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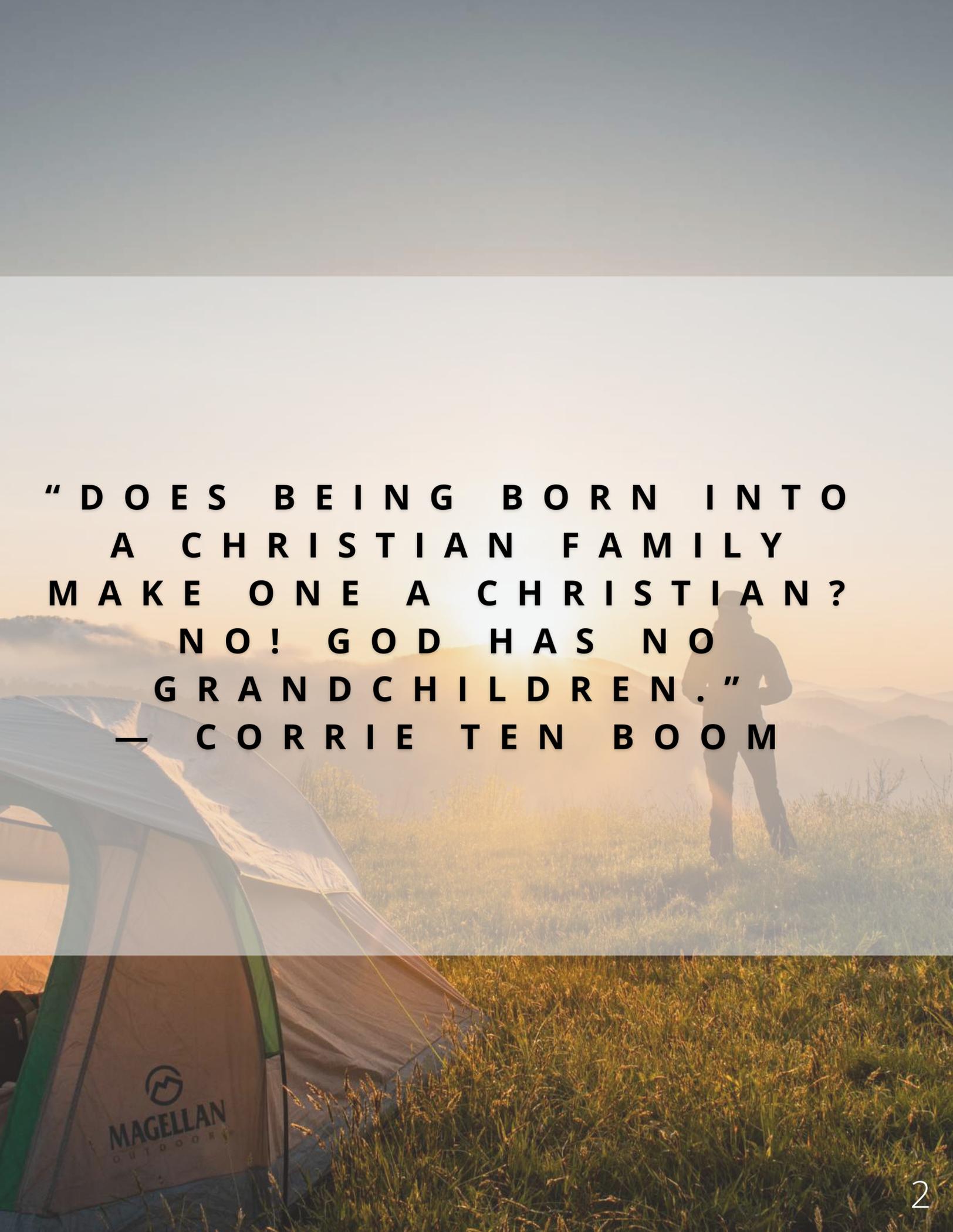
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**SPIRITUAL DIGEST**



A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset sky, standing on a grassy hill. In the foreground, a white tent with green accents is partially visible. The text is overlaid on the image.

**“ DOES BEING BORN INTO  
A CHRISTIAN FAMILY  
MAKE ONE A CHRISTIAN?  
NO! GOD HAS NO  
GRANDCHILDREN.”  
— CORRIE TEN BOOM**

  
**MAGELLAN**  
OUTDOOR



# BEING EMPTIED SO THAT WE CAN BE RICH IN CHRIST AND ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM

**Mark 10:21 And Jesus, looking upon him, was moved with love for him and said to him, One thing you lack: go; the things you have, sell and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**

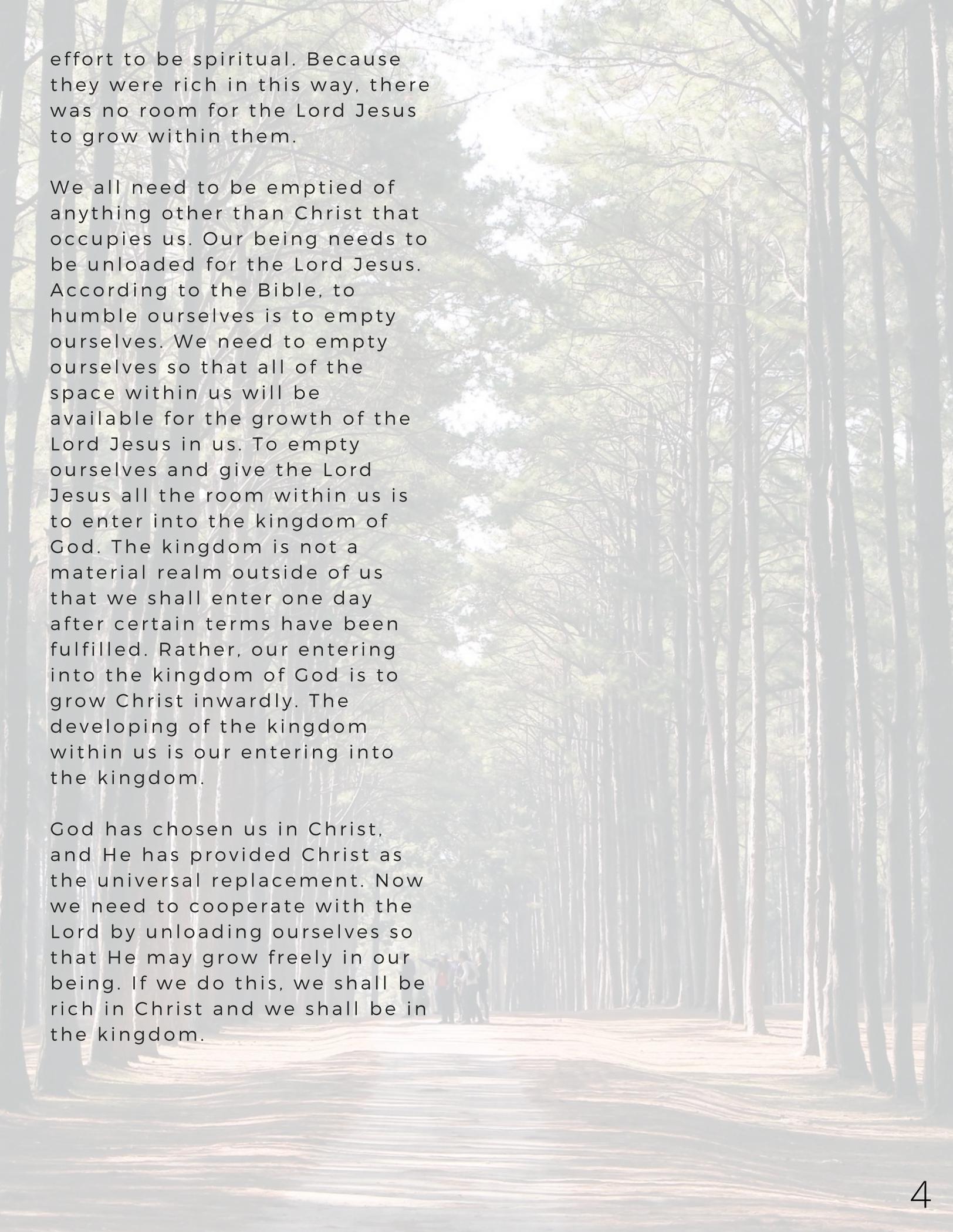
**Mark 10:27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God.**

The incident concerning the rich man in Mark 10 is an illustration of our need to be free from being occupied by anything except God Himself. After the rich man went away sorrowing, the Lord said to His disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" (10:23). Some who read this may say, "God isn't fair. Why can a poor man enter the kingdom of God, but not a rich man?" The rich man could not enter into the kingdom of God because his being was occupied by things other than God. There was no room in him for Christ to grow

into a kingdom. (The kingdom of God is not a material realm. The kingdom of God is the Lord Jesus growing and developing within us.)

When some read about the rich man in Mark 10, they may rejoice over the fact that they are poor and not at all like the rich man. However, you may be quite rich in things other than material wealth. Even the young ones may be rich in matters that are replacements for Christ, rich in culture, religion, ethics, morality, philosophy, improvement of character, and the effort to be spiritual, scriptural, holy, and victorious. Or they could be rich in education, social circles, the knowledge of other things.

What does it mean to be rich in Mark 10? To be rich means to be occupied by something other than the Triune God. In my years of serving the Lord, I have met hundreds of even Christians who were rich in things other than the Triune God. They were rich in such things as Bible knowledge, traditional theology, and the .



effort to be spiritual. Because they were rich in this way, there was no room for the Lord Jesus to grow within them.

We all need to be emptied of anything other than Christ that occupies us. Our being needs to be unloaded for the Lord Jesus. According to the Bible, to humble ourselves is to empty ourselves. We need to empty ourselves so that all of the space within us will be available for the growth of the Lord Jesus in us. To empty ourselves and give the Lord Jesus all the room within us is to enter into the kingdom of God. The kingdom is not a material realm outside of us that we shall enter one day after certain terms have been fulfilled. Rather, our entering into the kingdom of God is to grow Christ inwardly. The developing of the kingdom within us is our entering into the kingdom.

God has chosen us in Christ, and He has provided Christ as the universal replacement. Now we need to cooperate with the Lord by unloading ourselves so that He may grow freely in our being. If we do this, we shall be rich in Christ and we shall be in the kingdom.



## PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD'S MOVE

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**John 15:7** If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

**Matt 6: 7-8** And in praying do not babble empty words as the Gentiles do; for they suppose that in their multiplicity of words they will be heard. (8) Therefore do not be like them, for your Father knows the things that you have need of before you ask Him

Every time believers have a lack, they should first ask whether or not such a lack will affect God. Is it God who ordains that they have such a lack? Or is it God's will that they be supplied? Only after one has seen that it is God's will that his needs be met, should he pray for God to accomplish His will (with regard to meeting his need). The question now is not whether or not you have a lack or that you need to be supplied. The question now is whether or not God's will is accomplished. Although your prayer may be the same as before, your attention is turned to the accomplishment of God's will in such matters and

not to the fulfilling of your own needs. Here lies the failure of many. Believers think that their own needs are the priority. Even after they have understood that God's will is to supply their need, they still pray tenaciously for their own needs. Our needs must be lost in God's will. A direct prayer for the fulfilling of needs (whatever kind of need it may be) is never the noblest prayer. All prayers for personal needs should only be made indirectly while one is seeking for the accomplishment of God's will. This is the secret to prayer, and this is the secret to victory in prayer. God's goal is that we be filled with His will to such an extent that we forget our own interest. God wants us to work together with Him to accomplish His will. The way to work together with Him is to pray. For this reason He wants us to abide in Him to learn His will in various matters and then ask according to His will. Today God is seeking that His children would be willing to be one with His will and through prayer proclaim this kind of union. (c)LSM

# WHY WAS THE DEMON NAMED "LEGION?"

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In Mark 5, Jesus visits the region of the Gerasenes and is immediately confronted by a demon-possessed man who lived among the tombs, cut himself with stones, and could not be kept in captivity (Mark 5:1-5). When Jesus asked the demon what its name was, the demon replied, "My name is Legion . . . for we are many" (verse 9).

In common usage, a legion was the largest unit in the Roman army. At that time, a legion averaged about 5,000 fighting men, though it could have thousands more or fewer. So the term legion refers to any large number of beings; a multitude. When the demon in Mark 5 said that its name was Legion, it meant that the demoniac of the Gerasenes was possessed by a large number of unclean spirits.

Scripture does not say exactly how many demons

comprised the Legion within the man. However, when Jesus cast them out, they entered a herd of pigs feeding nearby. Legion caused the pigs to rush down a hillside and into the sea, where they were all drowned (Mark 5:13). The number of pigs killed was "about two thousand." That detail suggests that Legion was composed of about two thousand demons. The large number of demons may account for the afflicted man's untamable nature and great strength—strength that was no match for God, of course.

There is one other mention of a "legion" in the context of spirit beings, this time of good angels. When Jesus was being arrested, Peter pulled out a sword and wounded a nearby member of the mob. Jesus healed the wound (Matthew 26:51) and told Peter to put away his sword. The Lord reminded Peter that, if He needed help, He could have God send "more than twelve legions of angels" (verse 53). That might total 60,000 angels, but the exact number wasn't the point Jesus was making. Rather, it was to remind the terrified disciples that God is always in control of all circumstances, even during the horrible injustice of the

murder of his own Son.

It is interesting that the Bible refers to both holy angels and demons as forming legions. Legion is a military term, one that fits the Bible's descriptions of spiritual warfare in several places (Daniel 10:13; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:7).

How can we stand against such numerous and powerful foes? God completely equips believers for battle against satanic forces: "Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground" (Ephesians 6:13). As Christians, we are "more than conquerors" through Christ (Romans 8:37). Jesus is our Commander. He is the One who dispatched the demons named Legion with just a word. He it is who will some day throw Legion and all the other demons "into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41; cf. Revelation 20:10).



A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S  
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E  
W A Y



**TO YOU, DEAR LORD**

1

To You, dear Lord,  
I give myself afresh again  
Unsparingly for Your desire,  
Your economy.

2

O, fire from above,  
Come and consume me thoroughly  
That You may be my all,  
My life, my everything.

3

It's Your mercy and Your love  
That I can give myself to You.  
Since it's in like manner  
That You gave up Yourself for me.

4

Set Your throne in my heart  
From now on to the very end.  
It takes eternity to know its worth  
To You, to me.



# BIBLE CHALLENGE

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*GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR*

*5 CHAPTERS A WEEK*



**MONDAY: MARK 8**

[https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41\\_Mark8.htm#Mar8](https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark8.htm#Mar8)

**TUESDAY: MARK 9**

[https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41\\_Mark9.htm#Mar9](https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark9.htm#Mar9)

**WEDNESDAY: MARK 10**

[https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41\\_Mark10.htm#Mar10](https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark10.htm#Mar10)

**THURSDAY: MARK 11**

[https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41\\_Mark11.htm#Mar11](https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark11.htm#Mar11)

**FRIDAY: MARK 12**

[https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41\\_Mark12.htm#Mar12](https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark12.htm#Mar12)

