

经节：凡他所行的，无论是办神殿的事，是遵律法守诫命，是寻求他的神，都是尽心去行，无不亨通。（历代志下三十一章21节）

有个方法可以保证你凡事亨通，就是尽心去事奉神。犹大王希西家活在一个动乱不安的时代，他面对强而有力的敌人。偶像崇拜是当代很普遍的事。他的父母拒绝神，鼓励百姓去拜别的假神（历代志下廿八章）。希西家大可以照样拒绝神，但他选择要全心、全意、尽心、尽力去事奉神。他以自己的权力鼓励百姓敬拜真神，且勤勉地遵循神的命令。结果，因着他定意事奉神，神祝福他。希西家得以于乱世中兴盛不衰，因为他不管群众的意见，定意跟随神。

神看顾定意寻求跟随祂的心（历代志下廿六：5）。在那个时代，敬拜神是不合时尚的。除此之外，敌对的武力也威胁着他，若要寻求神是需要勇气与决心的。神喜欢丰盛地赐予那些独排众议、努力讨好祂的人（撒母耳记上二：30）。希西家与犹太国早期国王罗波安的作为完全不同。经上记着：「罗波安行恶，因他不立定心意寻求耶和華。」（历代志下十二：14）当你没有尽心寻求主，灾难是不可避免的结局。最能保证你凡事亨通的方法，是尽心尽力的遵循神的旨意。

The Key to Prosperity

And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.

2 Chronicles 31:21

There is a way to ensure that you prosper in what you do: serve the Lord with all your heart! Hezekiah, king of Judah, lived in a dangerous and tumultuous time. He faced powerful enemies. Idolatry was the popular religion of the day. His parents had rejected God and encouraged people to worship other gods (2 Chron. 28). Hezekiah had the opportunity to reject God as well, yet he chose to serve God with all of his heart. He did everything in his power to promote worship of the true God. He diligently followed God's commandments. As a result of Hezekiah's determination to serve God, God blessed him. Hezekiah thrived in an unsettled time because he resolved to follow God despite popular opinion.

God will honor the heart that commits to follow Him (2 Chron. 26:5). In times when worshiping God is not in vogue and when the forces of the day oppose Him, it takes courage and resolve to seek after God. God is pleased to prosper those who strive to please Him rather than to seek the approval of people (1 Sam. 2:30). Hezekiah stands in stark contrast to Rehoboam, an earlier king of Judah. It is said of Rehoboam that "he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord" (2 Chron. 12:14). When you do not set your heart to seek the Lord, calamity is the inevitable result. The surest way to prosper in your endeavors is to diligently pursue the will of God.

9月5日（星期一）- 标题：**你们白白地得来，也要白白地舍去**

经节：你们白白地得来，也要白白地舍去。（马太福音十章8节下）

在神的国中没有守财奴的居所。当我们不情愿分享手中的东西时，显示我们忘记了自己所拥有的财产出自何处。各样美善的和全备的赏赐，都是从上头来的，是从众光之父那里降下的（雅各书一：17）。我们所领受的一切，都是靠着祂的恩典（哥林多前书四：7）。约伯明确地概述我们的情况：「我赤身出于母胎，也必赤身归回；赏赐的是耶和华，收取的也是耶和华。耶和华的名是应当称颂的。」（约伯记一：21）我们很容易会以为，自己所有物的主权在自己的手中，就好象这些东西是我赚得的，所以有权力支配。耶稣提醒我们，要随时准备白白舍去自己的所有物，而领受东西时也要欢欢喜喜的。能够把自己所有的东西给别人，是很快乐的事（哥林多后书九：7）。我们应该要成为主倾福的导管，知道自己会散播福气给周围的人。我们有时会宣告要成为财产的好管家，实际上，我们却是很自私的。

如果你心有为难，无法白白舍去，你已经变得重视礼物多于重视那位赐恩者。那个年轻的官让我们看到，太重视属世宝藏的悲剧（路加福音八：18～24）。默想主给你的所有赏赐（约翰福音三：16），决心以奉献来表达你的感激之情。

Freely Give

Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8b

There is no room for misers in God's kingdom. When we begin to struggle in giving what we have to others, we have forgotten where we received our possessions. Every good thing we have ever received has come from God (James 1:17). All that we have acquired has been dependent upon His grace (1 Cor. 4:7). Job accurately summarized our condition: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, / And naked shall I return there. / The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; / Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

We easily assume a sense of ownership of our possessions, as if they were things we earned ourselves, thereby giving us a right to them. Jesus reminds us to be prepared to give our possessions as freely and joyfully as we received them. It should be a pleasure for us to give what we have to others (2 Cor. 9:7). We ought to be a conduit through whom the Lord can pour His blessings, knowing we will disperse them to everyone around us. Sometimes we claim we are trying to be good stewards of our resources when actually we are being selfish.

If you struggle to give freely to others, you have become more attached to the gift than to the Giver. The account of the rich young ruler shows the tragedy of becoming too attached to worldly treasures (Luke 8:18-24). Meditate on all that your Lord has given to you (John 3:16). Resolve to express your gratitude to Him through your giving.

9月10日（星期六）- 标题：**神记得**

经节：你去向耶路撒冷人的耳中喊叫说，耶和华如此说：你幼年的恩爱，婚前的爱情，你怎样在旷野，在未曾耕种之地跟随我，我都记得。（耶利米书二章2节）

当你的心对神愈来愈冷淡，对祂的热爱愈来愈薄弱的时候，祂对你的爱仍是稳定不动摇。我们可能会忘记祂，祂却记得我们。

神当时很担心，因为犹太民族已经渐渐远离神。神向以色列百姓表达自己的爱意，并且回忆他们过去刚刚爱上神的情感。祂记得当初百姓们是如何爱自己，就像一个新娘热爱她的丈夫一样，对未来充满兴奋与期待。祂回想当初他们表达，无论神到何处都愿跟随的爱意。神提醒他们过去对祂的爱意，他们的记忆也许可以重燃奉献的爱火，他们的心可能因而回转向祂。

如果不守护自己的心，你对基督的爱会愈来愈冷淡。这时候祂可能会亲近你，提醒你与祂过去的关系。你是否还记得自己刚变成基督徒的时候，生活洋溢着喜乐？你是否还记得年轻时向神承诺，立定心志要做任何神要你做的事？你是否记得，每回你经历到祂本性的某个新特质时，心中涌出的激情？属灵的记忆是非常重要的。除非比较目前与早期爱心的差异，你可能不会了解自己已离神多远。

神是永不改变的。祂与你当初献上你的心，成为一个基督徒的时候，是一样的（玛拉基书三：6～7）。如果你对神的爱不像从前那么热切，回转向祂。祂会重建你过去与祂亲密的关系。

God Remembers

Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, "Thus says the LORD: I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown." Jeremiah 2:2

Even when our hearts grow cold toward God and our devotion to Him weakens, His love remains steadfast. We may forget God, but He remembers us.

God was concerned because the people of Judah had allowed their hearts to drift far from Him. In a powerful moment, God shared His heart with His people, recalling what it was like when they first began loving Him. He remembered how they had loved Him, as a new bride loves her husband, with excitement and enthusiasm for the future. He recalled the kindness they had expressed as they willingly followed Him wherever He led them. God reminded them of the love they had once had for Him, so that the memory might rekindle feelings of devotion and their hearts might return to Him.

If you do not guard our heart, you will grow cold in your love for Christ. A time may come when He approaches you and reminds you what your relationship was once like. Do you recollect the joy that permeated your life when you first became a Christian? Do you recall the youthful commitments you made to Him, pledging to do anything He told you to do? Do you remember the thrill you experienced each time you came to understand a new dimension of His nature? Spiritual memory is important. You may not realize how far you have drifted from God until you contrast the love you are expressing to Him now with that of earlier days. God has not changed. He is the same Person you gave your heart to when you became a Christian (Mal. 3:6-7). If your love for God is not as intense as it once was, return to Him. He will restore the intimate fellowship you once shared with Him.

9月9日（星期五）－标题：**回到你的失败处**

经文：西门说：「夫子，我们整夜劳力，并没有打着什么。但依从祢的话，我就下网。」（路加福音五章5节）

没有人像耶稣一样，知道怎样在你失败的时刻帮助你！祂不会忽略你的缺点，或是仅仅鼓励你下一回做好一点。在你失败的当中，祂仍会赐下胜利。

彼得整夜捕鱼却一无所获。他不是只捕捞到一些鱼，而是连一条鱼也没捕到，虽然他是个熟练的渔夫。耶稣可以说：「彼得，别担心你的空网！反正，你很快就要换个行业。」耶稣反而要他把船开到水深之处，撒网捕鱼。彼得是何等地谦卑！这里有个木匠告诉这个坦率的渔夫如何捕鱼呢！

当你失败时，耶稣通常要你完全专注于祂。祂有时要把你带到失败之处，好能够在你的生命中建立美善的特质。你可能以为祂一定不要你再继续下去，因为你是如此惨败。你的问题也许就在靠自己的力量，而不是靠主的力量。你的失败之处也许是人际关系，祂会帮助你由错误中体验到祂的指引，使你的人际关系大大不同。当你倚靠神作工时，可能发现成功就在你的掌握之中。如果最近遭遇失败，你可能正处于得到神深奥启示的边缘！

Returning to Your Failure

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." Luke 5:5

No one knows how to help you in your times of failure as Jesus does! He will not overlook your shortcoming or simply encourage you to do better the next time. He will give you victory in the midst of your failure.

Peter had fished all night without success. His was not just a meager catch; he had caught nothing, even though he was a skilled fisherman. Jesus could have said, "Peter, don't worry about your empty net. You'll soon be in a different business anyway." Instead, Jesus told him to launch out into the deep and to cast out his nets for a catch. How humbling it must have been for Peter! Here was a carpenter telling this outspoken fisherman how to fish!

Jesus often gets your undivided attention when you fail. He sometimes takes you back to your place of defeat in order to build something good into your life. You may assume He must not want you to continue because you failed so miserably in your attempt. Perhaps your problem was that you relied on your own strength instead of the Master's. Maybe you failed in a relationship. Jesus will not allow you to abandon it; He will help you learn from your failure and experience the difference He can make when He guides your relationships. When you try in God's strength you may discover that success is indeed within your grasp. If you have recently experienced failure, you may be on the brink of receiving a profound revelation from God!

9月6日（星期二）－标题：**没有什么能隔绝你**

经文：谁能使我们与基督的爱隔绝呢？难道是患难吗？是困苦吗？是逼迫吗？是饥饿吗？是赤身露体吗？是危险吗？是刀剑吗？（罗马书八章35节）

不管遭遇多么可怕的事，没有任何事能使你与神的爱隔绝。你所遭遇的患难与困苦不可能严重到一个程度，以致神热切的爱无法领你超越过它。没有任何逼迫是太痛苦，以致神的爱无法为你带来安慰。饥饿也许让你觉得亟需食物的供应，但是你永远不会觉得神的爱不够，以致不能饱足。贫穷不能劫掠你享受神的热爱，即使是死亡本身，也不能抢夺天父对你无尽的爱。

如果依照环境来看神的爱，你会变得很困惑。你有时候可能会问：「慈爱的神怎能容许这种事发生在我身上？」你可能开始怀疑圣经中清清楚楚的记述。神应许你永远不会与祂的爱隔绝；祂并不是说你永远不会遇到患难、困苦、逼迫、饥饿、贫穷或危险。如果怀疑神怎能既爱你，又让你经历困境，想想耶稣的一生。

若真实了解基督死在十字架上为我们付出的爱，你会信心十足地面对困境。如果知道没有任何东西，能使我们与神完全的爱隔绝，你会在每个环境中看到神表达祂的爱。不要以环境来衡量神的爱。相反地，要以神的爱来评估你的环境。

Nothing Can Separate You

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Romans 8:35

Nothing you could ever experience, no matter how terrible or frightening, could ever separate you from the love of God. No tribulation and distress you might ever suffer could be so intense that God's love for you is not even more fervent. No persecution could be so painful that God's love cannot bring comfort. Famine might starve you of food, but you will never hunger for the Father's love. Poverty cannot strip you of God's compassion, just as even death itself is incapable of robbing you of your heavenly Father's infinite love.

If you base your view of God's love on your circumstances, you will become confused. There may be times when you will ask, "How could a loving God allow this to happen to me?" You may begin to question what you find clearly stated in the Word of God. God promised that you would never be separated from His love; He did not say that you would never face hardship, persecution, poverty, or danger. If you doubt that God could love you and still allow you to experience difficult experiences, consider the life of Jesus. If you allow the death of Jesus on the cross to forever settle any questions you might have about God's love, you will approach difficult circumstances with confidence. Knowing that there will never be anything that could separate you from God's perfect love, you will watch to see how God expresses His love in each circumstance. Don't ever judge God's love based on your circumstances. Instead, evaluate your circumstances from the perspective of God's love.

9月7日（星期三）- 标题：**住在山上的日子够了**

经文：住在山上的日子够了耶和华——我们的神在何烈山晓谕我们说：你们在这山上住的日子够了。（申命记一章6节）

如果神让我们住在「山顶」，我们永远不能经历考验，更不能经历任何胜利。当神对以色列百姓说话，颁发十诫给他们的时候，以色列人聚集在西乃山脚下。这是个惊人的经验！火与烟覆盖了整个山顶，天空闪电，角声渐渐地高昂！遍山大大震动百姓们恐惧战兢（出埃及记十九：16~25）。

神的百姓不只是一定要经历与神相遇的激动，他们的主由埃及解救他们的目的，并不是要他们待在荒野的山地中。神解救他们，好叫他们能够征服应许之地。神要向以色列人展示自己的权能，好让他们信任祂能够带领他们进入迦南地。最后，神宣布他们在山上待得够久了，是起行争战的时刻。

山顶上实在是一个吸引人的安营处。彼得、雅各和约翰预备要在变像山顶搭棚与耶稣同住，然而，他们的主知道山脚下有一个鬼附的孩子需要帮助（马太福音十七：4、14~18）。神有时会慈爱地让你享受山顶经验，这些经验可能发生在许多不同的时候：在你与祂独处时、在基督徒众会时、读一本好书时、或是在祷告聚会时。你可能希望自己一辈子舒适地享受迎见主的激情，但要记得，这些山顶的际遇是神要装备你，好面对前头的争战。

Long Enough on the Mountain

The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: "You have dwelt long enough at this mountain." Deuteronomy 1:6

If God allowed us to live on the "mountaintop," we would not experience trials, but neither would we achieve any victories. The Israelites had gathered at the foot of Mount Horeb while God spoke to them and gave them His law. It was a breathtaking experience! Fire and smoke covered that awesome mountain; lightning flashed, and loud trumpet sounds pierced the air in a deafening crescendo! The ground at the foot of the mountain shook, and the people trembled in fear (Exod. 19:16-25).

As important as it was for God's people to have this inspiring encounter with Him, their Lord had not rescued them from Egypt in order for them to settle around a mountain in the wilderness. God delivered them so that they could conquer the Promised Land. God wanted to demonstrate His power to the Israelites so that they would trust Him in their conquest of Canaan. Finally, God announced that they had been long enough at the mountain; it was time to go to battle.

The mountain is an enticing place to set up camp. Peter, James, and John were prepared to reside on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, but their Lord knew that a demon-possessed boy needed their assistance down below (Matt. 17:4, 14-18). At times God will graciously provide you a mountaintop experience. These times come in many settings: during your time alone with Him, at a Christian conference, by reading a Christian book, or at a prayer meeting. You may wish you could spend the rest of your life basking in the glow of your encounter with God. But remember, these mountaintop encounters are God's way of preparing you for the battles that await you.

9月8日（星期四）- 标题：**不要迷失在人群中**

经文：耶稣到了那里，抬头一看，对他说：「撒该，快下来！今天我必住在你家里。」（路加福音十九章5节）

在这广大的世界里，我们常觉得自己只不过是群众中一个微不足道的小人物罢了。世界的趋势是要除去我们个人的特质，要我们认同周围的人。然而，神以祂独特的方式来爱我们。

耶稣正前往耶路撒冷的路上，要完成祂在十字架上的任务。群众蜂拥而至地包围祂，矮小的撒该非得爬上一棵树，才看得到耶稣。撒该原想，只要看最伟大的教师一眼，就心满意足，但耶稣居然停下来，抬头直视他！那时撒该在人群中根本不受注意，就这样，撒该开始一段与耶稣同处的时光，而这个际遇彻底地改变了他的生命。

耶稣会以独特的方式与你相交。祂知道你的过去、你将会面对的将来，以及你生命的每个细节，祂赐给你的话语会完美地切合你生活的环境。你可能处于一群聆听神话语的基督徒当中，也可能是你周遭唯一听见神话语的人。如果旁人并没有像你一样因神的真理兴奋激动，不要感到灰心失望。如果他们没有像你一样，把神的话应用在自己的身上，不要没有耐性。神会使祂的话语个人化。祂也会以祂自己的方式，满足你每个朋友的需要。

Not Lost in the Crowd

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." Luke 19:5

In our large world it's easy to feel that we are nothing more than an insignificant speck in the midst of a multitude. Our world tends to depersonalize us, seeking to make us like everyone else, but God loves us in specific ways that are particular to us.

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem to fulfill His assignment on the cross. The multitudes thronged around Him in such numbers that the diminutive Zacchaeus could not see Jesus unless he climbed a tree. Zacchaeus would have been satisfied simply to catch a glimpse of the great Teacher. But Jesus stopped, turned, and looked directly at him! In that moment, Zacchaeus was oblivious to the crowd around him. Thus began a special time with Jesus that radically changed his life.

Jesus will relate to you in ways that are unique to you. He knows your past; He knows what you will face in the future. Because He knows everything about you, His word to you will perfectly fit the circumstances of your life. You may be in a group of Christians who are listening to God's Word, and you may hear things from Him that no one else hears. Don't become frustrated with others if they are not as excited about a truth from God as you are. Don't be impatient with them if they are not implementing God's word in their exactly as you are. God will personalize His word to you. He will relate to each of your friends in a way that specifically meets their needs as well.