

with grace and love. We are not without hope in God's eyes. When we submit to the teachings of Jesus, to love God and love our neighbors, God frees us from the burden of feeling we can never do enough to please God, other people, or ourselves. God writes forgiveness upon our hearts.

**PRAYER:** Forgiving God, give us release from those things that wear us out. Help us to rest secure in your promise of forgiveness. Amen.

**ACTION:** Release forgiveness to someone – you know who – and ask for it in return.

**Saturday, August 16, 2025** (by Lisa Trigg)

Matthew 24:15-27 <https://tinyurl.com/y328s3wk>

**PONDER:** Our scripture reading today warns of great suffering in the days ahead. Sometimes it seems that great suffering is all around us! War, hunger, famine, children separated from their families, purges of immigrants seeking refuge – all these things remind us that great harm continues in modern society when we live without following the greatest commandments – love God and love neighbor. Political monkey business keeps the wealthy wealthy and harms the poor. And yet many listen to those politicians because they scream loudest and have access to microphones. Lord, have mercy. Let us not suffer by listening to fools who scream, but love us into grace by responding to your gentle dove of a voice calling us to peace and mercy, and to provide for the needs of our sisters and brothers.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, help us in our despair by drowning out the noise of Empire, and opening our hearts to love of your beloved. Amen.

**ACTION:** Turn off the television, radio, social media and get a vision of God's kingdom by being an active participant who shares the love of God with others.

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## DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

August 11 to August 16, 2025

**Monday, August 11, 2025** (by Marilyn Culler)

Hebrews 11:1-7 <https://tinyurl.com/3xy3en9f>

**PONDER:** We've become a "show me" society, which may be why people drift away from the church. We can't have a Zoom meeting with Jesus. We can't email or text the Holy Spirit. We don't know what God's voice sounds like, other than what Charlton Heston's voice as God (not in the credits though) sounded like in *The Ten Commandments*. We can still talk to Jesus, commune with the Holy Spirit, hear God's voice. How does our triune God manifest in your life in ways you can understand?

**PRAYER:** God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, I know you are with me. May the blessings of Your presence fill me with awe and hold me in hope. Amen.

**ACTION:** How does your faith help you to see hope?

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025** (by Ashlee Vitz)

2 Peter 3:14-18 <https://tinyurl.com/2kf7wpaz>

**PONDER:** In this passage, Peter encourages us to live in anticipation of the Lord's return by striving for lives marked

by purity, peace, and steadfast faith. This journey requires continual growth in both grace and knowledge. Living in a world filled with varying interpretations and distortions of scripture, we are called to approach our faith with both discernment and humility. We must be vigilant, ensuring that our beliefs and actions align with the true message of Christ -- a message rooted in love, justice, and inclusivity. Peter's words remind us that our spiritual growth is an ongoing process. It's about deepening our understanding of God's grace and allowing that grace to transform our lives. It's about seeking wisdom and remaining open to the Spirit's guidance, even when confronted with challenging or complex teachings.

There's a fancy phrase out there called the "Wesley Quadrilateral." It simply means the four ways in which the founder of Methodism taught believers to approach learning about our faith. These four things are: scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. When used together, these four pieces do amazing work in helping us to live out our faith!

**PRAYER:** Loving God, help us to grow in grace and knowledge as we seek to live lives that honor You. Give us wisdom and discernment to navigate the complexities of our faith, and fill us with Your peace and patience. May our lives reflect Your love and justice, bringing glory to Your name. Amen.

**ACTION:** Google the phrase "Wesley Quadrilateral," and see what helpful things you can learn this week!

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025** (by Marilyn Culler)

Luke 12:41-48 <https://tinyurl.com/45t8bfj8>

**PONDER:** Peter asked Jesus if the parable in these verses is for the few or the many. Fast forward to today. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are with us today. Peter couldn't have seen this far ahead. Since Jesus remains in us, the last verse especially speaks to us today. In a world where the few control much of the world's money, much will be demanded, and even more will be asked.

**PRAYER:** Holy God, help me be mindful of all that I have because of the blessings You have provided. May I always be willing to share with anyone in need. Amen.

**ACTION:** What is God asking of you and "the much" that you have?

**Thursday, August 14, 2025** (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalm 80 <https://tinyurl.com/4t5tzwxz>

**PONDER:** The psalmist, in petition, calls God the Shepherd of Israel. God is the one who led Joseph like a flock. He is the one who sits on the wings of Angels. In other words, God can come to save Israel. To make his point, the psalmist refers to the Exodus and the destruction of Jerusalem and asks God to restore Israel. "Let your face shine, that we may be saved." He requests God to look down from heaven, to see and nurture the vine. He asks for the one at God's right hand to help Him be strong and restore the vine to its greatness. His people, given life, will never turn back, but call on His Name. What problems of God's people today are reminiscent of the defiled temple and the broken wall of Jerusalem?

**PRAYER:** Show us the way Lord, to pray for the right ways to restore peace in the world. Amen.

**ACTION:** Pray without ceasing for God to act on your behalf.

**Friday, August 15, 2025** (by Lisa Trigg)

Psalm 99:5-9 <https://tinyurl.com/mvtjdah6>

**PONDER:** Moses, Aaron and Samuel are mentioned in these verses. They all cried out to God, and were answered. God spoke from a pillar of cloud. Along with justice and righteousness, God is characterized by mercy and forgiveness. Who among us does not need mercy and forgiveness? And drilling down into our own actions, who among us should withhold mercy and forgiveness from those who need it from us? (So often we get this answer wrong.) God looks upon the world not only in judgment, but