

January 9

The Treasure of Your Marriage

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17)

When you fell in love, you were excited about all you had in common. You felt complete and happy together. You enjoyed the affection and encouragement you shared. You were certain you were God's "good and perfect gift" made just for each other.

God's love and wisdom for your life hasn't changed. You know that neither of you is perfect, yet your marriage is still part of God's plan to bless your lives. No matter how you've failed each other, God is still good. His Word is always true. He's as strong and able as ever to heal, mend, and make things new. He still offers grace and mercy, no matter how much you've sinned and failed.

Today, thank God for the relationship he created between you. Confess how you've neglected to cherish each other as his good gifts. Praise him for offering all you need for love and life together. Ask him to show his never-changing goodness by restoring your joy in each other. Depend on him for enduring love like his.

Lord, thank you for never changing, so we can trust you all the time. Teach us to be faithful in loving each other and you.

Amen.

January 10

The Privilege of Giving

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the LORD's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Corinthians 9:12)

Today, you may be the answer to someone's prayer. The meal delivered to a new mother brings relief from her exhaustion.

The visit to an elderly widow comforts her lonely heart. The music prepared for Sunday morning allows the church to worship. Money sent to a struggling family satisfies their landlord for another month. Donated clothing keeps foster children warm in winter. Help with car repairs lets a missionary focus on ministry. The help and encouragement we share is God's way of caring for his people.

Pray and ask God how to serve others today. Consider what you have to give – time, skills, resources – and pray for opportunities to share. Look forward to the thanks God will receive as he directs you to help.

Remember how the Lord met your needs through Christians in your life. Thank him for the blessings you've been given. Praise him for hearing your prayers and moving in people's hearts for you.

Lord, thank you for the family of God. Teach us to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ, loving them in your name. Let all the glory go to you.

Amen.