

Good News Daily

Volume XVI

September 25-October 1, 2016

Number 39

Sunday, September 25

Psalm 66 *Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.* (v.16 NIV)

God has equipped us with many spiritual weapons. Ephesians 6 mentions two: God's Word and prayer. Psalm 66 alludes to two more surprising weapons: praise and our testimony.

Praise is powerful. It is a prayer of thanksgiving born in the soul. It bubbles up from within, its impact and reach growing with every expression of gratitude and each reference to God's attributes. Praise builds momentum until it fills the soul with life while ascribing glory and honor to the One who deserves all praise.

Our testimony bears witness to God, His activity in our lives, and His character. Through our testimony, we applaud God's love, goodness, and faithfulness. Revelation 22:11 points to a spiritual battle won "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of (our) testimony."

The story of our walk with God and His active presence in our lives is, in itself, a powerful weapon. But weapons do little but collect dust when they sit on a shelf. To make a difference, spiritual weapons must be worn from constant use. To have greater power and impact, our stories must be shared.

Hosea 2:2-14; Psalm 67; James 3:1-13; Matthew 13:44-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church in Wales [The Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan](#) Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Llandaff

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. James Chapel, Marion, The Very Rev. Katherine Jeffrey, Priest-in-Charge; Ilalwansimba Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Joel Kahindi; The Mission of St. Andrew, District of Puente Piedra, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Benjamin Salas, Priest in Charge; Trinity, Jacksonville, Consecration of present church building, 1921.

Monday, September 26

Acts 20:17-38 *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.* (v.28a)

In his relationship with the church, Paul is like a father who knows he is responsible for his children's formation. He knows that his witness can have eternal implications for those who observe and hear him. Paul is devoted to Christ and to everyone God placed under his ministry.

Like Paul, we all influence people in various settings. Our greatest influence is with our spouse and children, our families, and those closest to us. We also

influence our neighbors, our church family, our coworkers, and even people in grocery store lines and at the post office. I could go on and on.

The question is, how committed are we to influencing others in an intentional, Christ-like way? I want to be like Paul. I want my relationship with Jesus to determine everything I think, say, and do. Aware that the Holy Spirit places people on my path, I want to shine Christ's light in every relationship and circumstance. And I recognize that such a powerful life of godly influence is only possible by walking in step with that same Spirit.

Lord Jesus, we rely on you. Help us choose to walk in step with the Spirit every day.

Hosea 2:14-23; Psalm 89:1-18; Luke 5:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Hereford - (Canterbury, England) [The Rt Revd Richard Frith](#)

Hereford - Ludlow - [The Rt Revd Alistair James Magowan](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Bartholomew's, Granite City, Consecration of present church building, 1906; Birthday of Terry, wife of The Rev Can. Robert B. Koehler, San Antonio, TX.

Tuesday, September 27

Luke 5:12-26 *And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.* (v.17c)

Jesus was ready when a man suffering from paralysis was brought to him for healing. Dr. Luke points out that God the Father equipped Jesus fully to meet the need: "The power of the Lord was present for him to heal."

In characteristic fashion, Jesus used the weapons at his disposal. The Holy Spirit supplied the power; Jesus exercised it. First, he healed the inner man through the power of forgiveness. And then, challenged through unbelief and religiosity, Jesus healed him physically as well. So the man who arrived on a stretcher walked away—mat in hand and lips full of praise.

As Christians who have received the Spirit through faith in Jesus' power to forgive our sins, do we recognize *our* power? Do we perceive Jesus' very life within and the Spirit's power present in us?

God sent us to continue Jesus' work on earth. As he did with His Son, our Father equipped us to fulfill our calling in its entirety. May we believe Him and exercise the Spirit's power that is in us.

Hosea 4:1-10; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Acts 21:1-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Highveld - (Southern Africa) [The Rt Revd David Bannerman](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The Very Rev Cn Dale D. Coleman, Belleville, Ordination to

the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Bobby Meihofer's birthday.

Wednesday, September 28

Hosea 4:11-19 *A people without understanding will come to ruin!* (v.14c)

As Paul continues to preach Christ and him crucified, many people simply don't get it; his words are twisted, his message missed. The Bible contains strong warnings to the deceived. "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge," says the Lord in Hosea 4:6, and verse 14 warns, "A people without understanding will come to ruin!"

This was the fate announced for those who missed Paul's message. The same applies today. Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." The Holy One is Jesus—Wisdom Incarnate. To know him is to gain understanding.

As 21st century believers, we have the benefit of the Old and New Testaments. It behooves us to continue to study the Scriptures, that we may fear the Lord, grow in wisdom, and get to know the Holy One, and so embrace our part in God's great plan of salvation.

God's Word is another spiritual weapon we cannot afford to neglect. If we use it, it will make us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Psalms 101, 109; Acts 21:15-26; Luke 5:27-39

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ho - (Ghana, West Africa) The Rt Revd Matthias Mededues-Badohu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Ian C. and Catherine Wetmore, Lebanon; Birthday of the Rev. Mark S. Winward, Valrico, FL.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthdays of Robin Levine & Karyn Smith.

Thursday, September 29

Hosea 5:8—6:6 *Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him.* (v.3)

After plowing through the countless sinful acts that sprout from disobedience and a lack of true repentance, hope enters the scene. In Hosea 6, a message emerges that announces revival, healing, and the experience of God's Presence: "As surely as the sun rises, (the Lord) will appear" (Hosea 6:3). Yes!

As wonderful as these verses are, it would be dangerous to read them in isolation. The author emphasizes that true repentance is needed to experience God's presence "like the spring rains that water the earth" (Hosea 6:3). The message of hope is linked to an acknowledgement of the God who is holy and hates sin in all its forms.

In Luke 3:8, John the Baptist exhorts people to “produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” This good harvest sprouts from a transformed heart, as echoed in Hosea 6:6, “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Every time the fruit of the Spirit is displayed in our lives, we acknowledge, affirm, and reveal Christ to the world. And when we do, we join the refreshing rain of the Spirit that signals God’s presence and fills us with hope.

Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 21:27-36; Luke 6:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Honduras - (IX, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Lloyd Allen](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, St. Michael’s, O’Fallon; The Rev Anthony F.M. Clavier, Glen Carbon, and The Rev Steven T. Thorp, Champaign, Ordination to the Priesthood

ST. MATTHEW’S: Jane & Woodie Shadid’s anniversary.

Friday, September 30

Psalm 102 *Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD.* (v.18)

I’ve been blessed to write for *Good News Daily* and *The Journey* for fourteen years. This commitment has been a fountain of life, since I’ve studied God’s Word in greater depth to challenge and encourage believers. I’ve also been blessed to publish several books where I share my faith and some of what I’ve learned about prayer and God’s kingdom (my website is faithfulMD.wordpress.com). For me, writing for God is the fulfillment of Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

I lost my mother in my early twenties, so I’ve lived profoundly aware that our days are counted. In the exceedingly short lives we each have, what will we do? Joshua 24:15 summarizes my answer, “But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” When one day I am no longer here physically, my writings will remind my children and their children of my love of Jesus and my desire to live for him. I pray that they will see Jesus reflected in my life, and that my witness will lead them to praise him.

May that be my legacy, to the honor and glory of Christ’s holy name!

Hosea 10:1-15; Acts 21:37—22:16; Luke 6:12-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Hpa-an - (Myanmar) [The Rt Revd Saw Stylo](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Father of all, accept our thanks for the joys of family and life.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Roger Thomas’ birthday.

Saturday, October 1

Psalm 107:33-43 *Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the LORD.* (v.43)

God's unfailing love is the theme of Psalm 107. In fact, this is the message of the entire Bible. God loves us. When people hurt us, God loves us. When our dreams are shattered and our hope seems gone, God loves us. When we are misunderstood and feel stuck, God loves us.

We have no greater need than to know we are loved. When God's love becomes a daily experience, we find rest, we find peace, and we experience a joy that surpasses circumstances.

I want God's love to wake me up every morning and rock me to sleep at night. I want God's love to ease all uncertainty and heal every wound. I want to know God intimately, and He has answered that prayer. Jesus became man and joined us here, where "flowing springs" sometimes turn "into thirsty ground" and a "fruitful land into a salt waste" (vv.33-4). Our world can be harsh, yet God loves us here. He loves us enough to save us.

God wants us to know Him in the midst of a fallen world. The New Testament story ends at God's river of life. God invites us to come and "take the free gift of the water of life" (Revelation 22:17). May we come, drink, and live!

Hosea 11:1-9; Psalm 108; Acts 22:17-29; Luke 6:27-38

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Huron - (Ontario, Canada) [The Rt Revd Robert Franklin Bennett](#), [The Rt Revd Linda Nicholls](#); [The Rt Revd Terrance Arthur Dance](#),
Suffragan Bishop

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O God, this morning I come into the quietness and stillness of your presence to begin the day.

ST. MATTHEW'S: birthday of Charlene Wald.

by Amaryllis Sánchez Wohlever, MD

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org