

## **January 29 — Stop and Consider**

### **READ**

Job 35:1-37:24

Job 37:14, *“Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God’s wonders.”*

### **THINK**

When was the last time you stopped and took in the beauty and wonder of the world around you? It seems that our fast-paced lives and the challenges we encounter cause us to often miss these wonders. Instead, our focus becomes fixed on our current circumstances and the issues at hand. We are unable to see beyond ourselves to experience God’s beautiful creation.

In today’s reading, Job’s friend seems to be reminding him to take a moment, so he doesn’t miss the marvel around him. The Creator of the Universe has put spectacular things around us. He causes amazing occurrences that we take for granted. During the most difficult times, when we can’t see beyond our own circumstances, we need to be reminded of God’s power and sovereignty. Take time to recognize the greatness and majesty of His universe and be in awe of Him. Know that when things seem the most baffling, He is in control!

### **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, Thank You for reminding me that You are in control. It’s easy to focus on my circumstances and lose sight of that. Help me to look up and look around. Remind me of Your wonders and Your sovereignty in this world and in my life. I trust you and I want to keep my eyes fixed on You. Amen.

## January 30 — Never Have I Ever

### READ

Job 38:1-40:5

Job 38:4, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you know so much.”

### THINK

Have you ever played the game “Never Have I Ever?” The objective is to be the last player standing after a series of questions. If you “have” then you’re out.

Let’s play! But, with a slight twist. If your answer is “yes,” you’re in, and if your answer is “no,” you’re out! Have you ever:

- Directed the movement of the stars?
- Told the wind which way to blow and lightning where to strike?
- Kept the sea inside its boundaries?

God literally challenged Job with such questions. Was God trying to show off or impress him? No! God was revealing His ultimate authority and power. He was saying, “I’m God and you’re not.” Why, then, do we have such a hard time keeping Him in His rightful place? Do we really think we can outplay God in the game of life?

When we approach God in surrender and acknowledge His right to rule, we will be living out our purpose. As we do, we’ll experience joy and fulfillment. And **never will we ever** be disappointed with all God has to offer.

### PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for being You! I praise Your name and wonderful works. Help me to approach life in a state of surrender to live out Your will and Your way instead of my own. And may I glorify You in all I do. In Jesus ’name, Amen.

## January 31 — Twice as Nice

### READ

Job 40:6-42:17

Job 42:10, *“When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!”*

### THINK

You build your dream home with love and care. You feel blessed to have such a comfortable and secure dwelling place. Then a huge storm hits, and your house sustains great damage. Your roof is gone, your belongings are destroyed, and your life is shattered. All that remains is the solid foundation on which you'll have to rebuild. Your only hope is in the fact you're insured. The process is slow, but you begin restoration. And when the arduous task is complete, you find you've been blessed with a home twice as nice as what you had before. And, although you remember the pain and strife, you're a survivor, stronger and wiser, more complete and mature.

This is a picture of Job's life. After all he'd lost — his health, children, and wealth — God restored it all. He'd been a man of faith. His “insurance” was living righteously and trusting in God. So, God blessed Job with twice as much as he'd had before. Why? God is in the restoration business. He is our solid foundation.

In times of loss, we must remember that God loves to bless His children and hurts with them along the way. Most importantly, though, is that through it all, God is always faithful and glorified in the end.

### PRAY

Lord, You are faithful. Help me remember this in times of loss. With Your hand upon me, I'm blessed. May You be glorified through me. Amen.

## February 1 — You CAN Do It!

### READ

Exodus 1:1-4:1  
1 Chronicles 6:1-3a

Exodus 3:12a, “God answered, ‘I will be with you.’”

### THINK

At the time, Moses wasn't filled with bravery or confidence in God-given gifts. He kept asking God repeatedly, “Why me?” Even after God showed Moses several miracles, he **STILL** didn't think he was up for the task, yet God chose him to lead His chosen people out of slavery.

We all can relate to Moses. How many times has God showed up and opened your eyes to what He had planned for you, and you lacked trust in your own ability?

God has big things in store for you. Don't allow the enemy's lies or your past to fog your perspective on the gifts and abilities God has given you and how He desires you to use them. Turn *from* your insecurities, your doubt, and turn *toward* God. Even when you don't feel qualified, He will give you what you need and be with you always.

### PRAY

Dear God, Thank You for the gifts and abilities You have given me. Help me remember that, like for Moses, You are with me. I want to turn from my insecurities and turn to what You want!  
Amen.

## February 2 — Don't Cave Under Criticism

### READ

Exodus 4:18-7:13

Exodus 5:21-6:1, *“And they said, ‘May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us. Moses returned to the Lord and said, ‘Why, Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and You have not rescued your people at all. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of My mighty hand he will let them go; because of My mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.’”*

### THINK

Although we may not hear God audibly, there are times we know with absolute certainty what He's asking us to do. If it's a sin issue, it might be something clearly commanded in Scripture. Or, it might be something the Holy Spirit has convicted us of, and wise believers in our lives have affirmed.

Moses received clear directions and had a great opportunity to glorify God in the Israelites' deliverance out of Egyptian slavery. But that deliverance was not immediate, and as their workload increased, they became critical of Moses. So, he turned with an attitude of frustration to God, questioning why He'd sent him there only to bring trouble.

God had a plan, and because Moses followed through with God's commands, he was used in a mighty way. When God leads you to do something, don't cave to criticism or opposition — follow through with your commitment and be used for His glory!

### PRAY

God, I want my life to be used for Your glory. Whatever You ask of me, wherever You call me to go, I want to obey. I choose to follow You, not the voices of criticism that threaten to distract me from Your purposes. I'm all Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## February 3 — Pride Dulls the Senses

### READ

Exodus 7:14-9:35

Exodus 7:22, *“Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron.”*

### THINK

When we find ourselves in the middle of an argument, it’s easy to try and justify our position, even if it doesn’t hold much water. And as tensions continue, we are often fueled by our stubbornness and pride. We’re motivated to stand our ground and not give in, no matter what.

Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh seven times to let the people of Israel go. Even after God showed His power through multiple horrific plagues, Pharaoh still refused to give in.

You may not have faced swarms of locusts or a river of blood, but can you relate? God may be speaking to you, and you don’t even know it. He may be teaching you the same lesson, repeatedly, because it’s not sinking in. If you search your heart, the problem may not be miscommunication — it may very well be pride. When pride rears its ugly head, it has a way of dulling your senses to the truth. If you rant and rave for your will and your way, you’ll never get the traction you need for His will and His way!

Once you realize the truth, your eyes will be open to seeing God’s wisdom. It’s time to relinquish the throne and let God reign. Lean into His guidance, and He’ll show you miracles you never thought possible.

### PRAY

Lord, Open my eyes that I may see the truth in all things. Help me to surrender the reins of my heart to You. Thank You for Your wisdom and guidance. Amen.

## **February 4 — The Blood of the Lamb**

### **READ**

Exodus 10:1-12:51

Exodus 12:13, *“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.”*

### **THINK**

Imagine waking up to loud wailing. It’s the middle of the night, and in house after house, the firstborn son lies dead. It’s a chilling scene. Death striking silently and suddenly, sparing only those with lamb’s blood spread across the doorway.

This dark, dramatic story lays the groundwork for a beautiful illustration of God’s grace. This Old Testament occurrence is a picture of how Christ saves. The Bible says the wages of sin is death, and only the blood of a spotless One, totally innocent and righteous, can protect us from the punishment it brings. He is Jesus, the Lamb of God. Just as death passed over the Hebrew homes and spared their sons, we are spared judgment when we ask for Jesus’ sacrifice to be applied to our lives.

Have you accepted Christ? Will you take the blood He has shed on your behalf and spread it across the doorway of your life? With Him, your eternity will be secure from wailing, sadness, and death. What an incredible promise!

### **PRAY**

Dear God, Though I don’t deserve it, thank You for sacrificing Your Son so that I might live. Thank You for Your great mercy! Come into my life. I commit everything to You. Amen.