



October 2



The Perfect Prayer Partner

James Banks



[Jesus] is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. [Romans 8:34](#)

Read: [Romans 8:31–34](#)

Bible in a Year: [Isaiah 14–16](#); [Ephesians 5:1–16](#)

Few sounds are as beautiful as hearing someone who loves you praying for you. When you hear a friend pray for you with compassion and God-given insight, it's a little like heaven touching earth.

How good it is to know that because of God's kindness to us our prayers can also touch heaven. Sometimes when we pray we may struggle with words and feelings of inadequacy, but Jesus taught His followers that we "should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1). God's Word shows us that one of the reasons we can do this is that Jesus Himself "is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us" (Rom. 8:34).

We never pray alone, because Jesus is praying for us. He hears us as we pray, and speaks to the Father on our behalf. We don't have to worry about the eloquence of our words, because no one understands us like Jesus. He helps us in every way, presenting our needs before God. He also knows when the answers we ask for would not be good for us, handling every request or concern with perfect wisdom and love.

Jesus is the perfect prayer partner—the friend who intercedes for us with immeasurable kindness. His prayers for us are beautiful beyond words, and should encourage us to always pray with thankfulness.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for interceding for me with love. Help me to love and serve You with my prayers today.

Visit us at ourdailybread.org/PrayerChangesThings for more resources on prayer.

There's no greater privilege than praying with Jesus.



October 3



Conceived in Crisis

Tim Gustafson



I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. **Psalm 57:1**

Read: **Psalm 57**

Bible in a Year: **Isaiah 17–19; Ephesians 5:17–33**

Marc recalls a moment from his childhood when his father called the family together. Their car had broken down, and the family would run out of money by the end of the month. Marc's dad paused and prayed. Then he asked the family to expect God's answer.

Today Marc recalls how God's help arrived in surprising ways. A friend repaired their car; unexpected checks arrived; food showed up at the door. Praising God came easily. But the family's gratitude had been forged in a crisis.

Psalm 57 has long provided rich inspiration for worship songs. When David declared, "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens" (v. 11), we might imagine him gazing up at a magnificent Middle Eastern night sky or perhaps singing in a tabernacle worship service. But in reality David, fearful for his life, was hiding in a cave.

"I am in the midst of lions," David said in the psalm. These "ravenous beasts" were "men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords" (v. 4). David's praise was conceived in crisis. Although he was cornered by enemies who wanted him dead, David could write these amazing words: "My heart, O God, is steadfast . . . I will sing and make music" (v. 7).

Whatever crisis we face today, we can run to God for help. Then, we can praise Him as we wait expectantly, confident in His infinitely creative care for us.

Share with others on [Facebook.com/ourdailybread](https://www.facebook.com/ourdailybread) about when God delivered you from a crisis.

Your next crisis is your next opportunity to trust our unfailing God.



October 4

Divine Interruptions

David C. McCasland



Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.
Luke 18:40–41

Read: [Luke 18:35–43](#)

Bible in a Year: [Isaiah 20–22](#); [Ephesians 6](#)

Experts agree that a staggering amount of time is consumed each day by interruptions. Whether at work or at home, a phone call or an unexpected visit can easily deflect us from what we feel is our main purpose.

Not many of us like disruptions in our daily lives, especially when they cause inconvenience or a change of plans. But Jesus treated what appeared to be interruptions in a far different way. Time after time in the Gospels, we see the Lord stop what He is doing to help a person in need.

While Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem where He would be crucified, a blind man begging by the side of the road called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Luke 18:35–38). Some in the crowd told him to be quiet, but he kept calling out to Jesus. Jesus stopped and asked the man, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." (vv. 41–42).

When our plans are interrupted by someone who genuinely needs help, we can ask the Lord for wisdom in how to respond with compassion. What we call an interruption may be a divine appointment the Lord has scheduled for that day.

Lord Jesus, fill us with Your wisdom and compassion that we may respond as You did to people in need.

Interruptions can be opportunities to serve.



October 5



Hovering Over Us

Amy Boucher Pye



He shielded him and cared for him . . . like an eagle that . . . hovers over its young.
[Deuteronomy 32:10–11](#)

Read: [Deuteronomy 32:7–12](#)

Bible in a Year: [Isaiah 23–25](#); [Philippians 1](#)

Betty's daughter arrived home from an overseas trip, feeling unwell. When her pain became unbearable, Betty and her husband took her to the emergency room. The doctors and nurses set to work, and after a few hours one of the nurses said to Betty, "She's going to be okay! We're going to take good care of her and get her healed up." In that moment, Betty felt peace and love flood over her. She realized that while she hovered over her daughter anxiously, the Lord is the perfect parent who nurtures His children, comforting us in difficult times.

In the book of Deuteronomy, the Lord reminded His people how, when they were wandering in the desert, He cared for them as a loving parent who hovers over its young. He never left them, but was like an eagle "that spreads its wings" to catch its children and "carries them aloft" (32:11). He wanted them to remember that although they experienced hardship and strife in the desert, He didn't abandon them.

We too may face challenges of many kinds, but we can take comfort and courage in this reminder that our God will never leave us. When we feel that we are falling, the Lord like an eagle will spread His wings to catch us (v. 11) as He brings us peace.

Father God, Your love as a parent is greater than anything I can imagine. May my confidence rest in You, and may I share Your love with others.

Our God hovers over us with love.



October 6



If I Knew Then . . .

Alyson Kieda



*In his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **1 Peter 1:3***

Read: **1 Peter 1:3–9**

Bible in a Year: [Isaiah 26–27](#); [Philippians 2](#)

On the way to work, I listened to the song “Dear Younger Me,” which asks: If you could go back, knowing what you know now, what would you tell your younger self? As I listened, I thought about the bits of wisdom I might give my younger, less-wise self. Most of us have thought about how we might do things differently—if only we could do it all over again.

But the song illustrates that even though we have regrets from our past, all our experiences have shaped who we are. We can’t change the consequences of our choices or sin. Praise God we don’t have to carry the mistakes around with us. Because of what Jesus has done! “In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”! (1 Peter 1:3).

If we turn to Him in faith and sorrow for our sins, He will forgive us. On that day we’re made brand new and begin the process of being spiritually transformed (2 Cor. 5:17). It doesn’t matter what we’ve done (or haven’t done), we are forgiven because of what *He’s* done. We can move forward, making the most of today and anticipating a future with Him. In Christ, we’re free!

Dear Lord, I’m so thankful that through You we can be free of the burdens of the past—the mistakes, the pain, the sins—that hang so heavy. We don’t need to carry around regret or shame. We can leave them with You.

For further study, read [Live Free](#).

Leave your heavy burdens with God.
