

# AN ALL-KNOWING GOD

*Attributed to Siegbert W. Becker*

[May 18, 1956]

Read 1 Cor. 2:1-16

## **The Spirit's Revelation**

God hath revealed them to us by His Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:10.

The instruments of the scientist have laid bare many of the secrets of nature. In ages past, men had no knowledge of the tiny creatures of God which we can now see with a microscope. The telescope lets men see into distant spaces which the eye could never reach. But the secret of salvation man cannot discover. It lies hidden in the heart of God. The Bible calls it the hidden wisdom which was kept secret since the world began. The Old Testament speaks of the darkness that covers the earth and the gross darkness that hides the way of salvation from the eyes of men.

But God did not leave the world in this darkness. The things which we did not know and which we could never discover by human wisdom God has revealed to us by His Spirit. It was the Spirit of God who spoke to the Old Testament prophets and told them of the Savior who was to come. It was the same Spirit of God who spoke to the apostles and evangelists of the New Testament and told them what all the things that they had seen in Jesus of Nazareth really meant. Men could know by themselves that Jesus had died., but it was only by the revelation of God that they could know that He had died to pay for the sins of all the world.

Every day we ought to give thanks to God's Holy Spirit. Everything that we know about salvation we owe to Him. By nature we knew nothing of the truth of God. But by the revelation of the Holy Ghost we knew that Jesus loves us, that He has taken away our sins, and that by His grace we are saved.

*Holy Spirit, we thank Thee for having made the way, the truth, and the life known to us. Amen.*

[May 19, 1956]

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21

### **An Inspired Bible**

We speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth. 1 Cor. 2:13.

When the Holy Ghost made the truths of salvation known to the prophets and apostles, He did this with the intention that they, in turn, should share this knowledge with others. They were to speak these truths to all the world. And their message was meant not only for the people of their own time, but they were told to write down these eternal truths so that through all the ages to come men might read their messages and find in them the forgiveness and the joy and the peace which the Lord Jesus had earned for them by His suffering and death and resurrection. It was in this way that our Bible, the written Word of God, came into existence.

And the apostle Paul tells us in this verse that when he and the other apostles went out to preach the good news of salvation, they did not let their own human wisdom choose the words which they used. The words in which they brought the Word of God to men were chosen under the guidance and direction and control of the Holy Ghost.

The truth which the apostle teaches us here ought to bring us great comfort. It means that the statements of the Bible are not only approximately true, but that we can depend on them completely. When it tells us that the Lord Jesus died for *all* men, and that His blood cleanses us from *all* sin, we know that this little word *all* is also a word of the Holy Ghost. And because it is a word of the Holy Ghost, it must be true. And because it is true, we can be glad.

Lord, let us always trust in all Thy words and promises with joy and gladness. Amen.

[May 20, 1956]

Read 1 Cor. 1:18-31

### **Blind Eyes**

They are foolishness unto him. 1 Cor. 2:14.

We are sometimes told that, years ago, when men did not know as much as they know today, it was easier to believe in the Bible. It is said by some that if we want men to accept the Word of God, we must first revise it to make it fit better with the views of modern man.

But there is nothing wrong with the Bible. There is something wrong with men. It is not the Bible that needs to be changed. It is men who need to be converted. We cannot cure blindness by trying to correct the sun so that it will give better light. And it is not true that men no longer believe the Bible because they are more intelligent than people were in days gone by. Men reject the Bible because they are just as wicked as their fathers were.

For in ancient times, too, men refused to believe the words of God. Isaiah preached clearly about the Savior who was to come, but men would not accept His message. He had to complain, "Lord, who hath believed our report?" And it was not a group of twentieth century college graduates but first century Athenians who laughed at the preaching of Paul.

And when men say today that many things in the Bible are foolishness, they simply prove that the Bible is true; for the Bible says that the wisdom of God is foolishness to natural man. It must always seem like foolishness to human reason to say that God died on a cross and that our crimes are paid for by the death of another. And we Christians believe it only because the Holy Ghost has opened our blind eyes.

Heavenly Father, help us always to see that the foolishness of God is wiser than men. Amen.

[May 21, 1956]

Read Ezek. 37:1-14

### **Dry Bones**

These bones are the whole house of Israel. Ezek. 37:11.

The children of Israel had become unfaithful to the Lord. They had refused to listen to the warnings of the prophets of God. They had supported instead those false prophets who had told them what they wanted to hear. They were a religious people, but they had chosen their own way to worship God and had followed after false gods. For these sins they had been punished. The armies of Babylon had taken Jerusalem and burned it to the ground. The people of the city had been led into captivity.

In our Scripture reading for today, the prophet Ezekiel compares fallen Israel to a deserted valley covered with the bleached and dried bones of the dead. It would be hard to find a picture more filled with hopelessness and despair. Surely there was nothing that could be done for people who had fallen so deeply. And yet God promised that He would send His Spirit to these fallen Jews and that by the working of the Holy Ghost they would once more become God's people. The dry bones were to live again.

Dry bones may well be a picture of all men before they come to Christ. They are dead in trespasses and sins. They can do nothing to save themselves. They cannot even accept the water of life when it is offered to them. But in the vision of Ezekiel the dry bones lived again when the prophet spoke the words of God to them. The words of the Lord still have the same power today. By the simple preaching of the Word of God the Holy Ghost makes men alive so that they see that they are lost in sin, but saved by the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Holy Spirit, grant us always the gift of life in Christ. Amen.

[May 22, 1956]

Read Acts 9:1-9

### **Stiff Necks**

I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke. Jer. 31:18.

When a farmer in ancient times wanted to use a bullock to pull his plows he would first have to get the bullock used to the yoke. The bullock did not want to do the will of his owner. He would throw his head back and make his neck stiff so that the yoke would slip back over his shoulders.

Such a stiff neck has become a symbol of man's resistance to God. Man is as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke. The Holy Ghost wants to change him and make him a child of God and a servant of the Lord. But every step of the way man resists and makes his neck stiff.

Man does not want to serve the Lord. He wants to serve himself and live according to his own will. When he is told that for this God will punish him eternally, he still does not want to change. He would much rather change God and say that if God is a God of love He will surely not punish so severely. And when this same God in His Word offers man salvation freely, because all that needs to be done to save man has been done by God's own Son, then man again makes his neck stiff and does not want to be saved in this way. He does not want to be a charity case who has nothing but what another gives him and lives alone by grace. So he rebels against God's wrath and he rebels against God's grace. It is only the power of the Holy Ghost that can make men bow in humility before the wrath of God. It is only the Holy Ghost who can make the unwilling heart willing to be saved by grace alone for Jesus' sake.

Lord, break our stubborn hearts to Thy yoke always. Amen.

[May 23, 1956]

Read Eph. 2:1-10

### **The Needle Is Eye**

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Matt. 19:24.

The English unbeliever David Hume once said that if anyone really believes the Bibles it is a miracle. He was ridiculing the Christian faith., and yet, in a certain sense, his words are true. Men a man realizes that he is a lost sinner, who has deserved only the wrath of God, and that the only hope for him lies in Jesus Christ., who came and did for him what he could never do for himself, then a blind man has been made to see. His darkened eyes have been enlightened by the Holy Ghost. The Bible actually speaks of such a man as having been raised from the dead.

And when the Savior says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom, He shows us clearly how great a miracle it is if an unbeliever becomes a believer. It also becomes evident that this work of making a Christian out of a natural man is a work that man can never do. The Lord Himself says that this is impossible with men. But God can do all things. He can make a camel go through a needle's eye. Rich men have been saved. But in any case, whether they are rich or poor, a work has been done that only God can do. A work has been done that is harder to do than to make a camel go through the eye of a needle.

Through baptism and the Word, the Holy Ghost has made us Christians. In our case He has made the camel go through the needle's eye. For that may He be praised forever.

Holy Spirit, we thank Thee that Thou hast brought us to know and to believe with certainty that Jesus loves us. Amen.

[May 24, 1956]

Read Ps. 51

### **A Broken Heart**

They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. Matt. 9:12.

It would be rather foolish for a man who knows that he is perfectly well to take a strong medicine regularly. Such a man would surely never waste the time of a doctor by calling him to his bone every day. In the same way, a man who is never hungry will have little desire to eat; and a man who is never thirsty will have little desire to drink.

These statements hold good also in spiritual things. If a person does not know that he is sick in a spiritual sense, he will never see his need of the Great Physician. If he does not know that he is in constant danger of dying eternally in hell, he will never look for healing from the Savior.

It remains forever true that the Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners but if a man does not know that he is a sinner, he can never believe that Jesus came to save him. In fact, he will never believe that he needs to be redeemed. He can never believe that he has been saved by the blood and death of God's own Son.

It is for this reason that we must always study the Law of God. As we learn that the Lord demands that we keep all His commandments perfectly, we realize again how far we have fallen short of meeting His requirements. We remember, too, that for all these shortcomings we deserve to be punished eternally. And then, when we see our sickness and our danger, when our hearts are broken and we know that we are lost, we will see again why we must every day again and again turn to the Lord Jesus who alone can help us and heal us.

Lord Jesus, let us never forget that we need Thy help. Amen.

[May 25, 1956]

Read Ps. 25:1-7

### **Forgotten Sins**

I will remember their sin no more. Jer. 31:24.

God has given men the gift of memory. And a truly precious gift it is. We find much joy in reliving some of the pleasures of the past and we treasure the things that keep those memories alive.

And yet memory can become a source of great pain and of much sorrow. "The devil stands in all memories," said Henrik Ibsen as he remembered the sins of his youth, and he puts these words into the mouth of a character in one of his plays, "Me, who to remember dare not, and who never can forget." And it is surely true of all of us that often the sins of the distant past came back to torment us and to make us feel once more the bitterness of a troubled conscience.

But though we may remember, God promises to forget. "I will remember their sin no more," He says. We may not know how the all-knowing God, who knows all the past, the present, and the future, can forget our sins, but this is what He has promised to do. We may say that it is one of the great miracles of our good Lord that He, who cannot forget anything, will not remember our sins.

"I will remember their sin no more." What a wonderful way to show us how completely our sins have vanished from His sight. They have been washed away by the blood of Jesus. He has cast them into the depths of the sea, as the prophet says. Whenever we are reminded of our sins, we should also remember that for Jesus' sake God has forgotten them. He has said so in His holy Word. And He does not lie.

Lord Jesus, remember not the sins of our youth nor our many transgressions. Amen.



[May 26, 1956]

Read Acts 16:16-34.

### **Songs in the Night**

God, my Maker,... giveth songs in the night. Job 35:10.

Jesus was the true Son of God, beloved of His Father, and yet He suffered the pangs and the torments of the cross on Calvary. And we are surely no better than our Lord. To us, too, there come times of grief and pain. Sometimes our days are dark with trouble and the night of despair settles over our soul.

Job had lost all his possessions and all his children in one day, and when the load of grief that pressed upon his heart became so great that his words became bitter, his good friend Elihu reminded him of the fact that God gives songs in the night. In the night of sorrow and sickness, the child of God can still sing his songs of joy and praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Paul Gerhardt had to suffer one loss after another, and yet he could write, "I will sing my Maker's praises and in Him most joyful be; for in all things I see traces of His wondrous love to me."

Children of God can sing in the night and rejoice in every time of trouble because they know that God still loves them. We forget it sometimes, but when we remember that He gave His own Son into death for our sins, we cannot doubt His love. We know that for Jesus' sake our sins are forgiven, and therefore these trials and troubles are no longer indications of His anger. He chastens those whom He loves, and the time will come when He will bring us out of the wilderness of suffering into the promised land of eternal joy where we will sing our songs of praise forever.

Lord God, grant that the night of grief and sorrow may never still our hymns of joy and our songs of praise. Amen.

[May 27, 1956]

Read Rev. 4:1-11.

### **The Blessing of the Lord**

The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Num.6:24-26.

Today is Trinity Sunday, the day on which the church reflects on the great mystery of the Holy Trinity. One of the earliest Bible passages teaching this doctrine is this benediction which God gave to Aaron.

For over three thousand years the children of God have heard these words in their church services. In the Old Testament, the Priest spoke this benediction over the congregation. To this day these are the last words spoken by the pastor in many Christian services.

These words are more than a pious wish. In commanding the use of this benediction by the priests, the Lord said, "They shall put My name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them." God promised that when the priest spoke this blessing over the children of Israel, He Himself would guarantee its fulfillment. "I will bless them," He said.

When we hear these words spoken over us today as we end our worship and leave our church, we should take from them the certainty that God the Father will go with us to keep us and to give us all that we truly need for our life on this earth; that God the Son will go with us to keep us in the favor and the grace of God; that God the Holy Ghost will go with us to give peace to our hearts by the daily assurance that our sins have been taken away by the grace of God and by the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The doctrine of the Trinity is hard to understand but wonderful to believe.

Lord, let Thy blessing rest upon us and ours always. Amen.

[May 28, 1956]

Read 1 Pet. 2:9-21

### **Dew from the Lord**

The remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass. Mic. 5-7.

The "remnant" was a name used in the Old Testament for those Jews who remained faithful to Jehovah. They were the elect of God, the children of the heavenly Father, believers in the coming Messiah. They were the people who had found the same hope and the same joy that we have in our Savior.

This remnant of Jacob, (and we can count ourselves among them), is to be as a dew from the Lord and as the showers upon the grass. During the rainy season in Palestine, the seed that had been sown sprouted and flourished, but in the hot, dry weather that followed the rainy season, the only thing that kept the fields green and growing was the heavy dew that covered the ground almost every morning. The dew from the Lord was therefore the source of many blessings.

Children of God are to be a blessing to those among whom they live. "I will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing." said God to Abraham. He still speaks the same words to us. When the hopes and the joys of our neighbor begin to wither and to die, then we are to be as a refreshing dew from the Lord to him. In times of trouble, we are to help him. In days of sorrow, we ought to comfort him. In the hour of need, we should share what we have with him.. And at all times, we ought to act in such a way that we will do good to all those with whom we live. And above all, we can be as a dew from the Lord in the midst of many people if we will bring them the glorious, refreshing message of the Savior's endless love.

Lord, Thou hast showered many blessings upon us. Help us to do good to all men. Amen.

[May 29, 1956]

Ps. 103

### **Greater than Our Heart**

If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 1 John 3:20.

Our heart condemns us often and tells us that we are great sinners, who have done so many wrong things that we will surely never be able to stand before God. We look at our failures and at our shortcomings, and our heart begins to wonder whether we can really call ourselves the children of God. In times of grief and pain, our heart tries to persuade us that the Lord does not love us and that He is angry with us because we have not done what we should. In those temptations, we sometimes ask ourselves whether our sins have really been forgiven by God and whether we can really hope for the happiness of heaven.

That we have done wrong, we cannot deny. That we have deserved God's anger and punishment is true. But it is also true that in the Lord Jesus we have a Savior who has taken away all our sins. Our heart may tell us that we have sinned, but God tells us that the blood of His Son cleanses us from all sin. Our heart may say that this is true of others, but not of us; but God says that the Lord Jesus is the Savior of all men and that He died for all. Our heart may try to persuade us that the Lord does not love us, but God has declared, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Now whom shall we believe? Our heart, which knows so little? Or God, who is greater than our heart and knows all things? The lower court may condemn, but the Supreme Court of heaven has acquitted us all long ago, when God raised our Substitute from the dead. And we have no right to doubt His Word.

Lord, let us never doubt the truth of all Thy promises. Amen.

[May 30, 1956]

Read Isa. 31:1-9

### **Freedom from Fear**

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isa. 41:10.

On Memorial Day we remember the sacrifice of those who have suffered the loss of life and limb in the defense of our land. Their blood and pain is the price that has been paid for our freedoms and as long, as our country endures we shall owe to those men a debt of gratitude.

But our expression of thanks to these men should not become idolatrous. It is above all to God that thanks are due for the freedom that we enjoy in our land. It is He who has granted success to our arms and victory in our battles. The greatness of our country is due not to our superior might, but only to the blessing of Him who gave Gideon and his three hundred the victory over the countless soldiers of Midian.

And as we look to the future in this restless world of wars and rumors of wars, we can face the things that shall come without fear as long as we have the assurance that our good Lord is with us and that our blessed Savior is at our side. Military victory and political freedom may not always be ours, but as long as we know that He loves us and that He will never leave us, we know also that all things, no matter what they may be, will work together for our good. It is only in the promises of God telling us that He will forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake, that He will be with us to help us and to strengthen us, it is only in these promises that we find true freedom from fear.

Lord, grant our land perpetual victory over its enemies. Amen.

[May 31, 1955]

Read Psalm 139

### **An All-Knowing God**

Lord, Thou knowest all things. John 21:17.

A few years ago, an English author wrote a book in which he pictured life under a dictatorship. One of the instruments by which the nation was kept in fear was the thought-screen, by which at any time the dictator could tune in on the thoughts that any one of his subjects was thinking. It would indeed be fearful to live under such conditions.

And yet, at every moment of our lives, the all-knowing God knows all our thoughts. He hears every word that we may speak. He sees every deed that we do. If our fellow-men could look at us and by that single look know all the things that we have done and said and thought throughout our lives, we would be ashamed to walk down the street. But God knows all things. We cannot hide our sins from Him. How that ought to humble us before Him!

Long ago, before we were born, He knew these sins of ours. When He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to take away our sins, He knew exactly what our sins would be. There are no sins in our lives that He did not know and that He was not taking into account when He made provision for our salvation. And knowing all this, He still said two thousand years ago that the blood of His Son cleanseth us from all sin. Knowing what kind of people we would be, He still loved us in spite of our unworthiness. How that ought to make us praise His grace and assure us of the certainty of our salvation.

And thus the omniscience of our God becomes for us a source of comfort and of joy. He knows our needs and He knows what needs to be done to help us.

Lord, we commend ourselves to Thine all-knowing love. Amen.

[June 1, 1956]

Read Ps. 115:1-11

### **A Majestic God**

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand? Isa. 40:12a.

It is our God who measures the waters in the hollow of His hand. The prophet is speaking here of the waters that cover more than half of the surface of the earth. He has in mind all the rivers and the lakes and the oceans of the whole world. And of all these waters, he says that God can hold them in the hollow of His hand.

Every day the city of Chicago pumps about one billion gallons of water out of Lake Michigan. Yet one cannot notice any difference in the level of the lake. We can scarcely imagine how much water this lake must contain. And yet, if we look at a map, we see that Lake Michigan is a drop in the bucket compared with the Pacific Ocean. There one sees nothing but water for thousands of miles, often thousands of feet and even miles deep.

And just as we begin to understand how great this ocean is, the prophet comes and says that the Lord can measure, not only the waters of this one ocean, but all the waters on the face of the earth in the hollow of His hand.

What a marvelous picture we have here of the glorious majesty of God! And this God is our God. This is the same God who has forgiven us our sins for Jesus' sake. This is the God who loves us, the God who has promised, "I am thy shield." And if this God is our fortress and our defender, of what shall we be afraid? The dangers that threaten us may be great, but He is always greater.

Dear Lord, defend us from all danger and protect us from all evil for Jesus' sake. Amen.

[June 2, 1956]

Isa. 40:10-17

### **Our Great God**

Who hath... meted out heaven with the span? Isa. 40:12b

We look into the starry skies and we have no idea of how far it is from east to west. Those who study the heavens tell us that from one end of the universe to the other is about two hundred million light years. This means that if a beam of light, traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles every second, were to start at one end of the universe, it would take two hundred million years for it to reach the other end. The light of the sun, which is ninety-three million miles from the earth, reaches us in eight minutes.

Impressive as such distances are, they would have made little impression on the prophet Isaiah. His God, who is our God too, measures the heaven with the span, that is, He measures the whole universe by stretching out the fingers of His hand.

We are told that there is one star so large that if the earth were in its center, the sun would still be inside that same star. We see that tremendous star as a twinkling light in the evening sky. What do you suppose we look like from there? Small wonder that the Psalmist asked, "When I consider Thy heavens... what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?"

Beside the universe, we are extremely small. Beside God, the universe becomes small. And yet, He who measures the heaven with the span, keeps His eye on the sparrow and counts the hairs of our head. And the greatest wonder of all is the fact that this great God became a baby in a manger that He might save us from our sins. We may be small and insignificant, but the great God loves us. This is our joy.

O Thou great and glorious God, keep us humble always. Amen.



[June 3, 1956]

Read Matt. 11:2-6

### **A Wonder-Working God**

Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among, the gods? Who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exod. 15:11.

These words were spoken by Moses as he stood with the children of Israel on the shores of the Red Sea and praised God for the miracles that He had done in parting the waters to deliver them from the armies of Egypt. To them that miracle was proof that their God was far greater than all the man-made idols of the heathen.

Today men often find fault with the miracles and say that they cannot believe them. The real truth is that they do not want a God who is too great. They are afraid of a God who does wonders and works miracles. They are proud of a science that can make two bushels of corn grow where only one grew before, but they are ashamed of a God who can feed five thousand men with five loaves and two fishes. They are astonished at a science that can, after years of research, destroy a few particles of matter, but they reject the God who can create a whole universe in six days. They are happy over a research program that can develop a vaccine for polio, but they want nothing to do with a God who can cure leprosy with a touch. Isaiah ridiculed the gods of the heathen because they could do so little. Modern man ridicules the true God because He can do so much.

But this God who stands above all things, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders, is our God and our Savior, and the greatest wonder that He ever did was that He loved us and let men nail Him to a cross for our salvation.

Lord, be Thou our God and let us be Thy people always. Amen.

[June 4, 1956]

Read Ps. 93

**And No Further.**

Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed. Job 38:11.

The Lord spoke these words to Job in the time of his great trouble to teach him that God sets a limit to the powers of evil. We do not know what the years hold in store for us, but one thing is sure always. God has not given up His rule over the world. Our Savior still sits at the right hand of God as Head over all things. When He made the oceans, He gave them their place and said, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." So He set the boundaries beyond which they were not to go.

Water that has burst its bounds can cause great destruction. A flooded river may carry away everything in its path. We take notice of the destructive power of floods when we pray that God might deliver us from all calamities by fire and water. But the Bible says, "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters." It is He who said to the seas, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

These words of God we may apply to our own lives. When the storms of life rise against us and when the floods of trouble seek to destroy us, then we have the assurance that He, who loved us and gave His blood to wipe out our sins, stands between us and the mighty waves of sorrow and trouble. And He, who walked on the Sea of Galilee and stilled its storms and calmed its waves, also points His almighty finger at the trials that come to us and says "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

Lord, deliver us from all evil, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## **A Prayer in Illness**

Lord, I know that Thou art the almighty God and that Thou art able to do all things. Thou didst cure leprosy with a touch and blindness with a word. Thou canst also give me healing from my illness, if it be Thy will. And therefore I ask Thee to restore me to health. I know that I do not deserve Thy goodness for I am a sinner and have often offended Thee by my wickedness. And yet Thou hast loved me and sent Thy Son to be my Savior and to shed His blood to cleanse me from all my sins. For His sake be merciful to me.

O Lord, I know also that Thou knowest all things. Thou alone knowest what the future holds. Thou alone canst tell what is truly good for me and what is bad. And therefore I pray Thee to deal with me according to Thy Will. When I remember that Thou didst love me enough to send Thine only Son into death for my salvation, I know also that Thou wilt withhold no good thing from Thy children. If it is best for my soul that I should remain ill for some time, then help me also to remain cheerful and patient and obedient to Thee and kind and considerate to those who must wait on me. Reward them, O Lord, for all their kindness and for the love which they have shown me, and comfort them with Thy love.

Thou art my God who hast promised never to leave me nor forsake me. Deal with me as it seems best to Thee. Into Thy hands I commend myself. Thou art my Creator and Thou knowest best what I need. Thou art my Redeemer and hast cleansed me from sin. Thou art my Comforter and hast brought me to faith. Keep me safe In body and soul throughout this life and when this life is done, take me to Thyself in heaven. Thy will be done, O Lord, Thy will be done. Amen.

## **Prayer for Memorial Day**

Lord of the nations, on this day when we remember the struggles through which our country has gone in its efforts to preserve our liberties, we thank Thee for having made our country great and our people free. Above all do we thank Thee for the blessings of religious liberty to preach Thy Word without hindrance and to worship Thee according to the dictates of Thy holy and infallible Word.

We pray Thee to hold Thy gracious protecting hand over us and over all the people of our country. Guide those in authority and grant them wisdom so to rule that peace and prosperity may be ours according, to Thy will.

Thou hast told us that that nation is blessed whose God is the Lord and therefore we pray most of all that Thy Gospel, which alone can make men truly free, may be preached in all its truth and purity throughout our land. Thou hast granted us religious liberty. Help us to use this freedom to the fullest extent, so that through the length and breadth of our nation men may hear from Thy people the good news of their salvation in Christ. bring to us and to them and to all men all over the world that peace which passes all understanding and which is to be found in the knowledge that Jesus loves us and has redeemed us from all our sin. We ask it in His name. Amen

## **Prayer for Trinity Sunday**

We praise Thee, O God, for having made known to us the great mystery of the Holy Trinity. Thou has granted the privilege of worshiping Thee as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three divine Persons in one unchanging God.

We worship Thee, O God the Father. Thou hast created us and given us the gift of life. Thou hast sustained us through the years with the gifts of Thy love. Thou has protected us in danger and guided us safely to this day. For all these gifts we praise and thank Thy holy name.

We worship Thee, O God the Son. Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood. Thou hast hidden our sins with the robe of Thy righteousness. Thou hast covered our unworthiness with Thy merit. Thou didst become the Son of Man that we might become the children of God. For all these gifts we praise and thank Thy Holy name.

We worship Thee, O God the Holy Ghost. Thou hast given us the gift of faith so that we know Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin and death and hell. Thou hast given us the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins through Him. Thou hast cheered us with the hope of heaven in Christ. For all these gifts we praise and thank Thy holy name.

O Holy Trinity, preserve us always in body and soul until we stand at the last in joyful awe and wonder before Thy throne to praise Thee in the fullness of joy, world without end. Amen.

## **Prayer for Pentecost**

Holy Spirit, we thank and praise Thee for having come into our hearts to bring us to know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; for no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. Through the years, Thou hast comforted us with the love of our God and with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Thou didst lead the early disciples into all truth and didst give them the words which they wrote in the Holy Scriptures, so help us also through these same words to know that truth which is able to make us wise unto salvation. As Thou didst fill them with courage to speak of the wonderful works which have been done for the salvation of men, so help us also to speak of these same works to those still sitting in darkness, so that they, too, may find joy and hope in Jesus.

Our Savior called Thee the Comforter. Comfort us in every time of temptation and trouble with the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins through the blood of the Lord Jesus. Continue to do the good work which Thou hast begun in us so that we may remain believers in our Savior and children of the heavenly Father until that day when we shall finally share in all the bliss and joy that has been prepared for us in our heavenly home, where we shall praise and thank Thee, together with the Father and the Son,, through all eternity. Amen.

### **A Prayer for one in the Service**

Heavenly Fathers I pray Thee in Thy great mercy to watch over \_\_\_\_\_, who is absent from us in the service of our country. In Thine almighty power, keep him (her) in health, if it be Thy will, and bring him (her) back to us in safety.

Let him (her) never forget the great love which moved Thy dear Son to lay down His life and to shed His blood for his (her) salvation. Keep him (her) loyal to his (her) Savior so that he (she) may lead a Life pleasing to Thee. Keep him (her) mindful of our love and our prayers for him (her), so that it may encourage him (her) to remain faithful to Thee. Keep us who are at home in the true faith and in holiness of life so that we may not bring him (her) grief and worry during these days which are difficult for us and for him (her).

Send Thy Holy Spirit to keep him (her) always in the true faith so that he (she) may never fall from Thee. Help us all to continue to live in Thy grace so that at the last we may all be reunited in heavens never to be separated from each other and from Thee. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **A Prayer for One Who is Ill**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we pray Thee to have mercy on \_\_\_\_\_, whom Thou hast afflicted with illness and pain. Preserve his (her) life, O Lord, and grant him (her) relief from pains and healing from this illness, if it please Thee in Thy love. Comfort him (her) with the assurance of Thy love and with the forgiveness of all his (her) sins through the grace of Thy dear Son and our common Savior, Jesus Christ.

Forgive us all the wrongs that we have done to him (her) and help us always to be more kind and more gentle and more considerate in our dealings with him (her). Lord, we confess that we needed this reminder of our failure to love him (her) as we should. Forgive us, too, for Jesus' sake., and help us to bear one another's burdens.

Keep us all in Thy great love. Grant us those gifts of body and soul that we can bear and send us all the crosses that are necessary to keep us faithful to Thee. Finally, bring us out of this life of trials to the heavenly mansions of our Father's house, which have been prepared for us through the Work of our Savior and which have been promised to us by the Word of Thy truth. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.