



DAILY READINGS

9TH - 21ST FEBRUARY

A big THANK YOU to Louse Davis for crafting commentary notes for the first two weeks.

THIS GUIDE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS:

Pick the option that suits you. Pgs. 2-13 contain devotional notes for encouragement and reflection, while pgs. 14-16 support a journal style discovery approach

EPHESIANS IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS:

Chs. 1-3 praise God for His amazing grace, and chs. 4-6 instruct us in how to respond.

There are no readings on Sundays - they can be used as a catch-up day

9th February 2026

Ephesians 1:1-2

CHOSEN

Paul was in prison.

But no prison could stop him from praying, worshipping, or from actively encouraging his churches. Paul loved the church at Ephesus. He wasn't writing because they were in trouble. Unlike his other churches, this church was doing well. Possibly because Paul had spent two years planting the church and discipling the new believers.

Paul introduces himself. an APOSTLE OF CHRIST... CHOSEN BY GOD – PAUL KNEW HIS LORD AND HE KNEW HIS CALLING.

You are also called and chosen by God, by His amazing grace. (Jn. 15.16, Eph. 2.8)

AN APOSTLE..... ??

- had a personal encounter with Jesus – Paul met Jesus on the way to Damascus. (Acts 9)
- possessed Divine authority. Paul's ministry was powerful and fruitful - the churches he established were evidence of his apostolic calling. (1 Cor. 9.1,2)
- Apostles were sent out by God.

HOW DID PAUL ADDRESS THE BELIEVERS IN EPHESUS?

- Holy, and faithful followers of Christ.

I wonder....

- How would you describe your congregation? Is holiness a feature?
- Do our personal relationships always express God's holiness and love?

Heavenly Father,

PURIFY MY HEART.

Thank you for Your grace which helps me to live AS JESUS LIVED –

with LOVE, GENUINE HOLINESS, and FAITH. Amen.

Tuesday 10th Feb. 26

ACTS 18:18-21

HOME AND AWAY

Paul had been on mission in Corinth for 18 months and had stayed with an Italian Jewish tentmaker Aquila, and his wife Priscilla, who later became his co-workers.

Paul is on his way back to his home in Antioch, but his mind is always on ministry, so when the ship stopped over at Ephesus, Paul took the opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus to his fellow Jews at the synagogue. He left his friends Priscilla and Aquila there to begin ministry. Later on, this committed Christian couple offered their home for fellowship gatherings. Some years later they moved back to Rome and once again the church gathered in their home for fellowship and ministry. (Rom. 16.3-5)

Married couples.....*Never under-estimate what God can do through your hospitality.*

Opening your home can set the stage for much blessing – for yourselves, and for others, for the church family, and beyond.

Lord Jesus, whether we are single or married.....*be the Lord of our homes.*

May it be a place of blessing, of love and fellowship.

Help us to practice radical hospitality for your sake.

Amen.

Wednesday 11th February

ACTS 19:1-10

SPIRIT BAPTISM

Paul's two year ministry in Ephesus begins:

The Holy Spirit is not an added extra to the Christian faith, but is necessary as the guarantee of our salvation. We are speaking of a Person - the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead, and there can be no confession of faith without Him working in our lives.

And when He is present.....He makes His presence evident - to us, and through us.

And so it was for these Ephesian believers. *They were mightily blessed!*

They had believed the testimony of John's disciples, but John's baptism was not an expression of salvation, only repentance.

John 1:33 *The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest, is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.*

When Jesus baptises us with His Spirit, it is life changing!

His Spirit brings alive the spiritual gifts that are necessary for the building up of His church.

In this instance, the gifts of tongues and prophecy were released through the men.

These believers would have been astonished! *What was happening?*

But there was no doubt... God was at work in their lives and there was a divine purpose in this Spirit baptism.

The Christian life was never meant to be lived in our own strength, with only human

TODAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to baptise you fill you with His presence, Refresh you with His love and power, release His supernatural gifts through you.

That's ministry, as God intended! Enjoy His blessings!

Thursday 12th February

ACTS 19:11-20

SPIRIT VERSUS FLESH

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit”, says the Lord. (Zech. 4.6)

JESUS: Matt. 9.20 *“If I can just touch His robe I will be healed.”*

Matt. 14.36 *They begged Him to let the sick just touch the edge of His robe,
and all who touched it were healed.*

PETER: Acts 5:16 *People were healed when Peter’s shadow fell across them.*

PAUL : Acts 19:11,12 *Touching Paul’s skin with a handkerchiefbrought healing or deliverance.*

Can you imagine such miracles happening here today?

We see ... no laying on of hands, no anointing oil, no special prayers, no spectacular healing service....

But we see Jesus and His Spirit - filled disciples responding with heartfelt compassion to the hunger surrounding them.

The wonderful sovereign flowing of God’s Spirit to those who were desperate for His touch.

How desperate are we for His touch? Can others touch Christ through us?

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

The sons of Sceva had **popularity - but no power**, no relationship with Jesus.

The Name of Jesus does not have magical powers.

THE POWER OF HIS NAME EMANATES FROM A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

THE FULNESS OF THE SPIRIT EMANATES FROM A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

DO YOU HAVE THAT RELATIONSHIP?

❑ **How can I be sure that I know Jesus, that I am truly born again?**

(John 1:12 John 3:16,17)

Friday 13th February

ACTS 19: 23-41

THE HEAT IS ON!

Paul was no stranger to persecution!

In **Acts 9** we read of Paul’s conversion. His journey to Damascus to persecute the Christians was suddenly brought to an end when Jesus appeared to him, struck him to the ground and caused him to go blind. Ananias was the one Jesus chose to go to Paul – with these instructions,

“Go, for Paul is My chosen instrument. ... And I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

READ: 2 Cor. 11.22-33 and see how committed Paul was to his calling.

Jesus said, *“If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. They will do all of this to you because they have rejected Me.” (Jn. 15:20,21)*

He also said, ***“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are My followers. Be happy about it...a great reward awaits you in heaven.” (Matt. 5.11,12)***

Thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are being persecuted, or martyred for their faith in Jesus. They need our constant prayers.

(Barnabas Aid produce an excellent prayer calendar to focus your praying.)

❑ **If you were put on trial in Australia for being a Christian,**

❑ **I wonder... *what would they accuse you of doing?***

Father, we live in such relative comfort for our faith. Keep this from being a stumbling block. Create in us such a love for You, and such compassion for others, that we will be willing to speak up, to stand up, whenever the opportunity arises. Amen.

Saturday 14th February

Revelation 2:1-7

YOUR LOVE FOR GOD IS PARAMOUNT

'Anyone who has ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches.'

30-40 years had passed since Paul established the church at Ephesus.

This letter begins with the Risen Christ walking amongst the lamp-stands. Ever present with them. "I know all things you do." From the outside it looked highly successful –

They were hard-working, steadfast and patient, did not tolerate evil, tested the authenticity of those who claimed to be apostles and discerned that they were not.

But years earlier, in **Acts 20.12** Paul warned the Ephesian church; *"false teachers, like vicious wolves will come in and distort the truth – even from within the church."* The

Ephesians have stood their ground, and even through great persecution they have not quit their faith. Highly commendable! But Jesus is grieving ... **"YOU DON'T LOVE ME, AS YOU ONCE DID"**. Their hearts had grown cold. *This was no small thing for Jesus. His love for us cost Him His life!*

LOVE FOR GOD WAS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

Failure to repent would mean they would cease to function as the church.

They would become a spiritually dead, religious institution. *Selah!*

Is it time to search our hearts?

Have we been so busy doing good, or have we been so busy in ministry that our personal walk with Jesus has taken a back seat? *(It sneaks up on you!)*

Holy Spirit, I cannot pretend to love Jesus wholeheartedly,

He knows everything.

I repent of my mediocre commitment to love Him above all else.

SET MY HEART ON FIRE WITH A NEW, PASSIONATE LOVE FOR CHRIST, TODAY. Amen.

Monday 16th February

Eph. 1:3-6

BELIEVING THE BLESSINGS

*This is awesome....*Our Father is bestowing His blessings on us, heavenly blessings.

because we are one with Jesus. Paul is not interested in worldly blessings, his focus is always on leading people to salvation through Jesus.

Our heavenly blessings include: being eternally loved, being chosen, being considered by God to be as holy as Jesus, being adopted into God's family. *Now, that's astounding!*

Why adopted? Because we are not Jews. Praise the Lord for his amazing grace.

And just think of this – God was delighted when you accepted Christ.

HOWEVER, NONE OF THESE BLESSINGS COUNT FOR MUCH UNLESS YOU BELIEVE IT!

I can just hear our old friend Tom saying, **'YOU JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE!!'**

He was spot on!

A great way to read Ephesians 3-6 is to read it in the first person:

DECLARE over your own life... *"I am blessed... I am one with Christ....God loved me and chose me before the world was made.....Because of Jesus' sacrifice for my sin, God sees me as perfect. God wanted me in His family! HALLELUJAH!"*

Don't let the enemy steal your identity in Christ. Speak out what is true of you in Christ.

In Uganda you are "blessed" if you are wealthy, and somewhat overweight to prove it!!

It is very easy for us to think the same. When everything is comfortable, when I'm financial, healthy, with not a worry in the world.....I'm blessed!! That's not Biblical blessing.

My Grandmother, who was crippled, in constant pain, bed-ridden, and blind, loved the Lord. Was *she* blessed? She would say, definitely yes!

How do you assess whether you are blessed or not?

Who are your role models of the blessed life?

Loving Father, thank you for Jesus – the source of my true identity. Help me to declare Your

Word, Your blessings, and Your promises over my life. Amen.

Tuesday 17th February

Eph. 1:7-10

FABULOUS FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Believers, who were once imprisoned in sin, are now free from God's judgement, because of Christ's sacrificial death. WE ARE FORGIVEN, praise the Lord for His grace! for my sin, why am I still rehearsing self-blame and recrimination for my past?

We need to recognise the strategy of the devil, who Jesus describes as the father of lies.

He comes to steal and kill and destroy, but Jesus came to give us abundant life. (Jn. 10.10)

The Apostle John makes it very clear; *God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it but that the world might be saved through Him. (Jn. 3.17)*

CONVICTION OF SIN is the Holy Spirit at work. CONDEMNATION IS NOT!

If you are still being plagued by past sin, you cannot enjoy the freedom, the peace and joy that Christ purchased for you. Paul writes; *If we say we have no sin, we are lying. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn. 1.7-9)*

I am saved, not because I feel saved, but because of Christ!

So, let's stop giving our feelings so much attention and LET'S BELIEVE GOD, and stand against the lies that imprison us. Sometimes we need help to be set free. Don't be weighed down any longer! Find a mature brother or sister who is able to lead you into glorious freedom in Christ. It's transforming!

Jesus said; you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

and when the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!

(John 8.12,36)

I can fully endorse that!!

Wednesday 18th February

Ephesians 1:11-14

WE HAVE AN INHERITANCE

We are heirs of the Father, We are joint heirs with the Son.

We are children of the Kingdom, We are family, We are one.

What a great old song! We are part of a marvellous global family in Christ regardless of race, colour, nationality, economic status, education, IQ, etc.

It was very important for the believing Jews to realise that the Messiah had come for the salvation of all people...Jews and Gentiles. This was a tough call for the Jews. They were a distinct religion and race, they knew they were God's people, holding onto their ancient Law and traditions with uncompromising zeal. Those who were "not God's chosen ones" were considered 'less- than'. It's no wonder that when the zealous Saul of Tarsus was converted to Christ, his fellow Jews were shocked, disbelieving, and scandalised. *How could he, of all people, betray his people?*

The Apostle Paul changed the world, forever. He didn't invite controversy, but neither did he shy away from preaching the Gospel just to keep anyone happy.

Paul knew his identity was secure in Christ. He knew that God had called him to be an apostle to the Gentiles, whether his fellow Jewish believers liked it or not.

- *How willing are you to risk the dis-pleasure of old friends by witnessing to them?*
- *Do you make assumptions about how individuals may respond, and modify your approach accordingly?*
- *Are you more inclined to be a "sensitive" witness to save your own skin?*
- ***I wonder what assumptions Christians made about you, prior to being saved?***
- *Someone took a risk to save you. Hallelujah!*

Dear Jesus, you cared for no one's opinion; You came to do Your Father's will – nothing more, nothing less! Set me free from the fear of being considered 'different', a 'religious nut'! Someone needing 'a crutch' in life. You know me Lord, you know my weaknesses, my strengths, my personality..... ***Here I am, use me. Amen.***

Thursday 19th February

Psalm 103:1-12

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Yes indeed! For our God is worthy of all blessings.

This wonderful psalm celebrates the Lord's perfection, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, salvation and goodness. Who wouldn't want a God like this?

He is a God who reveals himself to His people. Why? *Because our God is alive!*

And He has a great plan for his people - a plan of redemption through His Son.

No other religion worships a god who interacts personally with them, who has these amazing qualities of love and grace and power. **No other religion has a living God!** Can Buddha, Confucius or Mohammed, personally relate to their followers, to lead them, empower them, love them, forgive them? Obviously, no!

How blessed we are.

Praising God is powerful. It takes your mind off yourself, and provides protection from the enemy. Satan has no voice amidst the praises of God's people. Why? Because *GOD INHABITS THE PRAISES OF HIS PEOPLE*. (Ps. 22.3) Praising God ushers His presence into even the darkest of moments.

That is why praying with believers who are struggling is so important.

You invite God's presence into the situation!

Praise is the power and language of heaven, so let's worship, thank and praise Him everyday.

- Right now, *is God prompting you to praise Him through an issue?*
- Praise increases trust. *How does that resonate with you?*

So let's praise the Lord more often, as individuals and as His Body.

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God through Christ Jesus for you!

(1 Thess. 5.18)

Friday 20th February

Romans 8.28-30

This is surely one of the most quoted passages in the N.T.

We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

What is this saying?

Our God is sovereign and we can trust Him with the big picture of our lives.

This certainly is not easy when you are in the midst of the storm, or passing through a dark place where there seems to be no light penetrating the darkness. But that seems to be where God shows up, in His time, and in His way. We look back and wonder how we got through it.....but then we remember.. *He showed up!* God had been there all along, we just couldn't sense His presence.

Praise the Lord. We are never alone.

'Do not fear, for I am with you. Don't be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. (Isaiah 41.10)

- *When have you personally seen God working everything together for good?*
- *Not everything 'works out' as we hope it will. How does that impact your understanding of God's love ?*

***How great a God we need,
And how much greater is our God
than our greatest need.***

Saturday 21st February

John 14: 15-18

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

Jesus is making it very clear – *love and obedience are inseparable*. This is godly love, not the wishy–washy, half-hearted, ‘*what’s in it for me*’ kind of love. This is commitment, other-centred, Christ focussed ‘*agape*’ love. You cannot truly love Christ and then disobey Him.

How is this possible? The Holy Spirit in us, makes it possible. After Pentecost the Holy Spirit dwelt *within* the disciples, as their Helper, their guide, their inner power.

Barclay puts it this way ; ‘*We cannot receive the Holy Spirit unless we wait in silence and in expectation and in prayer for the Spirit to come to us. The world is too busy to give the Holy Spirit the chance to enter in. For the Holy Spirit does not gate-crash your heart. He waits to be received. Surely we will set apart some time amidst the bustle and rush of life to wait in silence for His coming and power.*’

Waiting on God does not come easy to most, but that is the key to knowing Him and His Spirit. Get to know the Holy Spirit, and you will truly come alive with His presence and power. Jesus sent Him as our Advocate and Helper. He intercedes for us (Romans 8.26) and leads us into the truth.

Perhaps you do not really know the Spirit. He’s waiting for you to reach out to connect with Him. Make a time, create a space, when you and the Spirit can commune in silence together. Enjoy His lovely presence.

Come Holy Spirit, Fall afresh on me. Amen.

JOURNAL STYLE BIBLE METHOD

Expressing your thoughts through writing, drawing etc.can help with understanding and application - now, and in the future

S - Scripture

Pray and ask God to help you focus and understand His Word. Read the Bible passage, maybe more than once to be thorough

O - Observation

What stands out to you? What’s surprising? What are the key themes, promises, or challenges? What might the people be thinking? How might they be feeling?

A - Application

How does it apply to your life? What would you do to respond? What changes might you make?

P - Prayer

Thank God for what you’ve learned, and ask for His help to apply it.

Day	Reading
Monday 9 February	Ephesians 1:1–2
Tuesday 10 February	Acts 18:18–21
Wednesday 11 February	Acts 19:1–10
Thursday 12 February	Acts 19:11–20
Friday 13 February	Acts 19:23–41
Saturday 14 February	Revelation 2:1–7
Monday 16 February	Ephesians 1:3–6
Tuesday 17 February	Ephesians 1:7–10
Wednesday 18 February	Ephesians 1:11–14

Day	Reading
Thursday 19 February	Psalm 103:1–12
Friday 20 February	Romans 8:28–30
Saturday 21 February	John 14:15–18
Monday 23 February	Ephesians 1: 15–19
Tuesday 24 February	Ephesians 1: 20–23
Wednesday 25 February	Isaiah 40: 25–31
Thursday 26 February	Philippians 1: 3–11
Friday 27 February	Colossians 1: 9–14
Saturday 28 February	Psalm 27
Monday March 2	Ephesians 2: 1–5
Tuesday March 3	Ephesians 2: 6–10
Wednesday March 4	Titus 3: 3–7
Thursday March 5	Romans 3: 21–26
Friday March 6	John 3: 1–17
Saturday March 7	Psalm 51:
Monday March 9	Ephesians 2: 11–13
Tuesday March 10	Ephesians 2: 14–18
Wednesday March 11	Ephesians 2: 19–22
Thursday March 12	Ephesians 3: 1-13
Friday March 13	Ephesians 3: 14-21
Saturday March 14	John 17: 20–26

Day	Reading
Monday March 16	Ephesians 4: 1–6
Tuesday March 17	Ephesians 4: 7–13
Wednesday March 18	Ephesians 4: 14–16
Thursday March 19	Romans 12: 1–8
Friday March 20	1 Corinthians 12: 12–27
Saturday March 21	Colossians 3: 12–17
Monday March 23	Ephesians 4: 17–24
Tuesday March 24	Ephesians 4: 25–32
Wednesday March 25	Ephesians 5: 1–7
Thursday March 26	Ephesians 5: 8–14
Friday March 27	Ephesians 5: 15–21
Saturday March 28	Galatians 5: 13–26
Monday March 30	Ephesians 5: 22–33
Tuesday March 31	Ephesians 6: 1–9
Wednesday April 1	Ephesians 6: 10–13
Thursday April 2	Ephesians 6: 14–17
Friday April 3	Ephesians 6: 18–24
Saturday April 4	1 Peter 5: 6–11