

MY
COMFORT
IS
Jesus

365
DAILY
DEVOTIONS
FOR MORNING
AND EVENING

RAY COMFORT

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My Comfort is Jesus: 365 Daily Devotions for Morning and Evening

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Introduction

One day, I was about to get into my car in the parking lot of our ministry when I spotted a deliveryman on his way to his truck. I was determined to share the gospel with him.

“Here’s a five-dollar gift card if you will let me speak to you for just one minute,” I said boldly, thrusting the In-N-Out Burger gift card into his hand.

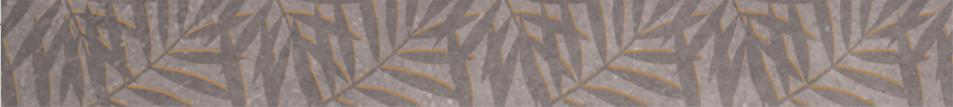
Instead of looking joyful, he looked confused.

“Do you speak English?” I asked.

He didn’t. Sometimes things don’t go the way we plan. Life is like that.

Writing this devotional didn’t go the way I planned. As soon as I began, I realized what a mammoth task lay before me. I suddenly had great empathy for Charles Spurgeon when he wrote his classic devotional, *Morning and Evening* (published in 1865). The prince of preachers penned it without the convenience of modern technology. Not that I’m comparing myself to



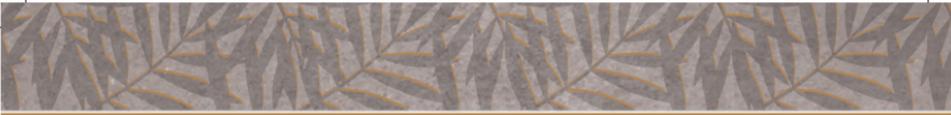


Spurgeon. I'm not worthy—neither intellectually nor spiritually—to wash his socks. Still, writing his book must have been a massive task. Let me explain why.

When I began writing books back in the late 1970s, if I wanted to do research on a particular subject, I would have to drive to a local library and tell the librarian what I needed. The librarian would then direct me to the appropriate area, where I would search through different publications until I found a quote, which I would photocopy, take home, and then incorporate into my book. What took me hours then now takes only seconds. I search the internet, scroll through the results, and find the information that fits my topic. Done. Without ever leaving home.

Even with the speed of the internet, I found the writing process for *My Comfort Is Jesus* a daunting task. It was three times the size of a standard book and required 730 daily devotional readings that were not only different from each other but also interesting. The mountainous task only grew larger with my determination to find a talking point in every portion of Scripture. Only once or twice did I





stare at verses like a deer in headlights, and when that happened, I gratefully leaned on the wisdom of Spurgeon and Matthew Henry.

Let me share another secret about how I managed to write this devotional in just a few months. I built a literal wall between myself and my wonderful wife. It was fifteen inches high and just shy of three feet long. It was lightweight, painted black, and had a high-powered magnet on one end. I placed another high-powered magnet on the headboard of our bed, and each night, after we read Scriptures and prayed together, the wall would go up. That allowed me to write from my bed for hours in the middle of the night without disturbing Sue. It was wonderful. I would wake up around midnight, pray for thirty minutes, climb back into bed, and write my little heart out.

My Comfort is Jesus isn't simply the title of this devotional book; it's a testimony. Jesus is more than a role model or a great historical figure. He is my life, my hope, my joy, my rock, my first love, my comfort, and my crown. I hope he is that to you as well, and I hope that you enjoy this devotional as much as I enjoyed writing it.





JANUARY 1

World's Best-Selling Book

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

*The earth was without form, and void;
and darkness was on the face of the deep.*

GENESIS 1:1–2

Morning Reading: Genesis 1; Genesis 2:1–17

If someone you know believes in evolution, ask them this question: “Do you know which publication is the best-selling book of all time?” It’s the Bible. It gives us our history. In a dark world where ignorance as to our origin prevails, it gives us light. Brilliant and clear light. The Bible doesn’t say “In the beginning...perhaps...maybe...possibly,” as evolution theorists are forced to say. It states facts.

This is the Word of our Creator, and his Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In a lost world, it gives us direction. When generations have been told that their lives have neither rhyme nor reason to exist—that they are nothing more than the mindless products of a thoughtless explosion of nothing in space—the Bible provides meaning for their existence. It tells them that God was in the beginning, and it was he who said, “Let there be light.”

*Father, please let me be light for someone in darkness today.
Let my words help a lost soul to find a new beginning in Christ.*



Breaking the Rules

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

MATTHEW 1:1–2

Evening Reading: Matthew 1:1–25; Psalm 1:1–6

When actor Arnold Schwarzenegger arrived in Hollywood in the late 1970s, he broke all the rules. In those days, actors needed a name that was easy to remember, a great speaking voice, and the ability to act. People could hardly pronounce his name, let alone remember it. His thick accent was hard to understand, and in those days, he arguably couldn't act. He didn't need any of those things actors supposedly needed—probably because he had a body like Mr. Universe, which was a title Schwarzenegger held at the young age of twenty. He had the goods.

The New Testament breaks all the rules when it comes to writing books. A good book should begin with a strong opening that grabs the reader's attention, but the New Testament doesn't do that. Instead, the book of Matthew begins with genealogies—names that are hard to pronounce and remember. But it can break the rules because it has the goods. It tells us how we can find everlasting life, and those who realize they will die one day don't need a compelling hook. Death is enough incentive to search the Scriptures.

Father, thank you for another day of life.



JANUARY 2

God's Creative Genius

*The Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone;
I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

GENESIS 2:18

Morning Reading: Genesis 2:18–25; Genesis 3; Genesis 4:1–16

It was God who said that it wasn't good for man to be alone, so he made a woman to keep him company. Neither of them was a hairy primate, nor were they swinging through the trees and grunting. They weren't beasts without moral understanding. The first woman was no doubt a breathtaking thing of beauty. God made Adam first, and then he made someone to help him. God knew that no man can do well in life without the help of a good woman.

Evolution is the epitome of thoughtlessness, and those who embrace it as a credible explanation of our origin aren't thinking deeply. It leaves more than one or two open-ended questions, such as how the first man found the first woman if his eyes weren't fully evolved. Eyes don't function unless they are complete. Neither does a heart or lungs or a brain. How did this lone, blind, breathless, thoughtless, heartless first primate find a mate to keep the species going? The answer to this question is that there isn't one. That's why, when asked how a myriad of impossibilities happened, believers of evolution admit that they don't know.

Father, open my eyes today to the genius of your creative hand.





The Wise Seek Him

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

MATTHEW 2:9

Evening Reading: Matthew 2:1–18; Psalm 2:1–12

A wise man once said that wise men still seek God. In the blackness they see the brightness of his star. Jesus stood out from the moment of his conception. The wise seek him because no other name is given among men whereby they may be saved from death. His wonderful words were without precedent, and those who are wise build their house upon the rock of his Word. The foolish ignore him—too busy with the cares of this life to be concerned with the next. Heaven is the last thing on their minds.

God offers eternal life, and his offer is universal. *Whosoever* will may come. That includes Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, agnostics, and atheists. Yet a considerable portion of humanity chooses to remain in the dark. Tears should fill our eyes at such a reality because we know that they run from the pleasures of heaven and instead walk toward the pains of hell. We empathize with them because we, too, once walked in their shoes.

Father, wash me of anything that tried to cling to my soul this day.



JANUARY 3

The Days of Noah

*The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,
and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only
evil continually.*

GENESIS 6:5

Morning Reading: Genesis 4:17–26; Genesis 5; Genesis 6

Matthew 24:37–39 is quite specific when it speaks of the end of the age: “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Too many souls in the world are busy living life without the slightest concern of their need for the Savior. They unknowingly hold a hand grenade with the pinned pulled out. In Noah’s day, God saw that the wickedness of man was great and that every thought and imagination of the human heart was evil. Do you recognize a similar condition in the modern world? All around us today, we see the ways in which evil has exploded across the earth. Few look toward the heavens and ask, “What does God require of me?”

Father, help me to uphold Jesus—as the door of the ark.





Angelic News

When Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

MATTHEW 2:19–20

Evening Reading: Matthew 2:19–23; Matthew 3, Psalm 3:1–8

Herod died. No doubt his death finally answered the prayers of many of God's people. What sort of monster would slaughter a mass of innocent children in an attempt to kill one tiny baby? But Herod did just that. The king wanted Jesus dead at any cost. Now *he* was dead, and Joseph heard the breaking news directly from an angel of the Lord during a vivid dream, in which the angel said, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead" (Matthew 2:20).

He wasn't the first Joseph to have a divine dream. Many years earlier his namesake dreamed of the sun, the moon, the stars, and bundles of wheat. He also interpreted others' dreams about grapes, wine, baskets of bread, fat cows, and thin cows (see Genesis 37 and 40). The instructions for both Josephs came in dreams; our instructions come straight from Jesus: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Father, may any dreams I have this night glorify you.

Come into the Ark

The Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.”

GENESIS 7:1

Morning Reading: Genesis 7; Genesis 8; Genesis 9:1–17

God told Noah that judgment would come after seven days (see Genesis 7:4–5). To the Lord, a single day is the equivalent of one thousand years (see 2 Peter 3:8). For a long seven thousand years, God has been warning humanity that judgment is coming. From Adam, whose conscience gave him a consciousness of sin, to contemporary humanity—every human being knows that a higher moral law exists. And we know this because God has given us light in the form of the work of the law written upon our hearts (see Romans 2:15).

In other words, we are without excuse and should seek God for his mercy. And those who seek him will find him if they search with all their heart (see Jeremiah 29:13). Noah feared God and did all that God commanded him to do. If we love and fear God, then we must do the same. That includes reaching out to those who will perish without the mercy of Christ.

Father, help me to remember this day that you will bring every work to judgment, including every secret thing.



Point to Jesus

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

MATTHEW 4:1–2

Evening Reading: Matthew 4:1–22; Proverbs 1:1–7

Jesus prepared himself for ministry with a forty day fast. And because of his life, death, and resurrection, all we need is the new birth and a prepared attitude. We don't need years of formal training. The moment a soul comes to know Jesus of Nazareth, like the woman at the well, they can point a dying world to the living Christ.

Jesus said to the woman, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly” (John 4:16–18). He used the moral law to help the woman understand her sin (see Romans 3:19–20, 7:7). The Bible says that once she acknowledged that he was the promised Messiah, “The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ Then they went out of the city and came to Him” (John 4:28–30).

Father, I trust today that I pointed someone to Jesus.



JANUARY 5

Trail of Destruction

*Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.
Then he drank of the wine and was drunk,
and became uncovered in his tent.*

GENESIS 9:20–21

Morning Reading: Genesis 9:18–29; Genesis 10; Genesis 11:1–9

Alcohol impaired Noah's good judgment, and he embarrassed himself. But worse than that, his exploit was recorded in the world's best-selling book for humanity to read for centuries to come. Alcohol wrecks good reputations. It not only caused grief in Noah's family, but it has also been responsible for untold misery and death throughout history.

As Proverbs 20:1 reads, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whosoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). The wise consider alcohol's trail of destruction before putting its poison to their lips. When we succumb to the temptation of substances that produce fleeting feelings of joy or numbness from worldly pain, we often experience lifelong repercussions. Instead, when we want to increase happiness or need relief from sadness or pain, we should turn to the Lord.

*Father, help me to stay away from anything that would bring
disrepute to the gospel.*



Can You Imagine?

Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

MATTHEW 4:23

*Evening Reading: Matthew 4:23–25; Matthew 5:1–20;
Psalm 4:1–8*

Do you ever imagine what it would have been like during the time Jesus walked in Galilee? Imagine hearing his gracious words as he taught in their synagogues, as he preached the gospel of the kingdom, and as he healed all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. What a joy it must have been to see sick people and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics receive complete healing. What would it have been like to see a dead person, surrounded by mourners, suddenly raised from the dead? Tears of joy must have flowed like a river.

Even though we can only imagine what it must have been like to be there, we have the next best thing: the precious set of writings called the New Testament, which tells us what Jesus both did and taught. We are privy, like a fly on the wall, to intimate conversations and behind-the-scenes happenings with Jesus and his disciples—in meticulous detail.

Father, thank you for your wonderful Word. Never let me doubt so much as one syllable.



JANUARY 6

The Lying Issue

*Please say you are my sister,
that it may be well with me for your sake,
and that I may live because of you.*

GENESIS 12:13

Morning Reading: Genesis 11:10–32; Genesis 12; Genesis 13

Perhaps some are right when they try to justify Abraham in his deceitfulness. They believe he had good reason to lie since he feared for his life. This becomes a dilemma for many of us. Would we lie to save our lives? As Christians, are we bound to always speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help us God?

If we were in Nazi Germany and the Nazis asked if we were hiding Jews, would we say, “Yes, we’ve got three upstairs in a secret closet”? Do we then become responsible for the death of those three Jews, who would have lived had we lied? Fortunately, we do have a precedent in Scripture where the midwives lied to the Pharaoh because they didn’t want to kill the male children. *And the Scripture says that what they did pleased God* (see Exodus 1:15–21). Meanwhile, each of us needs to listen to our conscience, know the Scriptures, and pray for wisdom in the face of difficult moral dilemmas that come our way.

Father, this day I need your wisdom so that I always do what is right in your eyes.



Truth in the Heart

*I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

MATTHEW 5:28

Evening Reading: Matthew 5:21–42; Psalm 5:1–12

The Sermon on the Mount is without question the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest preacher who ever lived. It was a prophetic fulfillment of the promised Messiah, magnifying God's law and making it honorable (see Isaiah 42:21). The religious leaders had dishonored it and made it vain so that it had lost its power to bring the knowledge of sin to those who heard it. Jesus changed that by showing that the moral law not only requires us to account for our actions but also for the words we have spoken, the intent in our hearts, and the deeds done in darkness.

Most of the world thinks the Sermon on the Mount is a heartwarming sermon when it's truly the opposite. It convicts us. It shows us how far we have fallen short of the glory of God. Those who try to be justified by it are trying to leap across the Grand Canyon with their legs tied. It's impossible for imperfect souls to keep a perfect law. But used rightly, the Sermon on the Mount acts as a mirror to show us our true sinful state, and it sends us to the cleansing blood of the cross.

Father, I praise you for the wonderful Sermon on the Mount.





JANUARY 7

A Book of Violence

When Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

GENESIS 14:14

Morning Reading: Genesis 14; Genesis 15; Genesis 16

The Bible is filled with violence. The Old Testament in particular recounts war after war throughout the history of Israel and its neighboring countries. The Scriptures don't hide the wickedness of humanity; they expose it and warn us that God has set aside a day in which he will judge every person who has committed evil deeds.

Some people maintain that religion is the greatest cause of wars in history, but this isn't true. According to the *Encyclopedia of Wars*, only about 8 percent of wars throughout history have been religious. That means that 92 percent of wars in history were secular by nature, such as the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Hundreds of millions of people have lost their precious lives simply because evil men wanted power—to conquer and reign. And as long as sin reigns, war, too, will continue to be an inevitable and tragic stain on human history.

Father, don't let me war with anyone this day but the enemy of my soul.



The Teachings of Jesus

*You have heard that it was said,
“You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”
But I say to you, love your enemies.*

MATTHEW 5:43-44

Evening Reading: Matthew 5:43-48; Matthew 6:1-24; Psalm 6

Unnatural is the appropriate word to describe what Jesus taught. It's unnatural for someone to love those who hate him. The world teaches us to render evil for evil. It's your right; however, love gives up that right. It means that you do good to the nastiest people you know. Over the years when I've tried to live by this rule, I've seen amazing results (see "Crazy Bible" on YouTube), and other times I've seen no visible results. Still, we shouldn't show love and kindness solely for the purpose of being kind to people but because Jesus said to do it. It was for good reason.

Look at why he said we should do this: "Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:44-45). We will act like our Father if we have been born of his Spirit.

*Father, I am so grateful that I can call you my Father.
Let me always unnaturally imitate you.*