Monday
Seeking His Face

“Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.” - Deuteronomy 34:10

One of the great differences between Moses and any other character in the Bible is how God describes Moses. Moses was a friend of God, and he met God face to face. "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend" (Ex. 33:11a). Do you seek God's face, or do you find that you spend more time seeking His hand? God wants us to seek Him for our every need. However, there is a higher calling for every believer. That is to seek God's face, and to see Him for His love and tenderness toward us as His children. He can provide for our physical needs, but when we see Him face to face, we are changed.

We no longer see Him as one to be feared as much as one to know intimately. We no longer view Him for what He can give to us, but for what He already has given for us. Today, Jesus is calling you to seek His face, not just His hand. When you seek His face, you will know His provision and His mercy in all aspects of life. Seek His face today and become a friend of God.

Tuesday
Zigging When Others Zag

“Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see" (John 9:14-15).

Before I owned my own accounting firm, I worked for another similar firm. The principal partner was a man who was very dedicated and creative. He taught me that if you want to be remembered and want to stand out among the crowd, you must "zig" when others are "zagging." This was a another way of saying, "Do something very different so that your work will stand out among the crowded marketplace."

Jesus did things that caused people to talk. Today, we would call this "creating a buzz." One such miracle Jesus did that caused a buzz was when a man wanted Jesus to heal him. Instead of saying
a religious prayer, He reached down and grabbed some mud and put it on his eyes. I can only wonder what the man must have thought. When he washed off the mud he could see. When the Pharisees asked how he was healed, the man told him. The Pharisees must have been totally confused. Jesus did this to confront the religious spirit among the Pharisees and keep things focused on the source of the miracle, not the way it was done. Be aware when God does things outside your paradigm of experience. Jesus rarely does things the same way every time. This is intentional in order to keep us trusting in His power, not His ways.

Wednesday
Sparrows Have Protection

'The sparrow has found a home...a place near your altar...' Psalms 84:3

Many people have lost things in the past. Marriages, businesses, homes, self-worth, security, etc. But Jesus came to '...seek and to save that which was lost' (Luke 19:10 NIV). Unlike us, Jesus didn't see people as 'good' or 'bad', but as 'lost'. He knew they'd lost their way, lost their values, lost their relationships, lost their ability to cope, lost their faith, and in some cases lost their reason to live. And He sought them out: like the woman at the well with five divorces and a live-in boyfriend; like the man who lay at the Pool of Bethesda for 38 years, chronically ill, noticed by no one; like Mary who wept at the tomb of the One she loved most.

If you're lost today, you can have a personal audience with the Lord. Today you can 'come home' to God! You can build your nest and raise your family in the shelter of His protection. You can feel safe with Him. As you bow in worship, He will lift you up and make you feel valuable again. He will deliver you from the fear of rejection and loneliness. You can’t hide from God, but you can hide in Him.

Thursday
Come To God’s Promised Rest

“If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28 CEV)

Jesus Christ has an incredible offer for you. I like that verse because it says the exact opposite of what most people think God will say to them. They think that if God wants them to come home, he’s going to say, “Come home to me, and I will give you rules. Come home to me, and I will give you regulations. Come home to me, and I will give you restrictions. Come home to me, and I will give you religion. Come home to me, and I will give you rituals.” But God doesn’t say any of those things. He says, “Come home to me, and I will give you rest.”
The reason why you’re so tired all the time and why you get stressed out is because you’re trying to live your life on your own power. God never meant for you to do that. If you’ve been feeling a little down, a little anxious, a little fatigued, a little worried, come home to God. He’s the one who made you, who created you, who’s watched every moment of your life, who knows everything about you and still loves you, who forgives you and says, “Come home to my peace and strength.” When you do that, you’ll have real peace of mind.

Friday
Betrayals

“If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend.” - Psalm 55:12-13

I have had a number of close relationships that ended in betrayal. I am very loyal to my friends and those with whom I have covenant relationships. Yet there are times that no matter how righteous you are, when someone means to betray you, he will do it. Loving those who betray you is "graduate-level Christianity." The religious community and one of His closest friends betrayed Jesus. Those who were closest to David betrayed him. Joseph’s own family betrayed him.

If you are a leader, you can be sure God will allow you to experience betrayal. It is one of those courses in the Kingdom that may not be required until God has seen that you have successfully passed other tests. It is the most difficult and most gut wrenching of all tests. A godly response goes against all that is in us. Our natural response is to protect, retaliate, and retain unforgiveness and bitterness. Ask God to build His nature in you now so that when such attacks come, you will be aware that it is a test and you will respond in righteousness.
Saturday
Consider Your Investments

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil 2:4).

It's rewarding to get a good return on an investment. In business we invest money, time, and people resources into promoting a product and service in hope of a return. We make financial investments in hope we can gain a return on our money invested. The apostle Paul understood another kind of investment. It was an investment in the spiritual lives of people.

One day I received this note from a friend into whom I had made an investment: "You have had a tremendous influence on my life. For that, I will be forever grateful and love you as well." Sometimes we don't realize the difference we can make in another life. For us, it can seem a natural way of operating. We may not even think we are doing anything unusual. Until one day, you receive a note like this one. In the marketplace we can often get very focused on the projects we are called to promote and gain a return on. However, we each need to be making an investment in other people as well.

Sunday
A Lonely Sparrow

'I am like...a sparrow alone on the housetop.' Psalms 102:6-7

Sometimes you may feel lonely. Loneliness need not necessarily be that you have lost your soul mate or something. It could come from depression or a worried state or situation. It might also be from losing a loved one or a partner, parent or child. You need to be encouraged today. The God Who knew that Adam was incomplete not only created Eve for him, but actually introduced them and brought them together.

And He can do the same for you. If you are widowed, divorced, or never married and want to find a mate, don't be anxious. God says, 'I know...where you dwell...' (Revelation 2:13 NKJV). God knows your name, your address, and every detail about you. And better yet, He cares! And one more thought: sometimes loneliness is not the absence of affection but the absence of direction; not the absence of people but the absence of purpose. So begin to reach out to others. Find a need no one is meeting, pour your life into it and watch how things begin to improve for you.