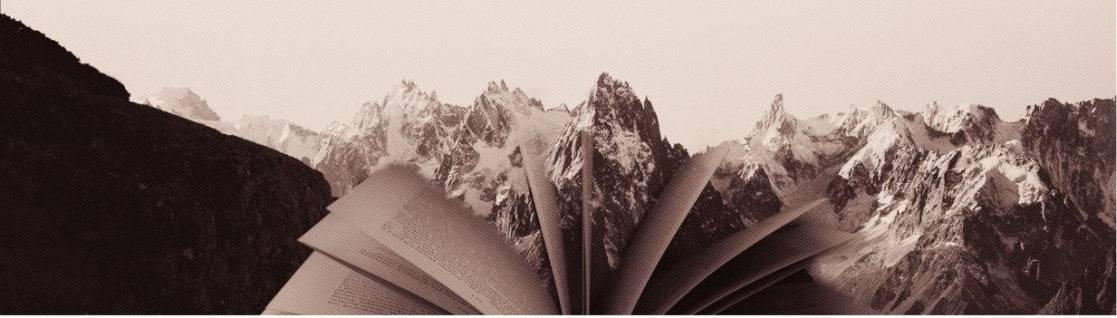


# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

## *Daily Devotions*

Get the most out of the  
book of Ephesians by  
spending regular time  
reading and pondering  
the word of God



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

*Day 22*

Read: **Ephesians 3:14-21**

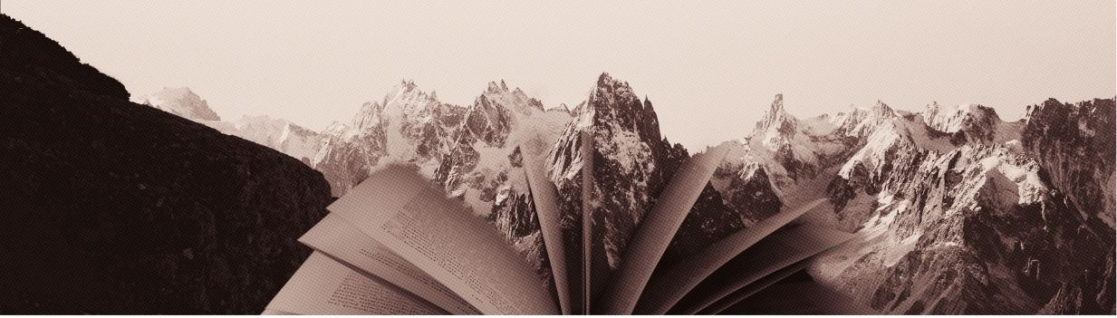
FOR THIS REASON – the start of the chapter is now referenced. There was a long detour, but now, Paul will get to it. I KNEEL BEFORE THE FATHER (side note: when was the last time you knelt in worship? Or knelt beside your bed to pray? There is so much in that humble posture) FROM WHOM EVERY FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH IS NAMED.

I love my maiden name. Bronwyn Hilary Harper-Knight. It spoke to my history and my paternal family who I loved (Harper) but included my stepdad who was the only father I'd known, and made me part of his family, a family with a rich Christian and farming heritage (Knight). My sister and I were the only two in the world (my brother had stuck with Harper only); then we married brothers, and both became Bonnells. The name "Harper-Knight" was done...



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

The early Christians had fathers they were proud of, especially the Jews. Their names of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob carried weight. Being of the tribe of Benjamin, or Judah, mattered. These things meant a lot and were things the Gentiles were never going to be able to be a part of. Even though Paul could be a part of it all, he makes sure they know these names are incidental. The patriarchs are nothing compared to the OG patriarch – our Father. This does away with comparison leading to inferiority. You aren't a Mackenzie? Who cares, you have your Father's name. You aren't a Vanderbilt? Who cares, you have your Father's name! You aren't a Harper-Knight? Who cares, you have your Father's name.

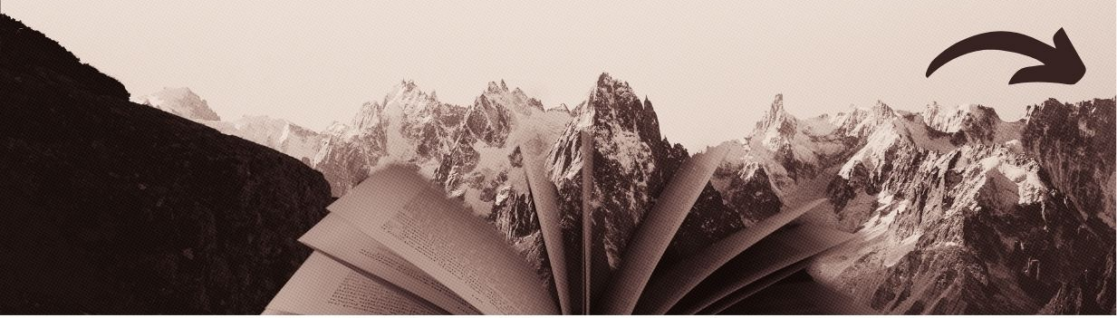


# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Day 23

Read: **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Paul's prayer: I PRAY THAT ACCORDING TO THE WEALTH OF HIS GLORY Paul immediately lifts our sights from an earthly system with finite resources, to the unlimited, abundant resource of our Father's glory. He prays not with our lack in mind, but His fullness in mind. HE WILL GRANT YOU TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER PERSON Our inner person, subject to questions, doubts, speculations, fears, worries, keeping us awake at night, looking to protect ourselves or appease others, that inner person, strong, empowered, not by positive thinking, not by willpower, not by might, not by power, but by His Spirit. THAT CHRIST WILL DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH it is by grace we are saved, through faith, and as we surrender to Him, He takes up residence with us...

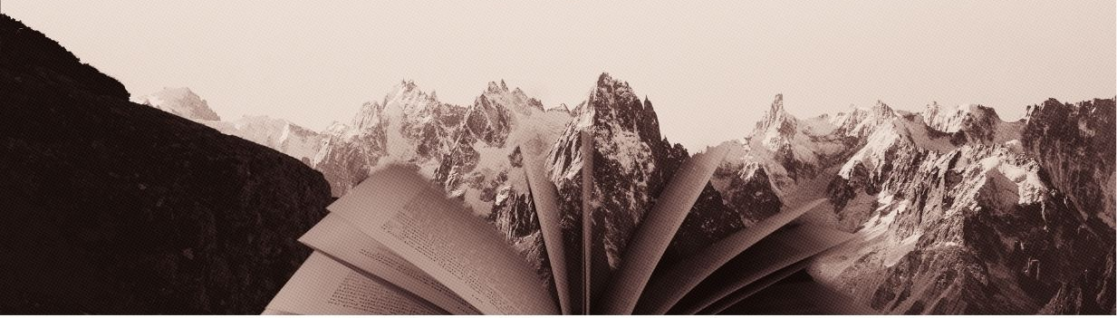


# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Why would Paul pray that our inner person is strengthened with power through the Spirit, that our hearts are full of Christ through faith? SO THAT, BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH AND LENGTH AND HEIGHT AND DEPTH, AND THUS TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE.

Here is an anomaly. Paul prays that we would know the love of Christ, all of us together, that we would start there and continue in awe and wonder there, knowing it more and more...but it surpasses knowledge. So, know it, but you can't know it?

We can never fully know it – not until that day we know all things. Then the full knowledge of His love will blast us in technicolour, and even as at the glimpses we are undone, then we will be completely undone. Why would Paul have us know this? SO THAT YOU WILL BE FILLED UP WITH ALL THE GOODNESS OF GOD. Well, Amen.



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Day 24

Read: **Ephesians 3:14-21**

NOW TO HIM - WHO BY THE POWER THAT IS WORKING WITHIN US IS ABLE TO DO FAR BEYOND ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK – TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS AND TO ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER AMEN.

Paul takes a quick riff off to give God glory. That is his aim here. Let's always remember that, even as we hear v20 quoted much more. V20 is a brain explosion! It's incredible! But the point is to give God glory. For the church to display His glory. For Jesus to display His glory to all generations! We are receiving His glory, for His glory.

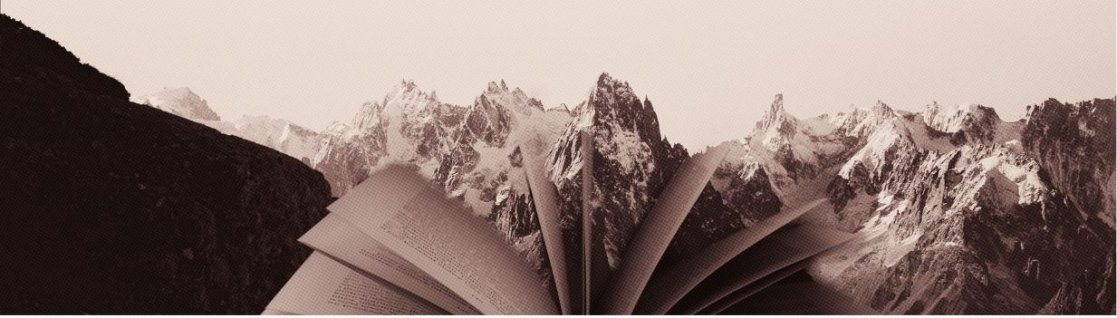
How about v20 though? This reiterates 1:19-20, talking about this great power. This is why Jesus was able to say “you will do greater things than me” because He gave His power by His Spirit **TO US** and by His Spirit **IN US**, He can do more than we can ask, think, or imagine!...



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

We are a bunch of little Christs invading earthly territory with heavenly power! This is why the insult “Christian” – little anointed ones – was taken as yes and amen by the early church. We’ll take that! You, me, us, we are able to do far more than we ask, think, or imagine, because it is Him working in us! It is so small for us to appropriate this verse to a private jet or a house with a picket fence; nothing about this passage is suggesting earthly blessings, but rather, us playing our part in filling this earth with His glory.

Thank God for the reality that no matter how you feel, you are anointed and appointed by God.



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

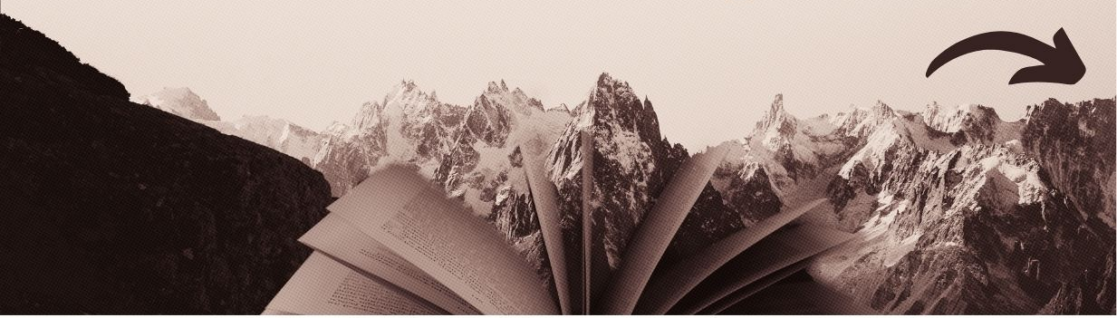
Day 25

Read: **Ephesians 4:1-16**

Paul calls himself a prisoner of the Lord. He is writing this letter from a very real, very physical prison cell, but he declares that he is the Lord's prisoner. This plays out on 2 fronts:

1. As elsewhere in the New Testament, our belonging to God is not simply that we're best friends, it is that we belong to Him. We have been purchased by Him. He is not only our Saviour, He is our Lord – we are referred to as His children, as His servants, as His slaves. That is the level of submission, deference and allegiance that we need to surrender to.

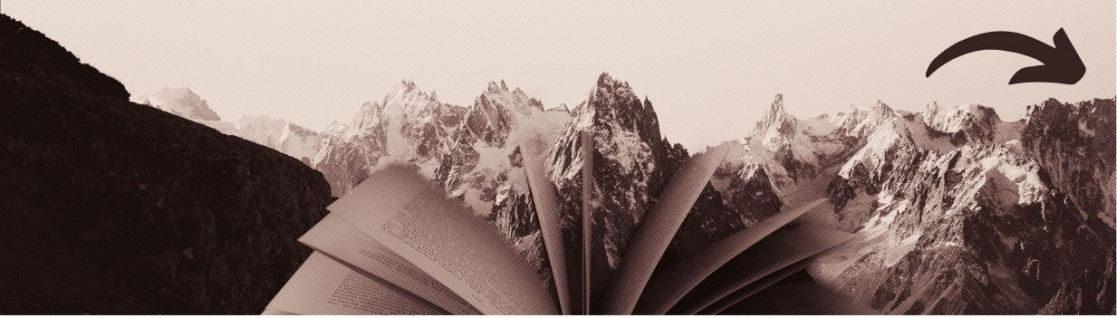
2. Paul is acknowledging that God has allowed this imprisonment to happen, so He was the Lord's prisoner. Every trial we go through, we should look for what God would do in us, grow in us, in the middle of it, because whatever the enemy might use for evil, God will take and use for our good...





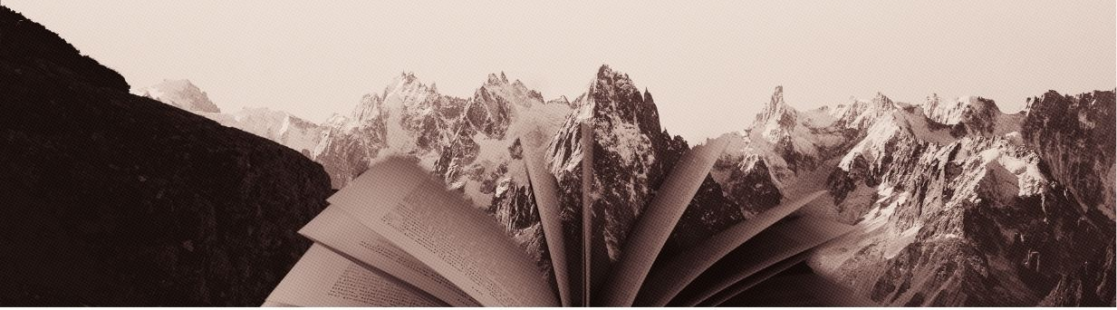
# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Paul then urges us to live worthy of our calling. If you have surrendered to Jesus, your calling is never in question. But now we must live up to it. My kids have often felt the pressure of being my kids – felt like they couldn't say no when asked to serve, felt like there was a spotlight on them, or greater expectations. Having not been a pastor's kid myself, it took me a long time to understand them. I had to try and help them ignore unnecessary expectations, but I don't want them to ignore that they're my kid, our kids, and God's kids. I want them to live with our family values of kindness, inclusiveness and generosity. I want them to be great representatives of Jesus in every sphere. We don't **work for** our salvation, but our salvation is **outworked** (or should be) in the way we live. Linnea was telling me that BC (before Christ) in her life, when she'd head out to a party her parents would say "remember your last name!" as in, represent us well...



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Here, we are given 5 outworking's; because we are all one in Christ, we all have the same Holy Spirit. Which do you want to ask for God's help with today? Humility? Meekness (strength wrapped in gentleness)? Patience? Putting up with one another in love? Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace? Ask Him now.



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

*Day 26*

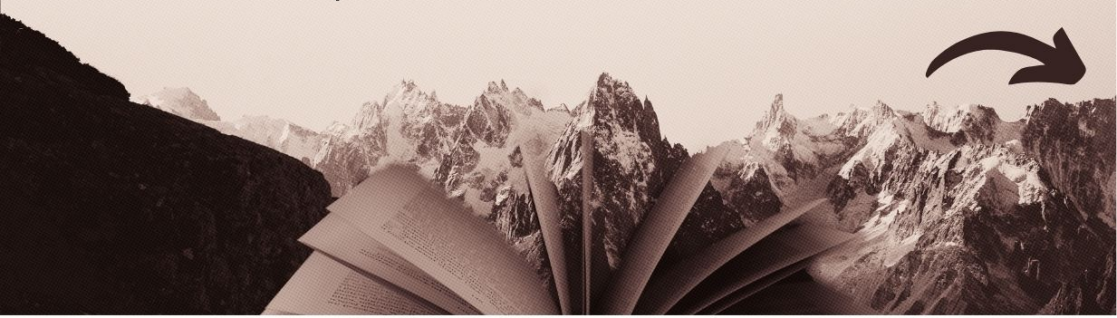
Read: **Ephesians 4:1-16**

In verses 7-16 we see the concepts of gifts and maturity. This is the context of gifts: Jesus had come to earth, died, resurrected, and ascended. WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE (come on somebody! We are FREEEEEEEE); HE GAVE GIFTS...

The gifts listed here are often referred to as ascension gifts, because they are given when he ascended. Actually, as the Holy Spirit was given when Christ ascended, that name is just a helpful differential.

**Apostles:** the leader, builder, establisher. Their passion is the kingdom of God, especially the church on the earth.

**Prophets:** The New Testament prophet hears from God and helps the church hear from Him also. Their passion is God's voice...



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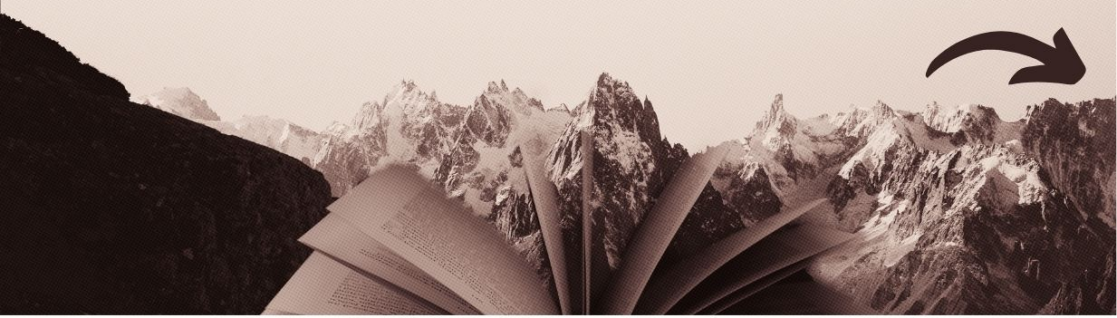
**Evangelists:** Want to see people saved, and others off their butts and mobilised for the gospel. Their passion is the lost.

**Pastors:** They want to see people cared for and guided well. Their passion is the flock (the people).

**Teachers:** Are desperate that everyone would learn and understand the Word. Their passion is the Word of God.

(Many scholars combine the pastor/teacher into one gift).

When these 5-fold gifts are in operation, the church as a movement, the people themselves, the body of Christ is being built **up** so that it can go **out**. The gifts are given to be passed through and on to others. The idea is that we get built up and up together, more and more united in our faith, deeper and deeper in our understanding of who Jesus is...



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

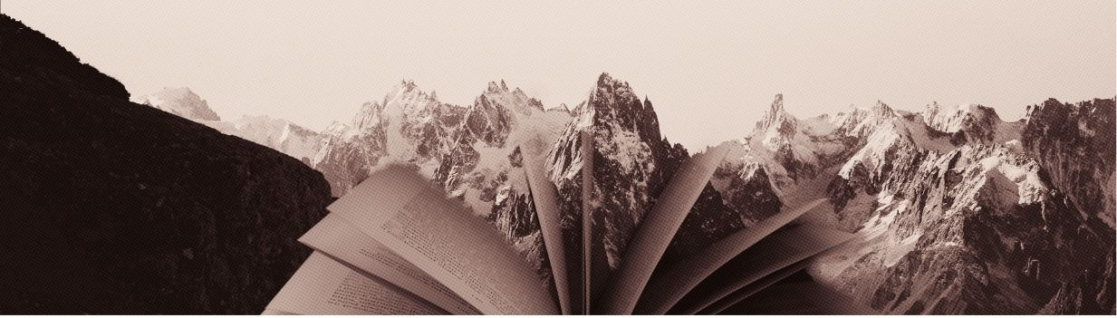
These are stated marks of maturity here: not years since deciding to follow Jesus, not credentials, not podcasts listened to – but building up (not tearing down), the body of Christ, and growing in unity in Christ.

We are given gifts uniquely by Jesus' own generosity.

Unwrap your gift. Unpack your gift. Get the right batteries and read the right instruction manual for your gift, without worrying what anyone else's gift is.

No one wins with comparison.

Also, growing in unity and understanding of who Jesus is means that we shouldn't be getting whiplash every time some new flavour of the month – preacher, practise, program – comes on to the scene. Knowing who we are, knowing whose we are, and wanting the same for others means that **AS EACH ONE DOES ITS PART, THE BODY BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE.**



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

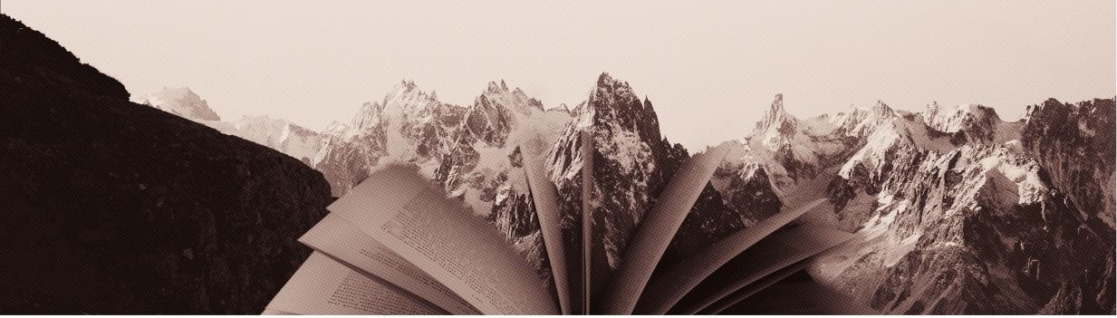
*Day 27*

Read: **Ephesians 4:17-24**

Very direct and straightforward passage here. Similar to Paul's instruction to live a life worthy of their calling, he now exhorts the reader to live differently to those around them. He mentions the world's corruption and reminds them: you let that go. Make sure you leave it behind. And leave no more room for it, by being renewed and grounded in truth.

So how about you? What have you continued in, or let go of, but taken up again? If it's in your actions, confess them, and ask God for help. If it's in your speech, confess it, and ask God to put a stop on your mouth when you go to say the wrong thing. If it is in your thinking, confess it and ask God to help you in the way that you think.

You are new now. Leave the old you in the past.



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Day 28

Read: **Ephesians 4:25-32**

Therefore – in light of what has just been said about  
the necessity of truth –

Your version might have different words, but it  
essentially runs like this:

Let go of:	Lay hold of:
Lies	Speaking truth with each other
Sinners in your anger, letting things stew	Sorting things out
Stealing	Working and helping
Dodgy talk	Beneficial talk
Bitterness, anger, wrath, quarrelling, slander and gossip	kindness, compassion, and forgiveness



# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Have a look at these lists. Which areas are you winning in? Thank God for the changes He has made there and how far He has brought you. Commit the areas that need work to Him.

As we let go and lay hold, we are not allowing the enemy an opportunity. He is always looking for an opportune time to steal, kill, and destroy, and he will use the words that come out of our mouths to destroy the speaker and the hearer. He will use the works of our hands to destroy the offender and the offended.

Saints let's not give him the opportunity. As we are sealed by and have the Holy Spirit with us always, we do not want to grieve Him. The beautiful, humble, sensitive Holy Spirit – we don't want to be without His felt presence. That is why we quickly repent, let go, and lay hold, every day, constantly remembering that we are forgiven ourselves.

