

WAN DER INGS

40 Days of Faith Devotional

FREE
WHEELCHAIR
MISSION



GREETINGS

Whether we're only a few steps into our journey of faith or have been on it for decades, it seems that we all go through seasons of wandering through the wilderness.

We face discouragement. We question what we're doing. We forget who we are—or rather, we forget who God is and who we are in Him.

Yet, God continues His work in us, even in the midst of it.

This 40 Days of Faith Devotional was created as a resource to help you recalibrate for this journey and rediscover what God has been calling you to.

Our prayer is that this devotional will serve as a blessing to you—this season and beyond.

Blessings,

The Free Wheelchair Mission team

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3–6 NIV)

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WILDER- NESS

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. (Luke 4:1-2)

- The wilderness is where we are stripped of our
- sense of security: No structures to protect us
- from the wild or the elements. Nothing to eat,
- save for what we hunt or gather. No clear sense
- of direction. In the wilderness, we are confronted
- with our utter dependence on God.

- **ACTION:** Surrender the next 40 days to God. Ask
- Him to lead you and shape you to be less like
- your old self, and more like Christ.



STRENGTH
OF

HEART

*Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire
besides you.*

*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of
my heart*

and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25-26)

- The psalmist laments over the prosperity of the wicked: they have no struggles (Ps. 73:4), speak with malice (v.8), and amass wealth (v.12).
• Despite this apparent “success,” the psalmist wants no part of it, knowing that God is all he has—and all he needs.

- **ACTION:** Don’t look at the “success” of others around you. Instead, turn to God and look to Him, your strength and your portion forever.



RENEW

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit
within me.* (Psalm 51:10)

- King David might have been a man after God's
- own heart (Acts 13:22), but he was far from
- perfect. When the prophet, Nathan, called him
- out on his sins, David cried out to God, "Create in
- me a pure heart." David knew that a pure heart
- was not part of human nature. He needed God to
- create one in him.
-
- **ACTION:** Confess to God that you desperately
- need His grace and forgiveness. Ask the Lord to
- create in you a pure heart and renew a steadfast
- spirit in you, that you might become one after
- God's own heart, like David.
-



REFUGE

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. (Psalm 62:5-7)

- Rock. Fortress. Refuge. The imagery is unmistakable: In God, you will not be shaken. In God, you are guarded and protected. In God, you are safe.
- **ACTION:** Take your anxieties and concerns to God. Trust in Him. Surrender to Him. Rest in Him. He is your rock, your salvation, your fortress, your refuge. You have nothing to fear. You are safe in Him.



HUMBLE

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30)

- Jesus was addressing the legalistic, self-righteous religious practices of His day. Burdensome to everyday people, these practices involved rule after rule that the Pharisees took pride in keeping. Jesus offers rest from this; instead, inviting us to walk with Him, yoked alongside Him. Jesus offers a relationship, not religiosity.
- **ACTION:** Surrender your burdens to Jesus. He will give you rest.



DIS- TRACT- ED

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” (Luke 10:40)

- Has your spiritual life been defined by activities?
- We might justify busy work as being done “for the Lord,” but when it distracts us from why—or, rather, from whom—we serve, it risks becoming an idol. Martha’s sister, Mary, sat at the feet of Jesus to listen to Him, for she knew what was better than keeping busy “for” Him.
- **ACTION:** Don’t allow busyness to distract you from what’s important. Take the time to sit at the feet of Jesus and be nourished by His word.



WITH- DRAW

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:16)

- Jesus would preach to multitudes and heal the sick, but He also knew when He needed to withdraw from it all to spend time in prayer. To pray to God is not a ritual, but a conversation with our heavenly Father and a confession of our dependence on Him.
- **ACTION:** Pray. “God, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You, we can do nothing, but if we abide in You, we will bear much fruit. May my relationship with You never become secondary, but always remain front and center in my life.”



MANNA

We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!” (Numbers 11:5-6)

- The Israelites, after being rescued from bondage in Egypt, were now free, living on manna that God provided daily. Yet, they grumbled about losing the few comforts they once knew. Would they rather remain in captivity than live in God’s freedom?
- ACTION: Reflect. Is there anything you still need to let go of as you follow Jesus—anything keeping you bound, hindering you from fully enjoying your freedom in Christ?



SIN NO MORE

Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:10-11)

- Jesus spared this woman from a death sentence
- she incurred for her sin. He then told her she was
- free to go—with the caveat to sin no more.
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. We, too, have been saved from
- a death sentence for our sins. How will you
- respond to Christ’s mercy and grace?



WHO AM I?

*When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are
mindful of them,*

*human beings that you care
for them?* (Psalm 8:3-4)

- The Creator of the universe cares about each and every one of us. Isn't this incredible? As finite as we are against the vastness of the universe, God is mindful of us, His beloved children.
- **ACTION:** Pray. "Lord, I cannot comprehend how great You are, how insignificant I am before You, and how much You love me in spite of this."



MADE NEW

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come: The
old has gone, the new is here!*

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

- Your past may have shaped who you are today,
- but it no longer defines you. In Christ, you are
- made new. God will redeem your past—your
- skills, your experiences, even your mistakes—as
- He creates something new in you.
- **ACTION:** Surrender your past—every part of it—
- to God and embrace your future in Him.



But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

- The world might try to convince you that you'll
- never be good enough, but God's word says
- otherwise. You are chosen. Royal. Holy. You are
- God's special possession, whom He holds dear.
-
- **ACTION:** Your identity is in Christ. Remember who
- He is—and you'll remember who you truly are.



HOLY

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12-14)

- Clothes aren't naturally a part of us; we put
- them on to avoid shame and make ourselves
- presentable. Compassion, kindness, humility,
- gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love might
- not naturally be part of us, but as God's holy
- people, we are called to adorn ourselves with
- them as we engage the world around us.
-
- **ACTION:** Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Forgive them, just as God has forgiven you.
-

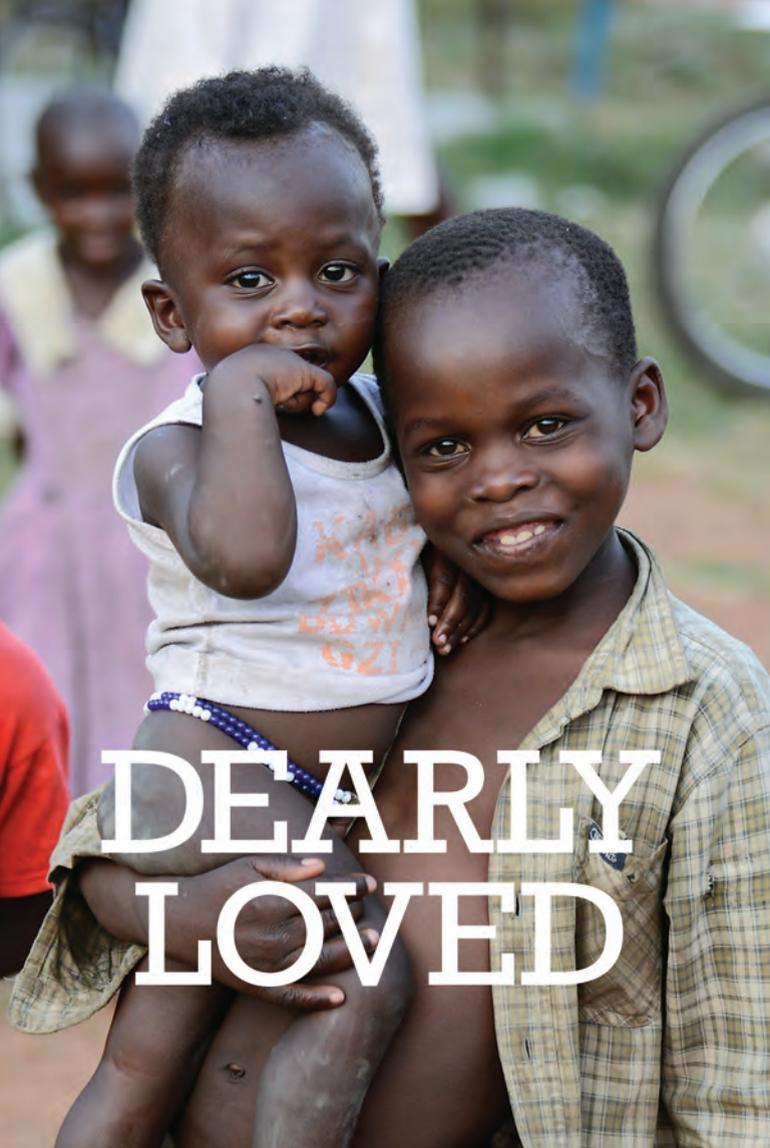


GOD'S

HANDI- WORK

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

- Good works don't save you (Gal. 2:6), but you
- were created by God to do them, and He has
- already prepared these works ahead of you. All
- you need to do is to take a step into them.
-
- **ACTION:** If you don't yet know what you were
- made to do, pray and ask God to reveal it to you.
-



DEARLY LOVED

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

- Most parents would be willing to sacrifice themselves for the sake of their children, but what parent would sacrifice their child for someone else? Yet, that's what God did. God so loved the world that He sacrificed His son, Jesus, for our sake—an act so unimaginable, it only magnifies the depth of God's great love for us.
- **ACTION:** Reflect. How can you follow God's example and walk in His way of love? What would this look like in your life?



UNIQUE BUT UNITED

*Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.*

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

- We are all unique, but we are not meant to be
- alone. We are all part of a greater whole—the
- body of Christ—and each of us has specific
- gifts to fulfill our particular roles, all under the
- headship of Jesus. We are interdependent, not
- independent, and together, we can do far more
- than we could ever do on our own.
- **ACTION:** Reflect. What gifts has the Holy Spirit
- given you? How can you use these gifts for the
- sake of the entire body of Christ?



WONDERFUL

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my
mother's womb.*

*I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made;*

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

- God didn't make a mistake when He made you, or me, or anyone else. However, some cultures shun those who live with disabilities because these conditions are seen as a curse.
- **ACTION:** Pray that these stigmatized individuals would know the truth about who they are in God's eyes. No one is a mistake. Each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made.



GOD'S SERVANT

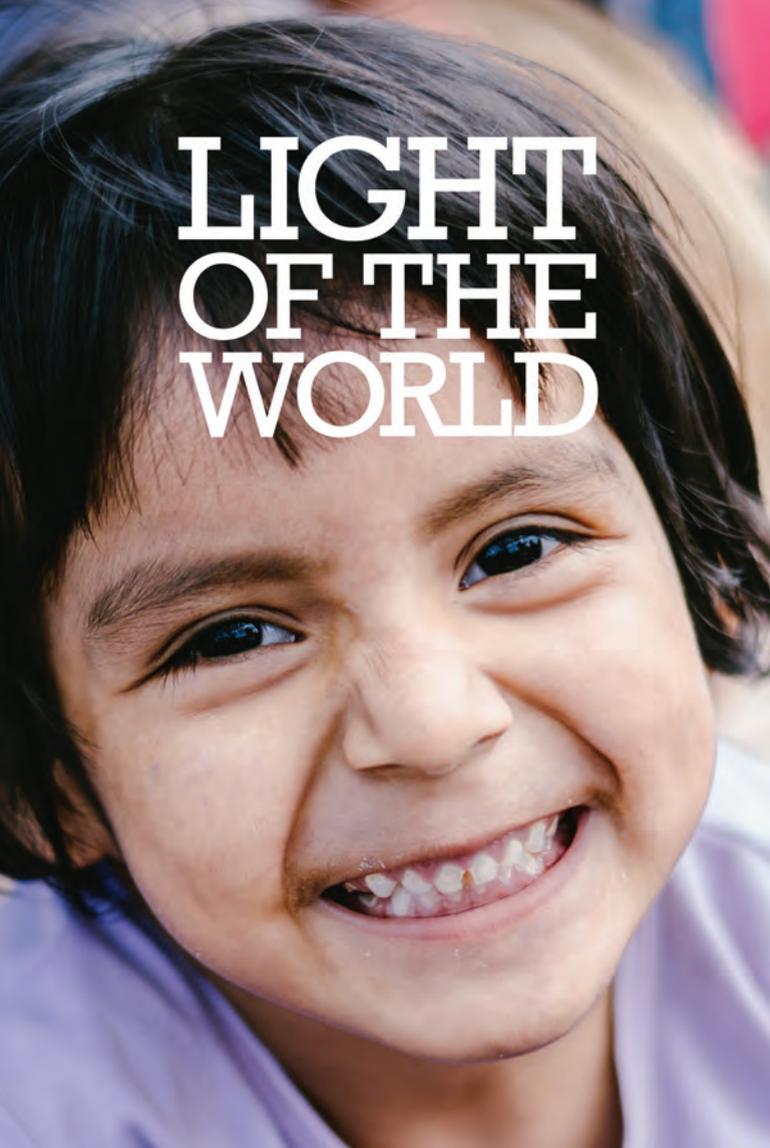
*I took you from the ends of
the earth,*

*from its farthest corners
I called you.*

I said, 'You are my servant';

*I have chosen you and have
not rejected you. (Isaiah 41:9)*

- God spoke this to the descendants of Abraham.
- By faith, this includes you. You have been called.
- You have been chosen. You are God's servant.
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. What does it mean to you that
- you have been chosen, not rejected, by God? How
- will you respond to His call?



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

- You were once in darkness, but now, you are not
- only *in* the light—you *are* the light of the world, a
- light that counters the darkness and threatens it.
- **ACTION:** How do your deeds on earth glorify God
- in heaven? Pray and ask the Lord for ways you
- can let your light shine in the world.



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

SAVE THE WORLD

- This doesn't say that God so loved His people. It says "God so loved the world." His desire is to save the world, not condemn it.
- ACTION: Reflect. What does the world need in order to be saved? How might God be calling you to respond to this?



HE FIRST LOVED US

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

(1 John 4:19-20)

- Our love for others is not of us—it is an overflow
- of divine love. This begs the question: If we
- have no love for others, do we truly know the
- love of God?
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. How do your interactions with
- others reflect your relationship with God?



LOVE

YOUR NEIGH- BOR

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-39)

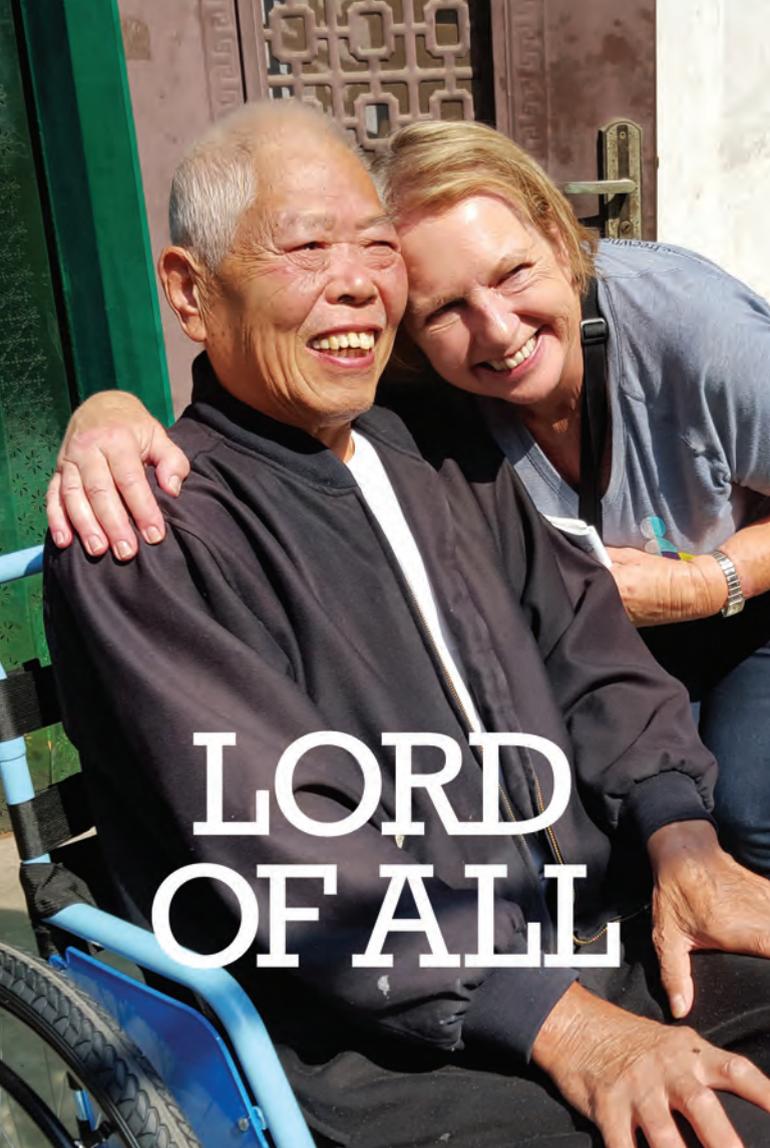
- Jesus said that everything in God’s Law and the
- Prophets hangs on these two commandments: to
- love God, and to love others as you love yourself.
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. What would it look like for you
- to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?
- Do you need to change some of the ways you
- think? Do you need to realign your heart towards
- Him? How can you selflessly show love to others?



DIVINE LOVE

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? (Matthew 5:46-47)

- To love those who are different from us or do not love us in return is divine, reflective of the heart of God, who saved us when we were still His enemies (Rom. 5:10).
- **ACTION:** Reflect. Whom is God calling you to love? Someone who is not like you—someone who might not necessarily love you back?



LORD OF ALL

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:12–13)

- God does not reserve salvation for any specific
- people groups. He offers salvation to everyone
- who calls on His name, and in Christ, there are
- no differences between peoples.
- **ACTION:** Reflect. People need to know the name
- of the Lord before they can call upon it. How
- can you make known the name of Jesus to
- all peoples?



A GREAT MULTITUDE

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

(Revelation 7:9)

- At the tower of Babel, humankind became
- scattered and divided by language as the result
- of sin (Gen.11:1-9). However, we are forgiven in
- Christ, and the future He promises has all of
- God's people, from all over the world, reunited
- in His presence.
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. How might you lean into this
- promised future? What needs to take place
- before then? Whom will you invite into this by
- sharing the gospel with them?
-



HOSPI- TALITY

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

- The Greek word translated here as “hospitality”
- is *philoxenia*—to befriend or entertain a stranger.
- This has the same root word as *xenophobia*—to
- fear a stranger.
- **ACTION:** Reflect. How does this affect your
- understanding of the verse above?



RICH

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? (James 2:5)

- The poor might be despised in the eyes of the world, but not in the eyes of God, who looks past outward appearances and sees the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). He shows no favoritism based on our status on earth.
- **ACTION:** Pray. “Lord, help me be mindful that I have brothers and sisters in You, all over the world. We may not inhabit the same circles now, but we will be united in Your kingdom, thanks to Your love and grace. I lift them all up to You, in Jesus’ name.”

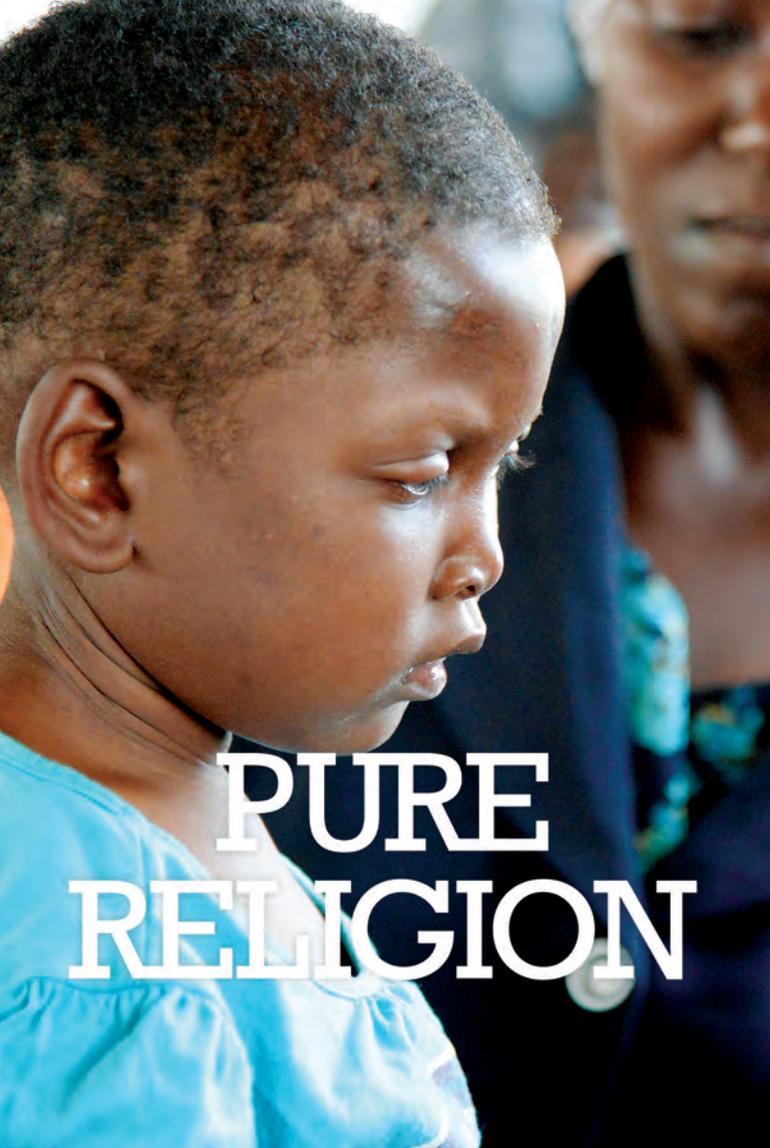
SERVING THE KING

A photograph showing a woman in a green vest and white cap crouching to talk to an elderly man in a wheelchair. Another man in a blue cap and jacket stands nearby. They are in a rural setting with a tiled roof and laundry hanging.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

(Matthew 25:40)

- After saying this to those on His right—those
- who are blessed and will inherit God’s kingdom
- (Matt. 25:34)—the King says to those on His left,
- “Depart from me, you who are cursed ... For I
- was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I
- was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
- I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I
- needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was
- sick and in prison and you did not look after me”
- (vv.41-43). To ignore the marginalized among us
- is to turn away from God Himself.
-
- **ACTION:** In the midst of our busy lives, what are
- some practical ways you can serve those in need?
- Find something you can do today.
-



PURE RELIGION

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27)

- James exhorts followers of Jesus to care for some of the most powerless, marginalized people of his day: orphans and widows.
- He knew that works couldn't save you, but James contended that one's deeds are both evidence of faith and an expression of it. "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds" (James 2:18).
- **ACTION:** Reflect. Who are the powerless and destitute whom God might be calling you to look after? How would serving them be an expression of your faith?



HERE

I AM

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—

but my ears you have opened—

*burnt offerings and sin offerings
you did not require.*

*Then I said, “Here I am, I have
come—*

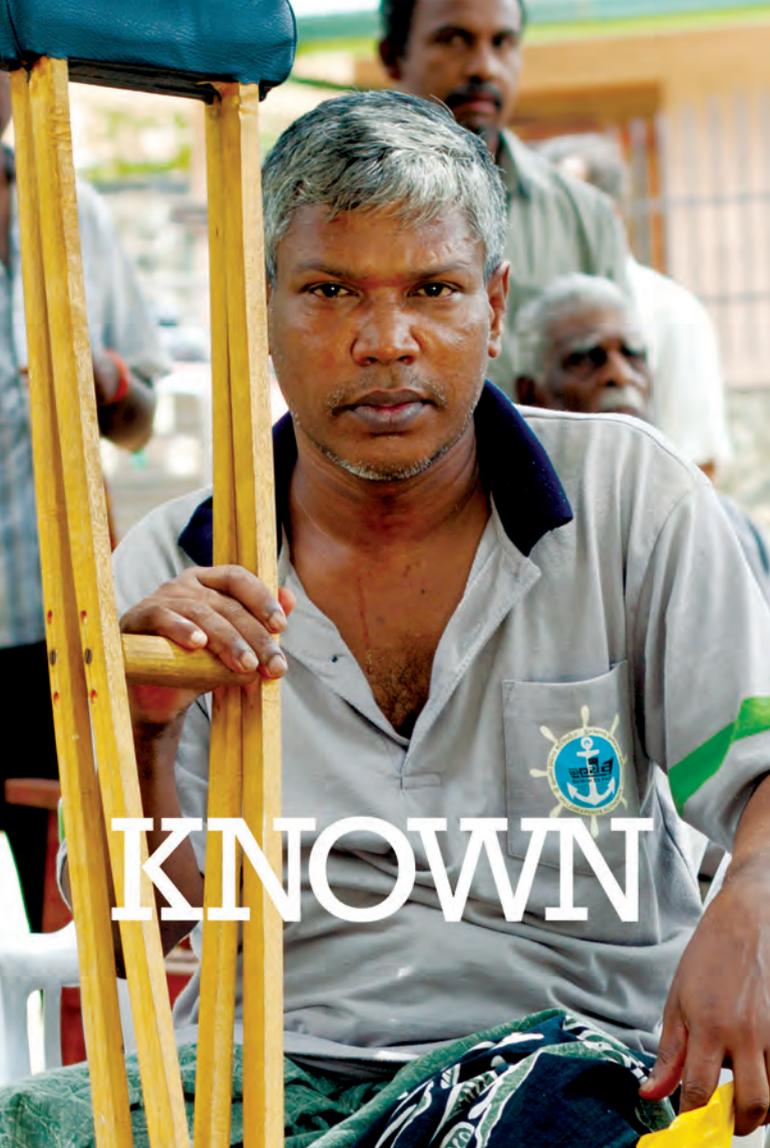
it is written about me in the scroll.

I desire to do your will, my God;

your law is within my heart.”

(Psalm 40:6-8)

- You may feel that you have little to offer in service to God, but God does not require anything beyond your heart for Him, your desire to do His will, and your availability.
- **ACTION:** Pray. “Lord, here I am. Your will is mine. Lead me where You will, for Your glory.”



KNOWN

*“How do you know me?”
Nathanael asked.*

*Jesus answered, “I saw you while
you were still under the fig tree
before Philip called you.”* (John 1:48)

- God knows you. He sees you. He knows
- everything that has ever happened in your life—
- your joys as well as your pain—and He calls you.
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. What does it mean for you to
- be known by Jesus—warts and all—and still be
- called to follow Him? How will His grace inform
- the way you live?
-



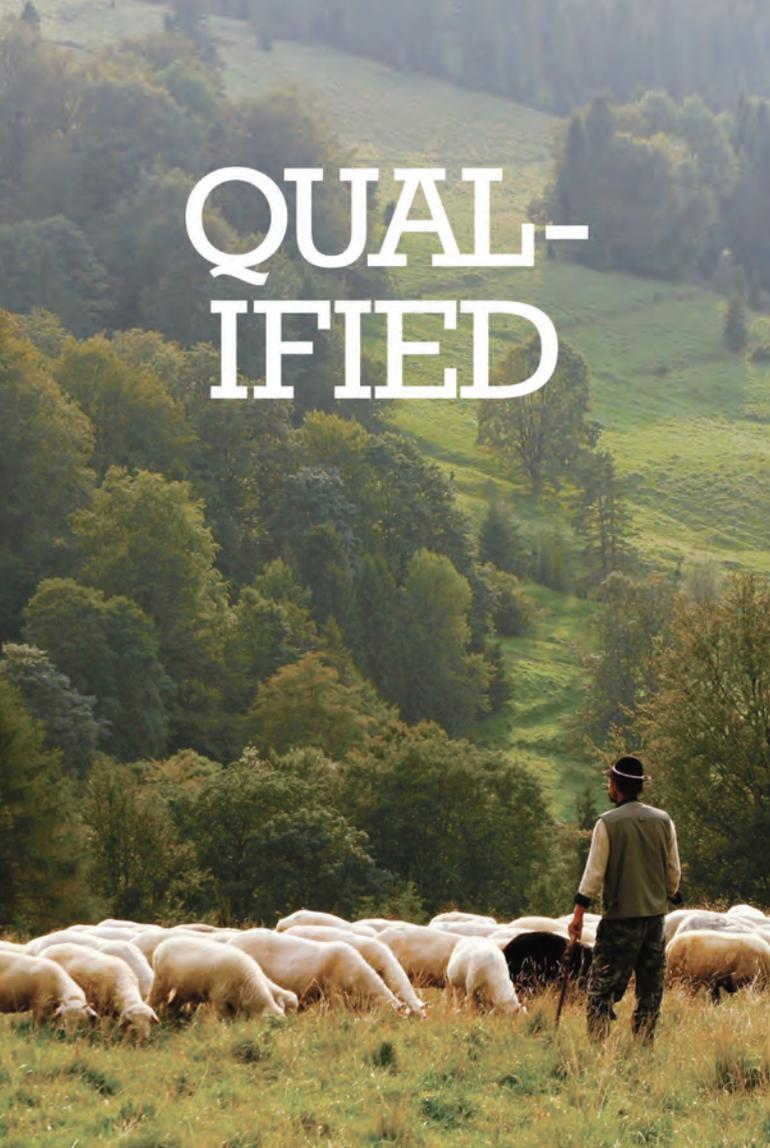
WEAK BUT STRONG

The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” (Judges 6:14-15)

- Gideon saw himself as weak, yet, God told him to “go in the strength you have.”
- You have what you need to fulfill your calling. You don’t need anything more. You have God.
- ACTION: Pray. “Lord, I am weak, but You are my strength. You are the One who saves. Send me where You will, whether across the seas or across the street, for Your glory.”

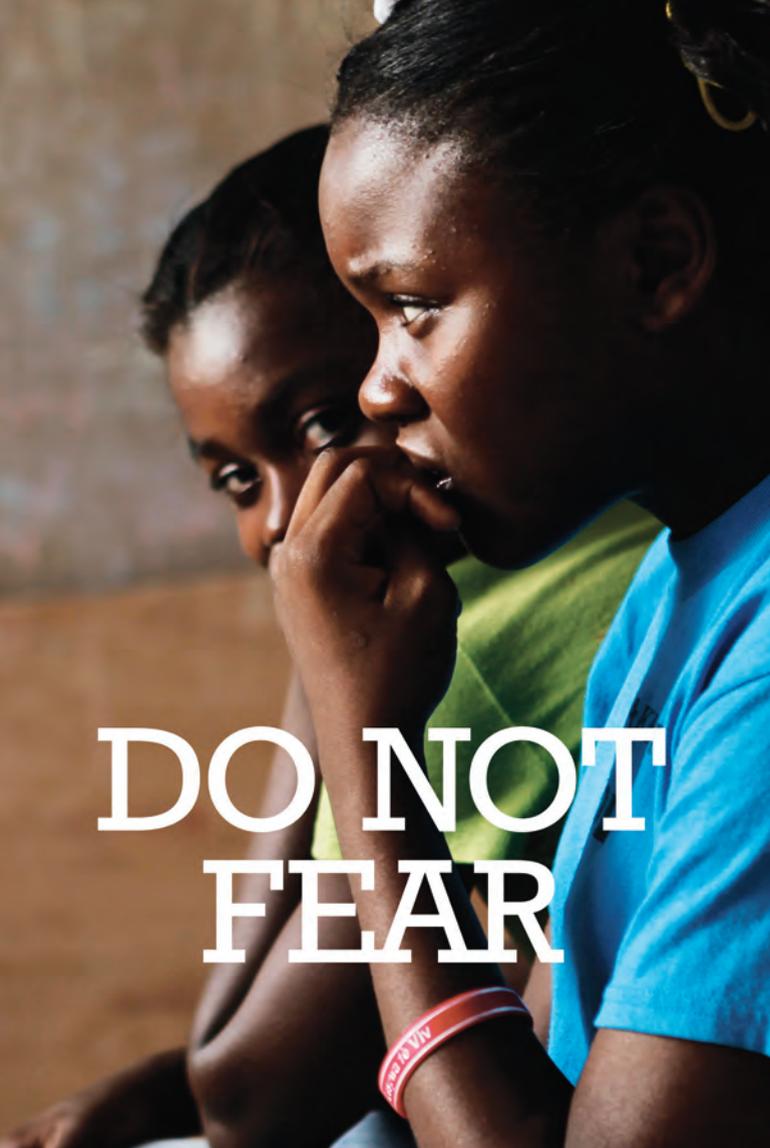
QUAL- IFIED

A photograph of a shepherd in a hat and vest, seen from behind, standing in a grassy field with a large flock of white sheep. In the background, there are rolling green hills and dense trees under a bright sky.

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

(Exodus 3:11)

- Moses had once been a prince in Egypt, but after
- becoming a murderer and a fugitive, he became a
- shepherd—a vocation detestable to the Egyptians
- (Gen. 46:34).
-
- Imagine Moses’ astonishment when, after 40
- years of being a lowly shepherd, God called him
- to be a leader.
-
- Moses’ history didn’t disqualify him from serving
- God. On the contrary, it prepared him for what
- God was calling him to do.
-
- **ACTION:** Reflect. How has your past prepared
- you for what God calls you to today?



DO NOT FEAR

*For I am the Lord your God
who takes hold of your right
hand
and says to you, Do not fear;
I will help you.* (Isaiah 41:13)

- What is it you fear? What is holding you back in
- your walk with God? Perhaps it's fear of making a
- mistake. Perhaps it's fear of failure.
-
- There is no reason to fear. When God calls you to
- something, He has already prepared the work in
- advance.
-
- He is with you. He holds your hand. He will
- help you.
-
- **ACTION:** Remember who God is and release your
- fear to Him.



TENT MAKER

...and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. (Acts 18:3)

- Paul was an apostle and his calling was missions, but he made a living as a tentmaker. Not only did this allow him to support himself and preach the gospel free of charge (1 Cor. 9:18), it gave him opportunities to engage others in the marketplace—others such as Aquila and Priscilla, who were also tentmakers. This couple would eventually be known as Paul’s “co-workers in Christ” (Rom. 16:3).

- **ACTION:** Reflect. Do you see your work as a ministry? Are there others around you to disciple or serve alongside of? Does your job give you opportunities to engage others, support missions, or share the good news of Christ?



WHAT- EVER YOU DO

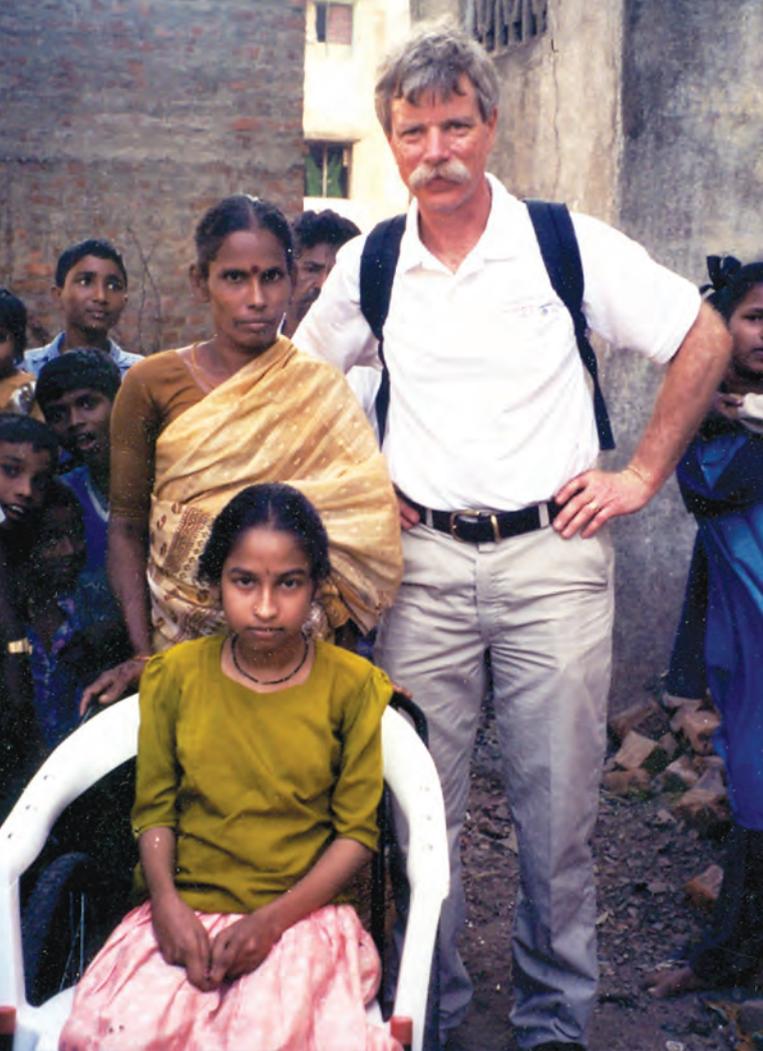
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24)

- Being called by God does not always involve
- changing careers. He might call you to stay
- where you are and continue doing what you're
- doing, but to do it as though unto the Lord
- Himself.
- **ACTION:** Pray. "Lord, how can the things I do
- each day be an act of worship to You? Show me
- how I can honor You through my work."



As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20)

- Peter and Andrew were hard at work one day when Jesus called them. “I will send you out to fish for people,” said Jesus, using a metaphor from their profession. Fishing took on new meaning and gave these brothers a new sense of purpose.
- God can take your profession—your skills and expertise—and give it new purpose. (cont’d)



Don Schoendorfer, first wheelchair distribution, India, 2001

Don Schoendorfer was a biomedical engineer when God called him, not to be a preacher or a pastor, but to use his existing skills for the sake of God's kingdom.

While on vacation with his wife, Don had witnessed the plight of a woman who couldn't walk, trying to drag herself across a busy thoroughfare while others ignored her. The scene seared itself onto his heart and spurred him to do something about it.

Using the engineering skills he had, Don set out to design a low-cost, durable wheelchair for use by people with disabilities in developing countries. He built 100 prototypes in his garage and began to give them away during a mission trip to India in 2001.

Since then, more than one million people in 93 countries have received a wheelchair from Free Wheelchair Mission, the humanitarian, faith-based nonprofit Don founded in response to God's calling.

ACTION: Reflect. For Peter and Andrew, it was fishing. For Don, it was engineering. What part of your life will Jesus use to serve the world He loves?

About Free Wheelchair Mission:

Free Wheelchair Mission is a humanitarian, faith-based, nonprofit organization that manufactures low-cost, durable wheelchairs for those living with a disability in developing nations. In collaboration with a network of like-minded partners, Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed more than one million wheelchairs to those in need in 93 countries around the world, providing renewed dignity, independence, and hope, at no cost to the recipient.

Learn more at:

freewheelchairmission.org

