

# July Devotions

## The Price of Freedom

We are so blessed to live in a country that affords us abundant liberty and freedom. As we celebrate that privilege, let us not forget that it was bought at a price, and we need to honor those who have fought so bravely to secure and preserve our freedoms. We should reflect on the foundations of the USA - the *United States of America* where a basic tenet is that *all* are created equal, and that we are endowed *by our Creator* with certain unalienable rights, but along with these rights come

Let us also remember that one of those freedoms is to worship and honor our heavenly Father. This freedom is sacred, and we must never take it for granted! No matter where we live, no matter our circumstances, the freedom we have in Christ can never be taken from us. Praise God for His abundant blessings on our country and on us individually! **John 8:36**...So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed!

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we are eternally grateful for our citizenship - both in the United States and even more so in Your family. We acknowledge that both were secured for us through great sacrifice, and both reflect Your great love and divine intervention. Today we honor You as well as those who have fought to preserve our freedoms. God bless America, and may American once again purpose to honor You.

## **Angels Are Watching**

*“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”*

**(Psalm 91:1 NIV)**

Psalm 91 is a personal message of God’s protection over your life. This is for you.

He is your refuge. He is your fortress. He will save you from the lure of the enemy. He will cover you and you will find security from the storms of life. You will be protected by God from harm. Again, you can say that “The Lord is my refuge.” and you make the Most High your dwelling. He is not going to allow disaster to come near you. How do you know? His word says:.

“For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.” **(Psalm 91: 11-12 NLT)** Because you love the Lord, He says to you “I will rescue those who love Me. I will protect those who trust in My name. When they call on Me, I will answer, I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.” **(Psalm 91:14-15 NLT)** In this Psalm God says He is going to satisfy you and show you His salvation. This is a personal word to each and every child of the Most High. He is walking beside you and guiding your steps and He is keeping you safe. You can rest “...in the shadow of the Almighty.”

**Prayer:** Thank You, Lord, for being my refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust. I praise You for covering me with Your wings and keeping me safe in Your faithful love.

**Psalm 91**

## Indwelling of Holy Spirit

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, the barrier of sin separating us from God is removed through God's love and forgiveness so Holy Spirit can live and dwell inside us. Our hearts become His Home! **1 Corinthians 3:16**

He guides us into all truth and gives us the words to explain spiritual truths. Someone without Holy Spirit considers things that come from Him as foolishness because they are discerned only through Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 2:12-14**

Who is Holy Spirit? He is the third Person in the Trinity. He is a person. He is eternal **Hebrews 9:14** He is the Creator of all things. **Psalms 104:30**. He is Omnipresent. **Psalms 139:7** He is Omniscient. **1 Corinthians 2:10** He gives life. **Romans 8:10-11** And He strengthens believers. **Ephesians 3:16**

Jesus calls Holy Spirit "Paraclete" There are various translations for Paraclete including Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Helper, and Intercessor. Holy Spirit is always with us. He will never leave us or forsake us.

As we continue to submit to the authority of Scripture and obedience to God's Spirit, the more spiritual fruit we will produce to overcome the desires of the flesh. God has given us the amazing gift of His presence and power through His Spirit. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. **Galatians 5:22-23; 25**

### Prayer Points:

- Give praise to God for the gift of Holy Spirit indwelling you! Remember you have continuous access to God's Spirit. He is your Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate.
- Pray for Holy Spirit to guide you in living out His fruit daily.
- In times when you can't find the right words to pray, share your heart with Holy Spirit and He will intercede for you. **Romans 8:26**

## The Cross—From Suffering to Victory

In the New Testament, before Jesus' death and resurrection, the cross was a symbol of suffering, shame, and impending death. Jesus Himself said, *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"* (**Luke 9:23**). This wasn't a call to comfort but a call to surrender—an invitation to die to self.

But after the resurrection, the cross became a symbol of victory. Through the cross, Jesus crushed sin, conquered death, and disarmed the powers of darkness (Colossians 2:15). What once represented loss now shouts triumph.

At the cross, redemption was secured—Jesus paid the full price to buy us back from bondage (**Ephesians 1:7**). Justification was declared—we were made righteous not by works, but by faith in Christ's finished work (**Romans 5:1**). The result? Healing and Freedom. *"By His wounds we are healed"* (**Isaiah 53:5**), and *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free"* (**Galatians 5:1**).

This truth transforms our prayer life. We don't beg God for what He's already provided through the cross—we pray from victory. We don't strive to earn healing, peace, or breakthrough; we release what has already been won through Jesus.

As heirs of heaven, we declare what heaven has already spoken. Jesus said, *"It is finished."* So we pray, not in desperation, but in authority. We align with what Christ has done, enforce His triumph, and see His will done on earth as it is in heaven (**Matthew 6:10**).

### Prayer:

Father, thank You for the victory of the cross. Thank You that I am redeemed, justified, healed, and free. Help me pray from this place of triumph—not as a beggar, but as a child of God, an heir of heaven. Let my prayers reflect the finished work of Jesus, releasing victory into every area of life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Humility or Greatness

There can be a very fine line between true humility and the kind that thinks we were created to grovel in the dirt if we want to be Christ-like. Humility and greatness are really just two sides of the same coin. Humility isn't "All I want to do is the most inconspicuous, lowly job available." In truth, we should all aspire to accomplish really great things for the Lord - which could mean *beginning* in the most inconspicuous, lowly job. But if that is the case, we should be consistently inquiring of the Lord about how He desires to do great and powerful things for His Kingdom in that position.

In 1855 a Boston Sunday School teacher named Edward Kimball was so concerned about one of his young students that he went to the shoe store where the boy worked to personally share Jesus with him. The boy's name was Dwight Moody. Moody's subsequent evangelizing touched the heart of Wilbur Chapman, whose preaching inspired a professional baseball player named Billy Sunday to change careers. At one of Sunday's evangelistic crusades, a young man named Mordecai Ham was converted, and when he went to Charlotte, North Carolina, to have a tent meeting, a very rebellious young man got saved. He was then called Billy Frank, but he eventually became known as Billy Graham.

None of these men thought themselves above a lesser task, nor were they seeking greatness; but neither did they shrink back from stepping into a greater one, and I doubt any of them could foresee the exponential impact their obedience would have for the kingdom. The objective is not to make a name for ourselves but rather to reflect His nature no matter where He has placed us. And it's all to His glory. **2 Corinthians 4:7** "We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us."

**Prayer:** Lord, help us to seek Your will and Your glory in all we do that we might achieve great things for Your kingdom, no matter how small it may appear from an earthly viewpoint. All to Your glory!

## Give Thanks

*“Rejoice always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)*

Have you ever felt like your joy was elusive, like it just left you? If you have ever felt this way, you know it’s a hard place to be in. So, we must look to God’s word for wisdom. We pray and as we give thanks, God is faithful, and He can turn things around for us as we look to “the Rock.” He’s the one that brings joy to our soul. Jesus was speaking to His disciples, and He told them to keep His commandments and if they do, then they will abide in His love. He further said: “these things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” (**John 15:11**) God gets the glory for our joy when we follow His word. God’s presence brings joy. “You will show me the path of life, in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (**Psalms 16:11**) Thank God, because He can turn our circumstances from mourning to joy. In a matter of time, my thankfulness and prayers will restore my joy. No matter what the day may bring, the Lord is saying to you “Rejoice always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**)

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for Your word and I look to You in my circumstances knowing that my joy is found in You. Amen

**John 15:10**

## Our True Citizenship

We're hearing a lot of debate about citizenship these days, and there's fierce opposition regarding who belongs here and who doesn't.

For those of us who are born again by faith in Jesus Christ and do the will of God, we don't need to worry about our citizenship because we are born into the Kingdom of Heaven. **John 3:3; Matthew 7:21**

Paul reiterates that when we stay true to the Lord, we are citizens of Heaven where the Lord Jesus Christ lives, and we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior. **Philippians 3:20**

How do we stay true to the Lord? By keeping our eyes on Christ and remembering that this world is not our home.

We stay true by continually resisting the negative influences that surround us. It takes faith and perseverance to hold firm when we are challenged or opposed by our enemies.

**Philippians 1:27-28**

There are benefits that come with our divine citizenship, most importantly, nothing in this world can separate us from God's love. **Romans 8:38-39**

Prayer Points:

- Jesus taught us to pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." **Matthew 6:10**
- Give thanks to God that His love endures forever. Meditate on the magnitude of that promise! Let it wash over you and give you peace.
- When the chaos that's occurring around the world begins to seep into your thoughts and causes you to become fearful and start worrying, turn your eyes upon Jesus and remember this world is not your home. You are a citizen of Heaven!

## Jesus Our Warrior King

*“The Lord will march out like a champion, like a warrior He will stir up His zeal; with a shout He will raise the battle cry and will triumph over His enemies.” Isaiah 42:13 (NIV)*

Jesus is not only our Savior and Shepherd—He is our **Warrior King**. He goes before us in battle, He stands beside us, and He empowers us for victory. We are not fighting alone. Our battles—spiritual, emotional, even physical—are fought with the strength of the One who has already overcome the world.

But for us to be **effective warriors**, we must wield the Sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—not just with our lips, but from hearts that have been pierced and transformed by it. A sword that hasn’t cut us first will lack power when we raise it against darkness. The Word must work *in* us before it can work *through* us.

Let Jesus, our Warrior King, train our hands for battle by allowing His Word to shape our thoughts, refine our motives, and fill our mouths with truth spoken in power.

### Prayer Points:

**Lord, pierce my heart with Your Word before I speak it.**

*“For the word of God is alive and active... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

**Hebrews 4:12**

**Empower me to fight with You, not apart from You.**

*“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty. Zechariah 4:6*

**Train me to be an effective warrior of love, truth, and power.**

*“Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.” Psalm*

**144:1**



## Just Charge It!

I love my battery powered lawn tools. I don't have to hassle with an extension cord (which is always just a little too short) or worry about whether or not there will be an accessible outlet. As wonderful as these tools are, they don't hold their power indefinitely. Their batteries need to be consistently recharged; if not, they're useless.

The same could be said of us spiritually. We have enormous potential to do the work we were designed for, but if we aren't constantly "recharging" ourselves, we won't be very effective. That means it's essential that we are spending enough time plugged into our power source so that we can do what we were created for effectively.

Our son had a toy chainsaw when he was quite young. If you pulled the string, the blade would vibrate and make an imposing sound, but we knew there would be no damage to our furniture. That's what we're like if we haven't been properly recharging. We may look and sound impressive, but we won't be a threat to Satan and we won't produce anything beneficial to the kingdom.

Spend time in the word; spend time in prayer; spend time in community with mature Christians; and most of all, spend some quality time in His Presence and get recharged.

### John 15:4-5

"So you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine." (The Passion Translation)

**Prayer:** Thank You, Lord, that You are an endless source of power for us to effectively walk in the good works that You have prepared for us. **(Ephesians 2:10)** Remind us to always stay close to you, grounded in Your word and intimate with You in prayer and in quiet times of sitting in Your presence.

## Surrender Your Heart

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts.” (Psalm 139:23)*

This is a cry to God to take hold of our heart and search our innermost thoughts. By the word of God, He has said “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can know it?” (**Jeremiah 17:9**) We are easily deceived into justifying something that we have done is ok, but in the eyes of God, it is sin. God gives us His Spirit to search our hearts and bring conviction of our sin. We can know the truth about our own heart. “The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart.” (**Proverbs 20:27**) Have you surrendered your heart to the Lord? Have you asked the Lord to search your heart? Why is it important? Well, here is God’s answer. “But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”

(**Jeremiah 17:10 NLT**) When the Lord, searches your heart, He will give you wisdom concerning what has been hidden in your heart. (**Psalm 51:6**) King David cried out to the Lord after his sin with Bathsheba was exposed. He asked for mercy. He asked for forgiveness. Then David said, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (**Psalm 51:10 KJV**) Is it time to surrender your heart and let God do a work only He can do?

**Prayer:** God of Heaven, I ask You to do what only You can do and that is, to create in me, a clean heart. Amen

## Fighting From Victory

Every believer eventually learns that when they follow Jesus, the enemy will come after them. Satan doesn't want us to follow Jesus, and he doesn't play fair. **John 10:10** warns us that "the thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy."

That's a terrifying thought if we attempt to face this battle alone. While we have no authority over the enemy by ourselves, God has all authority, and He fights on our behalf.

So as believers, we aren't fighting *for* victory...we're fighting *from* victory. The Spirit of God allows us, by faith, to receive Christ's victory for ourselves! How do we fight *from* victory?

Every day, we put on God's armor to protect ourselves. It's important that we use the whole armor of God and don't leave out any part of it because the enemy looks for any unprotected areas of our lives to defeat us. **Ephesians 6:10**

Every day, we cling to the cross and lean our full weight on Christ through prayer. When we trust in the Lord with all our hearts and seek His will, He will show us which path to take.

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

The devil knows our weaknesses, and he is eager to exploit them. He takes advantage of the knowledge he has about us and uses it to cause us to question our faith with the hopes we will stumble and eventually turn away from God.

So, fight from victory. Stand firm and submit yourself to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **James 4:7**

### **Prayer Points:**

- Pray "Even though I'm <insert your struggle>, I will continue to trust in You, Lord, because You will never leave me nor forsake me." **Hebrews 13:5**
- Ask God to fight the enemy on your behalf because He has ALL authority. Lean on Him and seek His will. He will show you which path to take.

## Keep the Fire Burning

*“Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”*

—**Matthew 24:12** (NKJV)

In a world that often seems to grow darker by the day, it’s easy for our hearts to grow weary—and even cold. Jesus warned us that lawlessness would increase, and with it, love would fade. But we are called to live differently.

The enemy’s tactic is subtle but deadly: to wear down our love through offense, betrayal, and injustice. He tempts us to hate, to divide, to grow indifferent—especially toward those who wound us or walk in darkness. But Jesus calls us to a fiery, supernatural love. A love that blesses those who curse us. A love that prays for our enemies. A love that looks past sin and sees the soul.

This is not a love we can muster on our own. We must daily ask the Holy Spirit to ignite a passionate fire in our hearts—a fire of compassion, mercy, and truth. We need divine strength to forgive, to intercede, and to love *no matter what*.

- *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”* —**Matthew 5:44**
- *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* —**Romans 12:21**
- *“Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* —**Luke 6:28**
- *“And may the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else...”* —**1 Thessalonians 3:12**

### Prayer:

Lord, keep us from the trap of cold love. Break every stronghold that hardens our hearts. Help us to love like You love—with compassion, endurance, and grace. Strengthen us to overcome the lies of the enemy that provoke hate and bitterness. Teach us to bless those who persecute us and to pray for those bound in lawlessness. May our hearts burn with holy love that reflects Your kingdom. Amen.