

THE START OF A GREAT DAY



STUDIES IN THE HEALING WORD
AND WILL OF GOD SERIES

BIBLE BYTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Start of a Great Day

Studies in the Healing Word and Will of God

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Why this eBooklet is free:

We are so glad that you chose to download this eBooklet as our gift to you. Jesus taught us in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and we aspire to follow our Lord's teaching. The Apostle Paul also understood this concept, "What is my reward then {for preaching and giving the gospel away freely}? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge" (I Corinthians 9:18). Paul came to realize that to serve the Word *without charge* was both a blessing to those who received the Word and to himself personally because he understood that God Himself is the reward, "I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1, and see Hebrews 11:6). When you have God in your life as your *exceeding great reward*, then being *with God* you will have everything you need to begin enjoying the more than abundant life. Our prayer for you is that you come to know experientially that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Enjoy, and God Bless You!

Introduction:

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"
Psalms 118:24

Prayer in the morning is a wonderful key that opens up a day of blessings in a believer's life. According to God's Word, each and every day is a day to rejoice and be glad because the LORD made this day especially for us and encourages us to rejoice and to be glad in this day. Prayer is The Start of a Great Day because prayer connects the individual to Him Who created life and made this day to be a blessing for His Children!

The Scripture used throughout this study is quoted from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Any explanatory insertions by the author in any of the Scripture verses are enclosed in {braces}.

The Start of a Great Day

Recognizing God via a morning prayer brings gladness and joy into our lives because we have invited Him into our lives — early, before heading out into the world. When we walk with God and become aware that He is with us from our waking moments, being thankful for even the simple things in life, such as for the air we breathe, then we will become ever more cognizant and in tune to realize that the LORD our God indeed made this day to be enjoyed by His children.

Psalms 5:1-3:

-1: GIVE ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditations.

-2: Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

-3: My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.

David, in praying says directly to God *consider my meditations*. He is asking God to take notice that he has meditated, as David's thoughts were upon the Scriptures and his belief in the promises of God for a wonderful day. Then he further asks God to hear the *voice of his cry*. This does not mean that King David was a "cry baby" but a man in need (as we all are when we look to God's help and deliverance throughout the day). David's voice was humble, solemn, and constant in the morning for God to hear his prayer.

King David set a wonderful example for believers to follow; to remember our God in the morning starts our day's journey off with God in our hearts, thus commencing for you and me The Start of a Great Day.

Inviting God first in the morning into our day's journey by way of our prayers can set the pattern for the whole day, for it will be a day to enjoy the blessings of God in our life. The phrase, *and will look up* illustrates a twofold meaning. First, David would look to God Who answers prayer, and secondly, because David prayed, he would be looking up (or out) for the blessings of God that he prayed for in the morning to return to him throughout his day.

Time spent with God in the morning is always fruitful and permits the mind of the Christian to believe that he or she is walking with God; this comforts men and women who will then be able to acknowledge that this day will be filled with great expectations of deliverance in victorious living as God's children.

Psalms 143:8-9:

-8: Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee {in prayer}.

-9: Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. {What a wonderful prayer offered in the rousing moments of David's new day; *the day which the LORD hath made!*}

David confessed to God, *I flee unto thee to hide me* because David understood that in the LORD his God, in fellowship with Him, there was safety to be found away from his *enemies*, and an inner peace to be thoroughly enjoyed in each and every day.

From time to time, there are spiritual forces inspiring evil men to set themselves against the believers, and therefore David knowing this prayed (as we can) that his God would *hide me*, that He would watch over David from the beginning of his day with *lovingkindness in the morning*. True, "They {antagonists with evil-inspired intentions} have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones" (Psalms 83:3), and yet David not only prayed for a wonderful day knowing that evil waited for him at every turn, but because he prayed, he was enabled to experience days full of joy because his God was with him. David knew this because he prayed, *for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way* {in this day} *wherein I should walk*.

David wrote, "If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me" (Psalms 138:8-10). David knew that wherever his daily path would lead him, he had his God with him even when he was encompassed by his enemies, unknown dangers, or unseen catastrophes.

David knew: *Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me!*

Psalms 91:1-2:

-1: HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

-2: I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

This Psalm begins with the word *HE*, and *HE* is the Author of the Scriptures, the Author is God, God is Spirit, and God's Spirit is sending out an unrestricted invitation to come and *dwell* with Him. God is conversing in this first verse to enlighten the heart that accepts His invitation and then begins following His guidance to receive the blessings that are revealed to believers. To *dwell* is to be at peace immersed in quietude of heart over what the Scriptures identify as *the secret place of the most High*.

This *place* is in a state of peace between *the most High* and the person who accepts, remains, and appreciates the serenity tendered through this offer. The *secret place* is what I like to call, the sweet spot of life, where one walks with God through His Son, who "is our peace" (Ephesians 3:14), and knows this to be true in his heart. This is known and enjoyed because the believer is benefiting from daily blessings along with an unparalleled relationship of fellowship with God in Christ Jesus, giving each believer evermore reasons to *abide* with Him.

The most High is the Possessor of heaven and earth and He is the dispenser of blessings to the dweller in His *secret place*.

Abide under the shadow of the Almighty is not that bad of a concept, when you think about it, because the Almighty's true brilliance is that of being perfect light, as we read in I John 1:5, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Therefore, being *under the shadow of the Almighty* is very enlightening and uplifting to the soul and as the Psalmist wrote "in thy light {in God's light} shall we see light" (Psalms 36:9).

To *abide* is first being in and then remaining in a state of fellowship with the *most High*.

"The fear {respect and honour} of the LORD *tendeth* to life: and *he that hath it* shall abide {ABIDE} satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil" (Proverbs 19:23).

Under the shadow also means to be shaded from the heat that rises up from the pressures of life which can oftentimes overwhelm and melt away one's hopes and dreams, while he or she that is abiding *under the shadow* is enjoying the sweet fellowship of being under a peaceful covenant of graceful living in thankfulness with *the Almighty*.

The Almighty is the giver of all grace, because He is "the God of all grace" (I Peter 5:10), as He is the All-bountiful supplier to those who walk with Him in their hearts.

Psalms 84:11-12:

-11: For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

-12: O LORD of hosts, *blessed is* the man that trusteth in thee.

II Corinthians 9:8:

And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

Philippians 4:19:

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Above, in verse 1 of Psalms 91 is a brilliant reflecting pool of understanding, in that as one begins walking with God in His *secret place*, then the recipient of the Author's blessings comes to know that the LORD *is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust*.

The reason why we know and believe this to be true in our hearts is because we have been dwelling *in the secret place of the most High*, fellowshiping with Him, and as a result are abiding *under the shadow of the Almighty!*

Psalms 18:2-3:

-2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. {In this verse we read of eight

wonderful attributes that the LORD became to the Psalmist, eight qualities that He desires to also be for you. He can be your *rock*, your *fortress*, your *deliverer*, your *God*, your *strength* — and in His *strength* you *will trust*, and He can become — your *buckler*, your *salvation*, and your *high tower* where the views are always spectacular!}

-3: I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. {If there ever was a dire time and age where these promises of God can be claimed in Christ's name to great advantage, this is certainly that time! "But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalms 37:39).}

Psalms 9:9:

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalms 27:5:

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalms 62:8:

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him {in prayer}: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalms 31:19-21:

-19: *Oh* how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear {reverence and respect} thee; *which* thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

-20: Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

-21: Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

Psalms 32:7:

Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalms 46:1:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 119:114:

Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Taking the time to start our day with God, taking a moment to perhaps read a verse or two (like these above or some of your favorites), and meditating on them before we enter out into the hustle and bustle of daily life, and to set a little time aside to pray in the morning will indeed bring great things to pass in our lives.

Whenever trouble, danger, or fear arises, the average instinct is to recoil, withdraw, and become encased in fear, but with God in our lives we are encouraged to continue standing with Him on His promises. This is the meaning of God not only being your refuge, but also His setting you “in a large place,” or *up upon a rock*.

Even when you are out there and exposed, God is with you, you who have called upon Him. “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (Psalms 34:4), and thus, even though David was out there — he was safe. “I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, *and set me* in a large place. The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me” (Psalms 118:5-6).

David in summing up the 5th Psalm shows to us the joys and blessings that can travel with us throughout the day as we permit God into our life.

Psalms 5:11-12:

-11: But let all those that put their trust in thee {God} rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them {God covers and protects us with grace}: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. {In this one verse alone we have the words, *rejoice, joy, and joyful*; this is the result from permitting God, His healing Word into our lives.}

-12: For thou, LORD wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield. {The *shield* that compasses us is God’s loving favor upon His children as He watches over them.}

Whenever we read such powerful promises such as – God will defend those who trust in Him and that He will equip them with a shield and that they may experience this while being accompanied with heavenly joy – is such an awesome blessing. Yet, for so many confessing Christians these promises seem to be so distant from their present reality.

You and I can expect to have a great day with meaningful purpose as we take time to acknowledge our God by reading His Word and in our prayer life, as this forms a loving bond and relationship that will last through eternity.

The link that bridges the gap between the promises of God and one's receiving them is coming to understand what it is to actually have and know the certainty of the living Christ in one's life as he leads believers to God and His promises.

Mark 1:35:

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he {Jesus} went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Jesus, *a great while before day*, took the time to be alone with his thoughts, to be alone with God, and to pray for his day. This set the pattern for a wonderful day at the very start.

When we follow the example of Jesus, we will increase our believing trust in our God, and this will help us to recognize that God is always with us. Remembering that we are God's children is easier as we acknowledge Him and place the promises of His Word in our hearts — in the early hours.

Jesus Christ has given you and me permission to use his name in our prayers to God, as he taught us in the Gospels, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you" (John 16:23). You see, Jesus' name is as a golden thread that connects our hearts to the Father's, and His promised treasures of *whatsoever ye shall ask!*

Jesus took the time to explain to just one man the way to God's heart, the way to His secret place, and this is it: "Jesus saith unto him {Thomas}, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Today this way is still open and readily available to you and me, it is through Christ who said, *I am the way*, for he is the hope of life everlasting and our entrance into the loving arms of our heavenly Father.

I Peter 5:10 reads that, “the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by {through} Christ Jesus,” for he is, as he confessed, *the way* that leads men and women to God’s *eternal glory!* “Christ also received us to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7), because “Jesus Christ is Lord {he is the *Lord* because he is *the way*}, to the glory of God” (Philippians 2:11).

As Jesus told Thomas that he was *the way*, he still is *the way* for us, individually, as we are all personally invited into the glorious “household of God.”

Ephesians 2:18–19:

-18: For through him {*through* Jesus Christ} we both {you and me} have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

-19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

Whenever a believer is having trouble finding their way to God, His loving embrace, and His refuge from the storms of this life, we always encourage him or her to try going with Jesus by following his lead through the Scriptures, as he taught, “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). The more one sees and recognizes Jesus in the Word, the more clearly he or she will see the Father and the easier it becomes to believe in God’s awarded promises.

Jesus is the “author and finisher” of their personal faith, as his faith can help carry the load he or she has been trying to carry alone.

Ephesians 3:12:

In whom {*in* Christ} we have boldness and access {to approach God and His promises} with confidence by the faith of him.

Hebrews 12:2:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. {Jesus is already there

at God's side, seated at His right hand, therefore, Jesus who is *the way*, is our guide, and he blazed the trail for us to follow him into daily victorious living.}

Matthew 11:28-30:

-28: Come unto me, {Jesus pronounced to} all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

-29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

-30: For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Coming to personally know Jesus Christ certainly leads to the open doors of an amazing, spiritual abundance and insights and heavenly gifts that we can believe and pray for and receive in Jesus Christ's powerful name.

John 14:12-14:

-12: Verily, verily, I {Jesus Christ} say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father {and he has, and so we can — do}.

-13: And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

-14: If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

Christ Jesus is our connecting point to the God of heaven and His promises. You see, God's will is to, "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (I Timothy 2:4-6).

It certainly is *due time* to testify of our loving Savior and of his powerful name, because he is our *mediator* to heaven's throne, to God Himself, which is *the knowledge of the truth*.

Jesus commenced his day with prayer; we are also instructed to pray in his name because he is the master key to ensure, The Start of a Great Day!

"God Bless You!"

Benediction:

Matthew 21:22:

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

I Peter 3:12a:

For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers. . .

John 15:15-16:

-15: Henceforth I {Jesus} call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

-16: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you {so in truth you never “found Jesus” but he found you, for Jesus was never lost}, and {I} ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit {i.e., the promises of God}, and that your fruit should remain: *that* whatsoever {WHATSOEVER} ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

“For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.”
Saint Teresa of Avila

“Maintaining believing-faith in our prayers affords us the advance receipts of what we will receive.” LMJ

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A Free Bonus Chapter

This Is the Day Which the LORD Hath Made; We Will Rejoice and Be Glad

According to the Bible, each and every day is a day to rejoice and be glad because the LORD made this day for men and women, for boys and girls, for young and old, and for you and me.

Psalms 118:24:

This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Word of God encourages us to rejoice and to be glad in this day. Recognizing God throughout the day brings great gladness, blessing, and joy into our lives.

The Psalm continues:

Psalms 118:25:

Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

Save now is referring to this day that the LORD hath made, and in this day, the Psalmist is beseeching the LORD to *send now prosperity*. This passage is referring to the necessities that we need today, and thanking God for those things that we now have.

Then, beyond the basics, what further abundance would bless our lives today? When we recognize that God indeed cares for us and we trust in Him, then the daily prosperity that we receive will cause our hearts to rejoice as it draws gladness out from our very souls.

Every person has different circumstances and daily needs, but God can and does care for each of us individually. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

God promises in His Word that He will meet our needs, “but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things {that we need to sustain life — mentally, physically, and spiritually} shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

The true blessings of God come to us according to our believing His Word. By looking to God's healing Word, and by prayer offered in the name of Jesus Christ, and with genuine thankfulness from the heart, we may also look for and expect that our God will be there for us with daily blessings, and we can in thankfulness recognize that His blessings are real.

John 6:11:

And Jesus took the loaves {5 loaves of bread}; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down {about five thousand people}; and likewise of the fishes {2 small fishes} as much as they would.

When Jesus gave thanks, he was asking for God's blessings on what they had, that the blessing would go a very, very long way — and it certainly did. This is the power of true prayer with the giving of thanks to God in prayer.

Many people "say grace" before meals but the Bible instructs us to "give thanks" to God (in advance) for His blessings and grace upon us. In fact, did you know that the Bible never instructs believers (ever) to "say grace," but rather His Word encourages us to enjoy and accept His graces that have been freely given to us in Christ and to give thanks, always — even today, for this is the day in which the LORD made for you and me to rejoice and to be glad.

Learning to enjoy an attitude of thankfulness in our prayer life softens the heart, squelches greed, and humbly accepts the grace of God without reservation for His abundance to begin flowing our way.

In John 6:11 above, Jesus did not see any lack in the limited amount of the food he had, but he thanked God to do miraculous things with the little they had for a multitude of people, for giving prosperity to those for whom Jesus was responsible, and everybody thankfully had *as much as they would*.

This was Jesus living the true meaning of *send now prosperity*, as he was beseeching God with the giving of thanks for His care upon them this day.

The place where this miracle took place became known as ". . . the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks" (John 6:23b). It is in our

thankfulness for what we have that allows God to truly work miraculous things in our own lives, today and every day.

I want to tell you a story about a young man who some years ago was down on his luck, out of money, and very hungry. Someone explained to him about being thankful to God in his prayer life, and so he prayed, thanking God in Christ's name for his little snack pack bag of potato chips to somehow fill him up (about ten or twelve chips). Then he began to eat as he was reading his Bible; about a half hour later, he looked down into the bag and realized that the chips had miraculously filled his famished appetite. He saw a half of a bag of chips still in the bag, and he expressed, "gee, thanks God, I have had enough" as he then ate the last few chips!

I believe this happened for him because he thanked God for the little he had rather than being worried for the lack he saw. This man was blessed by God in order that he would rejoice and be glad on that day. This man did not just sit around waiting for a miracle to happen, rather he simply was thankful to God and gave his need to Him in prayer, and God became his sufficiency.

This man also saw and ate from two apple trees where no trees were the day before as he came to understand that whether it be a simple chip or an orchard, nothing is too large or too small when God blesses His children, and I know his story to be true because it was me who experienced the fullness of God in my own life. "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Jeremiah 32:17:

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

When we believe: *This is the day which the Lord hath made*, we will be living a lifestyle in daily thankfulness and *we will rejoice and be glad in it*, not just for one day in the year but always. If we have food to eat and a place to sleep, we will have every good reason to be thankful today for the blessings bestowed upon us, and our God will give us great expectations for all our tomorrows.