

MORNING & EVENING



CHARLES SPURGEON'S MORNING & EVENING

IN EVERYDAY ENGLISH



DAVID O. HARRISON

THRIVE!
BOOKS



CHARLES SPURGEON'S

**MORNING
& EVENING
IN EVERYDAY ENGLISH**

David O. Harrison

ISBN: 979-8301787836
© DAVID O. HARRISON 2024
PUBLISHED BY THRIVE! BOOKS
thrivebooks.co

THRIVE!
BOOKS



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David Harrison was born and raised in England and emigrated to Canada in 1973 at the age of 21.

When he was 35, David became a Christ-follower. He is married and the father of two adult children. He attended a Brethren Bible Chapel in Scarborough for 25 years, ten of those years as an elder.

For 23 years David ran an audiovisual integration company in Toronto, Canada, catering primarily to universities, banks, and law firms.

In 2006 David founded Bus Stop Bible Studies¹, a ministry which used public transit advertising panels to display messages of encouragement from the Word of God to many millions of people in Canada.

For 10 years David was the Board Chair of Daystar Native Christian Outreach, based on Manitoulin Island.

Now ‘retired’, David and his wife, Wendy, run a Bed & Breakfast in Muskoka, and David (who failed miserably in English at school) has taken to writing as a hobby. Never in his wildest dreams did he ever

1. See bit.ly/bsbsimagine

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

imagine appearing at the top of one of Amazon's Best Seller lists. His English teachers would have proclaimed that a *bonafide* miracle!

Contact: david@thrivebooks.ca

CITATIONS



Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

To Jurgen and Gabriela who taught me,

*“If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your
heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

INTRODUCTION



It feels only fitting to dedicate this book to my dear friends, Jurgen and Gabriela. I first met Jurgen through work-related activities, and that connection blossomed into a lifelong friendship.

Jurgen and Gabriela never hid their faith. At times, their persistence could be a little ‘irksome’, but they remained steadfast friends. When I eventually cried out in desperation, “God, if you’re there, help me!” I knew exactly who I could turn to.

During my travels with Jurgen for work, I saw his ‘irksome ways’ lead others to Christ. Oh, how I wish I had his irksome boldness!

The first Christian gift I ever received was a paperback devotional, *MORNING AND EVENING*, by C.H. Spurgeon—a gift from Jurgen and Gabriela. I still remember one particular reading, from the morning of November 7: “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.” (Isaiah 49:16). That moment was a spiritual awakening for me. Suddenly, I understood that I wasn’t just another nameless believer among many billions. If I could pry open God’s hand, I would see my name—David Harrison—engraved on His palms.

Since retiring, I've taken up writing. Some of my books are original works, while others are projects where I adapt Christian classics into everyday language for modern readers. This is what I've attempted with this devotional, aiming to make Charles Spurgeon's timeless reflections more readable while honouring his great legacy.

Spurgeon quoted the King James Bible. In this adaptation, I have chosen to use the New King James Version because it maintains the poetic elegance of the KJV while incorporating contemporary language. Occasionally, I have opted for even more modern translations. For example, the KJV phrase "Girt about the paps with a golden girdle" has been replaced with "He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest" from the New Living Translation (NLT). Such changes are noted where applicable. The following two pages present the original writing and the adaptation side by side.

Be encouraged—every morning and evening!

COMPARING VERSIONS

JANUARY 02 — AM (original)

“Continue in prayer.” — Colossians 4:2

It is interesting to remark how large a portion of Sacred Writ is occupied with the subject of prayer, either in furnishing examples, enforcing precepts, or pronouncing promises. We scarcely open the Bible before we read, “Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord;” and just as we are about to close the volume, the “Amen” of an earnest supplication meets our ear. Instances are plentiful. Here we find a wrestling Jacob — there a Daniel who prayed three times a day — and a David who with all his heart called upon his God. On the mountain we see Elias; in the dungeon Paul and Silas. We have multitudes of commands, and myriads of promises. What does this teach us, but the sacred importance and necessity of prayer? We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous in our lives. If He has said much about prayer, it is because He knows we have much need of it. So deep are our necessities, that until we are in heaven we must not cease to pray. Dost thou want nothing? Then, I fear thou dost not know your poverty. Hast thou no mercy

to ask of God? Then, may the Lord's mercy show thee your misery! A prayerless soul is a Christless soul.

Prayer is the lisping of the believing infant, the shout of the fighting believer, the requiem of the dying saint falling asleep in Jesus. It is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honour of a Christian. If thou be a child of God, thou wilt seek your Father's face, and live in your Father's love. Pray that this year thou mayst be holy, humble, zealous, and patient; have closer communion with Christ, and enter oftener into the banqueting-house of His love. Pray that thou mayst be an example and a blessing unto others, and that thou mayst live more to the glory of your Master. The motto for this year must be, "Continue in prayer."

JANUARY 2 — Morning (adaptation)

Praying always — Colossians 1:3

It's interesting to see how much of the Bible talks about prayer—whether through examples, instructions, or promises. Almost right from the start, we read, "Then people began to call on the name of the Lord," and near the end, we find an "Amen" to a heartfelt prayer. We see many examples: Jacob wrestling in prayer, Daniel praying three times a day, and David calling on God with all his heart. There's Elijah on the mountain, and Paul and Silas praying in prison. The Bible gives us countless commands and promises about prayer. This shows us how important prayer is meant to be in our lives. If God talks about prayer so much, it's because He knows how much we need it. Our need for prayer is so deep that until we're in heaven, we shouldn't stop praying.

If you think you don't need anything, it might mean you don't realize your own needs. If you're not asking God for mercy, may He open your eyes to see where you need it. A life without prayer is a life without Christ.

Prayer is the simple words of a new believer, the battle cry of a faithful Christian, and the final breath of a saint falling asleep in Jesus. It's the lifeline, the comfort, and the strength of a Christian. If you're a child of God, you'll seek to be close to your Father and live in His love. Pray this year to be holy, humble, zealous, and patient; to draw closer to Christ, and to experience His love more deeply. Pray to be an example and blessing to others, living more for God's glory. Let your motto this year be, "Keep praying."

DAILY READINGS
by
C. H. SPURGEON

Rewritten in Everyday English
By David O. Harrison

*He awakens Me morning by morning,
He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.*

Isaiah 50:4

*My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.
When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches.*

Psalms 63:5,6

JANUARY 1—MORNING



So from that time on, the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan.

Joshua 5:12

After a long journey through the wilderness, Israel finally reached the promised land, a place of peace and plenty. They no longer had to move from place to place, face fierce enemies, or endure hardships—they were now in a land filled with blessings. Maybe, dear Christian, this year could be a time of peace and joy for us too. When we think of being with Jesus in eternal rest, it brings comfort and hope, especially if it might be soon. Even though we sometimes fear the unknown, we should remember that we've already overcome many trials. Let's set aside our fears and rejoice, hoping that this year may be the start of our eternal life with the Lord.

Some of us may remain here to keep serving God. If that's what He wants, we can still live out the promise of the New Year, "We who

believe can enter His rest.” The Holy Spirit gives us a glimpse of heaven even now. In heaven, people are safe, and we are safe in Christ. They celebrate victories, and we have our own. They’re close to the Lord, and we too find peace in Him. They praise Him, and we have that same privilege.

This year, let’s seek heavenly blessings here on earth. With faith and hope, barren places can become like a garden. Just as people in the past received manna from heaven, we too can receive God’s grace and experience the blessings of His promises in our lives.

JANUARY 1—EVENING



I will be glad and rejoice in You.

Psalm 9:2

Let's start the year with joy and gladness, not with sad tunes but with songs of celebration and praise. "Come, let us sing to the Lord; let's make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation." As those chosen by God, let's put away our worries and raise our banners of trust in His name. While others may focus on their troubles, we, who have God's comfort, will lift Him up with joy. Holy Spirit, our Comforter, we will keep praising Jesus, our delight. We're committed—Jesus deserves the joy of our hearts, and we won't dishonour Him by being sad in His presence.

We're meant to sing the praises of heaven, so let's start our song here on earth. We will be glad and rejoice—two words that mean double joy and blessing. Is there any reason to limit our joy in the Lord now? Even

now, don't we find Jesus to be a source of rich, fragrant blessings, as we will in heaven?

Our joy is in You, Lord Jesus. You are the heart of our happiness, the centre of our delight. What incredible joys are found in You! All rivers of true happiness begin and flow from You. So, sweet Lord, be with us this year, letting us feel Your preciousness from January's beginning to December's end. May we open this year with joy in You and close it with gladness in Your presence.

JANUARY 2 — MORNING



Keep praying.

Colossians 1:2

It's interesting to see how much of the Bible talks about prayer—whether through examples, instructions, or promises. Almost right from the start, we read, “Then people began to call on the name of the Lord,” and near the end, we find an “Amen” to a heartfelt prayer. We see many examples: Jacob wrestling in prayer, Daniel praying three times a day, and David calling on God with all his heart. There's Elijah on the mountain, and Paul and Silas praying in prison. The Bible gives us countless commands and promises about prayer. This shows us how important prayer is meant to be in our lives. If God talks about prayer so much, it's because He knows how much we need it. Our need for prayer is so deep that until we're in heaven, we shouldn't stop praying.

If you think you don't need anything, it might mean you don't realize your own needs. If you're not asking God for mercy, may He open your

eyes to see where you need it. A life without prayer is a life without Christ.

Prayer is the simple words of a new believer, the battle cry of a faithful Christian, and the final breath of a saint falling asleep in Jesus. It's the lifeline, the comfort, and the strength of a Christian. If you're a child of God, you'll seek to be close to your Father and live in His love. Pray this year to be holy, humble, zealous, and patient; to draw closer to Christ, and to experience His love more deeply. Pray to be an example and blessing to others, living more for God's glory. Let your motto this year be, "Keep praying."

JANUARY 2 — EVENING



Let the people renew their strength.

Isaiah 41:1

Everything on earth needs to be renewed. Nothing can keep going on its own. The Psalmist said, “You renew the face of the year.” Even trees, which don’t wear themselves out with worry or work, still need rain from heaven and nutrients from the soil. The mighty cedars of Lebanon, which God planted, stay alive only because they draw fresh sap from the earth every day. In the same way, people can’t keep going without being renewed by God. Just like our bodies need food to recover energy, our souls need to be refreshed by reading God’s Word, listening to His teachings, and practicing faith. When we neglect these things, our spiritual lives become weak. Some believers struggle spiritually simply because they don’t regularly turn to God’s Word or pray in private. If our faith can survive without God, it isn’t real faith; it’s just an illusion. True faith waits on God like flowers wait for rain.

Without regular renewal, we're unprepared for life's challenges—the struggles within us, the storms of hardship, or spiritual trials. When life's storms hit, a tree without deep roots and fresh sap will fall. Likewise, sailors without strong masts, anchored ships, or a safe harbour face disaster in rough seas. If we let our goodness weaken, the forces against us grow stronger and might lead us to struggle and even suffer painful setbacks. So let's humbly approach God's mercy. In doing so, we'll see the promise fulfilled: "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength."

JANUARY 3 — MORNING



I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people.

Isaiah 49:8

Jesus Christ is the heart of God's promise to us, and as believers, He is our own. Have you thought about what you truly have in Christ? In Him lives the fullness of God. Think about that word "God" and all that it means, and then consider "perfect man" and all His goodness. Everything Christ has as both God and man is freely given to you, becoming your own forever. As God, Jesus is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere at once. Doesn't it bring you peace to know that all these incredible qualities are now yours? His power? It's yours to help you, to conquer your struggles, and to guide you through to the end. His love? Every bit of it belongs to you, an endless ocean of care that you can call your own. Even His justice, though it may seem stern, is yours too—ensuring that every promise He's made to you is faithfully kept.

As a perfect man, Jesus was the delight of God the Father, accepted and beloved. And that same acceptance is now yours. The love that God has for His perfect Son is also the love He has for you. All that Christ achieved is yours. The righteousness Jesus earned through His sinless life is now credited to you. Christ is the promise.

"My God, I am Yours—what a divine comfort!

What a blessing to know the Saviour is mine!

*In Christ, the heavenly Lamb, I am blessed,
and my heart dances at the sound of His name."*

JANUARY 3 — EVENING



The voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'

Luke 3:4

This voice in the wilderness called for a way to be made ready for the Lord—a path prepared even in a barren place. I want to open my heart for Him, making a road for God through the dry desert of my soul. The four steps in this verse call for serious reflection.

First, “Every valley must be exalted.” I must let go of low, limited thoughts of God; doubts, despair, selfish ambitions, and fleeting pleasures need to be left behind. Over these deep valleys, I need to build a strong foundation of grace.

Second, “Every mountain and hill shall be made low.” My pride and self-reliance need to be humbled to make a clear path for the King. God’s close relationship is reserved for the humble, for He values those

who are lowly and broken-hearted. So, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me stay humble and open.

Third, "The crooked shall be made straight." Any wavering in my heart must be replaced with clear dedication to God and holiness. Those who are double-minded do not know the God of truth. I must live with integrity, fully honest before the God who sees all.

Finally, "The rough places shall be made smooth." Obstacles of sin and rebellion must be cleared away. Such a great Guest deserves a clear path, free of blockages and stumbling stones. Oh, that tonight, God may find in my heart a smooth path ready for His presence, so He may journey through every part of my soul, from the start of this year to its end.

JANUARY 4 — MORNING



Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

Grow in grace—not in just one type of grace, but in all of them. Start with faith, the foundation of grace. Believe God’s promises more firmly than before. Let your faith grow in depth, consistency, and simplicity. Grow also in love. Pray for a love that is broader, stronger, and more practical, touching everything you think, say, and do. Grow in humility, too. Seek to know your own limits and be humble. As you become more grounded in humility, also aim to reach closer to God through prayer and a closer connection with Jesus.

May God’s Spirit help you grow in knowing Jesus. If you aren’t growing in your knowledge of Him, you’re missing out on blessings. Knowing Christ is “eternal life,” and getting to know Him better brings true joy. Those who know even a little of Him always want more, because

although Christ satisfies, He leaves us eager to know Him more deeply. If you know His love, you'll want to experience it even more. If you don't desire to know Him better, it may mean you don't truly love Him, for love always cries, "Closer, closer." Being far from Christ feels like hell; being close to Him is heaven.

Don't settle without a growing closeness to Jesus. Seek to know Him more—in His divine nature, His humanity, His completed work, His death, His resurrection, His ongoing intercession, and His promised return as King. Stay close to the Cross, and reflect on the meaning of His wounds. An increase in love for Jesus and a clearer understanding of His love for us are some of the best signs of growth in grace.

JANUARY 4 — EVENING



And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

Genesis 42:8

This morning, we focused on deepening our relationship with Jesus; tonight, let's consider His knowledge of us. Jesus, like Joseph, knew us long before we even had a hint of who He was. His eyes saw us even before we were formed, and in His heart, we had a place before we had a place in this world. When we were distant from Him, unaware or even hostile, He knew our struggles, our flaws, and our brokenness. Even when we saw Him only as a judge or ruler, He saw us as beloved family and longed to bring us closer. Jesus never mistook us for anyone else; He has always seen us as the objects of His deep, endless love. "The Lord knows those who are His" is true whether we are near to Him or, like prodigals, far away.

Yet, how often we didn't recognize our royal Brother! Out of this unawareness came many sins. We kept our hearts closed, mistrusted Him, doubted His words, and withheld the love He deserved. The light of the Sun of Righteousness shone, but we were blind to it. Heaven came down, yet we missed it. Praise God, those days are behind us; however, we still know only a little about Jesus compared to how deeply He knows us. We have barely begun to understand Him, but He knows every part of us. It's a blessing that the ignorance isn't on His side because if He didn't know us, we'd have no hope. But He will never say, "I never knew you." Instead, He will openly acknowledge us in the day He returns, and even now He shows Himself to us in ways He doesn't reveal to the world.