



40-DAYS OF PRAYER & PREPARATION

**Intercessory prayer, discipleship, &
evangelism for others in Christ.**

Prayers by Rev. Dr. Mike Powers
with Quotations from John & Charles Wesley and Scripture

Learn more about the Scriptures and achieve a
more fulfilling relationship with God through our
weekly classes.

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HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This devotional of “40-Days of Prayer and Preparation” has been developed as a practical experience in intercessory prayer, discipleship, and evangelism for brothers and sisters in Christ.

Every disciple of Christ carries burdens for family, friends, associates, neighbors and others who need the Lord. During these “40 Days of Prayer and Preparation,” **participants will commit to pray for at least 5 persons and then put feet to their prayers by personally sharing with these 5 persons how and why they have been praying for them.**

Suggestions on how to intercede and share with others are listed on the next page. Most importantly, keep in mind that God already is present and at work in and through all of us, seekers and believers alike. We hope these daily devotionals will be a means of grace through which participants will be the ‘beautiful feet’ bringing the good news of Jesus to thousands of seekers and disciples yet-to-be.



HOW TO PRAY FOR OTHERS



1. Be consistent. Read the devotionals and pray every day for your 5 persons for 40 days.
2. Be specific. Pray for each person by name and for the particular needs.
3. Be expectant. God desires to answer prayer, so pray boldly.
4. Be open. As you listen, read and pray, God will reveal what to pray.
5. Be ready. God will lead you as you are available.
6. Be grateful. Praise God for the way He will answer your prayers.

1. Be confident that God is already at work in the person's life.

2. Begin by sharing that you have been praying for them for 40 days and you want to share with them your experience as you prayed.

3. Listen carefully and ask God to help you understand what that person truly needs.

4. Ask your loved one, "How can I pray for you?" Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you.

5. As you prepare to leave, you may ask them to come with you to church or meet again.

6. Your responsibility is to be faithful and obedient. Leave the results to God.

HOW TO SHARE WITH OTHERS



MY PRAYER LIST OF FIVE FOR FORTY DAYS:

1

2


3

4

5

COVENANT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I want to be your hands and feet and voice for those you love. Help me as I listen and study and pray and then reach out in your name to those for whom I will intercede over these 40 days. Help these to open their hearts, confess their need, and experience the joy of your salvation. Amen.



DAY 1

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS
1:3-5

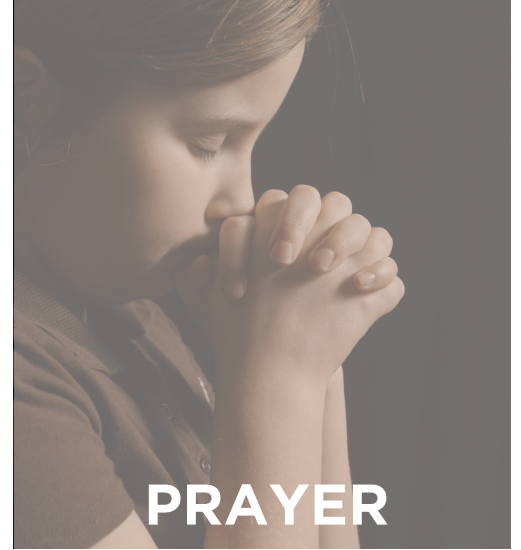
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Prayer is the lifting up of the heart to God: All words of prayer, without this, are mere hypocrisy. Whenever, therefore, you attempt to pray, see that it be your one design to commune with God, to lift up your heart to him, to pour out your soul before him. Any temporal view, any motive whatever on this side of eternity, any design but that of promoting the glory of God, and the happiness of others for God’s sake, makes every action, however fair it may appear... an abomination unto the Lord.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Lord, we are grateful for the privileges we have in You. In faith we join our hearts in praise of Your most holy Name. As we begin these days together, grant us the boldness to come before your throne as we intercede earnestly and passionately for these on your heart and ours. Hear our prayers over these forty days for these five persons. Draw near and create a desire in their hearts so they will draw near to you. Thank you for the love that will not let us go. In your name we pray.



PRAYER

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6



DAY 2

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

JAMES
5:15-16

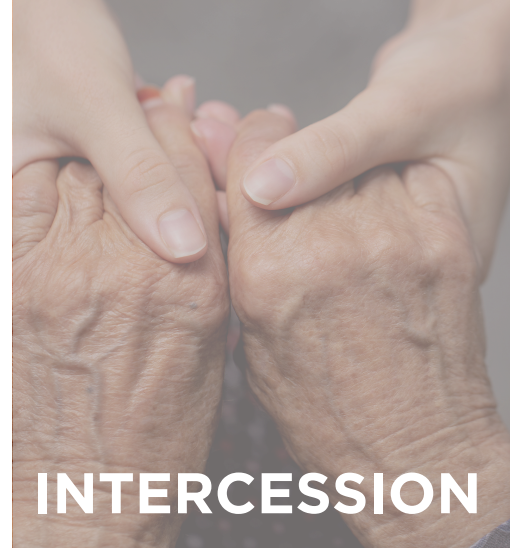
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Loving Father, how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things. We pray for all who are interceding for others during these forty days, that as we seek the mind of Christ and offer the love of Christ to others, we will be your messengers of healing and saving grace. For your sake and for the sake of all you love. So be it. Amen.



Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:25



DAY 3

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

PHILIPPIANS
2:12-13

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

O Lord, my God, we thank You for everything in creation that speaks of your grace, your power, your truth, and your glory. We are thankful for every person whose life, words, and deeds bring You glory and whose witness leads others to the knowledge of your holy name. We thank You for every person whose life has been a means of grace and whose words breathed forgiveness, peace, and a witness to your redeeming love. We thank You for those faithful servants who first introduced us to Christ and whose worship and compassionate, sacrificial service made being a Christian an exciting adventure we dare not miss. Through your love and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we pray that our lives, too, will be an attractive witness and means of your saving and sanctifying grace to those for whom we are praying. This we pray in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.



Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4



DAY 4

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

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 goodness and holiness.

1 TIMOTHY
2:1-2

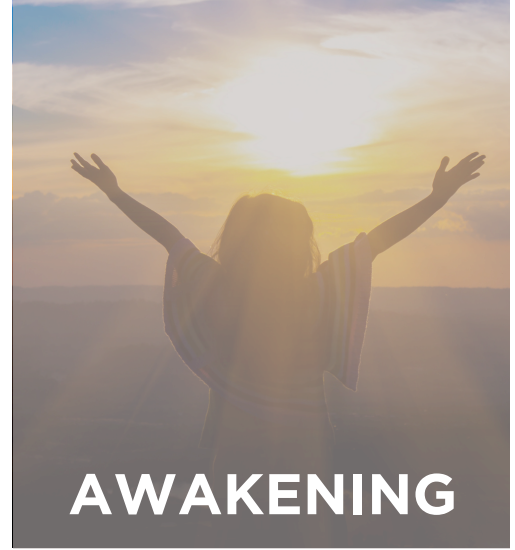
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“In using all means, seek God alone. In and through every outward thing, look only to the power of His Spirit, and the merits of His Son. Beware you do not get stuck in the work itself; if you do, it is all lost labor. Nothing short of God can satisfy your soul. Therefore, fix on Him in all, through all, and above all... Remember also to use all means as means-as ordained, not for their own sake.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Most gracious and loving Lord, your generosity exceeds our ability to receive. Your grace is greater than the worst of our sins. Your mercy is beyond our deepest despair. Our lives are blessed every day in ways we do not acknowledge. Thank You that the desire for such love is stamped in every human heart, and any heart can be satisfied with your generous grace and boundless mercy. We pray that You will help us to see in each face the object of your eternal love. We pray that You will help us understand more deeply how much You love each and every person, that You came into our world of space and time to live our life, to be burdened with our pain, to take our sin and to awaken every soul that we might have eternal hope and the ability to love all that You love. O Lord, as we lift our hands in prayer, we bring these five persons on our hearts and yours. In Jesus' name. Amen.



AWAKENING

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



DAY 5

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

ROMANS
12:1-2A

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"I resolved to dedicate all my life to God, all my thoughts, and words, and actions; being thoroughly convinced, there was no medium; but that every part of my life (not some only) must either be a sacrifice to God, or myself, that is, in effect, to the devil. Can any serious person doubt of this, or find a medium between serving God and serving the devil?"

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

As we come before You in quietness and humility, help us to shut out of our minds all that disturbs our souls, that we may become so filled with your Spirit that You are the supreme Reality who fills every fiber of our being. Help us to take hold of the Power that moves mountains and casts them into the sea. May that Power take hold of us so we become expressions of grace and answers to prayer. And then, as we pray, filled with your Spirit and motivated with holy hearts, we understand and speak the language of your Kingdom. O Lord, teach us to pray bold prayers for our five loved ones and for the sake of all You love. Amen.



Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess... Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14,16

DAY 6

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

2 TIMOTHY
4:2

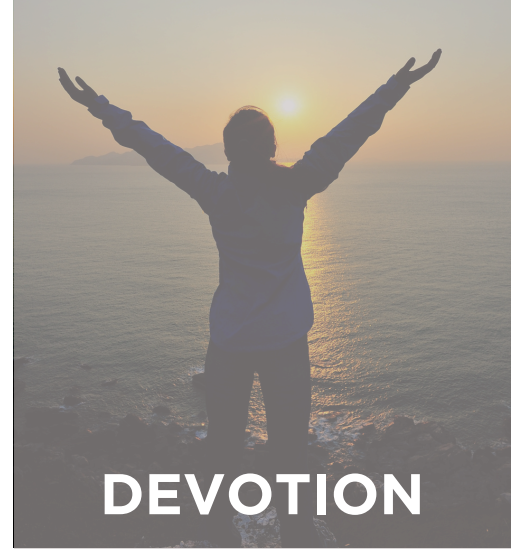
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God, without either adding to or diminishing from it by his own choice.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Thank You, Jesus, Friend of sinners. You showed us the full measure of your love by laying down your life for us. You saw our need, not our worthiness. You sought our devotion, not our compliance. You were our Friend even before we knew we needed a friend. Help us to make such love known to these who need such a Friend. May they see the reality of your friendship through our forgiveness and faithfulness and first love. May our prayers for and desire to be friends of sinners become the ordinary, everyday message of our lives. And may the joy of your companionship, our Savior and Friend, be our strength today and theirs in every kind of day. Amen.



And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

1 Chronicles 28:9a

DAY 7

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS
2:8

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Justifying faith implies, not only a divine evidence or conviction that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, but a sure trust and confidence that Christ died for my sins, that He loved me and gave Himself for me.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

You have called us, God of all comfort, to be grace-bearers, helpers to help others along the journey. This is a high and holy privilege to share in the sufferings of Christ, bearing the burdens of others crushed by the sorrows and weight of the world. We pray these five will find your comfort in their pain, your strength in their weakness, your healing in their brokenness, your saving grace in their sinful hearts. This is your promise, this is who You are, and this is what You have done and will do for all who draw near. Help us as we bring the broken-hearted to Jesus, the One who surely has borne all our griefs and carried all our sorrows. Praise your holy name. Amen.



SAVING GRACE

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.

Titus 2:11



DAY 8

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You.

PSALM
33:20-22

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"God's command to "pray without ceasing" is founded on the necessity we have of His grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air."

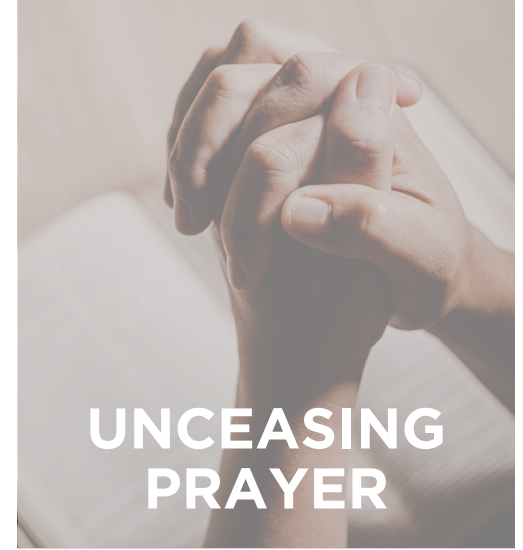
JOHN
WESLEY

"To God your every Want In instant Prayer display, Pray always; Pray, and never faint; Pray, without ceasing, Pray."

CHARLES
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Lord Jesus, You encouraged your disciples to continue to pray and not lose heart. Desiring your Presence brings hope. Experiencing your Presence brings joy. Resting in your Presence brings peace. Even when our best efforts seem fruitless and our words seem so shallow, You restore our souls as we pray. Bless our hearts. Calm our nerves. Forgive our sins and free us from sin. Renew our strength as we wait and remember that You are God, and we are not. As we lift our five loved ones to You today, may your peace that passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds set on You, praying without ceasing, always rejoicing, and giving thanks in everything. This is your will, and this we pray in your name and for the sake of all You love. Amen.



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



DAY 9

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.

PSALM
107:2

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death. I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitefully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart.”

JOHN
WESLEY’S
JOURNAL
5.24.1738

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Thank You for the beautiful feet of those who have walked faithfully with You and trusted You in the shadows of life. Thank you for the encouragement they have been to many others who were inspired and lifted above their pain, suffering, disappointment, and heartaches because of their Gospel witness. These humble servants have honored You and blessed others day by day with gentleness, hope, grace, peace, joy, and love. Their testimonies of radical obedience and unconditional love transcend their personal circumstances and concerns. Their prayers are a source of divine power released across streets and around the world. We pray that our five loved ones will draw near to you through the witness of your faithful servants whom we bless this day. With grateful hearts we offer this prayer in your name. Amen.



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.

Romans 10:15



DAY 10

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

EPHESIANS
1:3-4

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"About three in the morning as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we recovered a little from the awe and amazement at the presence of His Majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.'"

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We praise you, O God, for the beauty of this earth, the relationships of friends and family, and above all, the promise of Life abundant and eternal. We pray for our five loved ones who are troubled this morning because they are not aware that You are the Source of such wonders and love. Their ambitions are unfulfilled, and their desires are unrequited. They see only this world, want only what this world can give, and, honestly, we often are tempted to join them. Help them, and help us, Lord, to embrace the joy of little things, the pleasure of being content, and the satisfaction of sharing. Above all, help us as we ponder the riches of your grace that Jesus Christ has lavished on us. Help us remember that it was in the giving of himself for our sakes that our Savior satisfied the deepest longing of our souls. This is the power for salvation to all who believe. In him we live and move and find our true selves. Praise your holy name! Amen.



PRAISE

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalm 63:3-4



DAY 11

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands...

ISAIAH
49:15-16A

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

Love Divine, all love excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down; Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion; Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast; Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

CHARLES
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Jesus, our hearts are heavy this morning as we think of friends and family - our five loved ones - who have longed for a life of joy and contentment, but whose hopes are unrealized, dreams have been broken, and expectations tattered to shreds. They are frustrated by the emptiness of their lives, the wasted opportunities of yesterday, and the foolishness that damaged the lives of others as well as their own. We pray for all who have never enjoyed the life You died to give, nor embraced the love that others have offered, nor experienced the pleasure of being responsible for the well-being of others. Lord, have mercy! You know the hurts and pain, the fears and regrets, the tears poured out and the sin that enslaves. Fill the emptiness of these hearts with perfect love, O Lover of our souls, that they may overflow with the joy of living and loving and being loved. In their weakness, give your strength. In their brokenness, pour out your healing grace. In their desperation, may they cling to hope, believing you are good and faithful. Amen.



And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us.

Romans 5:5



DAY 12

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

HEBREWS
12:2

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“On every occasion of uneasiness, we should retire to prayer, that we may give place to the grace and light of God and then form our resolutions, without being in any pain about what success they may have. In the greatest temptations, a single look to Christ, and the barely pronouncing his name, suffices to overcome the wicked one, so it be done with confidence and calmness of spirit.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Almighty God, we pray today for our five loved ones and all who are prayer-less. Many simply do not or cannot pray. For these, life has been very cruel, and they do not believe that You care or are even there. Many have been misled, confused and have wandered away. Others are ashamed and are overcome by guilt and regret. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray that you will speak to their hearts, draw them close and inspire them to try again. We pray with them and for them, believing that You hear us even when doubts overwhelm, and faith is such a struggle. As we pray for others to pray, hear our prayers. Draw us closer. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Teacher, who will help us learn the honesty and the quiet, the intimacy and the awe, the joy and the release of simply being in your Presence. Especially curb our pride so we dare to confide in and share with others the lessons we are learning in this school of prayer. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who ever lives and intercedes for us. Amen.



ENDURANCE

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3



DAY 13

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you wholly. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

1 THESS.
5:23-24

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“It is the Spirit that sheds the love of God abroad in their hearts, and the love of all mankind; thereby purifying their hearts from the love of the world, from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. It is by Him they are delivered from anger and pride, from all vile and inordinate affections.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

As we continue on this long obedience in the same direction, Lord, we pray for patience as You show us how to work out this high calling of a holy life in every detail of our lives. Responding to your invitation to follow You as disciples was a decision that began to shape every other decision in our lives. Eventually we come to that moment of truth when we realize You demand unconditional surrender, a single-minded devotion to your will and purposes in our lives. You make us sensitive to things that never concerned us. You stir a restlessness in us where we previously were complacent and rather satisfied. You deepen our love for others and matters that demand more of us than we previously were willing to give. You place within us a passion to be spiritually whole. Grant us patience, Lord, as we experience and express sanctifying grace in the everyday stuff of life. As we continue on this journey together, may Christ be fully formed in us in the lives of our five loved ones, for your sake and for the sake of your Kingdom. Amen.



SANCTIFYING GRACE

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

1 Peter 1:15-16



DAY 14

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, now lives in you. For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2 TIMOTHY
1:5-6

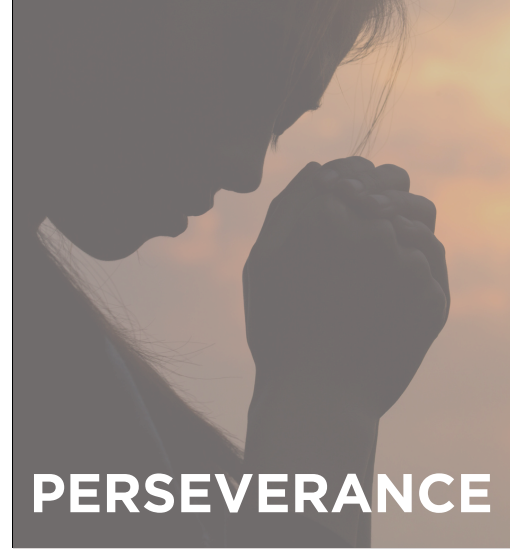
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"We find continual increase of faith and strength. It is good for us to be assaulted by satan and his children. They watch for our halting, which makes us watch against it."

CHARLES
WESLEY'S
JOURNAL
4.30.1743

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

O God, as we continue to pray specifically for five others to find their home in the Kingdom of God, we pray especially today for those whose faith has grown cold. Give them assurance that you will never lead them where your grace cannot keep them. As they confront the world, the flesh and the devil who relentlessly threaten to discourage and defeat them, fan the flame and rekindle in their hearts the fire of the Holy Spirit that they may be recreated, refreshed and renewed with the power from on high to do your will. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



DAY 15

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who builds his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

MATTHEW
7:24-25

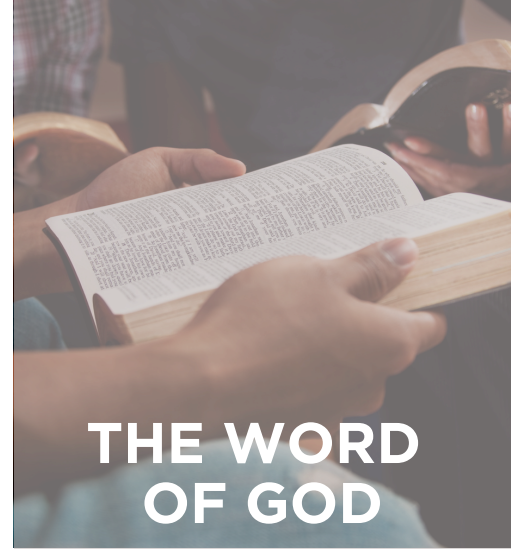
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“This Book had to be written by one of three people: good men, bad men or God. It couldn't have been written by good men because they said it was inspired by the revelation of God. Good men don't lie and deceive. It couldn't have been written by bad men because bad men would not write something that would condemn themselves. It leaves only one conclusion. It was given by divine inspiration of God.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We wake in the morning, O God, open our eyes, and there You are. You neither slumber nor sleep. You watched over us throughout the night and will be with us throughout this day. Even when we are preoccupied with lesser things and are unaware of your Presence, You constantly are speaking into our lives in the words of Scripture, the stirring of our hearts, the unexpected opening of a door, the dawning of a dream, the counsel of a friend, the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit. How great are your gifts, O God, and we hardly know how to thank You. Save us from the dullness of spirit lest we miss the revelation of all that is beautiful and good and holy. Open our hearts to truth; your Word is truth. As we pray for our five loved ones, may they joyfully discover that your desire to make yourself known to us is greater than our desire to know you. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.



All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



DAY 16

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

JAMES
1:17

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake- not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We praise You, O God, from whom all blessings flow! We praise You with all creatures here below! We praise You with all the heavenly hosts! You have created this day, and it is good because it is filled with your Presence. Yet there are so many today, including our five loved ones, who are not convinced of your goodness and are unaware of the infinite riches of your grace. O Lord, make us aware of others in our spheres of influence whose hearts are breaking, whose bodies are hurting, and whose hope is ebbing. Engrave your Word on our hearts, fill us with your Spirit, and use us as your servants through whom your gospel is seen and heard and believed and applied for the sake of all You love. May your blessings flow as far as the curse is found. This we ask in the strong name of Jesus Christ whose kingdom has no end and whose love cannot be exhausted. Amen.



All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:15



DAY 17

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

MATTHEW
5:5

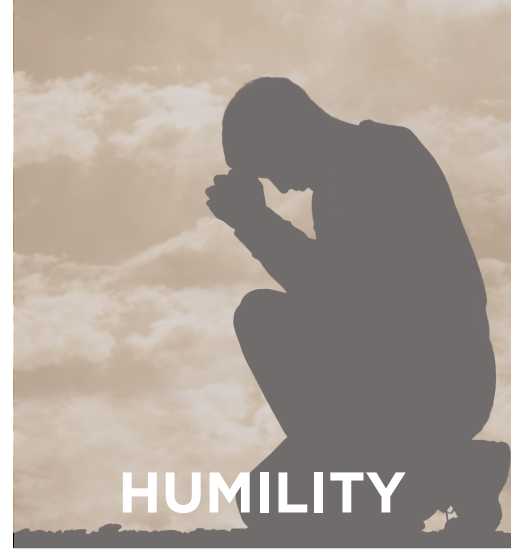
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Beware you are not a fiery, persecuting enthusiast. Do not imagine that God has called you (just contrary to the spirit of Him you style your Master) to destroy men’s lives, and not to save them. Never dream of forcing men into the ways of God. Think yourself, and let think. Use no constraint in matters of religion. Even those who are farthest out of the way never compel to come in by any other means than reason, truth, and love.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

O Lord, how deeply we respect your humble servants for their faithful self-giving; their availability to care for others in need; their desire to be life-long learners; their honesty to admit their sin; their complete reliance on your grace; their patience to wait on You and their ability to trust You. Thank You, Lord, for these who do not follow the advice of the hateful or spend time with the hurtful. Rather, they find delight in doing what they understand your will to be. These faithful disciples make us think of You, and we want to be more like You having been around them. Their love of You is revealed in the way they love others. Their humility is obvious in their non-anxious presence and in the pure joy of your Presence. And so, we pray that through all the experiences of this day You will find us also to be faithful, available, teachable, and responsible as true followers and servants of Jesus, reflecting your Spirit in all we do and say and especially as we intercede for five others. Should we fail in word or deed, hear our confession and restore the joy of your salvation to our hearts. This we pray for the sake of your Kingdom and all that You love, in Jesus’ name. Amen.



The greatest among you will be your servant.

Matthew 23:11



DAY 18

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2 COR.
4:7-10

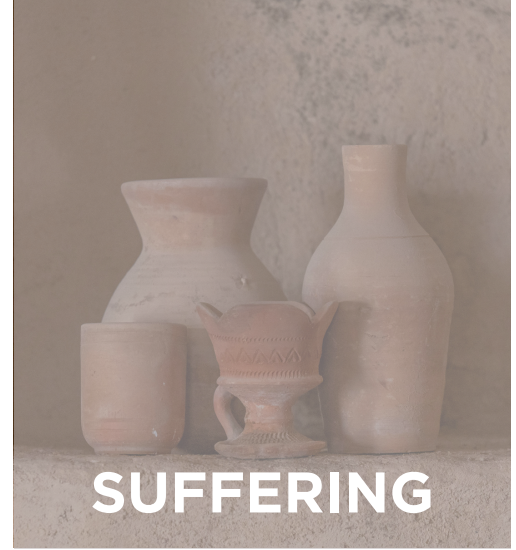
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“The readiest way which God takes to draw a man to himself is, to afflict him in that he loves most, and with good reason; and to cause this affliction to arise from some good action done with a single eye; because nothing can more clearly show him the emptiness of what is most lovely and desirable in the world.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Life is hard, Lord. We struggle in a world that is filled with deceit and betrayal, envy and sloth, hardship and violence. Yet it is the world You have made, the world You love, the world we all share and the world You are still creating with renewed mercies every morning and gifts of grace throughout the day. We long for that day when all the kingdoms of this world will have become the kingdom of Christ, and all our struggles in human relationships will give way before your eternal love. Help us to live today in this hope, as witnesses to the five for whom we are praying, that because of Jesus we can be forgiven of all the ways we have offended You and free to forgive all who have offended us. Remind us of the long line of faithful servants who embraced the Cross and triumphed over adversity to glorify your name. Teach us how to be the Church, the Body of Christ, a living presence in the midst of a fallen world, fully devoted to You and all You love. May we be constantly amazed at what You can do through us and through our prayers by the grace of our Lord Jesus at work within us. It is to him we give all honor and glory and blessing and praise as we pray in his name. Amen.



SUFFERING

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:16



DAY 19

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 JOHN
1:7

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Our Heavenly Father, through the blood of Jesus You have redeemed us from the sin that drives us apart and reconciled us with the love by which all things are held together. Thank You for making us partners with You in this eternal covenant. Thank You for the vision of your Kingdom that blesses and inspires us. Thank You for a vision of divine love for all that does not diminish your love for each one. Thank You for the vision of us as sheep that even when we wander away, the Good Shepherd goes looking for us. Thank You for the vision of the community of believers, the Church, whose history of division and dissension does not alter your desire for the salvation of the world. Thank You for the vision of the world whose greed and lust for power does not silence your demand for peace and holiness. Help us to so live in your vision before our five loved ones and others that they too will believe and receive the Gospel, worship and adore You, love and obey your Word, and re-present Jesus to the least, the last, the loneliest, and the lost across the street and around the world. Amen.



Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20



DAY 20

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself.

MATTHEW
22:37-39

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Christian perfection is nothing higher and nothing lower than this - the pure love of God and man; the loving of God with all our heart and soul, and our neighbor as ourselves. It is love governing the heart and life, running through all our tempers, words, and actions”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Holy God, we rejoice that you have made us in love and for love. We are made in your image, and You placed within us a desire for companionship and trusted us to form holy and lasting covenant relationships. You are worthy of all our love, yet we confess that we have not loved you with our hearts, minds, souls and strength. We have not loved our neighbors and have avoided the stranger. Forgive us, Lord, when we have sought to remake others to fit our needs rather than seeking to be and love like Jesus, serving their needs. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and help us to become what we may be, that we may honor you and bless and pray rightly for others, including our five loved ones, in your name. May we delight to do your will and walk in your ways, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.



If we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:12



DAY 21

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 PETER
2:9-10

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"Oh that God would give me the thing which I long for! That before I go hence and am no more seen, I may see a people wholly devoted to God, crucified to the world, and the world crucified to them. A people truly given up to God in body, soul and substance! How cheerfully would I then say, 'Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.'"

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Faithful and loving God, You delivered your people out of bondage in Egypt and from the armies of Pharaoh through the Red Sea. You provided for them in the wilderness and led them to Mt. Sinai where You gave Words to shape them into a holy nation. Your desire was to fulfill the covenant promise given Abraham, to establish them in their own land where they would be blessed to be a blessing to the entire world. At the Jordan River, where they could see the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey, they were faced with a decision: trust You to make a way forward or shrink back in fear and unbelief. You grieved that in that moment of truth, they refused to continue the journey. Their hard hearts revealed that although they were out of Egypt, Egypt was not out of them. You still desire fully devoted hearts that love You without rival; fully surrendered hearts to the One who not only delivers us from slavery to our sins but also is able to save us from the power of sin; fully trusting hearts that are open to the Spirit to lead and provide all that is necessary for the journey. O Lord, we pray that our five loved ones will choose to leave the spiritual wastelands of the desert, go forward in faith and follow You into the Promised Land of spiritual wholeness. In Jesus' name. Amen.



COVENANT PEOPLE

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still remains, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

Hebrews 4:1



DAY 22

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings...

HEBREWS
10:19-22A

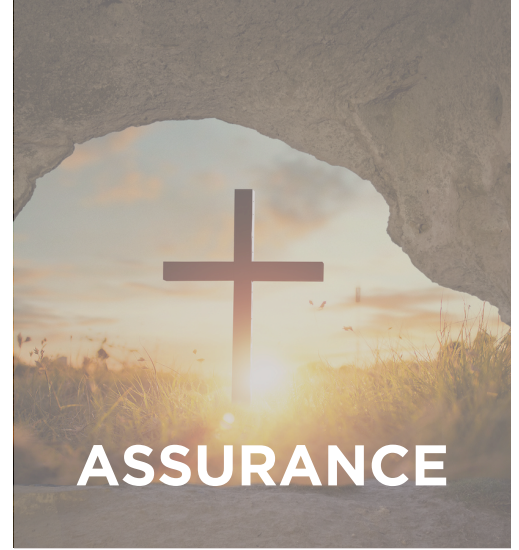
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

JOHN
WESLEY'S
JOURNAL
5.24.1738

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We come to You this morning, Lord, praying for ourselves and interceding for our five loved ones. We come just as we are, that we may be changed by your grace. We come with emptiness, that we might be filled with the Holy Spirit. We come with darkness, seeking your light onto our pathway. We come with our weakness, needing your strength. We come with our brokenness, that You may make me whole. We come with our ordinary lives, that We may embrace the extraordinary life of the Spirit. We come with questions, fears, and doubts, that we may have peace that passes understanding. We come with our worship and praise, that You may know how much we love You. We come with prayers for our five loved ones that they may know how much You love them. We come to You, O Lord, just as we are, that we may be changed by your grace. O Lamb of God, we come, we come. Amen.



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

1 John 5:13



DAY 23

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

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

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Faith is given according to our present need. You have now such faith as is necessary for your living unto God. As yet you are not called to die. When you are, you shall have faith for this also. Today improve the faith which you now have, and trust God with tomorrow.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We believe with all our hearts, Lord Jesus, that there will be a day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that You alone are Lord. Between that day and today, we want to believe that there is a divine purpose unfolding and holy power is at work beyond my understanding. Forgive our moments of doubt that limit our confidence that You, the Good Shepherd who cares and provides for his flock, are leading us. Help us to trust You day by day, step by step, moment by moment, that all that is right and true and good is revealed in your perfect timing. May we leave the burdens of tomorrow with You today, our Savior and Friend. We can bear only what You expect of us each day, and we thank You, for that is enough and all You ask of us. And so, we pray that You will open our minds, and those of our five loved ones, that we may embrace eternal truth and be embraced by perfect love, for the sake of your Kingdom and all that You love. Amen.



Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1



DAY 24

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

HEBREWS
4:9-10

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

Lord, I believe a rest remains To all Thy people known;
A rest where pure enjoyment reigns, And Thou art loved alone.

A rest, where all our soul's desire Is fixed on things above;
Where fear and sin and grief expire, Cast out by perfect love.

Oh, that I now the rest might know, Believe, and enter in;
Now, Savior, now the power bestow, And let me cease from sin.

CHARLES
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

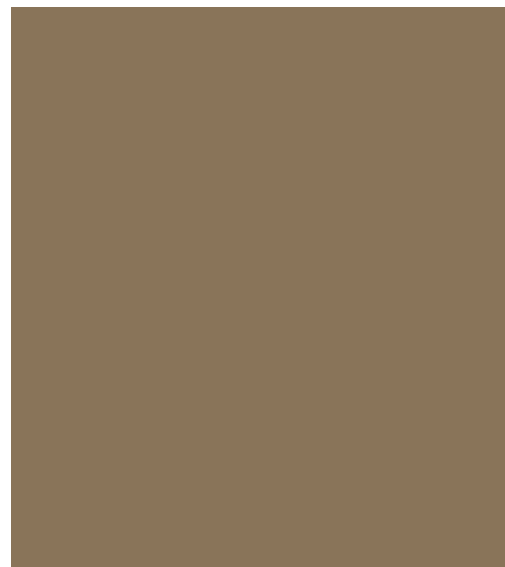
Eternal God, You have made yourself known throughout all generations by cherished traditions and faithful witnesses. You are the God of tomorrow who holds the destiny of all nations in your hands. You are shaping the future for the sake of your Kingdom that will surely come. For this reason, O Lord, we bow before You in the name of Jesus who willingly laid down his life for us all that we, through the blood of the eternal covenant, might have peace with You and be reconciled to one another. We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, which keeps alive the ministry of the Word for the salvation of all people and the redemption of the poor and needy. Through your Spirit You call us to this mission that is greater than ourselves, promising us Holy Spirit Power to live out that commitment to love those whom You love and forgive those whom You have forgiven and pray for those - our five loved ones - who need You. Today, we will do our best to walk responsibly, faithfully, and prayerfully, believing that this is one day closer to the consummation of your divine will throughout the earth. This we pray, in the strong name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



REST

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28



DAY 25

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - 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

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth. God will do nothing but in answer to prayer.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Eternal God, You have made yourself known throughout all generations by cherished traditions and faithful witnesses. You are the God of tomorrow who holds the destiny of all nations in your hands. You are shaping the future for the sake of your Kingdom that will surely come. For this reason, O Lord, we bow before You in the name of Jesus who willingly laid down his life for us all that we, through the blood of the eternal covenant, might have peace with You and be reconciled to one another. We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, which keeps alive the ministry of the Word for the salvation of all people and the redemption of the poor and needy. Through your Spirit You call us to this mission that is greater than ourselves, promising us Holy Spirit Power to live out that commitment to love those whom You love and forgive those whom You have forgiven and pray for those - our five loved ones - who need You. Today, we will do our best to walk responsibly, faithfully, and prayerfully, believing that this is one day closer to the consummation of your divine will throughout the earth. This we pray, in the strong name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.

2 Chronicles 6:21



DAY 26

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 COR.
4:1-2

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Jesus, as disciples who profess You as Lord, our devotion is not simply to do what we think is right or what is our duty. In our own strength we can do only what is proper or required of us. You desire something more, the full devotion of our undivided hearts: “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” Paul exhorted us to be renewed in the spirit of our minds that we may know and prove what your will is. The true happiness we seek is not success or satisfaction with our accomplishments. Our reward is your pleasure. Your joy is our joy. Your glory is our passion. To love You supremely is your desire and our prayer. Your burden for our five loved ones is our burden. In our lives, Lord, be glorified today, for the sake of all You love. Amen.



I can do everything
through him who gives
me strength.

Philippians 4:13



DAY 27

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS
3:13-14

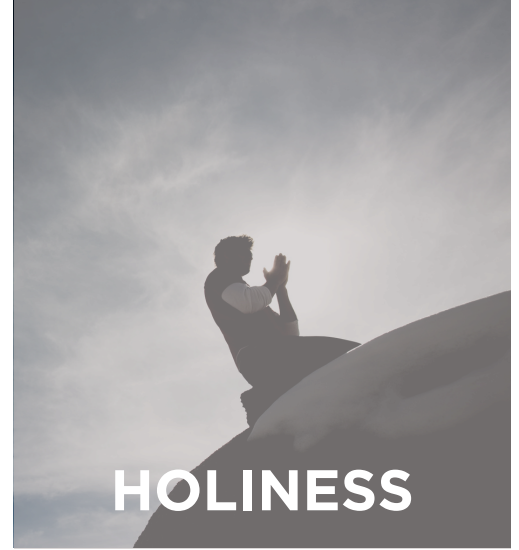
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“By salvation I mean not barely according to the vulgar notion deliverance from hell or going to heaven but a present deliverance from sin a restoration of the soul to its primitive health its original purity a recovery of the divine nature the renewal of our souls after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness in justice mercy and truth.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Lord, have mercy on us. We pray that You would come with heavenly calm into the clutter of our everyday world. Come with your strength into our weakness. Come with your holiness into our self-centeredness. Come into every corner of our hearts and make your home in us. Let your abiding Presence that stilled the hearts of saints calm our souls. Let the courage that inspired them inspire us. Let the imagination that possessed them to pray past the ordinary into the unusual possess our minds, so that we may transcend what we think we know of ourselves and our circumstances and devote ourselves truly and completely to the glory of your Name. May the five for whom we pray today see your life through us, steadying all who have slipped along their journey, encouraging those who have forgotten their way, comforting those who grieve, and opening all hearts to love and hope and eternal joy. We pray believing that yours, O Lord, is the unshakable Kingdom that has no end and the immeasurable love that will never be exhausted. Amen.



Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14



DAY 28

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.

EPHESIAN
4:32-5:1

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Our Heavenly Father, you never intended us to journey through life alone. Created in your image, you stamped on our hearts a restlessness that will not be satisfied if we are apart from you and choose to distance ourselves from one another. Through the eternal covenant by the blood of Jesus we draw near and are reconciled to you. Through his life, death, and resurrection we can draw near to one another, remove barriers and tear down walls that divide us. Freely we have received, freely we can give. Fully we have been forgiven, fully we can forgive. Perfectly we are loved, perfectly we can love. May we, who claim your name, love and live among all others in such a way that in observing us, they see the resemblance, are drawn to you and give you praise. For the sake of the five for whom we continue to pray and for all you love, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



COMPASSION

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40



DAY 29

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

DEUT.
29:29

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field."

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

O God, your love is forever, and your grace is beyond measure. Praise your holy name! We pray that the reality of your Kingdom will come in its fullness, and your will shall be done in our lives as it is in heaven. Move upon our minds and hearts in such an indubitable way that we will not mistake your glory as something for which we claim credit. Capture our undivided attention as you captured that of Moses at the burning bush. Inspire our minds to think of things above and beyond this world as Isaiah was inspired in the temple. Free us from the lethargy of ordinariness that staggered the souls of the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration. We dare to pray that You become the Supreme Reality without rival in our lives and all of our five loved ones. Help us, Lord, to be done with lesser things, and cling to You as if our lives depended upon it, for truly it does. May our aim today be first and foremost to hear your voice and obey your will. You alone are God, and we are not. With all the saints and angels, we worship and adore You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, because yours is the unshakable Kingdom that has no end and the immeasurable love that will never be exhausted. Amen.



...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9



DAY 30

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!”

PSALM
103:1

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace! Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.”

CHARLES
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We praise You, O God, for all that You have made: every mountain and hill, every field and valley, every tree and plant, every creature small and large, every color and shape and design. We praise You for every person we meet, every conversation we have, every laugh we share, every tear wiped away and every prayer offered for others. We praise You for every experience of genuine friendship and every expression of divine love. We praise You for Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We praise You for the outpouring and infilling of the Holy Spirit. We praise You for the fellowship of the church and for the communion of the saints. We praise You for the assurance that the love, joy, worship, and fellowship we share here and now are only a mere hint of all that You have in store for us there and then. We praise You that you have done for us what we could never do for ourselves. We offer this prayer and praise in the blessed name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



PRAYER &
PRAISE

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Psalm 150:6



DAY 31

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him when he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

ISAIAH
55:6-7

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“The case is this: God offers you one of the greatest mercies on this side of heaven and commands you to accept it. Why do you not accept this mercy in obedience to His command.... God offers you a pardon for all your sins.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

O God, your love is from everlasting to everlasting. Your truth endures forever. Your way is filled with peace, and your mercies never end. Your glory fills the heavens, and your majesty rules the earth. Yet, this is a broken world. Our greed has overtaken common sense and the common good. Our reluctance to share has caused the poor to become poorer. Our politics have led us into incivility, bitterness and division. Even our faith is branded not by love, mercy and forgiveness, but pride, prejudice and anger. Lord, have mercy on us. We regret our hard hearts and repent of our rebellious spirits. We want to walk together with You on paths of righteousness along still waters, so near that your Spirit may restore our wayward souls. Only then will our homes be havens of peace and our communities centers of hope. Only then will unbelievers be willing to listen to what we sing and speak. O Lord, heal our brokenness, forgive our sin, fill us with your Spirit and restore our joy for the sake of our five loved ones and all You love across the street and around the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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

I John 1:9



DAY 32

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

PSALM
86:11-12

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“I have never known more than fifteen minutes of anxiety or fear. Whenever I feel fearful emotions overtaking me, I just close my eyes and thank God that He is still on the throne reigning over everything and I take comfort in His control over the affairs of my life.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

How we thank You, O Lord, for this amazing privilege of coming into your holy presence as we pray. What an honor it is to freely express the matters of our hearts to You: our needs and concerns, our sorrows and joy, our pain and praise, our fears and trust. In this sacred moment, You remind us that we must open our hands as we open our hearts, surrendering everything into your hand, not depending on our understanding or expecting answers, but trusting You as the Lord Almighty who was and is and is to come. Our hope is not in our hope, but in your promises. Our faith is not in our faith, but in your faithfulness. Our love is not in our loving, but in being loved. We have not seen, we have not heard, nor could we ever imagine the things You have prepared for all who love You, yet by your Spirit You are ready and willing and able to reveal your heart to us. For this we pray with open hands and open hearts, for the sake of ourselves and our five loved ones, in the name of Jesus. Amen.



FULL
SURRENDER

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



DAY 33

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

EPHESIANS
5:25-27

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th'eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

CHARLES
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Lord Jesus, You have done for us what we could never do for ourselves. We are the Church, the Redeemed, witnesses of your saving and sanctifying grace. You called us out to proclaim what You have done and can do for every nation, tribe, people and language on planet earth. You have not called us to success but to obedience as we boldly deliver this gospel message for the redemption of the world and to the glory of God. As your Bride we pray to be radiant in love, holy in devotion, and blameless in character. Only through your death on the cross are we set from the bondage of sin. Only through the riches of your infinite grace are we made worthy of your holy name. Only in the power of the Holy Spirit can we do the works of God. May it be so in our lives, in the lives of the five for whom we continue to pray, and in the lives of disciples-yet-to-be across the street and around the world. This we pray, Lord Jesus, for your sake and for the sake of all You love. Amen.



REDEMPTION

Now the Lord is Spirit,
and where the Spirit of
the Lord is, there is
freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17



DAY 34

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.

ISAIAH
40:31

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“The bottom of the soul may be in repose, even while we are in many outward troubles; just as the bottom of the sea is calm, while the surface is strongly agitated.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Hear our prayer, O Lord, as we quiet our souls before You. In this quietness, we know You are near. We speak, and we know You will listen. We also know that as You speak, we need to listen. And so, we are still, waiting for your peace where anger and hurt are found; for your healing where open wounds of disappointment and pain remain; for communion where we are separated from You and others; for wisdom as we do not understand; for courage to do what we clearly understand. You are good and great. You are patient and kind. You are loving and forgiving. You help us in times of trouble and help us to live with trouble when it cannot be handled. You offer us mercies every morning, and sufficient grace for this day and every kind of day. And so, with undivided hearts set on You we will embrace this day and all that it holds in the peace of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. For the sake of our five loved ones and all that is on your heart we pray. Amen.



You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3



DAY 35

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

JOHN
4:23-24

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"A Methodist (Christian) is one who loves the Lord his God with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength. God is the joy of his heart, and the desire of his soul, which is continually crying, 'Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth whom I desire besides thee.' My God and my all! 'Thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.'"

JOHN
WESLEY

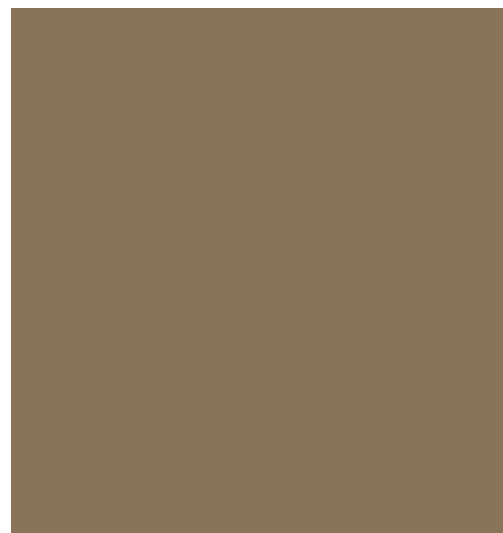
WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Holy and loving God, we thank you for sanctuary, holy moments in holy places, that set us apart from our past with all its sin and shame; from a noisy world that is often hard and confusing and indifferent; from the wearisomeness of fear and worry, busyness and work. We especially thank You for the sanctuary where we gather with family and friends and the faith community, where we pilgrims rest along the journey, our souls are refreshed, sin is confessed, burdens are shared, and hope is renewed. We praise You for the many places You provide sanctuary across this globe, holy ground where your Word is preached, sacraments are received, and the faithful are lost in wonder, love and praise. We desperately need sanctuary, O Lord, where we are step aside and worship You in the beauty of holiness. And so, we continue to pray daily for your Kingdom to come and your will to be done in the lives of these five loved ones as it is in heaven to the end that we no longer will need sanctuary, for your dwelling place will be with us. In the name of Jesus, the One who came into our space and time that we may enjoy your Presence forever. Amen.



Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2



DAY 36

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

And whoever gives one of these little ones a cup of cold water because he is my disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

MATTHEW
10:42

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“God is so great that He communicates greatness to the least thing that is done for His service.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Honestly, Lord, we wonder at times if the narrow and difficult path is worth the effort. We would rather ignore responsibilities that are ours and ours alone ...shrink from the burden of doing what is right and good...avoid the risk of being misunderstood, or perhaps clearly understood...complain about our situation in life...remind You of those whose lives are easier than our own...cling to the gifts you have given us...close our eyes and our minds to the suffering, pain, and brokenness of the world...let someone else do the heavy lifting. But You call us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow You, embracing this day that is full of possibilities of your grace and opportunities to be merciful. You renew your mercies every day, and we would be fools to miss what You have in mind today for all who love You. So, we choose to say, “Thank You, Lord! Your love is forever. Your mercies are never ending. Great is your faithfulness. Today, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart and the work of my hands be pleasing to You and a blessing to my five loved ones and all that You love.” Amen and amen.



Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9



DAY 37

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

DEUT.
4:9

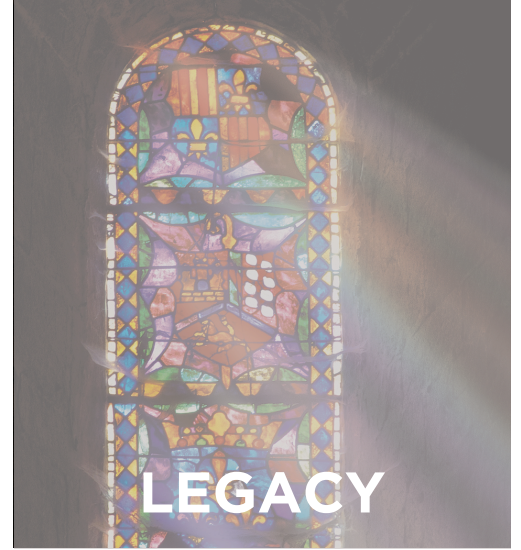
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Thank You, most patient God, for keeping faith with us in spite of our lack of faith. Thank You for providing such wonderful witnesses throughout the years to remind us of hope, faith, and love: the old man who is planting trees in the neighborhood even though he knows he will not live to enjoy them; the young woman who suffers from a terminal disease, yet exudes a holy presence of unalloyed joy and steadfast hope; the spiritual leaders of our community who day after day demonstrate authentic faith with their heartfelt prayers, clear words of witness, and tireless work for the sake of your Kingdom; husbands and wives who agree that, in spite of current affairs, this world is still a fit place for having and raising children. Forgive us for our cynicism and unbelief that causes doubts and fears and anxiety. Remind us that You have been our help in ages past, and You are our hope for years to come, even today. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus who gives us and all those for whom we pray hope and a future. Amen.



Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.

Psalm 102:18



DAY 38

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

MATTHEW
28:19-20

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“The world is my parish.”

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

We rejoice with the angels today, O Lord, as people from diverse cultures, languages and communities across this globe will make public professions of faith, trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and choosing to follow him as Lord. Hallelujah! Thank You for the renewal that will come to the church through their devotion to Christ, their faithfulness in the face of adversity, the opportunities to share their story, their hope that inspires our faith, and the impact of their giving and serving and loving others in your name. We pray for their sanctification as Spirit-filled, Spirit-led disciples. Establish them firmly in your Word. Give them a strong sense of your Presence as they pray. Help them engage and enjoy authentic community where they can worship, grow and be sent to serve. Save them from the temptation to surrender purity of heart for popularity and goodness of spirit for cheap thrills. When they fail, let them not be ashamed to ask for help, and when they seek help, let them find generous and graceful friends of Jesus. Thank You for calling these disciples, for the sake of your Kingdom and for all You love. Amen.



Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalm 2:8



DAY 39

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...

ISAIAH
61:1-2A

WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

"You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore spend and be spent in this work."

JOHN
WESLEY

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who have never prayed or been invited to call on your Name. We pray for those who acknowledge your existence but deny your power. We pray for those who see evil in the world and conclude that You do not exist. We pray for those who have been wounded by injustice in the world and apathy within your church. We pray for those who have never heard the Gospel and for those who labor every day to share your story in word and deed. We pray for neighbors who search for meaning and purpose every day and then lay their heads on pillows at night with no answers and no peace. Holy and loving Savior, from You every family on earth takes its name. Send witnesses of your mercy and grace to our five loved ones and others across this planet that they may hear, believe, repent, humbly ask and receive the Holy Spirit. Use the conversations and the conduct of our lives throughout this day as a reflection of your holy and loving character for the sake of all You love. This we pray in the Name by which we are saved. Amen.



THE GOSPEL

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8



DAY 40

Quiet your heart before the Lord and then listen, learn and pray for your Five.

GOD SPEAKS, WE LISTEN

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

JEREMIAH
31:33

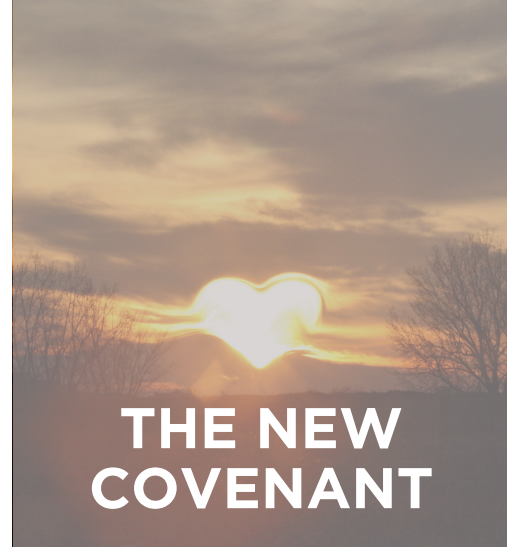
WISDOM FROM THE WESLEYS

“Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Let be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You. Let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. Amen.”

JOHN
WESLEY
COVENANT
PRAYER

WE SPEAK, GOD LISTENS

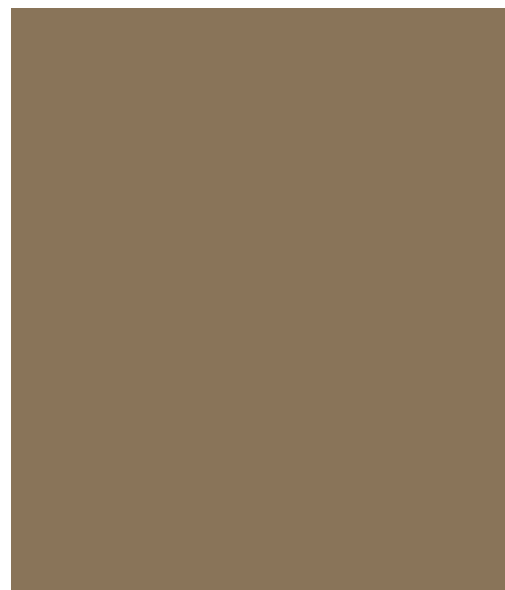
Lord Jesus, save us from the false impression that we can follow the leading of your Spirit, love as You loved, live as You lived, and obey as You were obedient in my own strength. Help us to examine our lives honestly in the light of your holy Presence this morning, confessing the immensity of our need and the supremacy of your grace. Then lead us from this place of self-examination and confession to the fire of your sanctifying Spirit to the end that with a holy heart we will follow You closely, love others dearly, live the Gospel faithfully, and reach out to those for whom we have prayed these 40 days, obediently doing whatever honors your holy Name. So be it. Amen.



THE NEW COVENANT

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23



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40 Days of Prayer & Preparation

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