

Words of *Hope and Comfort* in Difficult Times

Lovingly dedicated to the memory of
Lorene Joslin,
wife, mother, grandmother,
American Sign Language interpreter,
and missionary to Deaf people in the
United States and Ecuador.

How can I know I will go to heaven?

God loves us so much that He prepared a method for us to go to heaven, even though we have sinned and cannot meet His standard of perfection. As much as we work hard to be perfect and satisfy Him, we are not perfect and cannot achieve that standard. Jesus died on the cross as a substitute payment of our sin debt.

We are told in Romans 10:13 that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. The process is simple enough for a child to understand, yet deep enough to challenge a philosopher. The three steps are: **A**dmit that I am a sinner who cannot be perfect enough for heaven. **B**elieve that Jesus paid the debt in my place, and accept His promise of salvation. **C**onfess to God and others that I have made this decision and intend to live the best life I can, depending on His grace and promise. God makes this same offer to every person, no matter how sinful one may have been in the past. Our good deeds and rituals make us better persons, but it is only through God's mercy that we are able to get into heaven.

If you would like to have spiritual help, please contact a clergy person or ask your caregiver to recommend one.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/). To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.

It is freely downloadable and distributable without restriction.

Day 1



Psalm 100 King James Version

¹Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
²Serve the LORD with gladness:
come before his presence with singing.
³Know ye that the LORD he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
⁴Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
⁵For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100 New American Bible*

¹ A psalm of thanksgiving.
Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
² serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song.
³ Know that the LORD is God,
he made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the flock he shepherds.
⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name;
⁵ good indeed is the LORD,
His mercy endures forever,
his faithfulness lasts through every generation.

*Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.



Blessed Assurance Fanny Crosby

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

Chorus:

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

Prayer



Dear Father, right now we need your blessed assurance. We are facing such a difficult time, and we don't know what is coming. We need the assurance of Your love and mercy. Bless us as we watch and wait. Amen.

Day 2



Psalm 51:1-4, 7-12 King James Version

¹Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

...

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

...

Psalm 51:3-6, 9-14 New American Bible

³Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.

⁴Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me.

⁵For I know my transgressions; my sin is always before me.

⁶Against you, you alone have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes. So that you are just in your word, and without reproach in your judgment.

...

⁹Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

¹⁰You will let me hear gladness and joy; the bones you have crushed will rejoice.

¹¹Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my iniquities.

¹²A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.

¹³Do not drive me from before your face, nor take from me your holy spirit.

¹⁴Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; uphold me with a willing spirit.

...



Rock of Ages Augustus M. Toplady

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.*



Prayer

Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us. During these difficult days, be for us the comfort of the cleft in the rock. Give us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with your spirit. Amen.

Day 3



John 14: 1-6 King James Version

¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

²In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

⁴And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

⁵Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

⁶Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14: 1-6 New American Bible

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith* in God; have faith also in me.

²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

⁴Where [I] am going you know the way.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth* and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



Sweet By and By Sanford F. Bennett

*There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.*

Chorus:
*In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

Prayer



Oh Father, our hearts are troubled today, but we trust in your promise that you will receive us unto yourself. We believe that you are the way, the truth, and the life. We believe that we will meet our loved one on that beautiful shore. Amen.

Day 4



Psalm 34:1-8 King James Version

¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
²My soul shall make her boast in the LORD:
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us
exalt his name together.
⁴I sought the LORD, and he heard me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
⁵They looked unto him, and were lightened:
and their faces were not ashamed.
⁶This poor man cried, and the LORD heard
him, and saved him out of all his troubles.
⁷The angel of the LORD encampeth round
about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good:
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Psalm 34:2-9 New American Bible

²I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be always in my mouth.
³My soul will glory in the LORD;
let the poor hear and be glad.
⁴Magnify the LORD with me;
and let us exalt his name together.
⁵I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
delivered me from all my fears.
⁶Look to him and be radiant,
and your faces may not blush for shame.
⁷This poor one cried out and the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.
⁸The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and he saves
them.^b
⁹Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the stalwart one who takes refuge in
him.



Abide with Me Henry F. Lyte

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see—
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

Prayer



Dear Lord, we need to be comforted in our distress. We seek you and cry out to you in our time of trouble. We pray that you will deliver us from our fears and our troubles. We pray that the angels of the Lord will surround us and deliver us. We praise you and bless you for your help in our distress. Amen.

Day 5



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

King James Version

¹³But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

New American Bible

¹³We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁵Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord,* will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together* with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸Therefore, console one another with these words.



Amazing Grace

John Newton

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.*

Prayer



Our Father, the view of heaven seems so wonderful, but getting there seems to be so difficult even though believe in your amazing grace. We believe your promise of that we shall be together again, but we pray for your comfort during these dark days of waiting. Please comfort us with your promises that we shall be together again. Amen.

Day 6



Psalm 23 King James Version

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth over.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the
house of the LORD for ever.



Psalm 23 New American Bible

¹A psalm of David.
The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I lack.
²In green pastures he makes me lie down;
to still waters he leads me;
³he restores my soul.
He guides me along right paths
for the sake of his name.
⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff comfort me.
⁵You set a table before me
in front of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the LORD
for endless days.

How Firm a Foundation

John Keeth

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say
than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee,
and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flames shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes
That soul, though all hell
should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!*

Prayer



O Father, we are passing through the valley of the shadow of death. The shadow is so dark that it is hard to see ahead of us. During our fiery trials, we can only depend on your firm foundation. We believe that you will not desert us or forsake us, but will help us pass from this home to the door of Heaven. Be with us all; help us to long for heaven. Amen.

Day 7



1 Corinthians 15:51-57 King James Version

⁵¹Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 New American Bible

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,

⁵²in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

⁵⁴And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin,* and the power of sin is the law.

⁵⁷But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Because He Lives

Words by William J. and Gloria Gaither, Music by William J. Gaither. Copyright © 1971 William J. Gaither, Inc. All rights controlled by Gaither Copyright Management. Used by permission.

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus.
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there
to prove my Savior lives.*

*And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
and I'll know He lives.*

Chorus:

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living
just because He lives.*

(Lorene's favorite song)

Prayer



We feel the sting of death today, O Father, but we thank you that You will give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our fear is gone and we face tomorrow knowing that You are holding and managing our future. We place ourselves in Your hands. Amen.