

# Sharing God's Strength

God's strength is our own. Christ's life for ours. It is our something to say, our scandalous, marvellous secret to share.

*Written by Laurel Moffatt, Christian blogger.*



**BIBLE  
SOCIETY**

Live light

*Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: NIV*

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question
1	How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"	Isaiah 52:7	What is beauty? God turns our ideas of beauty upside down and finds loveliness in what we'd find brute and ugly: the bruised and bloody feet of the barefooted messenger who has crossed a mountain to bring urgent news. There was no time to put on shoes. It is the message that makes the beauty. We have something beautiful to share. Peace. Rescue. We have a reigning, living God. It is our something to say, our scandalous, marvellous secret to share that makes us lovely to God as we share it with others.
2	Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."	Matthew 28:18-20	Jesus charged his disciples with the task of introducing the world to God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. But that command isn't given in a vacuum. It's held right between the knowledge that Jesus is in charge and his promise to be with them forever. The disciples are held firm in that hopeful space between knowledge and a promise. <b>How does knowing that Christ is with you always change the way you think about living in this world?</b>
3	In that day you will say: "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."	Isaiah 12:4-6	Do you know this day? The day when God's anger was turned away from you? We know this day as the day Christ died and the day Christ rose. Isaiah writes that as a result of his salvation, we will sing and shout about Him and what he has done. And why wouldn't we? We sing and shout about all the things we love most. We write poems, paint portraits, compose music for any number of wonderful things. How much more should we sing for the one who has saved us from the cold grip of death? He is our most wonderful thing. He deserves nothing less than our best praise.

# Sharing God's Strength (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question
4	If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."	Mark 8:38	What are you most ashamed of? Jesus reminds us that it makes no sense to be ashamed of something good. Not only that, being ashamed of him carries heavy consequences: the shame of the one who you were ashamed of.
5	He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."	Luke 24:46-49	Have you ever thought that telling people about the work of Christ is part of fulfilling what is written about Christ in Scripture? The message going out to every nation is part of his grand rescue plan of the world. And we get to be a part of it, with the help of his Spirit, who clothes us with power.
6	On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.	Acts 8:1-4	The early believers in Jerusalem had plenty to be afraid of. Their enemies hoped that persecution would snuff out the fledgling church. That death and the fear of death would do its business and silence the believers. Instead, it did the opposite. Because of persecution, the believers spread, and with them they spread the word about Christ. Even the threat of death could not keep them from speaking the word of God wherever they went. They had something to fear, and yet they were not afraid.  <b>Do you have fear that keeps you from speaking about Jesus?</b>

# Sharing God's Strength (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question
7	How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.	Romans 10:14-17	Paul's questions tumble out at us and compel us to see that the only way that belief in Christ can be born in a person is by hearing the word of God. And for people to hear it, we else have to be willing to open our mouths with his words on our lips. Paul cuts through the questions that could confound with the simplicity of the image of those feet. Those feet that God calls beautiful, of the one who brings the message of Christ to another person.
8	And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.	Ephesians 6:18-20	Telling people about Jesus isn't the work of individuals. It's the work of the church together. Paul needs the help of the Ephesians as he speaks about Jesus. He asks them to pray so that he won't be afraid, so that words will come to him, and so that his listeners will understand those words. He asks them to take part in the mission of spreading the news about Jesus through the world by praying.  <b>How can you use your prayers in the Spirit to further the work of Christ in this world?</b>
9	Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.	Colossians 4:3-6	What would it look like to devote your whole self to prayer? There is urgency in Paul's request of the Colossians to pray for him. He is imprisoned for speaking about Christ, and yet he asks the Colossians to fervently pray for more opportunities, more open doors for him to continue to speak about Jesus. Every prayer is an opportunity to speak to God, about talking to others about him. Every meeting with someone who does not know Christ is an opportunity to share his love and grace.  <b>How does Paul's urgency and fervour, how do his chains change the way you think about the role of prayer in the spreading of the gospel?</b>

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10	It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.	2 Corinthians 4:13-14	Belief in the death and resurrection of Christ is not an end. It is a pivot in our life upon which everything turns. You can't have Christ's death without his resurrection. In the same way, you can't have belief in him without being willing to speak about him. If we believe that he died and was raised to life, we have something to speak about, something to share with others, that this same Lord who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us too.
11	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	God has called us and claimed us for his own. Wanderers and strays adopted and made into his treasures. For a reason. For his own reasons. So that we can gladly shout, sing, speak, whisper, write, boast praises to Him. We cannot stay silent. It will out.
12	But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.	1 Peter 3:15-16	In Christ our inward and outward realities are perfectly aligned. With Christ enthroned in our hearts, there is an internal hope that is expressed so outwardly and evidently that people cannot help but ask why it's there. With Christ enthroned in our hearts, we can with confidence respond with gentleness and respect towards others. And with Christ enthroned in our hearts we are to do such good works, that any malicious gossip just can't stick on us.
13	If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.	1 Peter 4:11-12	We don't have to make things up in order to share the love of God with others. God gives us what we need to have. He gives us his very words to put on the tip of our tongues. He gives us his strength; he gives us himself. And he gives us the reason to share his love with others, so that we can put glory and praise in its rightful place...with God Himself.
14	For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.	Romans 1:16	Paul reminds us to be proud of the gospel of Christ. It is a pride that humbles us precisely because it is not about us: it's about God's Son. We become so proud we can't help but share this gospel. We show it off. The marvel of the life preserver so powerful it cuts through and defies all human categories and saves any who believes in it: the tall and the short, the fat and the slim, the brown eye and the blue, the clever and the dim. Why would we be ashamed of a wonder such as that? We should wear the gospel in our lives proudly, extravagantly.