

**Father Illuminate Your Word in My Heart
That I May Reflect the Love of Jesus
All the Days of My Life.**



Sanctify (set apart as holy) them by the truth; Your word is truth.

John 17:17

Pressing Toward the Goal Philippians 3:12-21

¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. ¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. ¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. ¹⁸ For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

1. **Grace to Keep Pressing Forward** – Pray for the strength and determination to press on toward spiritual growth, despite past failures. (*Philippians 3:13-14*)
2. **To Have a Heavenly Mindset** – Ask God to help you focus on eternal rewards rather than temporary worldly distractions. (*Philippians 3:20*)
3. **Strength to Imitate Christ** – Pray for the ability to follow Christ's example and mature in your walk with Him. (*See Also 1 Corinthians 11:1*)
4. **Endurance in Faith** – Ask God for endurance to keep running with focus and perseverance. (*See Also Hebrews 12:1-2*)
5. **Holding Tight to the Progress Made**– Pray for grace to not lose ground in your spiritual journey but to keep growing in faith and righteousness. (*See Also Galatians 6:9*)

Prayer

Lord, I thank You for calling me to run this race of faith. Strengthen me to press on and not grow weary. Help me forget what is behind and reach for what is ahead, keeping my eyes fixed on Jesus. Give me the endurance to run with perseverance, the wisdom to stay on course, and the faith to hold tightly to the progress I've made. Let my mind be set on heavenly things, and may my life reflect Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Psalm 23 The Good Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

² He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams.

³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name.

⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me.

Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

1. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1) Prayer: Father, thank You for being my Shepherd. I trust You to provide everything I need. **Supporting Verse:** Philippians 4:19 – "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

2. "He makes me lie down in green pastures." (Psalm 23:2a) Prayer: Lord, thank You for leading me to places of rest and nourishment. Help me to rest in Your provision. **Supporting Verse:** Isaiah 26:3 – "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

3. "He leads me beside still waters." (Psalm 23:2b) Prayer: God, calm the storms around and within me. Lead me to stillness in Your presence. **Supporting Verse:** John 14:27 – "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you..."

4. "He restores my soul." (Psalm 23:3a) Prayer: Father, where I am weary or broken, restore my soul. Renew me from within. **Supporting Verse:** Psalm 147:3 – "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

5. "He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." (Psalm 23:3b) Prayer: Lord, guide me in Your ways. Let my life reflect Your holiness and honor Your name. **Supporting Verse:** Proverbs 3:5–6 – "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

6. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..." (Psalm 23:4a) Prayer: God, help me to trust You in dark and difficult times. Remove fear and fill me with faith. **Supporting Verse:** Isaiah 43:2 – "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..."

7. "For You are with me." (Psalm 23:4b) Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your constant presence. I am never alone. **Supporting Verse:** Hebrews 13:5b – "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

8. "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4c) Prayer: Father, thank You for Your loving correction and protection. Teach me to find comfort in Your discipline. **Supporting Verse:** Job 5:17 – "Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty."

9. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." (Psalm 23:5a) Prayer: God, thank You for favor and provision, even in the face of opposition. Let Your presence be my confidence. **Supporting Verse:** Psalm 5:12 – "You bless the righteous, O Lord; You cover him with favor as with a shield."

10. "You anoint my head with oil." (Psalm 23:5b) Prayer: Anoint me, Lord, with Your Spirit. Set me apart for Your purpose and empower me for every assignment. **Supporting Verse:** 1 John 2:20 – "But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge."

11. "My cup overflows." (Psalm 23:5c) Prayer: Let my life overflow with Your blessings, joy, and spiritual abundance. Make me a blessing to others. **Supporting Verse:** Luke 6:38 – "...good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over..."

12. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." (Psalm 23:6a) Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that Your goodness and mercy never stop pursuing me. Let them shape every day of my life. **Supporting Verse:** Deuteronomy 28:2 – "All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you..."

13. "And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6b) Prayer: God, may I never leave Your presence. Let me live in deep communion with You now and for eternity. **Supporting Verse:** John 14:2–3 – "In my Father's house are many rooms... I will come again and take you to myself..."

Cultivating Good Soil for God to Grow in You

Jesus taught that the condition of our hearts determines how the Word of God takes root and produces fruit (**Matthew 13:1–23**). Just like a garden needs good soil to thrive, our spiritual lives need intentional cultivation. When our hearts are soft and receptive, God can plant His Word, presence, and purpose deep within us—and cause it to grow.

Cultivating good soil isn't a one-time act; it's a lifestyle. It's choosing to till the ground daily so nothing hardens, chokes, or steals what God is doing. It's about becoming a person who not only hears God but lives from His truth, abides in His presence, and grows in His family.

There are three powerful “soils” we're called to cultivate in partnership with the Holy Spirit:

1. The Word of God – When we read, meditate on, study (with context), and memorize Scripture, we're planting seeds of truth that shape how we think, speak, and live.
2. The Presence of God – As we spend time in worship, prayer, silence, and solitude, we create space for God to speak, heal, and fill us with His peace and power.
3. The Community of God – When we walk in fellowship with other believers—serving, breaking bread, and sharing life—we experience the joy of being sharpened and supported in love.

God is the Master Gardener, but He invites us to prepare the ground. When we keep the soil of our lives healthy, His Spirit can move freely, His Word can bear fruit, and His love can overflow through us.

So ask Him today: “Lord, help me to tend the soil of my heart. Make it good ground for Your Kingdom to grow.”

1st Good Soil: Word of God (*Read, meditate, study in context, memorize*)

- *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* — **Psalm 119:105**
- *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night..."* — **Joshua 1:8**
- *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching..."* — **2 Timothy 3:16–17**

Prayer Points:

- Lord, give me a hunger for Your Word that grows daily.
- Help me to meditate on Your Word until it transforms my thinking and actions.
- Give me revelation as I study the context of Scripture.
- Strengthen my memory to store Your truth in my heart (**Psalm 119:11**).

2nd Good Soil: Presence of God (*Worship & praise, prayer, silence & solitude*)

- *"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."* — **James 4:8**
- *"Be still, and know that I am God."* — **Psalm 46:10**
- *"God inhabits the praises of His people."* — **Psalm 22:3**

Prayer Points:

- Lord, teach me to linger in Your presence through worship and praise.
- Help me to value quiet moments with You over the noise of the world.
- Deepen my prayer life, not just in requests, but in communion.
- Make me more aware of Your nearness, even in silence.

3rd Good Soil: Community of God (*Serve, Heart Crew/small group, breaking bread*)

- *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread..."* — **Acts 2:42**
- *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* — **Proverbs 27:17**
- *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..."* — **1 Peter 4:10**

Prayer Points:

- Lord, place me in life-giving community where I can grow and serve.
- Help me to be a faithful encourager in my Heart Crew and relationships.
- Teach me the joy of serving others as unto You.
- Let my heart be knit together with the body of Christ in love and unity.