

A scenic landscape of rolling mountains under a cloudy sky. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds, and several birds are seen flying in the upper left quadrant. The sun is visible on the right side of the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The mountains are layered, with the foreground being dark and the background being lighter and hazy.

NEW EVERY
Morning

365 DAYS OF WORSHIP
CREATED AND COMPILED BY PHIL BARFOOT



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Contents

Preface xxi

WEEK 1

Monday, <i>Attitude Is Everything</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	1
Tuesday, <i>Our Real Calling</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	2
Wednesday, <i>Worship as an Act of Sacrifice</i> —Carlos Ichter	3
Thursday, <i>Built to Last?</i> —Mark Blair	4
Friday, <i>Handling Life's Interruptions</i> —Dr. D. Doran Bugg	5
Saturday, <i>The Basics</i> —Brent Dyer	6
Sunday, <i>The Process of Worship</i> —Tommy Quinn	7

WEEK 2

Monday, <i>The Value of Vision</i> —Rick Briscoe	8
Tuesday, <i>Be Still and Worship</i> —Jason Breland	9
Wednesday, <i>What Are They for So Many?</i> —Mike Harland	10
Thursday, <i>Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall</i> —Greg Crane	11
Friday, <i>A Lesson from Baseball</i> —Jon Duncan	12
Saturday, <i>The Power of Praise</i> —Larry Harrison	13
Sunday, <i>A Blind Sacrifice</i> —Marty Hamby	14

WEEK 3

Monday, <i>Know Who You Are</i> —Ken Hartley	15
Tuesday, <i>Renewed in God's Presence</i> —Steve Holt	16
Wednesday, <i>An Irresistible Community</i> —Rick Briscoe	17
Thursday, <i>Bankrupt Revival</i> —Jeff Lawrence	18

Friday, <i>Walking in the Light</i> —Dr. Gary Mathena	19
Saturday, <i>Healing Power in Honest Confession</i> —Roger McGee	20
Sunday, <i>Regard for One Another</i> —Gary Rhodes	21

WEEK 4

Monday, <i>Sharpening the Tools</i> —Daniel Morris	22
Tuesday, <i>Storms</i> —David Oliver	23
Wednesday, <i>God Hears the Heart, Not the Voice</i> —Craig Adams	24
Thursday, <i>The Confession</i> —Scott Shepherd	25
Friday, <i>Who's in Charge Here?</i> —Joe Estes	26
Saturday, <i>Creation Inspires Praise</i> —Jonathan Tyner	27
Sunday, <i>A Proposal for Complete Worship</i> —Clay Owens	28

WEEK 5

Monday, <i>Trusting God's Sovereignty</i> —Gary Rhodes	29
Tuesday, <i>Dealing with Death</i> —Dale Wilbur	30
Wednesday, <i>Living the Song</i> —Dr. Herb Armentrout	31
Thursday, <i>Temptation Happens</i> —Scott C. White Sr.	32
Friday, <i>Stretching to Serve</i> —Terry Williams	33
Saturday, <i>Holding on to Me</i> —Mark Blair	34
Sunday, <i>Empowering Your Song</i> —Bob Morrison	35

WEEK 6

Monday, <i>Seeing Clearly through Blind Spots</i> —Dr. D. Doran Bugg	36
Tuesday, <i>The Invisible Man</i> —Brent Dyer	37
Wednesday, <i>"Be-Attitudes" for Life and Ministry</i> —Ron Cochran	38
Thursday, <i>Resonating Worship</i> —Rick Briscoe	39
Friday, <i>He Finds You Wherever You Are</i> —Greg Crane	40
Saturday, <i>He Sees You and That Is All That Matters</i> —Jon Duncan	41
Sunday, <i>Ministry Seasons</i> —Daniel Morris	42

WEEK 7

Monday, <i>The Power of Remembering</i> —Larry Harrison	43
Tuesday, <i>River or Reservoir?</i> —Ken Hartley	44
Wednesday, <i>Quit Your Belly-Achin'</i> —Ken Atkinson	45
Thursday, <i>Burdened with Busyness</i> —Steve Holt	46
Friday, <i>Danger of the Routine</i> —Jeff Lawrence	47
Saturday, <i>Losing Jesus</i> —Dr. Gary Mathena	48
Sunday, <i>The Fire of Cleansing</i> —Dr. Gary Matthews	49

WEEK 8

Monday, <i>The Joy of the Lord</i> —Roger McGee	50
Tuesday, <i>Wise Counsel</i> —David Oliver	51
Wednesday, <i>Praise Comes First</i> —Tempa Bader	52
Thursday, <i>Mentor</i> —Scott Shepherd	53
Friday, <i>Not Growing Weary</i> —Tom Tillman	54
Saturday, <i>Repentance Ignites Praise</i> —Jonathan Tyner	55
Sunday, <i>God Is at Work</i> —Don Marsh	56

WEEK 9

Monday, <i>He Sings Over Me</i> —Austin Neal	57
Tuesday, <i>Be Prepared</i> —Scott C. White Sr.	58
Wednesday, <i>Doxology</i> —Kevin Batson	59
Thursday, <i>Watching Words</i> —Dale Wilbur	60
Friday, <i>Remember Your Calling</i> —Terry Williams	61
Saturday, <i>Keep Swinging!</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	62
Sunday, <i>Sound Check</i> —Mark Maier	63

WEEK 10

Monday, <i>O Be Careful Little Eyes . . .</i> —Mark Blair	64
Tuesday, <i>What a Jerk!</i> —Dr. D. Doran Bugg	65
Wednesday, <i>Paul's Definition of Worship</i> —John Bolin	66

Thursday, <i>What's That Smell?</i> —Brent Dyer	67
Friday, <i>Getting Used to the Family of God</i> —Greg Crane	68
Saturday, <i>The Tree Psalm</i> —Larry Harrison	69
Sunday, <i>What to Do When You Have Lost Your Song</i> —Dr. Randy C. Lind	70

WEEK 11

Monday, <i>The "As If" Principle</i> —Steve Holt	71
Tuesday, <i>He Restores My Soul</i> —Jeff Lawrence	72
Wednesday, <i>Commit to Faithfulness</i> —Dr. Steve Bowersox	73
Thursday, <i>Called to Worship</i> —Dr. Gary Mathena	74
Friday, <i>Singing When There Are No Words</i> —Roger McGee	75
Saturday, <i>How to Conquer a Tough Situation</i> —David Oliver	76
Sunday, <i>Why Am I Holding Back?</i> —Chip Leake	77

WEEK 12

Monday, <i>Adopting Grace</i> —Scott Shepherd	78
Tuesday, <i>Waiting</i> —Tom Tillman	79
Wednesday, <i>True or False Worship</i> —Jason Breland	80
Thursday, <i>The Word Instructs Praise</i> —Jonathan Tyner	81
Friday, <i>Let God Lead</i> —Dale Wilbur	82
Saturday, <i>Last Words</i> —Scott C. White Sr.	83
Sunday, <i>Only My Best Is Good Enough for God!</i> —Carlos Ichter	84

WEEK 13

Monday, <i>Obedience Is . . .</i> —Travis Blye	85
Tuesday, <i>Never Alone</i> —Jeff Lawrence	86
Wednesday, <i>By All Means, Sing!</i> —John Brewer	87
Thursday, <i>The Sacrifice of Praise</i> —Dr. Gary Mathena	88
Friday, <i>Remembering and Forgetting!</i> —Dr. Mark Deakins	89
Saturday, <i>Waiting Is Worship</i> —Craig Adams	90
Sunday, <i>Undignified Worship</i> —Terry Hurt	91

WEEK 14

Monday, <i>Counterintuitive</i> —Dr. Herb Armentrout	92
Tuesday, <i>A Holy Fear</i> —Jeff Askew	93
Wednesday, <i>Your Walk or Your Talk?</i> —Chris Copeland	94
Thursday, <i>The “Luv” Chapter</i> —Ken Atkinson	95
Friday, <i>The Great Adventure</i> —Matthew Slemph	96
Saturday, <i>A Work of Art</i> —Don Barrick	97
Sunday, <i>Singers Lead the Way</i> —Mike Harland	98

WEEK 15

Monday, <i>Dependence</i> —Kevin Batson	99
Tuesday, <i>The Cost of His Glory</i> —Michael Cole	100
Wednesday, <i>True Worship</i> —Jeff Brockelman	101
Thursday, <i>Humble Yourself</i> —John Bolin	102
Friday, <i>I Shall Not Be Shaken</i> —Dr. Steve Bowersox	103
Saturday, <i>Character Matters</i> —James Bradford	104
Sunday, <i>With or Without</i> —Rick Stone	105

WEEK 16

Monday, <i>Clear the Weeds</i> —John Brewer	106
Tuesday, <i>Temptation</i> —Wayne Bridges	107
Wednesday, <i>God’s Song</i> —David Butler	108
Thursday, <i>Recognize the Voice of the Shepherd</i> —Jeff Brockelman	109
Friday, <i>God in the Daily</i> —Scott Bullman	110
Saturday, <i>Home</i> —Keith Clutts	111
Sunday, <i>A Passionate Response</i> —Rocky Gillmore	112

WEEK 17

Monday, <i>Don’t Go It Alone</i> —Ron Cochran	113
Tuesday, <i>Joyful Suffering</i> —Travis Blye	114
Wednesday, <i>Let Them See Christ in Me</i> —Jeff Askew	115

Thursday, <i>I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy!</i> —Barry Cook	116
Friday, <i>Lamp or High Beam?</i> —Chris Copeland	117
Saturday, <i>Stretch!</i> —Glenn Crosthwait	118
Sunday, <i>Admirable</i> —Jonathan Ford	119

WEEK 18

Monday, <i>Anticipating Anxiety</i> —Charles Darus	120
Tuesday, <i>Not My Brother, Not My Sister, but It's Me, O Lord . . .</i> —Paul Davis	121
Wednesday, <i>Use Your Gifts as God Intended</i> —Michael Cole	122
Thursday, <i>Empty Glory</i> —Chris Mason	123
Friday, <i>Exalt the Humbled One</i> —Chris Diffey	124
Saturday, <i>What Are We So Worried About?</i> —Cliff Duren	125
Sunday, <i>Singing with Jesus</i> —Keith Ferguson	126

WEEK 19

Monday, <i>Placing My Trust in God Alone</i> —Jeff Elkins	127
Tuesday, <i>Praising with Your Whole Heart</i> —Chris Ellenburg	128
Wednesday, <i>The Cost of Worship</i> —Barry Cook	129
Thursday, <i>What? Me Worry?</i> —Joe Estes	130
Friday, <i>Where Did the Bushes Go?</i> —Matt Fallin	131
Saturday, <i>Real Change</i> —Chason Farris	132
Sunday, <i>We Are Messengers</i> —Cliff Duren	133

WEEK 20

Monday, <i>God's Infinite Creation</i> —Joe Fitzpatrick	134
Tuesday, <i>Don't Fear the Wall</i> —Brett Fuller	135
Wednesday, <i>Singing the Gospel into the Hearts of the People</i> —Dr. Randy C. Lind	136
Thursday, <i>Staying Clean in a Dirty World</i> —Rocky Gillmore	137
Friday, <i>Grace Greater Than Our Sin</i> —John Griffin	138
Saturday, <i>Our Souls Long for Eternity</i> —Dr. David Hahn	139
Sunday, <i>The Singer and the Song</i> —Tobin Davis	140

WEEK 21

Monday, <i>Pop Quiz—Who Among You Is Wise?</i> —Marty Hamby	141
Tuesday, <i>I Will Be with You</i> —Mark Hill	142
Wednesday, <i>A Chosen Vessel</i> —Tobin Davis	143
Thursday, <i>Just Do You</i> —Brad Jett	144
Friday, <i>Don't Start Down That Path</i> —Ross Johnson	145
Saturday, <i>God's Perfect Rulebook</i> —David Jones	146
Sunday, <i>Fresh, Inspired Worship</i> —Barry Cook	147

WEEK 22

Monday, <i>Be Prepared</i> —Ray Jones	148
Tuesday, <i>The Faith of a Child</i> —Randy Kirby	149
Wednesday, <i>Fit for the Master's Use</i> —Jon Duncan	150
Thursday, <i>Wait a Minute!</i> —Ryan Krivsky	151
Friday, <i>Looking at Love</i> —Clay Layfield	152
Saturday, <i>Open Our Eyes</i> —Chip Leake	153
Sunday, <i>Five Priorities for Music Ministry</i> —Ron Cochran	154

WEEK 23

Monday, <i>I Believe . . . Help My Unbelief</i> —Robert Maddox	155
Tuesday, <i>Hocus Pocus</i> —Mark Maier	156
Wednesday, <i>In the Sanctuary</i> —Cliff Duren	157
Thursday, <i>In the Grip of Grace</i> —Kenneth Martin	158
Friday, <i>Creation's Praise</i> —Chris Mason	159
Saturday, <i>Time</i> —Dr. Gary Mathena	160
Sunday, <i>The Power of Music</i> —David Butler	161

WEEK 24

Monday, <i>My Passion for the Closeness of God</i> —Dr. Gary Matthews	162
Tuesday, <i>Getting to Know Jesus</i> —Ronald A. Matthews, DMA	163
Wednesday, <i>A Volunteer vs. a Calling</i> —Keith Ferguson	164
Thursday, <i>The Song of the Redeemed</i> —Joshua McClain	165

Friday, <i>Feast on the Lord</i> —Keith McMinn	166
Saturday, <i>Perfect Peace</i> —Dr. James L. Melton	167
Sunday, <i>Perspective Is Everything</i> —Jason Breland	168

WEEK 25

Monday, <i>Where Are You Aiming?</i> —Jason Millsaps	169
Tuesday, <i>Surprise!</i> —Loren Minnick Jr.	170
Wednesday, <i>Does Jesus Care?</i> —Jonathan Ford	171
Thursday, <i>Move</i> —Brad Moffett	172
Friday, <i>Priceless Treasure</i> —Michael Moore	173
Saturday, <i>Thank You!</i> —Michael Moore	174
Sunday, <i>Teamwork</i> —Dr. Steve Bowersox	175

WEEK 26

Monday, <i>He Gives Me Rest</i> —Austin Neal	176
Tuesday, <i>A Life Verse for Authentic Worship</i> —Jerry L. Newman	177
Wednesday, <i>A Health and Wellness Checklist</i> —Rocky Gillmore	178
Thursday, <i>What Is God Looking For?</i> —Andy Newsome	179
Friday, <i>Same Difference</i> —Clay Owens	180
Saturday, <i>Firstfruits</i> —Steve Holt	181
Sunday, <i>A Calling to Serve</i> —Jeff Askew	182

WEEK 27

Monday, <i>Trusting God</i> —Tommy Quinn	183
Tuesday, <i>Our Purpose Is for More Than Right Now</i> —Carl Setterlind	184
Wednesday, <i>Ready to Worship?</i> —John Griffin	185
Thursday, <i>God Is Able</i> —Jon Skelley	186
Friday, <i>Fog Finds Us</i> —Matthew Slep	187
Saturday, <i>Hope's the Diploma, Not the Admission Fee</i> —Todd Stearns	188
Sunday, <i>God the Holy Spirit Sings in and through Us</i> —Jim Whitmire	189

WEEK 28

Monday, <i>A Different Kind of Hero</i> —John Stegemerten	190
Tuesday, <i>Without Love . . . Nothing</i> —Jeff Stotts	191
Wednesday, <i>Spirit and Understanding</i> —O. D. Hall Jr.	192
Thursday, <i>Clean the Behavior</i> —Josh Sullins	193
Friday, <i>Boldly Speaking Your Story</i> —David Thomas	194
Saturday, <i>Flying Blind? Or Right on Course</i> —Ken Van Cura	195
Sunday, <i>Good Advice</i> —Dr. Ron Upton	196

WEEK 29

Monday, <i>No Holding Back</i> —Pat Van Dyke	197
Tuesday, <i>Detour</i> —Nathan Ward	198
Wednesday, <i>Criticism and Compliments</i> —Ken Hartley	199
Thursday, <i>Missing You</i> —J. K. Weger	200
Friday, <i>Cut It Off?</i> —Tim Whedbee	201
Saturday, <i>When It's Time to Quit</i> —Bradley White	202
Sunday, <i>The Ministry of the Face</i> —Rick Stone	203

WEEK 30

Monday, <i>God the Father Sings Over and Surrounds Us!</i> —Jim Whitmire	204
Tuesday, <i>The Battle</i> —John Williams	205
Wednesday, <i>Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs</i> —Mark Hill	206
Thursday, <i>The Abiding Presence</i> —Dr. David Wilson	207
Friday, <i>Satisfaction Guaranteed</i> —Dr. Herb Armentrout	208
Saturday, <i>For Rainy Days!</i> —Ken Atkinson	209
Sunday, <i>Songs Are a Weapon</i> —Don Marsh	210

WEEK 31

Monday, <i>Which Way?</i> —Tempa Bader	211
Tuesday, <i>As for You . . .</i> —Don Barrick	212
Wednesday, <i>The Heart of a Worshiper</i> —Dr. Ron Upton	213

Thursday, <i>Render</i> —Kevin Batson	214
Friday, <i>Keys to a Faith-Filled Life</i> —Travis Blye	215
Saturday, <i>Look for Jesus on Every Page</i> —John Bolin	216
Sunday, <i>When Fear Comes My Way</i> —Jon Skelley	217

WEEK 32

Monday, <i>Rejected or Accepted?</i> —James Bradford	218
Tuesday, <i>The Purpose of Fruit</i> —John Brewer	219
Wednesday, <i>In Spirit and Truth</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	220
Thursday, <i>Stand Firm</i> —Wayne Bridges	221
Friday, <i>All You Have to Give Is You</i> —Jeff Brockelman	222
Saturday, <i>It Just Makes Sense</i> —Scott Bullman	223
Sunday, <i>Anticipation of Worship</i> —Carlos Icther	224

WEEK 33

Monday, <i>Jesus Loves Me</i> —Keith Clutts	225
Tuesday, <i>What Do You Pursue?</i> —Michael Cole	226
Wednesday, <i>How Can I Keep from Singing?</i> —David Jones	227
Thursday, <i>What Does God Sound Like?</i> —Chris Copeland	228
Friday, <i>Demonstrate Your Love</i> —Glenn Crosthwait	229
Saturday, <i>Let the Journey Begin!</i> —Charles Darus	230
Sunday, <i>Identity in Christ</i> —Terry Hurt	231

WEEK 34

Monday, <i>Is This All There Is?</i> —Paul Davis	232
Tuesday, <i>Let Him Sing!</i> —Dr. Mark Deakins	233
Wednesday, <i>What Is Missing?</i> —Chip Leake	234
Thursday, <i>Humbled before the Exalted One</i> —Chris Diffey	235
Friday, <i>Remembering to Surrender</i> —Jeff Elkins	236
Saturday, <i>Are You Great?</i> —Chris Ellenburg	237
Sunday, <i>A Hill to Die On</i> —Mike Harland	238

WEEK 35

Monday, <i>Houston, We Have a Problem!</i> —Joe Estes	239
Tuesday, <i>Does Your Life Reflect the Love of Jesus?</i> —Matt Fallin	240
Wednesday, <i>See What I Did There?</i> —Mark Maier	241
Thursday, <i>Another Step Beyond</i> —Chason Farris	242
Friday, <i>Run the Race with Faith</i> —Joe Fitzpatrick	243
Saturday, <i>Don't You Know Who I AM?</i> —Brett Fuller	244
Sunday, <i>A Tune in a Bucket</i> —Marty Hamby	245

WEEK 36

Monday, <i>The Dump Ground</i> —John Griffin	246
Tuesday, <i>Reeds Shaken in the Wind</i> —Dr. David Hahn	247
Wednesday, <i>But God</i> —Don Marsh	248
Thursday, <i>Who Is Your Delight?</i> —Mark Hill	249
Friday, <i>What Do I Do?!</i> —Brad Jett	250
Saturday, <i>Recheck Your Work!</i> —Ross Johnson	251
Sunday, <i>The V.I.P. Choir</i> —Jonathan Ford	252

WEEK 37

Monday, <i>Grace for Life</i> —Ray Jones	253
Tuesday, <i>Sounds Good to Me!</i> —Randy Kirby	254
Wednesday, <i>It's Not Your Party!</i> —Dr. Gary Matthews	255
Thursday, <i>He's Got Your Back</i> —Ryan Krivsky	256
Friday, <i>The Formula for Contentment</i> —Clay Layfield	257
Saturday, <i>Consider the Shepherds</i> —Robert Maddox	258
Sunday, <i>Angels Never Sing?</i> —Keith Ferguson	259

WEEK 38

Monday, <i>Here I Raise My Ebenezer</i> —Kenneth Martin	260
Tuesday, <i>Going from Glory to Glory</i> —Dr. Mark Deakins	261
Wednesday, <i>Consider Others More Significant Than Yourself</i> —Keith McMinn	262

Thursday, <i>The Simple Secret of Being Spiritual</i> —Dr. Gary Mathena	263
Friday, <i>My Identity</i> —Ronald A. Matthews, DMA	264
Saturday, <i>Freedom in Discipline</i> —Joshua McClain	265
Sunday, <i>Wonder and Worship</i> —Tobin Davis	266

WEEK 39

Monday, <i>Wait for the Lord</i> —Keith McMinn	267
Tuesday, <i>What Are You Listening To?</i> —Jason Millsaps	268
Wednesday, <i>Perseverance</i> —Dr. James L. Melton	269
Thursday, <i>Wits End</i> —Loren Minnick Jr.	270
Friday, <i>Self-Love</i> —Brad Moffett	271
Saturday, <i>The Manifestation of Jesus</i> —Dr. Mark Deakins	272
Sunday, <i>Don't Hold Back</i> —David Butler	273

WEEK 40

Monday, <i>Real Prayer</i> —Michael Moore	274
Tuesday, <i>The God-Given Task</i> —Austin Neal	275
Wednesday, <i>Trust</i> —Brad Moffett	276
Thursday, <i>Fill This Place! Fill Me, Lord!</i> —Jerry L. Newman	277
Friday, <i>We Have Heard the Joyful Sound!</i> —Andy Newsome	278
Saturday, <i>Hard Work Always Pays Off</i> —Randy Kirby	279
Sunday, <i>Jesus, the Light of the World</i> —Dr. Ron Upton	280

WEEK 41

Monday, <i>Power in Prayer</i> —Carl Setterlind	281
Tuesday, <i>I Choose Joy</i> —Jon Skelley	282
Wednesday, <i>Becoming a King Maker</i> —Daniel Morris	283
Thursday, <i>Perilous Prayers</i> —Matthew Slep	284
Friday, <i>The Context Matters</i> —Todd Stearns	285
Saturday, <i>A Life That Points to God</i> —John Stegemerten	286
Sunday, <i>God Is Good!</i> —Jeff Stotts	287

WEEK 42

Monday, <i>Playing Offense</i> —Josh Sullins	288
Tuesday, <i>God Answers the Earnest Prayers of Ordinary People</i> —David Thomas	289
Wednesday, <i>Do It with Freshness, Excellence, and Enthusiasm</i> —Bob Morrison	290
Thursday, <i>Sing as One Voice</i> —Ken Van Cura	291
Friday, <i>Imperfect Praise?</i> —Pat Van Dyke	292
Saturday, <i>It Is Enough</i> —Nathan Ward	293
Sunday, <i>Love Lifted Me</i> —J. K. Weger	294

WEEK 43

Monday, <i>Indescribable . . . Yet I Keep Trying!</i> —Tim Whedbee	295
Tuesday, <i>The Battles Worth Fighting</i> —Bradley White	296
Wednesday, <i>Where Should We Worship?</i> —Andy Newsome	297
Thursday, <i>Stop It!</i> —John Williams	298
Friday, <i>Knowing the Will of God</i> —Dr. David Wilson	299
Saturday, <i>Chosen . . .</i> —Don Barrick	300
Sunday, <i>A Heart That Sings</i> —Terry Williams	301

WEEK 44

Monday, <i>Words on Fire!</i> —James Bradford	302
Tuesday, <i>Amazing Grace</i> —Wayne Bridges	303
Wednesday, <i>Living in the Light, Not the Spotlight</i> —Clay Owens	304
Thursday, <i>Now You're Ready</i> —Scott Bullman	305
Friday, <i>Unexpected Grace</i> —Keith Clutts	306
Saturday, <i>Need a Lift?</i> —Charles Darus	307
Sunday, <i>Where Is the Source?</i> —Paul Davis	308

WEEK 45

Monday, <i>Is Your Gate Open?</i> —Dr. Mark Deakins	309
Tuesday, <i>Longing for the Lord</i> —Chris Diffey	310
Wednesday, <i>Abide in Jesus</i> —Gary Rhodes	311

Thursday, <i>Overwhelmed by God's Peace</i> —Jeff Elkins	312
Friday, <i>When Anger Rises Up</i> —Chris Ellenburg	313
Saturday, <i>Hope through the Storms</i> —Tom Tillman	314
Sunday, <i>Go on a Little Farther</i> —Matt Fallin	315

WEEK 46

Monday, <i>The Opposite Life</i> —Chason Farris	316
Tuesday, <i>Singing Over You</i> —Joe Fitzpatrick	317
Wednesday, <i>Consider the Ox</i> —Todd Stearns	318
Thursday, <i>Proclamation in the Midst of Chaos</i> —Brett Fuller	319
Friday, <i>The Blessings of God</i> —Dr. David Hahn	320
Saturday, <i>Is He Worth It?</i> —Brad Jett	321
Sunday, <i>Road Rules</i> —Ross Johnson	322

WEEK 47

Monday, <i>Overcoming Your Offenses</i> —Ray Jones	323
Tuesday, <i>The Friend of the Bridegroom</i> —Ryan Krivsky	324
Wednesday, <i>Do They Match?</i> —Rick Stone	325
Thursday, <i>Growing in Forgiveness</i> —Clay Layfield	326
Friday, <i>Be Bold</i> —Robert Maddox	327
Saturday, <i>Pot-Stirring Is Not a Spiritual Gift!</i> —Kenneth Martin	328
Sunday, <i>Praying for Fellow Workers</i> —Chris Mason	329

WEEK 48

Monday, <i>Too Busy or Not Too Busy?</i> —Ronald A. Matthews, DMA	330
Tuesday, <i>Holy, Holy, Holy!</i> —Joshua McClain	331
Wednesday, <i>Authenticity in Worship</i> —Terry Hurt	332
Thursday, <i>Our High Calling</i> —Dr. James L. Melton	333
Friday, <i>Becoming an Ironman</i> —Jason Millsaps	334
Saturday, <i>Trials and Temptations as Good?</i> —David Thomas	335
Sunday, <i>Taking Hold!</i> —Bob Morrison	336

WEEK 49

Monday, <i>Delight in the Lord</i> —Gary Rhodes	337
Tuesday, <i>I Want to Know You More!</i> —Jerry L. Newman	338
Wednesday, <i>How Do We Praise?</i> —Pat Van Dyke	339
Thursday, <i>God's Perfect Timing</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	340
Friday, <i>To Obey Is Better than Sacrifice</i> —Tommy Quinn	341
Saturday, <i>One Powerful Word: Hope</i> —Carl Setterlind	342
Sunday, <i>Never Underestimate the Power of a Song</i> —Dr. Randy C. Lind	343

WEEK 50

Monday, <i>Leaving a Legacy</i> —Tempa Bader	344
Tuesday, <i>Confidence and Reverence</i> —John Stegemerten	345
Wednesday, <i>Jesus the Son Sings with Us and Around Us</i> —Jim Whitmire	346
Thursday, <i>I'm Not There Yet</i> —Jeff Stotts	347
Friday, <i>Walking Blindfolded</i> —Josh Sullins	348
Saturday, <i>God Is Singing Over You</i> —Loren Minnick Jr.	349
Sunday, <i>What Do You Depend On?</i> —Ken Van Cura	350

WEEK 51

Monday, <i>Why?</i> —Nathan Ward	351
Tuesday, <i>Invitation Accepted</i> —J. K. Weger	352
Wednesday, <i>It's Important Work!</i> —Craig Adams	353
Thursday, <i>The Fight</i> —Tim Whedbee	354
Friday, <i>What Good Comes from Bad?</i> —Bradley White	355
Saturday, <i>Time</i> —John Williams	356
Sunday, <i>The Fragrance of Worship</i> —Dr. David Wilson	357

WEEK 52

Monday, <i>Employ the Joy</i> —Steve Holt	358
Tuesday, <i>Are You Listening?</i> —Glenn Crosthwait	359
Wednesday, <i>Tell Somebody!</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	360

Thursday, <i>The “Be-Attitudes”</i> : Attitudes for Being a Disciple of Jesus, <i>Step One</i> —Mark Powers	361
Friday, <i>The “Be-Attitudes”</i> : Attitudes for Being a Disciple of Jesus, <i>Step Two</i> —Mark Powers	362
Saturday, <i>The “Be-Attitudes”</i> : Attitudes for Being a Disciple of Jesus, <i>Step Three</i> —Mark Powers	363
Sunday, <i>Think Big!</i> —Dr. Phil Barfoot	364
Contributors	365
Notes	373

Preface

N*ew Every Morning* was created by 118 premiere worship pastors, ministers of music, and Christian university professors across America!

First and foremost, I am humbled and grateful to count each of them as my friends and want to express my deepest appreciation that they would take the time out of their hectic schedules to contribute to this book of unique and dynamic devotionals.

From the bottom of my heart, I say a huge “Thank You” to each of these contributors. Your spiritual insight and godly encouragement will make this book a blessing to many.

One of the unique features of this book is its flexibility to be used as a private devotional book or as a group devotional. I encourage choirs, praise teams, orchestras, Sunday school classes, and all types of groups to read through the devotions on the same schedule corporately as each one does individually during private study and personal devotional time.

Reading these devotions on the same schedule also opens up the opportunity to share and discuss each other’s thoughts together in small or large group settings.

Another feature of the book is included on Wednesdays and Sundays. On each of these days, there are always a few thoughts aimed at those in music and worship ministries. These Wednesday and Sunday devotions are designed to read to your choir or group and ask the questions included in each devotion to encourage discussion.

Whether you utilize this devotional book in your daily private time with the Lord or with your choir or ministry groups, my prayer is that God would use its truths and spiritual insights to *inspire, encourage, uplift,* and *bless* all who read it.

God’s *BEST* to you as you experience His mercies *New Every Morning!*

Dr. Phil Barfoot, Editor

WEEK 1—MONDAY

Attitude Is Everything

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

Acts 16:25–26 (NIV)

We have a choice. Every day in every situation and circumstance, we have a choice. We can follow the naysayers and negative whims of the masses, OR we can come with thankful and grateful hearts and attitudes to face even the most overwhelming and challenging situations.

If Paul and Silas would have responded negatively to their imprisonment, having been beaten, stripped of their clothes and put into jail with their feet in shackles, you would never have heard this story. It would have been just another unremarkable night in that Philippian prison.

However, Scripture tells us that at midnight they “prayed and sang praises to God.” That’s right—they didn’t whimper and complain. They praised God in their dire situation.

God honored their “attitudes of gratitude” along with their thanksgiving and praise in the midst of those dark and desperate circumstances. God truly inhabited the praises of Paul and Silas that night! In fact, they prayed, praised, and sang until, suddenly, an earthquake shook the foundations of the prison, all the doors were opened, and EVERYONE’S chains were loosed. Not only were Paul and Silas delivered, but all the prisoners were!

The jailer rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (v. 30). Paul and Silas then sealed the deal by explaining he must “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved—you and your household” (v. 31). The jailer and his entire family were then saved!

Today, you will be faced with a choice. I encourage you to choose thanksgiving in *every* circumstance.

1. What are some steps that I can take to change my attitude to trust God at all times in every situation?
2. When faced with a choice, how can I confidently learn to *believe* rather than *doubt*?



Lord Jesus, help me to choose the “attitude of gratitude” when faced with challenges and overwhelming situations today. In the almighty name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Dr. Phil Barfoot
President / CEO

Celebration Concert Tours International / CCT Music, Franklin, TN

WEEK 1—TUESDAY

Our Real Calling

“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”

Mark 12:28b–30 (NIV)

The answer Jesus gives this religious teacher to this all-important question sets the purpose, priority, and plan of our lives here on this earth. Jesus is clearly saying that *WORSHIP* is the greatest commandment!

It’s what’s going on in heaven now and for all eternity and what *should* be going on in each of our lives as believers. Worship is heaven’s highest occupation and the earth’s greatest privilege. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says it this way, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

Revelation 4:11 (KJV 2000) puts it like this, “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.”

In other words, we were created to please the Lord. We *please* Him by *praising* Him.

I encourage you today to consider your *AVOCATION*. We all know what our *VOCATIONS* are—plumbers, electricians, teachers, nurses, accountants, ministers, business owners, etc. Our *AVOCATION* is to be ministers *to* and worshipers *of* Almighty God.

First Peter 2:9 calls us “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (NIV).

As you go about your day, let me simply encourage you to fulfill your *AVOCATION*—the greatest commandment of loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . *WORSHIP!* In doing so, you will satisfy the purpose to which we have all been called . . . worshipers of our awesome, almighty, loving Father.

1. What are some practical steps I can take to *love* and *worship* the Lord in a deeper way?
2. How can my *avocation* be reflected in my *vocation*?



Lord Jesus, help me to focus on my real calling and purpose today . . . to be a minister to and worshiper of Almighty God. May YOU be my priority and the focus of all my time and attention and purpose today. May I please You in all I do. May I glorify You and enjoy Your loving presence. In the strong name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Dr. Phil Barfoot

President / CEO

Celebration Concert Tours International / CCT Music, Franklin, TN

WEEK 1—WEDNESDAY

Worship as an Act of Sacrifice

I urge you, brothers, in light of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

In our day and age, there seems to be a big push for making worship services as consumer-friendly as possible. I would even go out on a limb and say that many of us have joined churches based on the style of music, worship service schedule, or what the church had to offer our family or us. While these concerns may seem to be fully legitimate in today's culture, they directly contradict a key word in our Scripture passage—sacrifice.

According to the apostle Paul, the correct attitude in worship is one of sacrifice. When we sacrifice, our individual wants become secondary. When we worship, we should strive to become more Christlike, who “humbled himself” and became “nothing” for the sake of mankind (Phil. 2:5–8). So how does this translate in real terms? It means that when there's a congregational song that is not in the style that I personally like, I sing it anyway because that song is ministering to someone else in the congregation. It means that a grandparent should be willing to sing a song that ministers to his/her grandchild—and vice-versa.

When we sacrifice our personal agendas, God takes His rightful place at center stage. I cannot come to church with the expectation that corporate worship will replicate my private time with God. That would be self-serving.

1. What are some hindrances that prevent me from truly sacrificing my personal preferences in corporate worship?
2. What results from worship bring joy to God's heart?

~
Dear Lord, help me to not be self-centered in my worship. Help me strive to become more like Jesus and willing to sacrifice my personal preferences when I come together with others in corporate worship. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Carlos Ichter
Minister of Music and Worship
Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston, TX

WEEK 1—THURSDAY

Built to Last?

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NASB)

If you've grown up around the church, you've probably heard songs with "cornerstone" in the title. Today, the cornerstone is a masonry stone of dedication and remembrance that is unveiled at the dedication of a building. In earlier days, the cornerstone was the very first masonry stone that was laid. It determined the direction and layout of the entire structure. If the cornerstone was not laid precisely, the building was not built according to plan.

Jesus should be the Cornerstone of our lives and the place where the Holy Spirit dwells. Everything about our lives should be built on Jesus as revealed in Scripture. But what if we've messed up? The good news is that when we repent and ask, Jesus forgives and forgets. Today, take in God's Word. Talk with Him. Pay attention to what He is doing in and around you. Today, let your life be built on the Cornerstone that will never lead you away from the very best that God has for you.

1. What do you need to tear down and let God rebuild?
2. What do you tend to substitute for THE Cornerstone?



Lord, may You be the foundation of who I am and everything I do. Show me what You see and show me where I need to rebuild to be in line with You. May it be obvious, due to the presence of the Holy Spirit, that my life is built on the Chief Cornerstone.

Mark Blair
Minister of Music
Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

WEEK 1—FRIDAY

Handling Life's Interruptions

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth. . . . In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

John 14:16–17a, 20 (NASB)

Interruptions are simply a part of life. Some interruptions are mild irritants, like noticing a flat tire on your parked car in the driveway or receiving a telemarketing robocall on your smartphone. Other interruptions, like losing a job, fighting cancer, or surviving a devastating accident, can instantly alter the trajectory of one's life.

In a CBS televised interview on *60 Minutes*, newly-elected Canadian Prime Minister and boxing enthusiast Justin Trudeau remarked, "People think boxing is about how hard of a punch you can throw, but boxing is really about how hard a punch you can withstand and keep fighting."

Our best response to life's interruptions is depending on Christ to work *through* us. If Christ is living in me through His Word, it will shape my responses. If I try to manhandle the situation without Christ, it's likely I'll fail and make a mess in the process. Christ allows me to withstand life's interruptions and keep fighting.

For those who have been called to serve God, who are seen by others as ambassadors of Christ, it is not enough to have an effective plan for our life and ministry. We must also respond well to the interruptions that can derail the best-made plan, not just for our own benefit, but for those who look to us for guidance, wisdom, and strength.

1. Visualize your name written on the outside of a small envelope. Then visualize sealing your envelope into a larger one with the name of *Jesus* written on the outside of it. Then place both of these envelopes within a larger one with *God—The Father* written on the outside.
2. Now, reread John 14:20.



Lord, give me the wisdom to remember I cannot control when interruptions impact my life. I can only control my response to them by knowing and applying Your Word. Thank You for the assurance that You live in me and are guiding me always. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Dr. D. Doran Bugg
Chair of Music Department
Belhaven University, Jackson, MS

WEEK 1—SATURDAY

The Basics

You brought my inner parts into being; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for You made me with fear and wonder; marvelous are Your works, and You know me completely. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, and intricately put together in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw me unformed, yet in Your book all my days were written, before any of them came into being.

Psalm 139:13–16 (MEV)

I often see people who seem blessed beyond what the average human deserves. I can't help but notice when a new colleague has a new CD out, was published, or got a promotion. My first reaction usually isn't excitement for them. It's usually more like, "Why do *they* get all the attention?" or "I'm better than him, why does he get all the cool gigs?"

When these thoughts creep into my mind, I try to go back to the basics. God made me who I am: the good, the bad, and the ugly. I know it seems basic, but I have to constantly remind myself that I am made to be who I am because the Master Creator molded me this way. Read and reflect on Psalm 139.

God placed me where I am. We are not in our positions because of our skill, talent, or education. God placed us in positions of influence no matter where we fall on the worldly scale of success. Mary and Joseph didn't just happen to be in the room where the angels appeared. It was no accident that Joseph was in that pit. Moses wasn't on a joyride down the Nile. God ordained every one of these events. The same is true for us. Whatever it is you are doing today, God has placed you there for a specific purpose and reason.

God loves me the way I am. Sometimes, we can begin to believe that God made us, but He must not *like* us. Not true! God adores you. When God looks at you and me, He sees a wonderful, intimate act of creative genius. "I will praise You, for You made me with fear and wonder; *marvelous are Your works, and You know me completely.*" Did you get that? "Marvelous are Your works." You are His handiwork. The next line says, "and You know me completely." That means even the stuff you don't want anyone to know about, He knows and still thinks you're pretty great.

God uses the good and the bad. Think about David, a "man after God's own heart," who made some stupid choices. Some of us feel like God has limited our success because of past failures or mistakes we have made. While I believe God molds us, He does not punish us because of our mistakes. We must allow our mistakes and failures to be the things that sharpen us into the image of Christ. Turn your *failures* into *features*. Let Christ turn your *mess* into your *message* and your *mistakes* into your *mission*.

1. What are some of the beliefs you have about who God is that may be false?
2. How can your past mistakes mold your message today? What have you learned from past failures that you can turn into features to demonstrate God's goodness?



*Lord, help us use all of our experiences, both good and bad, to point people to You today. Help us make our **mistakes** our **message** and our **tragedy** our **testimony** today. Amen.*

Brent Dyer
Lead Worship Pastor
Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston, TX

WEEK 1—SUNDAY

The Process of Worship

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah’s Commission—Isaiah 6:8 (NASB)

Have you ever thought about what should take place in worship? Isaiah 6 gives us an exceedingly vivid picture of worship that should occur inwardly as we experience authentic biblical worship. We must be so consumed (vv. 1–3) by God’s presence that we surrender ourselves completely in total abandonment in our adoration and praises to Him. We should be convicted (vv. 4–5) of our rebellion against God, humble ourselves, and confess our sins.

We should realize the importance of asking God to forgive us of our sins and cleanse (vv. 6–7) us from all unrighteousness. Then, we can be commissioned (v. 8). When we are a clean, pure, and authentic vessel, God can use us however He sees fit to advance the kingdom. Our Sunday worship should be a fragment compared to our worship throughout the entire week.

1. Are you truly preparing your heart for worship and asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you or are you simply going through the motions?
2. What are some worship experiences that have changed and impacted your life?



Father, we ask You to create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Cleanse us of anything that is not of You and may our spirits be consumed by Your presence, convicted when dishonoring Your name and humbled enough to ask for forgiveness.

Tommy Quinn
Associate Pastor of Worship
First Baptist Church Tillman’s Corner, Mobile, AL

WEEK 2—MONDAY

The Value of Vision

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV)

Recently, my wife and I traveled to the coast. There is nothing like a morning stroll along a desolate beach just before the onslaught of crowds, chairs, and umbrellas. The chatter of hovering seagulls calls for a fresh perspective. Typical in popular beach communities, million-dollar residences peer over the sand dunes, each home boasting impressive views.

As we enjoyed our sunrise saunter together, a loud boom interrupted the solitude. To our amazement, a traditional beach house was being destroyed by a wrecking ball! As we watched, shingled walls, windows, and doors were being smashed into rubble and we both wondered why.

Later, we had a conversation with the demolition supervisor regarding the demise of this vintage bungalow. He explained that there was more value in this ocean view lot than in the actual building. Sometimes the view has more value!

As a leader in ministry, I've discovered that communicating a "spirit-led" vision is highly valuable. A compelling vision encourages others to join in. A healthy ministry vision aims and defines our impact to the glory of God! People are motivated when they sense that the vision is God-sized.

1. Do you have a captivating ministry vision for your specific area of ministry?
2. Are you effectively communicating God's vision to those you lead?



Lord, I desire a fresh ministry perspective and a God-sized vision for my life and ministry calling. Forgive me for thinking small or treasuring successes of the past more than seeking new revelation for effective ministry possibilities . . . until the whole world hears of YOU!

Rick Briscoe
Associate Pastor of Worship
Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, TX