

# Archived Devotionals

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*1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

Someone has said, "The measure of a man is not how great his faith is, but how great his love is." When we go through an experience in life that may not be too pleasant, it can either harden us or increase our love so that we feel for others who may be experiencing what we have.

The story is told of a Belgian Catholic priest named Joseph Damien DeVeuster who in 1873 was sent to minister to lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. He arrived on the island in high spirits, hoping to build a friendship with each of the lepers. He built a chapel, began worship services, and poured his heart out to the lepers, but all seemed futile for no one responded to his ministry.

Finally, after 12 years of struggling, Damien decided to leave. As he stood on the dock waiting to board the ship, he looked down at his hands and noticed some mysterious white spots on them. Feeling some numbness, he knew immediately what was happening – he had contracted leprosy!

He returned to the leper colony and to his work. Word quickly spread and within hours, hundreds gathered outside his hut, fully identifying with his plight. The following Sunday, when he arrived at the chapel it was full! He began to minister from the empathy of love rather than the distance of theology and ideas, and his ministry became enormously successful.

Those who receive your love today will be much more receptive to hearing about your faith tomorrow. After all that is what Jesus did, He became one with us, demonstrating the love of God as well as telling us about Him.

### ***Our Prayer:***

Dear Father,

We thank You today that Jesus came to this earth and became man so that He might enter fully into our experience and be one with us. He took our curse upon Himself on the cross and showed us for eternity that You are a God who loves. We thank You for that love. We ask today that You will forgive our sins. Help us to love as You have loved.

In the experiences that we face today, may we show Your love to others. Sometimes these experiences are difficult to handle, but we ask for Your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to be victorious. Help us to turn the things that are not so great into stepping stones to helping others who may be experiencing the same things. May we show compassion and empathy with them.

Please be with this dear reader. We ask that you will give them comfort if they mourn, be their friend if they are lonely, give them encouragement if they are feeling down, help their pain - whether it is physical pain or the pain of emotional hurts or abuse. Shed your love into their hearts today. Bring them peace if they are confused or stressed over financial worries, or decisions that they must make. Give them strength today to deal with the temptations that come to them and help them to have victory by Your grace. Be to them, a companion, a friend and a guide and uphold them by Your Spirit.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

May God's love fill your life today.

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*John 15:11 "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

Happiness is basically a choice which is not dependent on circumstances or situations. Each of us is responsible for our own happiness. Happiness can be enhanced by what occurs around us but we are more likely to be happy if we center our activities on others, instead of on ourselves.

Dr Archibald Hart makes the following affirmations. These would be good for us to consider daily.

- "Just for today, I will set my affections on things above, not on things on the earth.
- Just for today, I will not worry about what will happen tomorrow, but will trust that God will go before me into the unknown.
- Just for today, I will endure anything that hurts or depresses me because I believe God controls what happens to me.
- Just for today, I will not dwell on my misfortunes. I will replace my negative thoughts with happy hopeful thoughts.
- Just for today, I will choose to do some things I do not like doing, and I will do them cheerfully and with a happy spirit.
- Just for today, I will make a conscious effort to love those who don't show love to me and be kind to those who do not appreciate me.
- Just for today, I will be patient with those who irritate me and long suffering toward those who are selfish and inconsiderate.
- Just for today, I will forgive all those who hurt me - even forgiving myself.
- Just for today, I will choose to be happy!"

We can ask God to give us the grace we need just for today to accomplish these goals.

## ***Our Prayer:***

Dear Father,

We want to thank You that we do not have to live our whole life at once but that we only have to face things day by day and moment by moment.

You have told us not to worry about tomorrow, but to just live today in Your strength and power. We ask for forgiveness for when we have run head of You, when we have fretted and stewed over things that we did not need to. Forgive us for our unkind words, thoughts or deeds towards others. Forgive us for our lack of trust and faith in You.

Today we pray that You will extend to us the mercy we need to cover our sinfulness and the grace that we need in order to have the strength and the power to meet those difficult circumstances and the temptations which we may face. May we realize that our dependence on You is a moment by moment relationship. Give us love, patience, kindness, forbearance, joy and peace in every circumstance.

Be with this dear reader. Minister to their particular need and circumstance and may they know that they can rest in the assurance of Your presence with them for this day. May they make the commitment to rest in You today and leave their concerns in Your loving and capable hands. May they experience today the complete joy which You want to give to us and the abiding peace which will calm any troubled anxieties. May they find happiness today in every activity they are engaged in as they pass on Your love to those they meet.

We look forward to the time when we will see You face to face and thank You for the power of Your indwelling Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May God give you strength and grace to face this day and the happiness to know that He is with you.

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*Before Jesus was crucified, he told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after him: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:16–18*

## **The Holy Spirit Empowers**

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 NKJV*

Have you ever received really bad news, and yet you somehow sensed an unbelievable peace and knew everything was going to be okay? That was the Holy Spirit working in your life. When you don't have enough faith on your own, the Holy Spirit gives you the faith you need to make it through. He empowers you and gives you peace. You just have to be open to receive His help.

The only way you can receive His help is by spending time in prayer. Prayer alone prepares you to hear the Holy Spirit and receive His gifts. The more time you spend in prayer, the more clearly you are able to hear His voice and the less often you mistake it for your own.

The Holy Spirit continually intervenes miraculously in our lives, but we often think it's mere coincidence. The reality is the Holy Spirit not only wants to do miracles in your life, He also wants to do miracles through your life. Nothing is too hard for the Holy Spirit. He wants to empower you on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, and His gifts are for every believer — including you! Are you open to receive His gifts and His help today?

*Robert Morris*

## **ACTIVATION**

- Seek the Lord every day, listen for His voice and be transformed by His Holy Spirit.
- When you have a decision to make, take the time to ask God for His will in the situation.
- When you're praying, don't do all the talking. Be still, and allow the Holy Spirit to talk to you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to direct and redirect your prayer life so that you are constantly in relationship with Him.
- The Holy Spirit wants to give you faith to believe for certain things that you've been praying for.
- Receive that faith today! Don't doubt and don't talk yourself out of it!

## **FURTHER STUDY**

*Romans 8:26-27; Galatians 4:6; James 5:13-18; John 14:12; John 16:7; Psalm 55:16-17; Jeremiah 29:12-13; Psalm 51:1-3*

### ***Our Prayer:***

Dear Father,

We want to thank You that You offer us Your strength and power to face each day. We praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and strengthen our faith. Descend on us today and may Your presence go before us and may our minds be open to Your direction and guidance. May Your will be done in our lives today.

Today we pray that You will extend to us the mercy we need to cover our sinfulness and the grace that we need in order to have the strength and the power to meet those difficult circumstances and the temptations which we may face. May we realize that our dependence on You is a moment by moment relationship. Give us love, patience, kindness, forbearance, joy and peace in every circumstance.

Be with this dear reader. May they give thanks to the Lord in all things! To Him be the honour and glory always. May the Lord cover your day with His love and blessings, guide you in all decisions, and give you the needed wisdom to glorify Him. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May you hear the voice of God in your life today and be transformed by His Holy Spirit as you walk in relationship with the God of the universe!

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## Promises to Ponder

<i>You Say... God Says... </i>		
<u>You Say</u>	<u>God Says</u>	<u>Bible Verses</u>
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
It's impossible	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Romans 8:1
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Romans 8:28
I'm not smart enough	I will give you wisdom.	1 Corinthians 1:30
I'm not able.	I am able.	2 Corinthians 9:8
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	2 Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Philippians 4:13
I can't manage.	I will supply all your needs.	Philippians 4:19
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	2 Timothy 1:7
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Hebrews 13:5

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C.S. Lewis was a writer of many books on Christianity. He made the following statement,

*"Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."*

That is a good thought to remember. There are times when we feel very close to God and filled with awe and praise at His love for us. There are other times when we feel distant and cut off from God and sometimes doubt His providence.

However, we need to understand that God's love is not based on our moods. God's love is constant and everlasting. Even in those times when we feel the distance it is not God who has changed but it is us. It is at those times when we need to pray even though we may not feel like it. When we do that, His love can break through the clouds of doubt and send us peace again so that we can rejoice in the sunshine of His presence.

### ***Our Prayer:***

Dear Father,

Thank You for Your everlasting love. There are times in our lives when we feel cut off from You or circumstances press in on us and we feel alone. Help us not to go by our feelings but to look above the clouds and see the sunshine of Your love, the rainbows of Your promises and trust in You.

Thank You for Jesus and the precious gift of salvation which He offers to us. May we take it each day as a treasured gift and give back to You our praise and adoration and our obedience to Your will.

Father, we ask that you will be with this dear reader. Help them not to be discouraged by the way they may be feeling but may they sense the peace that comes from You stealing into their hearts and calming the troubled areas of their lives. Give them the assurance of Your constant love and the relief that comes with forgiveness from sin. We are sorry for our sins and come to You in repentance. Give this dear friend strength if they are weak or ill. Give them wisdom if they have choices and decisions to make. Comfort them if they sorrow and be a friend to them if they are lonely.

Lord, if they are struggling with financial pressures or work problems, meet those needs and help them to place their trust in You for You will never fail us nor forsake us. Thank You for the blessings You do give to us.

Help us to be a blessing to someone else today in Jesus' name, Amen.

Remember today that you are loved by God for He says in

*Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."*

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*Isaiah 30: 15, 18, 19. "This is what the Sovereign Lord the Holy One of Israel, says:*

*In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.*

*Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!*

*..How gracious He will be when you cry for help! As soon as He hears, He will answer you."*

When Isaiah wrote these verses, Israel had turned from following the will of God and in the middle of the prophecy about the result of turning away from God are these beautiful verses showing God's love towards man. You can sense the yearning that God feels when He realizes that the people He loves do not want what He promises. Our God is truly a God of grace and compassion. He longs for us to enter into the salvation that He has provided. These promises are for you today. Let us claim the promise together in prayer.

### ***Our Prayer***

O Lord, we thank You that You long to be gracious to us - that it is Your desire for us to come to You and cry for help. So often we try and go about our living in our own way and in our own strength. Help us always to remember that You are longing to assist us. These words that we have read from Your Word, remind us that You are a God of action. We are not left to struggle by ourselves but when we come before You in repentance, You rise to show us compassion. Oh what a wonderful God! Thank You that as soon as we cry to You, You hear us.

We are sinful and unworthy but You have promised to forgive. Please accept our repentance today. Thank You Lord for Your love and forgiveness.

Today we pray for this dear reader. You know the need of their heart. Please pour into their life the blessings that You have promised. Give them the joy of Your salvation, the strength to face the issues of life. May they know the comfort of the Holy Spirit when things happen that cause grief. In the anxieties of life and decisions that must be made, may Your promise of guidance and direction be made real for them.

We also pause to pray for those who are very dear to us. Please be with them to guide, strengthen and sustain.

Thank You that You hear our prayer and that You have promised that as soon as You hear, You answer. Thank You for Your answer. We praise You in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Friend, may you know the grace and compassion of God today, may you experience His salvation and receive His strength to face the issues of life that come to you.

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1 Peter 1:2-9 NLT

*"God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Jesus Christ and are cleansed by His blood. May you have more and more of God's special favour and wonderful peace.*

*All honour to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by His boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.*

*For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for His children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*

*And God, in His mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting Him. It will be revealed on the last day for all to see.*

*So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while.*

*These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*

*You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him, you trust Him; and even now you are happy with a glorious, inexpressible joy.*

*Your reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls."*

What beautiful promises are contained in this Bible passage! Let us thank God for them.

## **Our Prayer**

Dear Father, We want to thank You today for the wonderful privilege we have of being Your children. Thank You for the Holy Spirit which is at work in our hearts, cleansing us from sin and giving us the power to follow Your will.

We do ask today that You will take our lives and make them like You, that You will forgive our sinfulness and give us the Holy Spirit to live in us. Thank you for the privilege we have of being born again as members of the family of God. We praise You for the hope we have of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. We thank You for the promise that You will be with us as we trust in You, even though the going at times is rough.

Lord, there are times when we experience trials here that seem so great. We realise that we cannot go through these trials unless we have You with us. May these experiences make us strong and also bring You praise and glory.

We thank You most of all for the salvation which You have offered to us through the death of Jesus.

We pray in a special way for this reader. You know all about them. You understand their concerns, their joys, their work, their choices, their disappointments, their loved ones. Please meet the needs of their heart right now. May they feel the sweet, joyful presence of Jesus around them. May their hearts burn within them with the power of the Holy Spirit and may others know that they have been with You. May the Word of God speak a freshness into their souls which will give them peace and joy in all they do. Lift any sorrow which they may feel and bring comfort to their hearts. Touch their lives with Your healing power if they are unwell and restore them to health according to Your will and purpose. May they know the assurance of salvation in Jesus as You cleanse their heart from sin and implant the power of the Holy Spirit that they may serve You.

Thank you for the gift of eternal life which you have preserved for us. May we look forward to the day when we can speak with You face to face, In Jesus' name, Amen.

**May you experience the reality of these promises in your life today.**

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*Colossians 1:12-14*

*"And with joy give thanks to the Father who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for His people in the kingdom of light. For He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of His dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven."*

The Prince of Heaven has placed us in an exalted position. Our life has been valued at the cost of Calvary's cross. From the depth of sin we may be exalted to become heirs with Christ, the sons of God and kings and priests to the Most High.

The prayer of Christ on the banks of the Jordan, after His baptism opened the gates of Heaven for mankind. Jesus prayed as our substitute and now we may find access to the Father through the merits of His well-beloved Son. With all our sins and weaknesses, we are not cast aside as worthless. The glory that rested on Christ after His baptism is a pledge of the love of God for us. It tells us of the power of prayer.

Now the human voice may reach the ear of God and our petition find acceptance in the courts of Heaven. By sin, earth was cut off from Heaven, but Christ has connected it again. His love has encircled man and reached the highest Heaven. The light which fell from the open Heavens upon the head of our Saviour will fall upon us as we pray for help to resist temptation. The voice which spoke to Jesus, says to every believing soul, *"This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."*

Our Redeemer has opened the way so that the most sinful, the most needy, may find access to the Father. All may have a home in the mansions which Jesus has gone to prepare. Let us thank Him for this right now.

### ***Our Prayer***

Father in Heaven,

We want to give thanks with joy right now that You have made us fit to share in Your kingdom. Even though sin has taken us down to the depths, You gave Jesus to lift us to the heights. We want to thank You that Jesus rescued us from Satan and set us free. We ask forgiveness for our sins and thank You for the forgiveness You have given us in Jesus.

We praise You that through Jesus we can come and ask You for help - that we can talk to You as we would to a friend. We praise You that because of Jesus, You can look at each one of us and say, *"This is My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."*

Thank You for the many blessings You bring into our lives. You have given us so many things for which we can praise You. Help us to look beyond our problems to count the blessings that we have. Help us to be willing to treat others as You have treated us. May we reach out with the love of Jesus and grant forgiveness to those who may have wronged us.

Lord we pray for this dear reader. Thank You for their desire to know You. May You fill their life with the assurance of Your love for them. May they hear Your voice saying, *"This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."*

Give them the faith they need to hold on to You during those times of trial and difficulty. Give them joy as they try to maintain their relationship with You. Touch their life with Your healing power if they are sick. Ease their grief if they are mourning. Lift any oppression which the devil may have brought upon them so that they can rejoice in the freedom which You have promised in Jesus. Keep back the powers of the evil one and surround them with Your holy angels. May they have the power of Your Holy Spirit to abide with them and to resist temptation. Give them wisdom in decisions which they must make.

Thank You for Your promise of eternal life. We look forward to the day when we can talk with You face to face. May Your coming be soon we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**May you experience the freedom and acceptance that comes through Jesus Christ.**

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### At the Threshold

We stand at the door of a brand new year  
And ponder the future ahead  
Will our path be rocky or smoothly paved  
And light on the journey shed?

We can wonder what the days and the months may hold  
We can muse, we can dream, we can plan  
But the truth of the matter is very clear  
The future is safe in God's hand.

So the very best thing that we can do  
Is to turn to the One who knows  
To have a relationship strong and secure  
Intimacy that deeper grows.

So as we stand at this open door  
Take the time to turn to the Lord  
Ask Him to take your hand in His  
And lead as we pass through the door.

He's promised His presence every day  
He'll not forsake you nor leave  
But nor will He force you to stay with Him  
It's your choice ever to cleave.

Then walk beside Him, trusting still  
As He leads you through each day  
The year may have joys or sorrows ahead  
But He'll guide you each step of the way.

So daily invite Him to enter your life  
Give him first place in your heart  
Then the future ahead will be safe in His hands  
And happy this year that we start.



*Glenda Amos*

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### There is Peace in Christ!

*Philippians 4:4-7*

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say again rejoice.*

*Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near.*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God.*

*Then the peace of God which surpasses all your understanding will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus."*

*What a blessing it is to believe in the Lord in the time of a global epidemic.*



[Click to view YouTube video of 5-year-old Claire Ryann Crosby singing this beautiful song with her father.](#)

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**This message comes with wishes  
For a bright and happy year  
For great new opportunities,  
For memories to hold dear.**

**We thank you for your friendships  
Throughout the years now past  
Your lives have touched with ours  
Leaving memories that still last.**

**We wish you each God's watchcare  
In everything you do  
We pray that through the days ahead  
You'll sense His love for you.**

***Glenda Amos***

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## **1 Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain."**

Someone else has expressed it this way: "Do you want to be truly rich? You already are if you are happy and good." The secret of contentment is the realisation that life is a gift, not a right.

At the age of fourteen, Andrea Jaeger won her first professional tennis tournament. At eighteen, she reached the finals of Wimbledon. At nineteen, a bad shoulder all but ended her career. Many a world-class athlete may have become bitter or discontented with life at that point.

Jaeger turned instead to helping others. She established the Silver Lining Foundation which transported groups of young cancer patients to Aspen for a week of support and activities, including horseback riding and whitewater rafting. The foundation also provided money for reunions, family campouts, college scholarships, medical internships, and other programs for children who could not travel. Many high-profile celebrities were involved in the foundation. In 1996, Jaeger received the Samuel S. Beard Award for Greatest Public Service by an Individual 35 Years or Under.

Jaeger's autobiography *First Service* was published in 2004. In the book, she wrote about her teenage years as a tennis player and her later decision to focus on serving God. All the proceeds from the book were donated to children's charities.

"I'm inspired by these brave kids, and humbled," she has said. "They lose their health, their friends, and sometimes their lives. And yet their spirit never wavers. They look at life as a gift. The rest of us sometimes look at ourselves as a gift to life."

The Apostle Paul goes on in his letter to Timothy to say, "*We didn't bring any money with us when we came into the world, and we can't carry away a single penny when we die. So we should be well satisfied without money if we have enough food and clothing.*" (verses 7,8)

Are you contented today? You may not have all the things you may like or dream of. However you have life - a gift from God. Why not treasure that gift today and use it to reach out and bring joy to another person.

### **Our Prayer**

Dear Father,

We want to thank you for the gift of life which You give to us. We realise it is not our right but a very precious gift. Help us to treasure it in the way we look after our bodies. Help us to use it to enrich someone else's life today.

Lord, we don't have to be rich in money to possess treasures. We can have the greatest treasure of all, Jesus Christ, living and dwelling within us by the Holy Spirit. Forgive us for when we have felt discontent, when we have been selfish with what You have blessed us with, when we have failed to follow Your ways in our life. Thank you for the salvation You give us in Jesus - another gift - that of eternal life.

Please help us to reach out to others today who may not appreciate the gifts You have given. Help us to share the joy and contentment we have with them. Please help us to meet the needs of those who do not have enough food or clothing. Help us to touch the lives of those who are friendless and lonely.

Please be with this dear reader. May they have the peace that comes from You. Flood their minds today, washing away any confusion, bringing order to any turmoil. Comfort them if they sorrow, bring healing if they are sick or in pain, take away their anxieties, and give them wisdom in the choices and decisions which they may need to make. If they are suffering pain from broken relationships, bring reconciliation and love. Take away bitterness and may they rejoice in what You can do for them. Give them encouragement if they are feeling depressed or discouraged. Help them to see above the clouded circumstances they face and know that you are bending over them in love. Surround them with Your angels to protect them and keep them and those they love from harm.

This is our prayer, in the name of Jesus,  
Amen.

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## Morning Prayer

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.

Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you:

I cannot do this alone.

In me there is darkness, but with you there is light;

I am lonely, but you do not leave me;

I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;

I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;

I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me...!

Restore me.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

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