

GOD SPEAKS

READ ISAIAH 49:8-16

This Word from God is excerpted from a study prepared by Rev. Dr. Victor Belton for **God's Sending Heart**, Study 20 "Engraved on God's Hand." Download the entire devotion and book at thegreatsending.org.

Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me, v16

One of the things that may inhibit our willingness to go on a mission for the Father is uncertainty about His support as we go, and wondering if He will be with us. The enemy has no end of ways to distract us, deceive us, make us doubt our Father, as well as ourselves, and pull us off mission.

I encourage you to hold fast to God's promises. You know that our Father does not always call the equipped, but He always equips the called. Through Baptismal water, our Father has redeemed us, empowered us, and knows our name. In fact, we are engraved on the palms of our [Lord's] hands.

Please do not miss this impact. Everything Christ touches, every single time He lifts His holy hands, whenever he touches, we are part of that impact. Because we are engraved on the palms of the nail-scarred hands of our Savior Jesus Christ, He is sending us to raise hands, to touch others, and to bless... We are dropped into the hole in the hands of our Savior and are fused there so that we are not forgotten and never fall away.

We are engraved there, permanently inscribed there, and nothing can snatch us out of the palm of His hand... You and I can go forth in confidence, knowing and never doubting that the Baptismal grace and power of the Father attends us. The body and blood, the bread and wine of our Savior Jesus feed, encourage, and strengthen us. And we are sent to participate in that great final harvest of souls to the glory of our loving and gracious Father.

Come on, dear saints. Let's go! Let's be bold to reach out and touch as we are going, because we have been touched for our salvation and the salvation of many others!

Thank You, Lord Jesus, and thank You, Heavenly Father, for abiding with me, neither leaving me nor forsaking me, especially when I am on mission for You. Inspire me with Your Holy Spirit and send me, Lord, because I am engraved in the palm of Your holy hands. Amen.

Isaiah
49:13

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

CALL TO PRAYER

Luke 10:2

The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.



SET YOUR ALARM FOR 10:02

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May MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



EQUIP, EMPOWER, ENGAGE,
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS.



1 Lord Jesus, I want to sit with you and learn from you. I want to follow you to learn what it means to be Your disciple. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that my heart is ready to do Your will and follow Your Words for my life. Use me to invite others to do the same.

2 Holy Spirit, bless the seed of the Gospel that is sown in me and that I want to pass along to others so that it grows strong and mighty. Let Your Church be that place where people of all nations can come and find their rest. Use me to welcome them.

3 Jesus, You are Lord of all creation! Remove all fear and worry from my heart through Your comforting words of peace. Give me the faith to see You at work, to praise You, and to share Your mighty deeds with others, especially Your mighty Salvation.

4 Lord Jesus, I want to see Your resurrection power at work in and through our churches. Let Your Gospel message be our power. Let Your Holy Spirit move with and through us to call all people to repentance and a life with You. Use me as Your instrument to share the healing of Your Gospel with those I meet today.

5 Holy Spirit, teach me to pray without ceasing for those I am discipling and for those I will disciple. Hear my prayers for my church, community, and those who don't yet know you. Use me to disciple them in Your ways.

6 Jesus, I have come to know and believe that You are the Holy One of God. You are my Savior and Lord. There is no one else I can go to for life and wholeness! I name in my heart some whom I know who are disconnected from You... Jesus, give me the opportunity and courage to share the words of Eternal life with them in Your name.

7 **National Day of Prayer** – Heavenly Father, We are blessed to live in these United States. At the same time, our country is torn politically and socially. We need Your help and direction. Forgive us for our selfishness and lack of love—humble us. Turn our hearts and the hearts of our neighbors to You. Pour out Your Spirit on our land so we may be a place of compassion, love, and eternal hope for all.

8 Lord, give my children and my children's children a deep desire to seek after You with all their heart and not stray from the instruction of Your Word. Give them a deep love for Your Word, which tells Your story, and let them share it with others.

9 Lord Jesus, I praise You for all You have done for my life and salvation. I want to honor You with my lips and my life; I want my heart to be fully devoted to You! Let me share that devotion today with someone who needs to know You as Savior and Lord.

10 **Mother's Day** – Lord Jesus, I join with others today to thank You for the gift of mothers and the life they have given us. Thank you for those who teach their children about the Life that comes from You alone! Bless them with Your love. Be with those who grieve the loss of children or who mourn the loss of a mother, especially today.

11 God, I thank you today for the people You have placed in my life. Remind me to pray for them daily. Bless their work, done in Your name, their labors of love for You and one another. Give them endurance inspired by the hope we have in Jesus.

12 Father in heaven, Your power raised Jesus from the dead. With that same power, You wipe our sins away and refresh us with Your full and free forgiveness so that we continue celebrating Easter grace in our lives and our witness. Thanks and praise be to You!

13 Jesus, you brought healing to so many in the Bible, and by Your resurrection, You bring life and salvation to me. Thank You for making Your saving Name known to those with whom I live, work, and play so that they, too, may know and share Your saving power.

14 **Ascension Day** – Lord Jesus, You ascended into heaven to rule over everything. Rule as Lord of my life today, every day. Rule over all things for the good of Your people, the Church, and so govern Your Church that we might share Your Gospel and be ready for Your return in Glory!

15 Holy Spirit, bless our preparations for our upcoming District Convention (June 5-7). Let our gathering celebrate Your mission and commitment to carrying on the mission of God in our own lives and families, in our congregations and communities.

16 Father, today I thank you for those who serve in Bible Translation worldwide, especially for Lutheran Bible Translators. I pray you would increase the number of language communities who desire Your Word in their language.

17 Until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that You are Lord, Jesus, preserve Your Church throughout the world, reminding us that nothing will separate us from Your love and the Glory You will reveal to us on the last day!

18 Risen Lord Jesus, as You gave Your Church one heart and one mind, give Your Church today this unity that with one voice, we may worship You and share the Good News with people in our homes and communities. Use our resources to bless others in Your Name, opening hearts for spiritual conversations that point to You, our Savior.

19 Thank You, God, for the gift of life! Bless the work of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries with moms and babies. Lead and guide their efforts to share Your redeeming love and grace with this special group of blood-bought souls.

20 Today, I pray for our pastors throughout the District, especially my pastor(s). Show them how best to lead our congregations and teams of ministers and lay leaders, encouraging, comforting, guiding, and discipling the disciple-makers.

21 Today, Lord Jesus, I pray for an abundant harvest. I ask for more laborers in the harvest fields for that to happen. Open my heart and the hearts of all Your people to love, serve, and share the Good News of Jesus in our harvest fields.

22 As the school year comes to an end, we pray for all those involved in School Ministry. Bless students and their families as they move into summer break; keep their focus on You, Lord Jesus. Be with teachers, administrators, and staff members over the coming months, giving them ongoing opportunities to share their hope with you.

23 God, we know that You are above all things and that You hold all things together. Today, be glorified in our world. I pray that people who have never met You will find and praise You.

24 Lord God, You have poured out the Holy Spirit upon us, that we might believe in our Risen and Ascended Savior. Bless us by Your Word and Sacraments.

25 **Memorial Day** – On this holiday, I focus on those who have given their lives for our nation's freedoms and security. I thank You, God, for their sacrifice; do not let it be in vain. Thank you especially for those I remember now who are away from this earth, but are celebrating the victory with You in heaven!

26 Lord Jesus, give me a hunger for Your Word that is never fully satisfied but always desires more! Help me to love and to live the Scriptures as You did.

27 Lord, I want to help others in their discipleship lives. Teach me to be curious; give me a genuine desire to learn the life stories of others so that I can know them better and help them to grow as disciples who make disciples.

28 Lord, often when I read Your Word, I forget what I just read and move on to the next thing. Show me how to apply it to my life, goals, and relationships, following You, Jesus, one step at a time.

29 Lord Jesus, let me use Your Word daily to nourish my soul so that I may grow strong in faith and works of love. Give me the opportunity to share Your Word with others so that they will grow as Your disciples.

30 Lord Jesus, You give a beautiful hope and promise that all who believe in You will have eternal life. I thank You for that gift! Use me to share it with people in my life.

31 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, may all the honor, glory and kingdom be Yours forevermore as we marvel in the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Amen.