

MARY WHELCHER  
The Christian Working Woman

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*Workday  
Meditations*

A 31-Day Devotional







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Day 1

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### Work for Jesus

*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.*

Ephesians 6:7

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☞ Have you ever been “passed over” for a promotion or raise that you *knew* you deserved? It can be discouraging not to get credit for our contributions at work. And yet, these things happen all the time.

We live and work in a world that is neither fair nor kind. That’s because the world is full of people who have a sin problem, including us! And that sin problem creates injustice of all sorts.

Injustice is one of my toughest hurdles. I always want to fight when I think my rights or someone else’s rights are being violated. As you can imagine, this tendency has gotten me into some hot water and created not a few problems in my work life. I have to remind myself continually that *if* I serve wholeheartedly as unto the Lord, the recognitions and rewards will come in due time.

As Christians, we pick up our paychecks at our place of work, but our real job is pleasing the

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Lord and working for him. Our reward is waiting for us in heaven—but we can reap the benefits now, too. Just imagine how your stress level will drop as thoughts of vengeance and discontent are replaced with calm satisfaction over a job well done! 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To remember all day long that I report to Jesus, and he will reward “his good and faithful servants.”

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I work for you today, and regardless of what happens, I want to stay focused on the rewards you have for me for doing good work. Please give me the self-control I need to handle the injustice and unfairness in my workplace without becoming bitter or angry.

Day 2

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## Appreciate the Way God Made You

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.*

Psalm 139:14

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☞ You are wonderful because you are a work of God, and all God's works are wonderful. God fashioned you in your mother's womb, and he knew you before you were born; your days were planned for you before any of them ever were. You can be secure and content in who you are, because God's hands made and formed you, and God doesn't make mistakes.

There is wonderful freedom in accepting who we are. Freedom from having to live up to other's expectations—or even our own. Freedom from having to be like others or compete with others. Freedom from the need to prove to the world that we are someone special, because we already know we're someone special to God. It really takes the monkey off our backs!

When you are not happy with who you are, you inflict great suffering on yourself. It causes you to be envious of others, to resent the success of others, to fight to get ahead of others, to be dependent on the approval of others. All kinds of problems arise when you cannot accept and appreciate who you are.

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Have you come to that place yet where you can truly say, "I like the way God has created me"? Oh, I hope so. It is not being proud to appreciate God's handiwork in you. Rather it brings glory to God, just as when you appreciate a work of art you bring honor to the artist. 🌀

### **Today's Challenge**

To appreciate the way God has created me, knowing that all his works are wonderful.

### **Today's Prayer**

I want to thank you for your creativity in me. You created me from the inside out, knitting me together in my mother's womb, and I praise you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Forgive me for the times I've been so dissatisfied with the way you made me. Please keep me from comparing myself with others, and help me learn that when I appreciate your works, I also appreciate myself.

Day 3

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### Motivating Words

*The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.*

Proverbs 16:21

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☞ Are you responsible to train someone on your job? Whether you're a manager, a trainer, or an experienced co-worker, you're likely to have some training assignments, formal or informal. There are also those occasions when you must require certain performance or behavior from your employees or co-workers. How can we motivate and inspire others to do what has to be done?

Solomon advises us to use pleasant words. We still catch more flies with honey than vinegar, as they say. It's amazing how differently people react to the same message given in different words. I can say, "I have a suggestion. . .", or "You've got to do this right away. . .", each followed by my instructions. Which words do you think would be more pleasant?

The New American Standard Bible has a slightly different translation of this verse from Proverbs 16: *The wise in heart will be called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.* Sweetness of speech is the art of making your words easy to swallow. It is not

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hypocrisy or phoniness; it is the wisdom of thinking ahead and choosing words that create a positive rather than a negative reaction.

As a Christian manager or trainer or fellow employee, remember that your choice of words can make all the difference in whether people want to follow you or not. Increase your persuasiveness and effectiveness today by choosing pleasant words that go down easy. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To give instructions and directions in the most pleasant and motivating way possible.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, as I undertake to instruct, train and direct others today, please give me the wisdom to choose words that will motivate and encourage. Teach me how to persuade through pleasant and easy-to-handle speech.

Day 4

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### Your Work Reveals Your Character

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.*

Psalm 19:1-2

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☞ Did you ever realize that your work tells what kind of person you are? The Bible tells us that the works of God reveal to us what kind of God he is. The beauty of his creation, the majesty and grandeur of his universe give us a clear view of his character and his personality.

That's true of us, as well. Now that's a little scary, when you think about it. Just suppose someone who doesn't know you at all was asked to write a description of you based upon an audit and inspection of your work. What would that audit reveal?

Are you careful to do your work with thoroughness, or would your work reveal a careless attitude? Does your work show that you are considerate of the person at the receiving end or at the next stage of your work? Or would the inspector conclude that you're in a hurry to get through and get going, because your work is sloppy?

When your work involves dealing with other people, would it reveal an attitude of respect and concern for others? Do you think the inspector would

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conclude that you care about other people, and you treat everyone with respect? Or would it reveal that you are callous toward other people, that you can't be bothered to be kind and considerate?

As I look at the work of God's hands, I know so much about his loving, caring nature. I see all around me evidence that he is a merciful and bountiful God, a God who wants to bestow blessings and goodness on me. His work reveals his character to me.

Our work reveals our character as well. At the end of each day we need to ask ourselves what kind of impression our work has left behind us. Think about the week that is just behind you. Would you be pleased to have someone describe you based on the work you've done this last week? It's a good question we need to ask ourselves frequently. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To do my every day work in such a manner that it exemplifies the character of Jesus Christ.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, help me to remember all day long that how I do my work does indeed matter to you. And how I do my work speaks volumes to those around me. May my work be pleasing in your sight today, O Lord.

Day 5

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### Working with Total Integrity

*The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*

Proverbs 10:9

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☞ Have you ever been faced with an ethical decision on your job? Were you ever tempted to adjust those figures a bit to make yourself look better? Or cut a corner here and there on the expense account for a few extra bucks in your pocket? Or lie to your boss to avoid blame for a problem?

Maybe you've been asked or urged or told to do something unethical. Like lying about your boss's availability, or your product's capability, or your company's service. The ethical decision you face is a simple one; it's not difficult to figure out what is the right thing to do. But it may not be easy for you to make that decision because you may indeed put yourself or your job at some risk.

Remember what Solomon taught us: When you walk in integrity, doing what you know is the right thing to do whether it's easy or not, your path is secure. You're on solid ground. You don't have to lie awake at night wondering if you'll be found out. You will walk securely.

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On the other hand, if you take the crooked path, no matter how inconsequential it may seem, you compromise your integrity and risk your testimony for Jesus Christ. You put yourself on a crooked path, and eventually it will be found out. Even when no one else is watching, God knows. 🌀

**Today's Challenge**

To make every workday one of integrity, even if my career is jeopardized.

**Today's Prayer**

Lord, whatever issues or decisions are placed before me, I want to choose the right path. I don't want to make decisions based on the consequences, but based on what you would want me to do. Please enable me to have the highest level of integrity in all I do this day.

Day 6

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### Are You Tired?

*Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall.*

Isaiah 40:30

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☞ Jesus was often tired while he was here on earth. You remember when he went sound to sleep on the boat and a terrible storm didn't awaken him? He was tired. We read in John 4 that he was tired from a long journey. I think there is abundant evidence that he frequently grew tired and weary from dealing with people. You can hear the exhaustion in his voice when he says, "*O unbelieving and perverse generation, how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you?*" Matthew. 17:17.

We can know that Jesus understands our tired bodies and minds, because he experienced all of that while he took the form of man here on earth. He sympathizes with our weaknesses and the limitations we face. Just knowing that helps me a lot.

Do you remember how exhausted Elijah was after his victorious encounter with Baal, where he performed mighty miracles of God and defeated the enemies? He was so tired, he wanted to die. You should expect to be tired and weary after a spiritual high. Maybe God has been using you in an unusual

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way, and you've seen God's blessings on your life. Remember after those times to expect to feel weary.

So, it's okay to be tired. But we have to determine if we're tired for the wrong reasons. Have you been trying to be all things to all people lately? That's exhausting—and you can never succeed. Perhaps you've taken on jobs God never intended you to do, and you're tired from trying to do too much. Maybe you're trying to do everything to total perfection. Perfectionists are usually very tired people.

You may be tired because you've got your priorities confused. There's always time to do God's will, but when we try to do more than God has given us to do, then we get into exhaustion and burnout. 🌀

### **Today's Challenge**

To examine why I am tired and ask myself if it's normal, to-be-expected tiredness that will go away with some needed rest, or if it's because I have my priorities confused.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I know that you understand tired bodies, and I know that sometimes being tired is inevitable and necessary. But please help me to avoid doing things that create unnecessary fatigue and keep me exhausted. Help me to see where my priorities are misplaced.

Day 7

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### When a Co-worker Tries to Make You Look Bad

*Let your conversation be always full of  
grace, seasoned with salt, so that you  
may know how to answer everyone*

Colossians 4:6

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☞ Have you ever worked with a person who tried to make you look bad and undermined your position with the boss, in order to make himself or herself look better? How should a Christian react and respond in this predicament?

Of course, we always start with prayer—lots of prayer for this person, as well as for wisdom and understanding. Prayer really helps us gain God's perspective, and without that perspective, our reactions are bound to be less than Christ-like.

Next, find a way to communicate openly with this person, to confront his or her behavior. Obviously, you will need to tailor your approach to fit the circumstances of your own situation, but a few things are important to remember.

Have you ever noticed that Jesus frequently confronted people over a meal? There's something about sharing a meal together which presents a good environment for touchy discussions. Invite this person

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to lunch or dinner, your treat, and see if you can open up the communication channels.

Remember that your choice of words is most critical. Give those words much thought and prayer. If you start by saying, "You know, I'm really sick and tired of the way you always try to make me look bad so you'll look good," you're not likely to have much success. However, you might promote a good communication session if you say, "You know, I think we both recognize the value of a pleasant working environment, and I want to do whatever I can to make that happen. I have sensed some difficulty in our working relationship, and I thought it might be helpful to just talk about it and see if we could find some common understanding that would alleviate that tension."

Finally, remember that you don't have to cover everything in one conversation. Be willing to take baby steps, and allow time to help. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To season your words of confrontation and communication with grace so that you will be successful to dealing with difficult people.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, show me if and when I need to confront someone about their unacceptable behavior or attitude. Give me grace to do it in a kind way.

Day 8

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## Overcoming Fears of the Future

*And my God will meet all your needs according  
to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19

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☞ Many people are dealing with the harsh reality of layoffs and “rightsizing.” Has it happened to you? Perhaps you’re facing the possibility of accepting a position with less pay, or losing that overtime money, or doing without that big bonus you were counting on.

This is a good time to check out what and who you really trust. Employment and financial insecurity can quickly reveal some hidden fears within us. Losing that security—or even just having it threatened—can make us see how much we’ve depended on ourselves instead of our God.

There have been nights that I’ve lain in my bed, sleepless, wondering where the money was coming from to meet my needs. Those were faithless nights of panic and worry. I’m learning to go back to the basics of this wonderful verse and remind myself that God has committed himself to take care of me and meet all of my needs. His riches in Christ Jesus are beyond measure and overflowing. Therefore, I can—and must—learn to trust him.

If you're facing job or money insecurity today, ask God to make this a time when you learn to trust him in new ways. You may discover that this can be an incredibly meaningful time of learning to trust God. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To keep my mind focused on God's promise to take care of me and not allow the fears of the future to overtake me.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, you have promised to meet all my needs, and I know that you keep your promises. Therefore, I choose to trust you today, regardless of my circumstances. When insecurity begins to take over my mind, please help me to go back to this wonderful promise of your care and once again, put my trust in you.

Day 9

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## Accepting Change as Opportunity for Growth

*I can do everything through  
him who gives me strength.*

Philippians 4:13

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☞ A woman came to work for me who had never touched a computer. After forty years in the workplace, she was now faced with the challenge of learning to use a computer. I learned later that she was frightened about the prospects of learning this new technology, but she determined in her heart that she wouldn't let a computer defeat her, and claimed the promise that she could do all things through him who gave her strength. She was convinced Christ would give her the ability to learn to use a computer. And she did!

CHANGE! We don't like it, do we? But in order to thrive in any work environment today, we need to be adaptable. This wonderful promise from Philippians is a great one to hold on to when you're facing an uncomfortable challenge.

Don't be afraid of change. Remember that you can only grow by changing, so the change you're facing could be a hidden blessing. You can trust God to give you the strength, the knowledge, the aptitude,

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the patience, and the attitude you need to make that needed change. 🌿

**Today's Challenge**

To accept change as an opportunity for growth and not be frightened or intimidated by it.

**Today's Prayer**

Lord, I find that I have a knee-jerk reaction to change and see it as a threat. Please help me to remember that you can give me the strength to change when that change is right. Help me to have a healthy attitude toward change instead of fearing it as I sometimes do.

Day 10

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### Avoiding Gloating

*Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice.*

Proverbs 24:17

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☞ There was a time in my career when I worked for a very difficult man. I spent many unhappy days in that job because of the way he treated me and others. After about a year God revealed to me that I had great malice in my heart toward him.

I certainly had never thought of myself as a malicious person, but there it was all over my heart: dirty, ugly malice. I wanted bad things to happen to him. I dreamed about him making some gigantic mistake and being fired. I wished and hoped he would get his “comeuppance.” That is malice.

Years later after we had both left that company I heard of some stumbles he had made. I guess you could say he got what was coming to him. What goes around comes around, and all that. But, by God’s grace, I had gotten rid of that malice toward him, and I was very saddened to hear that things were not going well for him. It brought no satisfaction or joy to learn that he had stumbled.

We should never gloat over someone else’s misfortune, even if they brought it on themselves.

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First Corinthians 13 reminds us that *love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth* 1 Corinthians 13:6. Dig deep in your heart today and see if there is any malice hiding there. If so, get it cleaned out fast and let God's love fill your heart instead. 🌿

**Today's Challenge**

To be aware of any attitude of gloating over someone else's troubles, or wishing they would get what's coming to them.

**Today's Prayer**

Lord, please reveal to me any attitude of malice or gloating that you see in me. Keep me from rejoicing in evil, but rather give me a concerned heart for anyone who has stumbled.

Day 11

### Suffering with a Clear Conscience

*Keep a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

1 Peter 3:16-17

☞ Have you ever suffered in the workplace for doing good? A friend of mine once refused to falsify some government reports as instructed by his employer and as a result, he lost his job. He was unemployed for quite a few months before finding another job and that caused his family a financial hardship. He suffered for doing good.

I think of another woman who was caught cheating on the books where she worked. She had actually filtered money for herself and it eventually caught up with her. She lost her job, too, but she suffered for doing evil.

Suffering is never enjoyable, whether you're suffering for doing good or doing evil. But there is a great reward for those who do God's will, who do the right thing regardless of the personal cost, and suffer for doing so. Peter goes on to tell us, "*So, then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good*" 1 Peter 4:19.



So, if you're suffering slander or malicious treatment on your job, make sure it's for doing good not evil. And if you are suffering for doing good, take joy that you are counted worthy to share in the suffering of Christ, and “continue to do good” regardless of the consequences. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To do the right thing and always follow God's principles on my job, even if it brings some suffering into my life.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, please give me the courage to be willing to suffer for doing good if that ever becomes necessary. I don't like to suffer and my natural instincts cause me to try to avoid suffering. But I recognize that suffering for doing good is sometimes necessary and so, if I'm going to suffer, by your grace I want to suffer for doing good not evil. Please help me.

Day 12

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## Impose Discipline

*He who ignores discipline despises himself, but  
whoever heeds correction gains understanding.*

Proverbs 15:32

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☞ I find myself trapped in this human dilemma: I have a strong drive to accomplish and achieve, but I am not a naturally disciplined person. I am learning a very important lesson: Lack of discipline is self-inflicted suffering! If I refuse to impose discipline on myself, I will inflict suffering on myself.

What I've also learned is that when I start to lose discipline in one area of my life, it spills over to others. For example, if I let down my discipline and eat all kinds of things today that I know I shouldn't eat, I'm likely to skip the exercise program in the morning, because I'll think, "Well, what's the use of exercising after you ate all that pie yesterday!"

Where is your discipline weak? Is it eating habits, exercise, organization, time management, laziness or procrastination? Choose one—just one—and begin a prayer campaign. Admit to God your weakness when it comes to discipline in that area and ask for strength.

Then design some gimmicks or structures that force the discipline on you. Ask for help; tell people

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what you're going to do so you can be held accountable. That will help to impose that discipline. Then, just do it! Start today! You're going to discover that adding discipline to your life is indeed the road to real life. You'll get rid of guilt, feel good about yourself, and know that you're using your gifts, time and energy as God wants you to.

To acquire a disciplined life, you will have to pay a price. But it's a big bargain. Go for it! 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To choose one area of my life where I need more discipline, and begin a campaign to acquire the needed discipline.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, in this area of \_\_\_\_\_  
I need to be more disciplined. Please help me every day to impose this discipline in my life so that I am no longer a victim of my own lack of discipline, and my life brings glory to you.

Day 13

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### Gaining an Eternal Perspective

*However, as it is written, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."*

1 Corinthians 2:9

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🌀 A young boy was reading a thrilling mystery book when his mom insisted he put the book down and do his chores. "But, mom, I'm in the fourth chapter and the villain has the hero in his clutches. Looks like he's going to die! I can't quit now." But mom insisted so hurriedly he flips to the last chapter and reads the final page. He then bounds into the kitchen where his mother is waiting and says, "Wow, that old villain is doing real good in Chapter 4, but just wait till he gets to the end of the book. Is he in for a surprise." It looked like disaster in Chapter 4, but when you know the end, then Chapter 4 takes on a whole new perspective.

You go to a job where God is irrelevant to the people around you. Where his name is used only in profanity, and they seemingly give no thought to God as Creator, Ruler, or Sovereign. You're in a daily environment where a commitment to Jesus Christ is looked upon as foolish, naive, laughable. When you apply biblical principles in your everyday world,

people take advantage of you, ignore you, or discount your ideas altogether.

You're walking the straight and narrow, but what for? Where does it get you? The other team does what they please, and get ahead for it.

I want to encourage you to remember one thing: The final chapter has been written, and we know what the end will be. Maybe you're in Chapter 4 today, and you need to flip to the end and read the last page. It's already been written, and I can tell you the outcome: Jesus wins and those of us who are his followers will win and reign with him. Read Revelations 20, 21, and 22 today.

Remember, God has not lost control of this world. He is bringing it to its end in his time and for his purposes. He is Sovereign and he still reigns in heaven. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To remember the last chapter, as I head into a world where it may appear that the score is unevenly in favor of the world's crowd, and not let Chapter 4 get me down.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, give me the ability today to remember that you are still in charge and even though it looks like evil wins, someday every knee will bow and every tongue confess that you are Lord. Help me not to forget the end of the story as I go through my day today.

Day 14

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### Trivialities of Life

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving  
thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

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☞ For a Christian, I think the best definition of a triviality is anything that has no eternal significance. Now, there's no way to completely rid our lives of trivialities. We have to brush our teeth and make coffee, chit-chat with friends and co-workers, get the mail and take the clothes to the cleaners, for example. They are trivial, but they are a large part of our everyday lives.

However, some people are tormented by trivialities. They fret and fuss about those things which have no eternal significance, and are easily upset if something trivial goes wrong.

If the trivialities of life get to you too easily, ask God to make you aware of what is trivial and what is not. When I catch myself becoming upset or consumed by some triviality, I ask myself, "Mary, what difference will this make in twenty-four hours?" I find that a great majority of those trivialities which are tormenting me at the moment won't make a bit of difference tomorrow. This really helps me to

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recognize trivialities quickly so I can laugh at them, turn them over to the Lord and forget them.

As believers we have the unbelievable ability to turn trivialities into eternal happenings. How? Use those short conversations to give someone a pat on the shoulder, a word of encouragement, a small compliment. While you're doing those trivial duties, sing songs to encourage yourself, memorize Scripture, listen to good music. When you're driving along with your family, turn the conversation to wholesome and encouraging topics. These kinds of things transform otherwise trivial, insignificant moments and duties into eternally significant moments. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To turn the trivialities of your life into opportunities for encouragement, for growth, for things eternally significant.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, help me to remember today that I can turn the trivialities of my life into things of eternal value by doing everything for your glory. Help me not to get so caught up in these trivialities that I lose sight of what is important.

Day 15

### A Critical Heart

*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

Matthew 7:1-2

☞ I'm pretty quick with the criticism. I can size people up before they open their mouths. And yet, I always want people to give me a break. *Can't you understand that I'm busy, and that's why I didn't speak to you? Don't you see how tired I am and that's why I seemed abrupt? Surely you realize that I have an appointment in ten minutes and I can't be late?*

Jesus has given us some very practical and important directives about being critical and judgmental. If we want people to give us a break and not judge our book by its cover or jump to unfair conclusions, we've got to do the same for them.

Often we judge people by their bad moments and then we keep that image of their bad moment with us at all times. Think about your rushed days and bad moments—would you want your reputation to be damaged because someone saw you at a bad time and kept that impression of you uppermost in his or her mind?

If we want others to be kind in their judgments of us, to give us a break, then we must



extend the same privilege to them. A judgmental, critical spirit is anything but Christ-like. Hold your critical thoughts and tongue today; tell yourself you probably don't know the whole story; choose instead to think of some positive things about that person. Remember, every time you choose to judge someone else, you are heaping judgment on yourself. 🌿

**Today's Challenge**

To be a non-judgmental person instead of criticizing and finding fault in others so easily.

**Today's Prayer**

Lord, I know that my heart needs to abandon its tendencies to criticize, blame and judge others; more often than not, my judgment is not accurate. Help me to become a loving person, and teach me to look for the positive in other people.

Day 16

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## Clearing Your Conscience

*So I strive always to keep my conscience  
clear before God and man.*

Acts 24:16

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☞ In speaking before Felix the governor, Paul was able to honestly say that he always tried to keep his conscience clear before God and man. Having a clear conscience is the best stress reducer you'll ever find.

I lived ten years of my business life away from God, doing my own thing, with a deteriorating lifestyle that did not bring glory to God. For ten years I had a heavy conscience. When finally I came to the end of my own rope and gave my life back to God in complete surrender, I was amazed to see how wonderful life was with a clear conscience.

I had actually forgotten what it was like to be able to think about what you had done the past day or week or month and have no heavy conscience about it. I had forgotten how sweet it was to go to bed at night with no regrets. I had forgotten the freedom of knowing there was nothing that could be found out about me to embarrass me or shame me.

If you've been living with something on your conscience, you may have forgotten how wonderful it is to have a clear conscience. Let me urge you to do

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whatever you have to do to keep that clear conscience before God, and then of course you'll have a clear conscience before people as well. When you don't lie, you don't have to worry about covering up. When you do your work well, you don't have to worry about getting caught. When you're true and loyal to your relationships, you don't have to worry about being found out.

What do you need to do today to have a clear conscience before God and man? Don't delay whatever it is. You're in for great stress relief and new joy when you do. 🌀

### **Today's Challenge**

To search my heart for any area where my conscience is convicting me and to immediately do what is necessary to clear my conscience.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I'm aware that I've had \_\_\_\_\_ on my conscience and it needs to be cleared. Show me exactly what I should do to clear this off my conscience, and then give me the courage to do it, no matter what it takes.

Day 17

### Inquire of the Lord

*The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.*

Joshua 9:14-15

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☞ This passage reveals a fatal mistake made by the children of Israel. Joshua and his people were doing very well, and all the neighboring countries were frightened of them because of their victories and the power they had from the Lord.

One of their neighbors, the Gibeonites, decided to trick Joshua into a peace treaty. So they made themselves look tired and dirty, like they had traveled a long way, and came to Joshua asking for a treaty. Here was a business transaction facing the Israelites. The men of Israel looked at the outward evidence, decided it looked like a good deal to them, and signed the bottom line.

They found out later that they had been deceived. The facts were not as they appeared to be, and they had made a strategic mistake. Why? Because they trusted in their eyes and their minds, and did not inquire of the Lord.

There are times we don't think we need to consult the Lord; it's just a cut and dry situation, in our

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view. So we make decisions in our own strength, based on our human reasoning, and that gets us in trouble.

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us, “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart **and lean not on your own understanding**; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*” Leaning on our own understanding is the norm especially in the business world. But, as Christians, we should take all our decisions to the Lord and ask for his wisdom. Sometimes our own understanding is very shortsighted and incomplete. We need the eternal wisdom of our Savior; we need to inquire of the Lord. ☞

### **Today’s Challenge**

To remember to inquire of the Lord in any decision I face, and not to lean solely on my own understanding.

### **Today’s Prayer**

Lord, please keep me from arrogantly forging ahead on my own without inquiring of you today. Help me to remember that in every decision, every situation, I need your help and wisdom. I don’t want to make the mistake of trying to run in my own strength.

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## Dead-End Job: Preparation for the Future

*For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
it speaks of the end and will not prove  
false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will  
certainly come and will not delay.*

Habakkuk 2:3

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☞ God put David in the fields taking care of the sheep. In that most unlikely place, God taught David some wonderful skills—one of which was how to kill a lion and a bear. As a shepherd, David had plenty of time to perfect his skill as a marksman. He worked with that slingshot until he was an expert, in that seemingly unimportant, going-no-place job of taking care of dumb sheep!

I look back on my life and realize that in those quiet times of my life, when it looked like nothing was happening, I was learning skills and doing things which have equipped me to do what God has for me to do now. God is so efficient, and he knows how to prepare us for the job ahead.

David didn't know, when he was tending sheep, that God was preparing him to be king. He had no idea. But he did that job well, and while he was doing it, God was quietly training him for great things. His skill with a slingshot enabled him to kill Goliath, which started a chain of events that eventually

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elevated him to the throne. His future as king began in those lonely fields, shooting stones from a slingshot day in and day out.

If you're in the training fields right now, don't blow that opportunity to develop your own gifts. You never know what God has planned for you just around the corner. 🌿

#### **Today's Challenge**

To be patient in my job, realizing that God may be preparing me for something greater through my experience in this current job.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I know that I can trust your timing in my life. And I know that you never waste anything, so I believe that even in my present job, you are working something out for my good. Though I can't see what that is now, I thank you for it, and ask for patience to wait for it.

Day 19

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## Responding with Gentle Words

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

Proverbs 15:1

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☞ Do you ever have to deal with customers who are demanding and unkind? Or co-workers who just love to argue? Or managers who bark orders instead of issuing instructions? Harsh words definitely stir up my anger, and I imagine they have a similar effect on you.

There are moments that test our self-control. If we allow anger directed at us to control our response, we will have allowed a rude person to pull us down to his or her level. That means, of course, that he or she wins, even though he or she was wrong and we were right! It doesn't seem fair, but that's how it works.

Offering a gentle answer, however, has the same effect as a slow leak in a balloon. Just as the air gradually leaking from a balloon prevents a sudden loud pop, so a gentle word turns aside the force of an angry word.

Gentle answers often begin with empathetic statements such as: "I can understand how you feel," . . . "Well, it's no wonder you're upset," . . . or "There's obviously been a misunderstanding; let me see what

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I can do.” But sometimes you may need to be more creative in finding a “gentle answer.” It may involve changing the subject, or ignoring the harsh words and trying to help that person instead.

Gentle answers let others off the hook. Gentle answers relinquish the desire to strike back. Gentle answers accept some blame, regardless of who’s right. Keep your words gentle and kind. Not only does this work well in defusing a difficult encounter, but it also saves you a lot of time and energy. 🌿

### **Today’s Challenge**

To avoid reacting to harsh, unkind words in like fashion, giving a gentle, reasoned response instead.

### **Today’s Prayer**

Lord, if today I encounter harsh words, whether from customers, co-workers, managers, friends, or family, please give me quick control of my tongue so that I do not react in an angry way, even though I may feel angry. Please give me the grace to use words that are gentle, words that will calm and defuse rather than add fuel to the fire.

Day 20

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### Giving Jesus Complete Control

*When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"*

Luke 5:8

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🐟 When Jesus gave Peter a lesson in fishing, Peter learned a lot more than how to increase his fishing productivity. Jesus intervened in Peter's business dilemma and gave him instructions on how he could catch fish, even though Jesus' methods were unorthodox, even though Peter didn't think it would work. Jesus knew what he was talking about, and Peter caught so many fish that his nets almost broke.

It's interesting to note Peter's response when he sees all the fish in the net. He responded in humility because he knew his own heart, and he had not fished by faith. He never believed for a minute that he would catch even one fish. So, when the nets started to fill up, Peter was again reminded that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth—and of fish!

And as he is reminded of who Jesus is, he sees his own faithless, arrogant heart and knows his unworthiness to even be in the presence of Jesus Christ. Notice that the result of this experience for Peter is: First, he had success. Second, he understood Jesus better. Third, he saw himself more clearly.

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Jesus longs for us to allow him to be a part of every area of our lives, to invite his control over the mundane, the everyday, the business matters of our lives, where we have in the past just tried to do everything ourselves.

And as we learn to do that more and more, not only will we find that we're more successful at what we do, but more importantly, we'll become better and better acquainted with Jesus, his power, his authority, and his concern for our needs. And as we know him better, we'll become more and more humble, recognizing how powerless we are and how much we need him. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To allow Jesus to be a part of every area of your life today and invite his control over everything you do.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I often try to do my daily tasks in my own strength. Help me today to invite, yes, even insist on your control in every area of my life. Remind me to turn to you for wisdom, guidance and strength in all I do today.

Day 21

### Becoming Gentle and Assertive

*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

1 Peter 3:3-4

☞ This gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth to God, is not intended to be limited to women only. We know that because the same words were used by our Lord to describe his own spirit. In Matthew 11:29 he said: "*Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your soul.*" The words in these two passages are the same.

Frequently Jesus treated people with gentleness and compassion when others were condemning and intolerant. For example, the woman taken in adultery, the Samaritan woman he found at the well, and Zacchaeus the hated tax collector. It takes more strength to be gentle and quiet than it does to always say what we think. Gentleness is much more demanding and requires greater discipline and self-control.

But please keep in mind, Jesus' gentleness did not prevent him from being assertive. Jesus was often

bold and assertive in his words and in his actions. For one example, think of how he threw the money-changers out of the temple, when they were misusing God's house for their own personal gain.

Gentleness and assertiveness can comfortably coexist in the same person. What we have to do is pray for wisdom to know when to use a gentle approach and when to be more verbally assertive. Jesus had that kind of wisdom and since we have his Spirit in us, and we have the mind of Christ when we are born from above, we can confidently ask for his wisdom in these kinds of situations.

Gentle and assertive. It's a wonderful combination. Ask for it; it can be yours when you are a daughter of the King. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To have that gentle spirit which is of great value to God, and at the same time know when and how to be appropriately assertive.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I'm so thankful that you have not left me here to live the Christian life on my own because I could never do it. I thank you that your Spirit lives in me and you have promised to give me wisdom. Therefore, I pray that you will spread your gentle and quiet spirit in me, at the same time giving me courage and guidance to be assertive when I should be.

Day 22

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### Limping Along

*So tighten your loosening grip and steady your wavering stand. Don't wander away from the path but forge steadily onward. On the right path the limping foot recovers strength and does not collapse.*

Hebrews 12:12-13, Phillips Translation

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☞ Are you limping along today, spiritually speaking? Does it seem like God is far away, and that your prayer time is unrewarding and dead? Does your mind wander when you read the Bible, and do the words run together on the page? Does it seem like a dry history book rather than a love letter to you from the Lord? Has your desire to be involved in ministry grown cold, and are you going through the motions out of a sense of duty?

If so, you've got a spiritual limp. We all get them, and we need to be prepared to deal with them. Most of us want to leave the race when we start limping, don't we? We figure we just can't keep going, so we give up and sit on the sidelines or start down another path which looks a little easier. But that's not how we should deal with a spiritual limp.

Tightening your grip and staying on the right path, regardless of how you feel or whether you are getting results, require discipline. The first verse of

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that 12th chapter of Hebrews tells us we must run with endurance the race marked out for us. We may even run the race with a limp, but we must not sit down or get sidetracked.

Let me encourage you today to keep running in the right race, even though you're limping along. If you'll keep doing what you know you should do, even without feelings or visible results, your limping foot will recover, and pretty soon you'll be running strong again. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To avoid the natural tendency to quit when there is a “limp” in my spiritual walk with God.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, teach me this very important principle of not giving into my emotions when there is a “limp” in my walk, but rather to stay on the right path until I find healing.

Day 23

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**“Zero-Budgeting” Our Lives  
to Fit God’s Plans**

*I have brought you glory on earth by  
completing the work you gave me to do.*

John 17:4

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☞ In business and in government we hear the term "zero-budgeting," a process that starts each yearly budget at zero. Everything in the budget is up for scrutiny and reconsideration; each budget item must be justified. For example, if you had a budget last year for travel, you may or may not have it next year. Before the money will be approved, you must demonstrate a need for it.

At the end of his ministry, Jesus was able to say that he had completed the work the Father gave him to do. That's because his agenda was always the Father's agenda. Time and again he said "I do what the Father tells me to do."

For us to be able to finish the work God has for us to do, we need to start at point zero and say, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" We also need to ask ourselves some penetrating questions, such as:

- Is there anything I have said that I would never do? Is that my agenda, or God's?



- Are there any areas in my life where I keep saying, "Hands off—don't touch this, God"?
- What assumptions do I have about what God wants me to do, or not to do? Are those assumptions from God, or are they my own?

Zero-budgeting may lead us to some radical changes, or it may confirm for us that we're to stay where we are, doing what we're doing. But when we give God permission to set the agenda, then we have tremendous peace and freedom and we can say with Jesus, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To be willing to do zero-budgeting in my relationship with the Lord and give him permission to have control and make changes wherever he pleases.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I want you to know that I truly desire to do the work you have given me to do, not to run my own agenda. Please show me where I need to do some zero-budgeting in my life and give me the strength to truly turn all controls over to you.

Day 24

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### The Power of “I’m Sorry”

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9

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☞ A good friend of mine told me that the biggest difference between her and her co-workers who are not Christians is that she apologizes a lot more than they do! She struggles with things in her life, just like you and I do. But she is willing to say, “I’m sorry,” and God is changing her day by day. I’m convinced her apologies are witnesses to the power of Jesus.

Have you recently lost your temper with a co-worker, told a lie to your manager, or deceived a customer in some way? If so, your conscience probably hasn’t stopped bothering you, and that’s good. When our own sin doesn’t bother us, we are in a very dangerous position. A prickling conscience is one way God prompts you to take advantage of his offer to forgive you and purify you; all you have to do is confess.

Maybe you’re wondering how you could ever be a witness for Jesus since you know you’ve failed and others know you’ve failed and what’s more, you may fail again. But everybody struggles with failure, and those who are not Christians have no good way to

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deal with the guilt that often accompanies failure. One of the best ways to witness is to own up to our own failures, make restitution where necessary, and share that God is a forgiving and restoring God.

I can remember when God used a specific failure on my part to help a struggling Christian co-worker understand that God would forgive and restore him when he failed. I really blew it in front of him, and I didn't want to go back in that office. But God clearly told me to go back and be very honest about my failure, which is what I did.

Obviously it would have been better not to fail, but isn't it great that God uses even our shortcomings? Don't let some failure or fear of failure keep you from being a bold witness for Jesus. Remember, he can turn your ashes into beauty, if you will let him. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To recognize that even my failures can be an avenue of blessing and witness for the Lord.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I've often been hamstrung by my fear of failure and the knowledge of my past failures. Would you please help me to understand that you specialize in taking even my blunders and turning them into instruments of praise?

Day 25

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### Become an Encourager

*Encourage the exhausted and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not."*

Isaiah 35:3-4

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☞ Have you noticed that discouragement seems to be at epidemic levels? Most working environments are flooded with discouragement, and many times our homes are full of discouraging words.

As Christians, being an encourager is not an option, it's a directive. Christians should be people who strengthen the feeble and exhausted with encouraging words.

Can you think of someone in the feeble and/or exhausted category right now? Maybe it's a co-worker or your manager. They may put on a face that says, "I have it all together and I don't need anyone." But don't let that fool you. Just like you and me, they need to hear encouraging words, words of hope and cheer—and they need to hear them from you.

We also need to encourage people who have failed. Barnabas was that kind of an encourager. When Mark had failed and the Apostle Paul didn't want to give him another chance, Barnabas insisted on allowing Mark to travel with them. So, when they

could not agree, Paul went one way with Silas, and Barnabas and Mark went another way.

Later on Paul asks Timothy to get Mark and bring him for "Mark is useful to me for service." You don't have to fill in too many blanks to see what happened. Barnabas had taken Mark, taught him, encouraged him, and Mark had become a profitable servant of Jesus Christ. Obviously, Paul recognized this, too, and I imagine Paul learned a valuable lesson from Barnabas. It is really important to encourage people at times of failure.

If you know someone who is struggling with failure, encourage them. They need to know that all is not lost and that they can go forward from where they are. 🌀

### **Today's Challenge**

To encourage at least one feeble and exhausted person today.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, sometimes I get so wrapped up in my own world and my own problems that I forget to be an encourager. Please help me to see those around me today who need a word of encouragement from me. Then give me the right words to say to bring them hope and comfort.

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## What We Owe Our Employer

*Then he (Jesus) said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."*

Matthew 22:21b

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☞ Think of "Caesar" as your employer. What are you required to give to your "Caesar"? Here are a few important obligations a Christian has to an employer:

1. *Hard work.* We must be careful to apply ourselves conscientiously and work our full shift. A Christian should never take advantage of their employer by cheating them out of time or work that is due to them.

2. *Protection of the employer's assets.* Those pencils and pens, paper clips and pads supplied by your employer are not for your personal supply room at home. The telephone is another costly asset which we can abuse in the way we use it. Expense accounts should be meticulously honest and fair.

3. *Loyalty.* While you are taking money from that employer, you owe them respect and you should not be found stabbing them in the back or running them down to others.

On the other hand, what do you NOT owe your employer?

1. *Dishonesty of any sort.* Lying for your employer is giving to them what is due to God. An

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employer has no right to ask an employee to lie or deceive in any way. This is where you have to take a stand and not render to that employer what is not due them.

2. *Participation in any activity that is dishonoring to God.* Socializing after work or with customers is the American way, but frequently it is not the godly way. If you have to be a part of compromising situations in order to keep your job, it's probably time to look for another job. You are rendering to Caesar the things that belong to God. 🙏

### **Today's Challenge**

To draw a clear line between what I owe my employer and what I owe God, and never compromise those standards.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I want to do a better job of giving everything I honestly owe to my employer without compromising my commitment to you. Please teach me how to do that and give me the strength to follow through.

Day 27

### Submitting to Those in Authority

*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*

Romans 13:1-2

☞ Someone once told me that you can learn as much from an incompetent or bad manager as you can from a good one, and I think that's probably true. But the learning is more difficult and painful!

I've heard many sad stories from people who work for a boss who is either lazy, disorganized, inexperienced, or unqualified for the job of manager. Others work for a boss who uses tactics or methods which are either unethical or ineffective or contrary to company policy. The people skills of these managers are usually sadly lacking, and they are not usually willing to accept suggestions from anyone else.

The first biblical principle we need to consider is our attitude toward those in authority. God has established authority as the order for the universe. And if it were not for the principle of authority, we would have nothing but chaos. The same is true in our business world. Authority is essential.



Therefore, the people in positions of authority are part of God's plan for authority. And as Christians, we are directed to submit ourselves to those people who have risen to those authority positions.

Even though you may have a boss who does not use his or her position well or appropriately, his/her authority is nonetheless from God, and as Christians we are to respect it. To rebel against that is to rebel against God's order, and, Paul said, it will bring judgment on us. 🌀

### **Today's Challenge**

To re-adjust my attitude toward authority, and recognize that those in authority over me receive their authority from God, even if they use it poorly.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, this can be a very difficult Christian principle to incorporate in my life because it feels wrong to respect a person who does not use authority rightly. But because I want to obey you, I want to learn to have genuine respect for those in authority over me. Please teach me and help me to do that.

Day 28

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## Practicing Compassion on the Job

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

Matthew 9:36

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☞ We're told that Jesus is touched with the feelings of our weaknesses because he was in all points tempted like we are. (Hebrews 4:15) That continually comforts me, as I go to Jesus with my problems, knowing that he's walked this path before me and he knows how I feel. That's how we become compassionate people—by putting ourselves in other people's shoes and feeling what they feel.

I remember a sermon where the minister challenged us to ask God to break our hearts with the things that broke his heart. Jesus' heart was broken when he saw harassed and helpless people, people who were without any purpose in life, people who had no compass for life, no meaning in life.

Do you have any of those people working around you? They may be people who irritate you a great deal and even cause you considerable trouble. But if you looked beyond their behavior and truly saw their condition, like Jesus did, you might be able to have compassion on them.

I've found that as soon as I can feel compassion for someone, as soon as I walk in their shoes even for a few minutes, my entire attitude changes. I respond very differently to someone for whom I feel compassion. I do things for someone for whom I have compassion that I wouldn't do otherwise. And in the process, I reduce my own stress immensely as I take the focus off of myself and put it on the other person.

Maybe those harassed and helpless people are in your life for a reason. Perhaps they need your compassion today. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To recognize the people in my life who need some compassion today.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I truly want to learn to have compassion for people as you did. I give you permission to break my heart over the things that break your heart, and I ask you to give me a kind and compassionate response for the harassed and helpless people in my life.

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## Jesus Understands the Challenges You Face

*I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.*

Revelation 2:3

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☞ Jesus understands where you live, just as he did the church in Pergamum, and he knows you are living where Satan has his throne. Satan is temporarily in power, and we live and work right in the middle of his territory. It's analogous to living in a foreign land, where you speak a different language, have a totally different culture, and a completely alien set of values to everyone else.

Jesus said we are to be in this world but not of it. So, we are not to allow the people of this world to pull us down to their level. Yet we are to be available and open to be their friends, to help them when we can, to spend time with them for edifying and helpful reasons.

Since you live in enemy territory, don't be surprised to discover that those around you see life totally different because they don't have God's viewpoint. They are spiritually blind, and therefore not able to see God's truth. But you must remain true

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to the name of Jesus, just like the Christians in Pergamum. That's more important than anything else.

Remember Jesus knows where you live and he will be with you in your difficult work environment. So take heart, because he has overcome the world. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To be in this world but not of it.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I know that you understand this world in which I live and work. Sometimes I truly feel like I'm living in a foreign country. Help me to remember that you will never leave me or forsake me, and that I can be in this world but not of it. Teach me how to practice that principle and remain true to your name.

Day 30

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### Pray for Those in Authority

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

1 Timothy 2:1-2

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☞ We are to pray for peaceful relationships with those in authority. If you're dealing with an incompetent or unfair boss, have you been praying for him or her regularly? Until you begin to truly pray for this person, you won't see much change in your attitude or in his or her behavior.

Smart employees understand that their job description includes making your boss look good. The world uses that principle as a manipulative tool, but we have other reasons for doing it. First Corinthians 13 describes the kind of love we are to develop in our lives, a love that is like God's love. That kind of love *does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres* 1 Corinthians 13:6-7.

As Christians we are to ever be seeking to have God's love fill us and overflow through us to everyone in our lives, including our incompetent bosses. Therefore, we should try to make them look

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good because God's love motivates us to protect others from bad exposure, to delight in the good things they do, not the bad things, to try to smooth over their mistakes whenever we can.

Can you begin today, by faith, to ask God to give you his love for your boss? Are you willing to allow God to give you the desire and the wisdom to want to make your boss look good, to promote his or her welfare? If you will take just that first step toward God in this direction, you're going to discover that he will pour his grace into your life and enable you to do what now looks impossible. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To pray for my boss, and to do everything I can to make him/her look good.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, today I want to respond to my boss in a Christ-like way. Please show me ways I can make my boss look good; please help me to avoid the negative talk that goes on about him or her. Give me the desire and the power to respond to the authority of my boss in the right way.

Day 31

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## Trusting God When Nothing Seems to Be Happening

*O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still. See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads. With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish.*

Psalm 83:1-3

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☞ Asaph is wondering if God has gone to sleep or forgotten him or been distracted. Or perhaps God can't see all those enemies getting ready to attack. Don't you sometimes wonder if God sees the whole picture? Why is he standing still with all those enemies around? It just doesn't make sense to us.

What we have to learn is what Asaph had to learn—that just because you can't see God working doesn't mean he isn't doing anything. When you're standing still, you can trust that he is working behind the scenes, usually out of your view, and often in ways you would never imagine. But you can believe that his ways are perfect and he has a good plan for you.

Abraham had to stand still and see how God would make him a great nation when he was childless. Moses had to stand still and see how God was going to get them across the Red Sea. Joshua had to stand



still and see how those walls were going to come down around Jericho. Esther had to stand still and see if she perished when she asked that her countrymen be spared. But God was working while they were standing still, and you can trust him to work for you, too—even while you're standing still!

Can't see how God is working on your behalf? Don't understand why you have the problems you have on your job? Wondering why you're still unemployed or underemployed? Join in with the Psalmist repeating: *Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God* Psalm 42:11. 🌿

### **Today's Challenge**

To learn to believe that God is working on my behalf even when I can't see it.

### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, I choose to believe that you are working for good in my life today, even though I have no idea what you're doing or when you're going to do it. Please help me to remember that your ways are not my ways, and I can trust you to work behind the scenes on my behalf.







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