

# Evening Devotionals

June 16 — Friday — William Lankford

June 17 — Saturday — Sydney Banks

June 18 — Sunday — Jay Schremmer

June 19 — Monday — Sadie Malone

June 20 — Tuesday — Ah-Gust Overbeck

June 21 — Wednesday — Brody Widener

June 22 — Thursday — Mary Shull

June 23 — Friday — Alysa Owens

## Daily Devotions



# Alone with the Lord



Honolulu

# Friday, June 16, 2023

Matthew 28:19 - “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.”

The Great Commission is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible, but one that I come back to whenever I need reassurance about God’s will for me. Mission Tour is a really good opportunity for us, as we get a chance to live out the Great Commission. One of our main jobs while we’re there is to share the gospel with anyone who hasn’t heard the good news. We are Christ’s hands and feet, sent out by Him to make more disciples. A lot of people on the island haven’t even heard of Jesus or what believing in Him means, so we need to be ready to share the Word whenever the opportunity arises, whether we’re singing, teaching, or working with the people we meet. What we’re going to do isn’t an easy task, and it’ll take work and focus and purpose. Keeping Matthew 28 in mind is something that we can all do to help stay on track this Tour. We are the modern-day disciples being sent out to share the gospel with anyone who wants to listen and hear it. Our work in Hawaii can change lives and hearts, something that we shouldn’t take lightly. Keep your eyes and hearts open! God can work in surprising ways through us!

— Lucy McClain



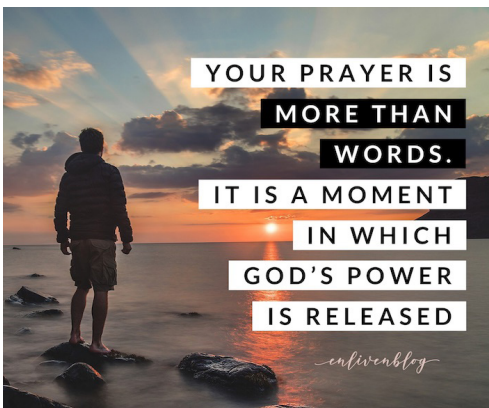
AND MAKE DISCIPLES



# Saturday, June 17, 2023

## The Power of Prayer

What is prayer? In simple terms, prayer is our way to have a conversation with God. It is our way to express how we feel about different things to the Lord. It is our way to express our fears and our praises. With knowing all this and learning that prayer is a way to praise God, I don't really do it enough. I take my relationship with God for granted. I go past Him when I'm stressed or scared. Instead I go to myself, even when God is always there to help. Prayer is our way to talk to a best friend without feeling insecure or scared to tell that person how we feel. In Philippians 1:9-11 it says, "And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God." In this verse we are being prayed for. We might not be doing the praying, but this prayer will still affect us in the way God wants it to. That is why we are given the chance at any time, day or night, to talk to God. We do not have to wait for a certain time; prayer is always there, and God might not answer right away, but He hears you. He knows that you are important and that your prayer means something. He has thought of the right time to answer before you even prayed, because He has a plan. No matter if the plan is small or big, it is the way He wants you to work for Him and in Him.



— Lucy Clay



# Sunday, June 18, 2023

Romans 12:1 — “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God— this is your true and proper worship.”

In the verse above, the apostle Paul is explaining that we Christians need to give our lives as an offering and service to the Lord. God has demonstrated for each of us what it means to be a living sacrifice. He not only humbled Himself and died on the cross for our sins, but He also lived to serve others. For example, He took His time to feed huge groups of hungry people (Matthew 14:13-21); healed the lame and the blind (John 5 and 9); washed His own disciples’ feet (John 13:1-17); protected a woman who was about to be stoned (John 8:1-11); etc.

Additionally, we are not just called to serve others, but also to rejoice always (Philippians 4:4). So while doing this, we need to have a positive attitude that shows God’s immeasurable love and our gratefulness. My mom tells my sister and me, “We are blessed to be a blessing.”

While on this incredible trip to Hawaii, we need to continually look to God and allow Him to move through us. Not only that, but I pray that we will look to God to find true lasting joy and to always know that our hope is secure in Christ. I’m excited for what this week holds, and I know God can work through each of us while we spread the incredible gospel of Christ.

— Ah-Gust Overbeck



# Monday, June 19, 2023

## Live in Love

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is Love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

- 1 John 4:16 (NIV)

We have the honor to share the love God first showed us with the people of Hawaii. It is through God’s love that we have the privilege to share the gospel.

Choir Tours have been and continue to be some of the most enjoyable and educational times of my life. With that being said, when the days are long and the nights are short, half way through, everyone becomes quite tired. There are times, you will think, if you had any less sleep you could not keep going. And, when the people whom you normally like seem to annoy the living daylights out of you, do not be discouraged. On trips such as these, we must always assume positive intent. We should give grace, and kind understanding when it is needed. It is important to try to be considerate and forgiving. But most of all, we should Live in Love.

To Live in Love means to live with the empathy of Christ, the forgiveness of God, and the understanding of the Holy Spirit.

*let all that  
you do  
be done in  
love.*

— Lily Bankston



# Tuesday, June 20, 2023

As we experience this wonderful time in Hawaii, let's be reminded to be bold with our faith here and to not become forgetful of the great opportunity we are given to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to those in need. I am personally inspired by the story of Acts 8:26-40, the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. Philip, commanded by the Holy Spirit, runs to help an Ethiopian understand a passage in Isaiah, and ultimately shares the gospel with him which ends up with him becoming a believer. What's important to note is that Philip obeyed the Holy Spirit here, going as far as to run to catch up to the Ethiopian who was in a chariot. Now, just like Philip, we are also commanded by the Holy Spirit to 'run' and share the gospel with everyone in the world, even if we are thousands of miles away from home. While it may be scary at first, the power of God is stronger than anything else imaginable and will help us with any fears we have. And if we never forget to be bold with our faith, we can and will make a difference in the lives of others, just as Philip did in the life of the Ethiopian.

— Jay Schremmer



# Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV): “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

As we go about our time in Hawaii, we will grow heavy laden with our labor to serve the Lord. No matter how much fun we may have or how busy the schedule may be, there will always be time, especially late in the trip, where we grow tired and weary. In our tiredness we may take out anger on our roommates, friends, or through actions in our service. In these times of struggle where we all are tired, not only because we lack sleep, but also tired of the people around us or having to always do something, this passage tells us to turn to God. I encourage everyone to have a quiet time in the morning or night to help give your soul rest. By doing so Jesus says that we will find rest in our souls with Him, and He will help us as we go about in service to Him. This is a passage that I think we need to keep in the back of our minds through this Choir Tour, future Choir Tours, and as we go about life back in Nashville. It is important to keep Jesus at the forefront of our minds as we serve the Lord in ministry and not go through the motions as we serve.

— Daniel Clay





# Thursday, June 22, 2023

## God's Calming Presence

At times, life can be very tense and overwhelming. During these times I have learned to use God as a very calming presence. Last Christmas, I received a box of wristbands with Bible verses on them. One of the wristbands had the verse Philippians 4:13 on it. I decided to wear the wristband to help remind me of God. I had also started to play baseball for high school at around that time. High school baseball can also become very stressful and eventful during the games. At times, I would feel very anxious and worried about messing up for my team. Then, I realized I was able to use my wristband and God as a way to calm me and clear my mind. Before every inning I would recite the verse to myself to calm down. Along with that I would also say, "Through the thick and thin." Baseball is a very mental sport and it is easy to get into your own head. Telling myself "through the thick and thin" helped me calm down, and even if I messed up to realize that God is always with me and there is nothing to be nervous about. You can also use this method in many other aspects of life. Trusting in God through the thick parts of life is sometimes very difficult to do, but you must know that He has a plan for everything. Also, to trust Him during the fun parts of life. It's very easy to think that only in the hard moments of life is when you need to pray, but also to pray for what you have received or gained is key. This year I was able to use His presence to calm me and I have now recognized I can use that all throughout my life. It has given me a calming sense and hope that you will be able to use it for anxious moments in your own life.

— Ben Clay

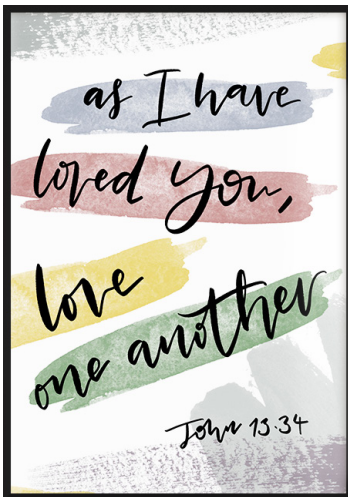


# Friday, June 23, 2023

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. - John 13:34*

Sometimes it's hard to get along with others, even other Christians. Matthew 5:40 says, "But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." That can be hard to do. And as humans with a sin nature we don't always make the right choice. But as Christians, God wants us to try and resist sinning back at others. In John 13:34, Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Think about a time when you were in a disagreement with someone, or they had wronged you. Would that scenario have ended better if you had just kept quiet? Or even responded in love? God does not want us to suffer abuse, but He does want us to strive to love others, even our enemies. That is really hard, but we don't have to do it alone: God is with us. When someone is unkind, pray and remember if He is for us, who can be against us?



— Adeline Banks



# Saturday, June 24, 2023

Galatians 6:10

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Even as I write before we depart, I am sure of this: by now we have done good. We have shared the gospel with non-believers. We have given of our abundance to those who have little. We have comforted the weary and hopeless. We have been good and faithful servants.

But as we travel home, Paul reminds us to do good, especially to those in our family of believers—those we encounter week in and week out, whose presence it’s so easy to take for granted. Our church family is best equipped to support us in our mission work and our own walks with the Lord. Why should we not do good to them most of all?

As we return home, my challenge to myself and you is this: do good to those who have supported you. To those who spent countless hours and dollars to get us here. To those who have been in prayer from the home front. To those who will hear our stories when we return. We have done good to the world. Let’s journey back home with a sense of accomplishment and a new resolve to do good, especially to those who stand beside us in faith.

— William Lankford

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,  
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,  
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,  
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,  
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,  
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,  
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

- JOHN WESLEY -

