



KJV

DEVOTIONAL

in the
Morning
and
in the
Evening

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

If you're a lover of the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, you're far from alone. Even with the plethora of new translations of Scripture, the KJV still ranks high among the bestselling Bible translations.

And it's no wonder. Down through generation after generation of Christians, the KJV has been loved, quoted, memorized, and praised. Even unbelievers are fans. Writers such as skeptic and Nobel Prize winner George Bernard Shaw and Pulitzer Prize winner Eudora Welty have sung its praises. The great British statesman Winston Churchill said of the KJV, "The scholars who produced this masterpiece are mostly unknown and unremembered. But they forged an enduring link, literary and religious, between the English-speaking people of the world."

The "Authorized" King James Version of the Bible was the result of King James I of England's direction that a translation of the Bible be readied for the Church of England. Seven years later in 1611, after the painstaking work of forty-seven qualified men, the new Bible was published—not as the King James Version or Authorized

version (that designation would come two centuries later) but as the more cumbersome *The Holy Bible, Conteyning the Old Testament, and the New: Newly Translated out of the Originall Tongues: & with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised by His Majesties Speciall Comandement*.

It should be noted that all the translators were well aware of the gravity of their task. All were university graduates—many from Oxford and Cambridge. With precision, they diligently crafted the monumental book that has served generation after generation of Christian believers.

Because the KJV has been so loved by so many in previous generations, it occurred to me to conclude each devotion on the following pages with a relevant quote from some of the godly men and women of the past, no doubt many of whom used the KJV exclusively. For that reason, I've selected a handful of some of the best preachers and writers of the past. A few names you'll likely immediately recognize—Charles Spurgeon, Oswald Chambers, A. W. Tozer, Elisabeth Elliot—while others will be new to you. For instance, though many know of Spurgeon through his thirty-eight years as pastor of London's Metropolitan Tabernacle, few have heard of James Smith, his predecessor at what was then called New Park Street Chapel. At the time, his writings were even more popular than Spurgeon's. Other names I hope you'll want to become acquainted with include J. C. Ryle, Octavius Winslow, Amy Carmichael, J. C. Philpot, Thomas Watson, and many others whose long-ago writings still minister to Christians today. For instance, Hannah Whitall Smith wrote one of the best-selling Christian books of all time, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*. First published in 1875, it's still in print and widely read today.

Just as it's important to keep the KJV close at hand, we would

Introduction

do well to also revisit the writings of these oft-neglected men and women of the faith. Though these valiant warriors have passed on, their message echoes down through the years.

Now, may God bless you as you grow closer to Him, day by day, evening by evening.

The LORD will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

PSALM 42:8

A BRAND-NEW DAY

*This is the day which the LORD hath made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

PSALM 118:24

Rejoicing in a new day, fresh from the hand of God, is a decision we must make. Often, it's not a decision we want to make. We might prefer to roll over for another forty winks, take a drive to the beach, watch a movie—anything that would keep us from certain responsibilities.

But we do rise from our bed, we dress, and we prepare for another day. In preparing ourselves for the day, however, we must also make that decision to rejoice. We must not rely on feelings nor embrace anxiety about what the day may bring—we must only rejoice in the Lord.

God made this day. He made it for us. Whatever it holds has passed through His hands already. Rejoicing is our way of meeting the day—every new day—head-on.

So set aside your worries. Rejoice and be glad in this new day fashioned by God for you.

*“When you cannot rejoice in feelings, circumstances
or conditions, rejoice in the Lord.”*

A.B. SIMPSON

HE WILL HEAR MY VOICE

*Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray,
and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*

PSALM 55:17

Today was a gift from God. Now it draws to a close. What is done is done. Tomorrow awaits. But tonight, as you end the day in prayer, feel free to find a place to be alone and pray out loud. Not *loud*, but out loud. There is something about voicing our prayers that stimulates faith. Yes, God hears our silent prayers, but for generations before us, Christian men and women have often given voice to their prayers.

Tonight, thank God for another day, and relax in the knowledge that He has prepared a new tomorrow for you to use in His service. No matter how you pray—silently or aloud—know that God hears. And just as the day began with a choice to rejoice, may it also end with rejoicing.

“The physical voice we use in prayer need not be great nor startling; even should we not lift up any great cry or shout, God will yet hear us.”

ORIGEN

THE VERY FIRST THING

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.*

MATTHEW 6:33

We are a generation of seekers. We want this and we want that. But Jesus cautions us about the most important “want” of all—the kingdom of God.

Today is God’s new day for you. And you will no doubt have things you must seek at work, at home, or in some important activity. But throughout the day, each of us must have the certainty that among all our duties—and amid all our seeking—God’s kingdom and His righteousness must be first. All else that is necessary for us will be added.

“If thou needest health, seek it; but seek first the kingdom of God. If thou desirest knowledge, seek it; but seek first that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. If thou wantest wealth, seek it in that moderate way which is allowable to thee; but first of all let thy treasure be in heaven. Seek thy God first, before everything else.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

THE VERY LAST THING

All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

PSALM 145:10-12

Seeking God's kingdom has been our daily quest. Now, as the evening has come, we retire with the kingdom of God still on our mind. This earthly kingdom will pass away. But we shall one day set foot in that new kingdom where we will never grow old, nor have the need for evening rest. This kingdom is filled with glorious majesty—and it's all for us!

Tonight, set aside any troubling situations that are tied to this present earthly kingdom. What is here now will eventually pass. Even at day's end, make God's kingdom the very last thing on your mind. You will then rest well.

*"I place no value on anything I have or may possess,
except in relation to the kingdom of God."*

DAVID LIVINGSTONE

Morning

THE GOD WHO IS SOVEREIGN

*I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress:
my God; in him will I trust.*

PSALM 91:2

Is God sovereign? Does He control the destinies of us all? If He is not sovereign, if He is in some way handicapped from intervening on our behalf, then why do we bother to pray?

But of course God *is* sovereign. He has covenanted with us to hear and answer our prayers. Only a sovereign God can make and keep such a promise. We need have no fear of over-trusting God. He is our refuge. Our fortress. In Him we can confidently trust. Even dark clouds cannot diminish His sovereignty. Instead, He can turn those clouds inside out to reveal their silver lining.

“To the one who delights in the sovereignty of God the clouds not only have a ‘silver lining’ but they are silver all through, the darkness only serving to offset the light!”

A.W. PINK

GOD'S SOVEREIGN HAND

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night.

PSALM 91:5

God has exercised His sovereignty on your behalf today whether it was apparent or not. Daily, He orchestrates events for your ultimate good. You trusted His sovereignty today, and you can trust it tonight. God is at work even as you wind down from the day, and later, as you sleep. You need not be fearful of anything—His hand is still upon you as you lay in your bed. Sleep well tonight in the full presence of your Creator. Trust even your sleep to the sovereign hand of God.

“Remember that Almighty God is about your bed, and sees your down-lying, and your uprising; understands your thoughts, and is acquainted with all your ways. Remember likewise that his holy angels, who [guard and watch] over you all night, does also behold how you wake and rise. Do all things, therefore, as in the solemn presence of God, and in the sight of his holy angels.”

LEWIS BAYLY