

EVEN GREATER



Daily Devotional

14 Day Spiritual Journey



Day 1

Scripture

Matthew 6:26 (NKJV) – “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Reflection

The greatness of God is revealed in the greatness of God's creation. One example of God's greatness is the efficiency and effectiveness of a flock of geese flying in a V-formation. Flying in a V helps geese conserve energy, communicate more easily, and stay organized over enormous distances. Each bird benefits from the air currents created by the one in front, taking turns leading to share the workload. Scientists have calculated that geese flying in a V-formation can travel about 70% further than a lone goose using the same amount of energy.

Geese are committed and submitted creatures. The more committed and submitted members there are in a local church, the greater the impact of that local church body in establishing His kingdom in the surrounding community.

Dear God, help me to be more committed and submitted to my church body, for I understand that together, we can do greater things for You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Day 2

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV) – “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.”

Reflection

The word “better,” as it is used in Ecclesiastes 4:9, is the English translation of the Hebrew word *tob*, which also means “good, excellent of its kind, pleasant, agreeable.”

For one former basketball player, the word “better” brings back memories of his coach exhorting each member of the team, “Good, better, best, never let it rest, until your good is better, and your better is best.”



Day 2

Reflection Continued

Carpenters understand the strength of two similar boards fastened together is far greater than the strength of only one of those boards.

Greater strength comes from greater unity. The Apostle Paul taught that greater unity within an entire group comes from the humility of the various individuals within that group. He wrote in Philippians 2:3 (The Passion Translation), "Be free from pride-filled opinions, for they will only harm your cherished unity. Don't allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves."

Dear God, I want to be part of something greater. Help me to "never let it rest until my good is better and my better is best." Help me to be free from pride-filled opinions and not allow self-promotion to hide in my heart. Help me to view others as more important than myself. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3

Scripture

Psalms 133:1 (NKJV) – "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Reflection

It is said of a follower of Christ, "his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither." (Psalms 1:2-3 HCSB) Sharing "delight in the Lord's instruction" is one way to "come to the unity of the faith..." (Ephesians 4:13 NKJV)

In the natural world, the number of tree species is estimated to be 73,000. The continued existence of every one of these tree species is dependent upon the water that gives life to each tree. In every species, water enters the tree through its root system. In the natural world, trees must compete for available water.

In the Bible, trees are often used to symbolize strength and righteousness, such as in Isaiah 61:3 – "That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."



Day 3

Reflection Continued

Followers of Christ, unlike natural trees, do not have to compete for available water. Jesus promises, “whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14 NKJV); and “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38 NKJV)

Dear God, help me to dwell together in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Help each of us to “delight in Your instruction and meditate on it day and night;” and to be like ‘trees planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season.’ In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 4

Scripture

1 John 4:4 (KJV) – “Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

Reflection

In the Good News Translation of Chapter 8 of Paul's letter to the Romans, Apostle Paul writes, “But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.” (Romans 8:10-11 GNT)

In his letter to the church in Corinth Paul wrote, “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16 NET)

Dear God, I believe that “greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.” Thank you for giving life to me through the presence of Your Spirit in me. Help me to help You do greater things for and in Your kingdom. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Day 5

Scripture

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV) – “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Reflection

The Hebrew word *qavah*, translated as “wait” in Isaiah 40:31 means “to expect, look, patiently tarry.” According to Strong's Concordance, #6960, *qavah* also means “to bind together.” The phrase “wait upon the Lord” creates an image of one of God's dearly loved children reaching up to grasp the hand of our Heavenly Father. As stated in Psalms 18:35 (NIV) “You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great.”

Dear God, as we reach up to You, and as You “stoop down in gentleness,” we believe You do make us greater. Empower us for victory as we wait upon You and make us strong with Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 6

Scripture

Romans 1:20 (NET) – “For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made...”

Psalms 55:22 (NKJV) – “Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Reflection

“Having an albatross around the neck,” is an unfortunate phrase used to describe being saddled with a heavy burden. The phrase originated from a single line in a poem first published in 1798, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The single line, “instead of the cross, the Albatross about my neck was hung,” referred to the punishment of a sailor who had killed an albatross, the bird who other sailors credited with having led their ship to safety.

The albatross is one of the largest flying birds on Earth. These amazing birds have wingspans of 10 feet, and some species can fly 10,000 miles without landing on the ground.



Day 6

Reflection Continued

The albatross is one of God's greatest creations, one of the birds he made to "fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." (Genesis 1:20 HCSB)

One line in a 625-line poem, written more than 225 years ago, resulted in the dictionary definition describing this magnificent bird to be distorted, by including as a secondary meaning, "a source of worry or distress."

Dear God, Your eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen and understood by what You have made. Help me to cast my burdens upon you and not let single experiences cause me to forget that You will "never permit the righteous to be moved." Thank you for Your grace that has made me one of Your dearly loved children. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 7

Scripture

Psalms 18:1,2 (NKJV) – "I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Reflection

The 3,500-pound, bronze statue of a young soldier with his hat held high, shouting "Victory," affixed atop the Soldiers, Sailors and Pioneers Monument in Hamilton, Ohio, symbolizes the confidence that accompanies the strength of a committed purpose.

The Psalmist in Psalm 18 describes a true source of greater confidence: "You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With Your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. As for God, his way is perfect: the Lord's Word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in him... It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; He causes me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.



Day 7

Reflection Continued

You make Your saving help my shield, and Your right hand sustains me; Your help has made me great. You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way. I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed." (Psalm 18:28-37 NIV)

Dear God, You are my rock and my deliverer, and You keep my lamp burning and turn my darkness into light. Thank you for the "shield of Your saving help" that makes me great. I ask You to increase in me the confidence that comes with the strength of a committed purpose, and may that purpose always be Your purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 8

Scripture

John 14:12 (NKJV) – "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and GREATER works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

Reflection

In John Chapter 9, Jesus healed a blind man; in John Chapter 11, Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead. And then in John Chapter 14, verse 12, Jesus says, "he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and GREATER works than these he will do..." Jesus then explains how these GREATER works will be done in the next verse, "... whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:13 NKJV) How exciting it is to realize that "... we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV) "For we are God's fellow workers..." (1 Corinthians 3:9 NKJV)

Dear God, thank you for Your grace that has made each of us one of Your dearly loved children. We are Your "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." Thank You for equipping, enabling, and empowering us to do the greater works Jesus said we would do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Day 9

Scripture

Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NKJV) - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution ... or peril, or sword? ... in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Reflection

The song, "Victory in Jesus" was the final song written by Eugene Monroe (E. M.) Bartlett. During his lifetime, E. M. Bartlett wrote more than 800 songs. At the age of fifty-three, Bartlett experienced a paralyzing stroke that left him bedridden. After this stroke, but before his death, Bartlett wrote his most famous song, which included the triumphant chorus, "O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever! He sought me and bought me with His redeeming Blood; He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood."

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57 NKJV)

Dear God, thank You for loving me. I am more than a conqueror because You love me, and I believe that nothing will ever separate me from Your love. Thank you for the victory I have through Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 10

Scripture

Romans 1:20 (NET) - "For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made..."

Psalms 55:22 (NKJV) - "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."



Day 10

Reflection

The Hebrew word *emuna*, which means “firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, or steadiness,” is translated as “faithfulness” in Psalm 119:90. The Greek word *pistis*, which also means “fidelity,” is translated “faithfulness” in Galatians 5:22. Fidelity implies faithfulness to an obligation, trust, or duty.

An example of faithfulness in nature is the practice of Northern Cardinals to mate for life, and to share the tasks of nest-building and the feeding of their young. Other bird species known to mate for life include the Carolina Wren, the Blue Jay, and the American Bald Eagle, among others.

Jesus taught, “look to the birds of the air.” (Matthew 6:26 NKJV) Jesus also taught that “he who is faithful in what is least is also faithful in much.” (Luke 16:10 NKJV)

Dear God, help me to be more faithful, and to be more firm and more steadfast as I seek to do greater works for You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 11

Scripture

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...”

Reflection

The reference to the “power that works in us” in Ephesians 3:20 immediately follows an earlier prayer by the Apostle Paul, that those who believed in Christ would “be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.” (Ephesians 3:16 NKJV)

In Philippians, Paul writes “for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13 NASB2020) In 1 Timothy, Paul writes, “For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and of a sound mind.” (1 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)



Day 11

Reflection Continued

Dear God, may we too be strengthened with might through Your Spirit, for You have not given us the spirit of fear, "but of power, love, and of a sound mind." "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory... forever and ever." In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 12

Scripture

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6,7 NKJV)

Reflection

The context of this often-used passage of scripture involves a word of encouragement and exhortation to a group that had previously pledged to give to God's work. Planned giving, using pledges was one of the types of fund-raising methods used during the early Christian church. The Apostle Paul was writing in this passage to the church in Corinth, to remind them to "prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation." (2 Corinthians 9:5) Paul concludes the exhortation by writing, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

Dear God, You have given us so much. May we be cheerful givers, sow bountifully, and reap bountifully. In Jesus' name. Amen



Day 13

Scripture

Revelation 22:1-5 (NKJV) - "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb... and there shall be no more curse... they shall see His face... there shall be no night there; they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light, and they shall reign forever and ever."

Reflection

The Apostle John's description of Heaven in Revelation 22, emphasizes the expectation and hope of something greater shared by all believers in Christ.

Fanny Crosby was a prolific writer of hymns during her lifetime. She was born in 1820 and died in 1915. When Fanny was only six weeks old, she lost sight as the result of an eye infection. Physical blindness did not prevent Crosby from seeing Jesus. "In that day, the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see." (Isaiah 29:18 RSV)

One of Crosby's most famous hymns is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." A portion of the second stanza of that hymn provides Fanny Crosby's own description of what Heaven will be like, "Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe from corroding care, safe from the world's temptations, sin cannot harm me there. Free from the blight of sorrow, free from my doubts and fears..."

Greater things do await those who follow Jesus.

Dear God, thank you for the hope and promise of eternal life, "free from the blight of sorrow, free from my doubts and fear." I look forward to the greater things that are coming, when and where there "shall be no night there... for the Lord God gives them light." Thank you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Day 14

Scripture

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) – “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say rejoice!”

Reflection

God is holy, and He is “enthroned in the praises” of His people. (Psalm 22:3) In Heaven the angles cry, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Isaiah 6:3) In the New Testament’s Book of Jude, we are directed, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 1:20)

As we continue this Greater journey, may we fully comprehend God’s desire that we are a part of the GREATER WORKS Jesus described in John 14:12, and REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS! In Jesus’ name, Amen.



