tools; conceding small victories for larger ones

Lord, help me to be more diplomatic, to be more careful and be less offensive

Lord, help me to pause and reflect and pray every time I feel misunderstood, so that I might learn new lessons

Lord, help me to be careful of who I trust and try to help, few are worthy or willing

Lord, help me to look past acts of foolishness or betrayal and keep focused on the greater prize

Lord, help me to remember, "this too shall pass"

Lord, help me to choose joy and prayer over anxiousness, to receive your transcendent peace which leads to a guarded heart, because all of these set the stage for gentleness.

## Having a Humble Opinion of Self

EVERY man naturally desires knowledge; but what good is knowledge without fear of God? Indeed a humble rustic who serves God is better than a proud intellectual who neglects his soul to study the course of the stars. He who knows himself well becomes mean in his own eyes and is not happy when praised by men. If I knew all things in the world and had not charity, what would it profit me before God Who will judge me by my deeds?

Shun too great a desire for knowledge, for in it there is much fretting and delusion. Intellectuals like to appear learned and to be called wise. Yet there are many things the knowledge of which does little or no good to the soul, and he who concerns himself about other things than those which lead to salvation is very unwise.

Many words do not satisfy the soul; but a good life eases the mind and a clean conscience inspires great trust in God. The more you know and the better you understand, the more severely will you be judged, unless your life is also the more holy. Do not be proud, therefore, because of your learning or skill. Rather, fear because of the talent given you. If you think you know many things and understand them well enough, realize at the same time that there is much you do not know. Hence, do not affect wisdom, but admit your ignorance. Why prefer yourself to anyone else when many are more learned, more cultured than you?

**If you wish to learn and appreciate something worthwhile, then love to be unknown and considered as nothing. Truly to know and despise self is the best and most perfect counsel. To think of oneself as nothing, and always to think well and highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom.** Wherefore, if you see another sin openly or commit a serious crime, do not consider yourself better, for you do not know how long you can remain in good estate. All men are frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself.

# Trustworthy Sayings

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Exodus 14:31

And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Leviticus 19:1-2

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'"

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Deuteronomy 4:39-40

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 28:63

Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.

Deuteronomy 29:18, 19, 20

Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison. When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way." This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. The LORD will never be willing to forgive him; his wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this book will fall upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.

Deuteronomy 30:15

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

Joshua 1:7-9

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

2 Samuel 12:27-28

Joab sent messengers to tell David, "I have fought against Rabbah and captured its water supply. Now bring the rest of the army and finish the job, so you will get credit for the victory instead of me."

Job 6:10

Then I would still have this consolation-- my joy in unrelenting pain-- that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.

Job 31:24, 25, 28

If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,' if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained, then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.

Psalms 4:4

In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

Psalms 31:5

Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

Psalms 32:7

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalms 33:11

But the plans of LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalms 51:15

O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalms 62:5-6

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 103:11-12

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 13:10

Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 13:20

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 14:10

Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:15

A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

Proverbs 14:29

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:28

The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Proverbs 16:2

All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 17:14

Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

Proverbs 18:17

The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.

Proverbs 18:19

An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

Proverbs 19: 2(NIV84)

It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.

Proverbs 19:2 (NIV)

Desire without knowledge is not good—how much more will hasty feet miss the way!

Proverbs 19:14

Parents can provide their sons with an inheritance of houses and wealth, but only the LORD can give an understanding wife.

Proverbs 20:27

The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.

Proverbs 21:30

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

Proverbs 26:4-5

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil-- this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8

Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother.

Ecclesiastes 4:10-13

Two are better than one, for they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 7:25

So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly.

Isaiah 1:31

The mighty man will become tinder and his work a spark; both will burn together, with no one to quench the fire.

Isaiah 28:13

So then, the word of the LORD to them will become: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there--so that they will go and fall backward, be injured and snared and captured.

Jeremiah 2:8

The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

Amos 3:7-8

Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared-- who will not fear? The Sovereign LORD has spoken-- who can but prophesy?

Amos 4:11

You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.

Amos 8:11

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

Jonah 4:2

I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

Habakkuk 1:2,5

How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? 'Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

Habakkuk 2:4

See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright  
but the righteous will live by his faith

Matthew 11:28-30

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

Matthew 5:3-16

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Luke 4:4, 8, 12

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone. '"

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only. '"

Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test. '"

Luke 17:10

So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty."

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 7:18

He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

Romans 4:7-8

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Galatians 5:25

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Philippians 2:5-13

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Titus 3:5,7

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:11

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

Hebrews 12:1-2

... Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

1 Peter 5:2-4

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

# PRAYERS

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time accepting hardship as a pathway to peace taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to your will so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

Dear God,  
Help me to remember the things you have taught me. Today, I live to bring you glory with every shred of my being. It is my hope that others may know you better as a result of my life.

My Friend:

I give you my heart, my anger,  
change me to be passionate.  
I give you my mind, my arrogance,  
change me to be confident.

Father:

Speak to me clearly,  
that I may hear.  
Strengthen me,  
that I may follow.

Lord, help me to live in your presence:

My thoughts are your thoughts,  
My steps are your steps,  
My words are your words.

Lord, help me:

to think before I act, and  
act before I speak.

Hunger is a friend,  
food is not my joy.

My God:

Here I am, in your hands,  
Change my heart, to reflect yours.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on me.