

Jesus Listens

DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS
of PEACE, JOY, AND HOPE



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Since 1798

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“I know what I have planned for you,” says the LORD. “I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.”—JEREMIAH 29:11 NET

JANUARY 1

My living God,

As I begin a fresh year, I rejoice that You are continually working newness into my life. Because *You are doing a new thing*, I must *not dwell on the past*. I refuse to let last year's disappointments and failures define me or dampen my expectations. This is the day for a fresh start! I know there are no limits to Your creativity, so I anticipate some lovely surprises in this year that stretches out before me.

Lord, I receive *today* as a precious gift from You. I realize that the present moment is where You meet with me. *This is the day that You have made*. I know You have carefully prepared it for me—with tender attention to every detail. So I have good reason to *rejoice and be glad in this day!*

As I journey along *the path of Life*, I'll search for signs of Your loving Presence. I delight in finding the little blessings You sprinkle alongside my pathway—sometimes in surprising places. As I discover them, I'll thank You for each one. This keeps me close to You and helps me find Joy in my journey.

In Your blessed Name, Jesus,
Amen

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."—ISAIAH 43:18–19

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.—PSALM 118:24 ESV

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.—PSALM 16:11 NKJV

JANUARY 2

Beloved Jesus,

I want to be all Yours! I invite You to wean me from other dependencies. You have shown me that my security rests in You alone—not in other people, not in my circumstances.

Trying to depend only on You sometimes feels like walking on a tightrope. Yet I don't need to be afraid of falling because Your *everlasting arms* are a safety net underneath me.

Please help me to keep looking ahead to You, Jesus. I know that You're always before me, beckoning me on—one step at a time. As I spend quiet time with You, I can almost hear You whispering, "Follow Me, beloved."

Lord, *I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate me from Your loving Presence!*

In Your precious Name,
Amen

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say, "Destroy!"—DEUTERONOMY 33:27 NKJV

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.—PROVERBS 16:9

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—ROMANS 8:38–39

Compassionate Lord,

You tell me in Your Word: *“I have loved you with an everlasting Love. I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”* This means that You knew me and loved me before time began! Yet for years I swam around in a sea of meaninglessness—searching for Love, hoping for Hope. All that time, You were pursuing me, ready to embrace me in Your compassionate arms.

When the time was right, You revealed Yourself to me. You lifted me out of that sea of despair and set me down on a firm foundation. Sometimes I felt naked—exposed to the revealing Light of Your Presence. So You wrapped an ermine robe around me, a robe of righteousness. You sang me a Love song whose beginning and end are veiled in eternity. You infused meaning into my mind and harmony into my heart. I want to join You in singing Your song. Please use my voice in whatever way You will, as You call people out of darkness into Your marvelous Light.

In Your brilliant Name, Jesus,
Amen

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”—JEREMIAH 31:3

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.—ISAIAH 61:10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.—1 PETER 2:9 NKJV

All-knowing God,

I delight in the truth that *I am fully known!* You know absolutely everything about me, yet You love me with perfect, *unfailing Love*. I’ve spent many years searching for greater self-understanding and self-acceptance. Underlying this search is the desire to find someone who truly understands me and accepts me as I am. I’ve discovered that *You* are the Someone who can satisfy my deep-seated longing. In my relationship with You, I become more completely who I really am.

Help me to be increasingly real with You—dropping all pretenses and opening up fully to You. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxious thoughts.* In the Light of Your holy gaze, I can see many things I need to change. But I know You are with me in my efforts, so I won’t despair. Instead, I’ll rest in Your Presence, receiving Your Love that flows freely into me through my openness to You. As I take time to soak in this powerful Love, it fills up my empty spaces and overflows into joyous worship. I rejoice that I am perfectly known and forever loved!

In Your loving Name, Jesus,
Amen

For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.—1 CORINTHIANS 13:12 HCSB

The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.—PSALM 147:11

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.—PSALM 139:23–24 NASB

Sovereign God,

Help me to make friends with the problems in my life. Many things seem wrong to me, but I need to remember that You're in control of everything. Your Word assures me that all things work together and are fitting into a plan for good for those who love You and are called according to Your purpose. I can access this magnificent promise through trusting You.

Every problem can teach me something—transforming me little by little into the person You designed me to be. Yet the same problem can become a stumbling block if I react with distrust or defiance. I realize I'll have to choose many times each day whether or not I will trust You.

I've discovered that the best way to make friends with my troubles is to thank You for them. This counterintuitive act opens my mind to the possibility of blessings emerging from my difficulties. Moreover, when I bring You my prayers *with thanksgiving*, my anxiety diminishes and *Your Peace that transcends all understanding guards my heart and my mind*.

In Your wonderful Name, Jesus,
Amen

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.—JAMES 1:2

We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.—ROMANS 8:28 AMPC

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

My Lord,

Help me to thank You *for everything*—including my problems. As soon as my mind gets snagged on a difficulty, I need to bring the matter to You *with thanksgiving*. Then I can ask You to show me *Your* way to handle the situation. The very act of thanking You frees my mind from its negative focus. As I turn my attention to You, my difficulty fades in significance and loses its power to trip me up. You guide me to deal with the problem in the most effective way—either facing it head-on or putting it aside for later consideration.

Most of the situations that entangle my mind are not today's concerns: I've borrowed them from tomorrow, next week, next month, or even next year. When this is the case, please lift the problem from my thoughts and deposit it in the future—veiling it from my eyes. Then draw my attention back to Your Presence in the present, where I can enjoy *Your Peace*.

In Your perfect Name, Jesus,
Amen

And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—EPHESIANS 5:20 NLT

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.—PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.—PSALM 25:4-5 NKJV

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."—JOHN 14:27

Holy Lord,

I love to *worship You in the beauty of holiness*. The beauty of Your creation reflects some of who You are, and it delights me! You are working Your ways in me: the divine Artist creating loveliness in my inner being. You've been clearing out the debris and clutter within me, making room for Your Spirit to take full possession. Help me to collaborate with You in this effort—being willing to let go of anything You choose to take away. You know exactly what I need, and You have promised to provide all of that—abundantly!

I don't want my sense of security to rest in my possessions or in things going my way. You are training me to depend on You alone, finding fulfillment in Your loving Presence. This involves being satisfied with much or with little of the world's goods, accepting *either* as Your will for me. Instead of grasping and controlling, I'm learning to release and receive. To cultivate this receptive stance, I need to trust You more—in *any and every situation*.

In Your beautiful Name, Jesus,
Amen

Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.—PSALM 29:2 NKJV

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.—PSALM 27:4

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.—PHILIPPIANS 4:19 NASB

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.—PHILIPPIANS 4:12

God, my Refuge,

Help me *not to dwell on the past*. I can learn from the past, but I don't want it to be my focus. I know I cannot undo things that have already occurred, no matter how hard I try. So I come to You and *pour out my heart*—remembering that *You are my refuge*, worthy of my trust *at all times*.

One way I can build up my confidence in You is to tell You frequently: "I trust You, Lord." Speaking these affirmations of trust brightens my day immensely—blowing away dark clouds of worry.

You are always *doing a new thing!* So I'll be on the lookout for all that You're accomplishing in my life. Please open the eyes of my mind and heart so I can see the many opportunities You've placed along my path. And protect me from falling into such a routine way of living that I see only the same old things—missing the newness.

I'm learning that You can make a way where there appears to be no way. *With You all things are possible!*

In Your amazing Name, Jesus,
Amen

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.—ISAIAH 43:18–19

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.—PSALM 62:8

And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."—MATTHEW 19:26 NASB

Mighty God,

You are the God who makes me strong. So I come to You just as I am—with all my sins and weaknesses. I confess my many sins and ask You to *remove them from me as far as the east is from the west.* I rest in Your Presence, with my shortcomings in full view.

I am like a *jar of clay* filled with weaknesses, but I know that *Your Power is made perfect in weakness.* So I thank You for my insufficiency—it helps me depend on You to infuse strength into me. How I rejoice in Your infinite sufficiency!

You are also the One *who makes my pathway safe*—protecting me not only from dangers but from worry and excessive planning. Instead of gazing into the unknown future, I want to be mindful of You as I journey through this day. I'll endeavor to stay in close communication with You, relying on Your guiding Presence to keep me on course. Though You are always beside me, You also go before me—clearing away obstacles on the path up ahead. I trust that You're making the conditions on my pathway the very best for accomplishing Your ways in my life.

In Your strong Name, Jesus,
Amen

*He is the God who makes me strong, who makes
my pathway safe.—PSALM 18:32 GNT*

*As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed
our transgressions from us.—PSALM 103:12*

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing
power is from God and not from us.—2 CORINTHIANS 4:7*

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made
perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my
weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.—2 CORINTHIANS 12:9*

Dear Jesus,

Please help me learn to appreciate difficult days—being stimulated by the challenges I encounter rather than becoming distressed. As I journey through rough terrain with You, I gain confidence from knowing that *together* we can handle anything. This knowledge is based on three blessings: Your Presence continually with me, the Bible's precious promises, and my past experiences of coping successfully by depending on You.

When I look back on my life, I can see how much You have helped me through difficult days in the past. Yet I easily fall into the trap of thinking, "Yes, but that was then, and this is now." Instead, I need to remember that though my circumstances change immensely, *You remain the same* throughout time and eternity. Moreover, *in You I live and move and have my being.* As I live close to You—aware of Your loving Presence—I can go confidently through my toughest times.

In Your worthy Name,
Amen

*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you
with My righteous right hand."—ISAIAH 41:10 HCSB*

"But you remain the same, and your years will never end."—PSALM 102:27

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.—PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NKJV

*"God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out
for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For
in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own
poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'"—ACTS 17:27–28*

Ever-near Jesus,

You've been calling me to a life of constant communion with You. Part of the training involves living above my circumstances, even when I'm up to my neck in clutter and confusion. I yearn for a simplified lifestyle—with fewer interruptions to my communication with You. But You have been challenging me to relinquish the fantasy of an uncluttered world. I need to accept each day just as it comes to me—and *search for You* in the midst of it all.

I'm thankful that I can talk with You about every aspect of my day, including my feelings. Help me remember that my ultimate goal is *not* to control or fix everything around me; it's to keep communing with You. You've been showing me that a successful day is one in which I have stayed in touch with You—even if many things remain undone at the end of the day.

I must not let my to-do list become an idol directing my life. Instead, I can ask Your Spirit to guide me moment by moment. He will keep me close to You.

In Your guiding Name,
Amen

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.—COLOSSIANS 4:2

*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me
with all your heart.*—JEREMIAH 29:13 NASB

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make
your paths straight.*—PROVERBS 3:6

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.—GALATIANS 5:25

Jesus, my loving Companion,

I am on an adventurous trail with You. This is not an easy time, but it is nonetheless good—full of blessings as well as struggles. Help me to be open to all that You're teaching me as I journey with You through challenging terrain. And enable me to let go of familiar comforts so I can say a wholehearted "Yes!" to this adventure.

I know You will give me everything I need to cope with the challenges I face. So I don't want to waste energy imagining myself in future situations—trying to walk through those "not yet" times in my mind. I realize this is a form of unbelief—doubting Your ability to provide what I need *when* I need it.

I want to make wise choices as I journey with You. I need to *pray continually* about these decisions, trusting in Your perfect wisdom. You know *everything*—including what lies ahead on my path. My busy mind tends to make various plans about the way I should go, but *You* are the One who *directs my steps and makes them sure*.

In Your infinitely wise Name,
Amen

*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches
in glory in Christ Jesus.*—PHILIPPIANS 4:19 NASB

*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which
are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may
do all the words of this law."*—DEUTERONOMY 29:29 NKJV

Pray continually.—1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

*A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his
steps and makes them sure.*—PROVERBS 16:9 AMPC

My risen Savior,

I'm so thankful that *You have given me new birth into a living hope through Your resurrection from the dead!* Moreover, *I am a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

My adoption into Your royal family occurred the moment I first trusted You as my Savior-God. At that instant, my spiritual status changed from death to life—eternal Life. I have *an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for me.* My heart overflows with gratefulness for Your provision of this glorious inheritance!

You've shown me that even though I'm *a new creation*, my conversion was only the beginning of the work Your Spirit is doing in me. I need *to be made new in the attitude of my mind and to put on the new self*—becoming increasingly righteous and holy. This strenuous, marvelous, lifelong endeavor is preparing me to spend an eternity with You in Glory! Please help me to receive this assignment with courage and gratitude—staying alert and looking for all the wonderful things You are doing in my life.

In Your magnificent Name, Jesus,
Amen

God . . . has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.—1 PETER 1:3-4

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

You were taught . . . to put off your old self . . . ; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.—EPHESIANS 4:22-24

Just as Christ was raised from the dead . . . , even so we also should walk in newness of life.—ROMANS 6:4 NKJV

Trustworthy Lord,

Help me to *trust You and not be afraid.* Many things seem out of control, and my routines are not running smoothly. I feel much more secure when the circumstances of my life are more predictable. Please *lead me to the rock that is higher than I.* Lord, *I long to take refuge in the shelter of Your wings*—where I am absolutely secure.

When I'm shaken out of my comfortable routines, I need to grip Your hand tightly and look for opportunities to grow. I can accept the challenge of something new—refusing to waste energy bemoaning the loss of my comfort.

Protect me from adding to my difficulties by anticipating problems that could possibly arise in the future. I recognize this tendency for what it is: grasping for control. Instead of *worrying about tomorrow*, I want to relax in Your Presence and trust You to help me deal with problems as they come. Rather than dreading my difficulties, I invite You to use them to *transform me from one degree of Glory to another*—making me fit for Your kingdom.

In Your sheltering Name, Jesus,
Amen

“I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”—ISAIAH 12:2

From the ends of the earth I call to you . . . lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.—PSALM 61:2-4

“Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.”—MATTHEW 6:34 NLT

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.—2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 ESV

Gracious God,

As I journey with You today, please help me to thank You all through the day. This practice makes it more feasible for me to *pray without ceasing*, as the apostle Paul taught. I long to be able to pray continually, and thanking You in every situation facilitates this pursuit. My thankful prayers provide a solid foundation on which I can build all my other prayers. Moreover, it's so much easier for me to communicate freely with You when I have a grateful attitude.

If I keep my mind occupied with thanking You, I'm less likely to fall into hurtful patterns of worrying or complaining. I've seen that when I practice thankfulness consistently, negative thought patterns gradually grow weaker and weaker.

A grateful heart opens up the way for me to *draw near to You*. And Your glorious Presence fills me with *Joy and Peace*.

In Your joyous Name, Jesus,
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 ESV

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.—JAMES 4:8 NKJV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.—ROMANS 15:13

Sovereign God,

Please help me to live joyfully in the midst of my struggles. I yearn for a freer, more independent way of life than I'm currently experiencing.

I pray fervently and then wait expectantly for the changes I desire. When You don't answer my prayers as I'd hoped, I sometimes get discouraged. It's easy for me to feel as if I'm doing something wrong—as if I'm missing out on what's best for me. But when I think that way, I'm overlooking a most important truth: You are Sovereign. I need to remember that You're always in control and You are taking care of me.

Teach me to accept my dependent way of living as a gift from You. Moreover, help me receive this gift joyfully—with a glad and thankful heart. I've found that nothing lifts me out of the doldrums faster than thanking and praising You. And nothing enables me to enjoy Your Presence more delightfully! As I seek Your Face, I'm blessed to hear Your loving words of instruction: *Enter My gates with thanksgiving and My courts with praise*.

In Your dependable Name, Jesus,
Amen

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.—ISAIAH 40:10

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.—1 PETER 5:7

But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"—ROMANS 9:20 NKJV

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.—PSALM 100:4–5

Exalted Lord Jesus,

You are my Strength and my Song! Yet I confess that I'm feeling wobbly this morning—looking at difficulties looming ahead and measuring them against my limited strength. But these challenges are not tasks for today, or even for tomorrow. I need to leave them in the future and come home to the present, where I can enjoy Your Presence. Since You are my Strength, I know You can empower me to handle each difficulty as it comes. And because You are my Song, You're able to give me Joy as I work alongside You.

Please draw my mind back to the present moment—again and again. The amazing ability to anticipate future events is a blessing from You, but it becomes a curse whenever I misuse it. If I use my mind to *worry about tomorrow*, I cloak myself in dark unbelief. Instead of this sinful wallowing in worry, I want to trust You more and more.

I've found that the Light of Your Presence envelops me in Peace when I fill my thoughts with the hope of heaven. You are *my Salvation*, Lord, so I have good reason to *trust and not be afraid*.

In Your heavenly Name,
Amen

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song."—ISAIAH 12:2

We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.—2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."—MATTHEW 6:34

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.—1 PETER 1:3–4 ESV

My great God,

I love hearing You speak through Your Word: *"I am making everything new!"* This is the opposite of what is happening in my world of death and decay. I realize that every day I live means one less day remaining in my lifespan on earth. But because I belong to You, Jesus, this thought doesn't trouble me. At the end of each day, I'm mindful of being one step closer to heaven.

The world is in such a desperately fallen condition that Your promise to *make everything new* is my only hope. Help me not to get discouraged when my efforts to improve matters are unsuccessful. I must keep in mind that all my efforts are tainted by the brokenness around me and within me. I won't stop trying to do my best—in dependence on You—but I know that this world needs much more than a tune-up or repairs. It needs to be made completely new! And this is absolutely guaranteed to happen at the end of time, for *Your words are trustworthy and true*.

I have good reason to rejoice because You have promised to renew all things—including me—making everything gloriously perfect!

In Your triumphant Name, Jesus,
Amen

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."—REVELATION 21:5

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.—PHILIPPIANS 1:21 NKJV

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.—ROMANS 8:22–23

Peaceful Savior,

May Your Peace protect my mind and heart. Help me to *rejoice in You always*, remembering that *You are near*. As I spend time with You, *presenting my requests to You with thanksgiving*, You bless me with *Peace that transcends all understanding*. This is how You *guard my heart and my mind*. It's a collaborative, You-and-I-together effort. I'm grateful that I never face anything alone!

Because I belong to You, aloneness is just an illusion—but it's a dangerous one that can lead to depression or self-pity. The devil and his underlings work hard to cloud my awareness of Your Presence. So it's crucial for me to recognize and resist their attacks. I can fight back with Your powerful Word, which is *living and active*—reading it, pondering it, memorizing it, speaking it out loud.

Even when I'm feeling alone, I can talk freely with You, trusting that *You are with me always*. I've discovered that the longer I talk with You, the more aware of Your nearness I become. And this awareness of Your Presence with me fills my heart and mind with Your Peace.

In Your beloved Name, Jesus,
Amen

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.—HEBREWS 4:12 NASB

“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 28:20

Jesus, my Guide,

Help me to go gently through this day, keeping my eyes on You. I ask You to open up the way before me as I take steps of trust along *the path of Life*—with You as my Guide.

Sometimes the way before me appears to be blocked. I've discovered that if I focus too much on the obstacle or on searching for a way around it, I'm likely to go off course. So I need to stay focused on You, the Shepherd who is leading me along my life-journey. If I keep my eyes on You, the obstacle will be behind me before I know it—and I may not even understand how I passed through it.

This is an important secret of success in Your kingdom. Though I remain aware of the visible world around me, I want to be primarily aware of *You*. When the road before me looks rocky, I know I can trust You to get me through that rough patch. No matter what is happening, Your Presence with me enables me to face each day with confidence.

In Your encouraging Name,
Amen

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.—PSALM 16:11 NKJV

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”—JOHN 10:14-15

The path of the righteous is level; O upright One, you make the way of the righteous smooth.—ISAIAH 26:7

For the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.—PROVERBS 3:26 NKJV