

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

May 14

### MONDAY

Solomon acknowledges God's presence and tells Him that his only desire, as he built the Temple, had been to honor God. Then he faces the congregation gathered for the dedication of the Temple, and blesses them.

**READ: I Kings 8:12-15**

Do you see how Solomon strives so diligently to serve God and be His man, and, at the same time, to serve man? "Bless the Lord, O my soul," the Psalmist cried out. Solomon does that by building the Temple with the glory of God in focus. Then he turns and blesses the people around him. What a great model for you and me today! Lord, help us to bless God with our hearts of praise and worship, and to bless man with our deeds and words.

### TUESDAY

Solomon is addressing the great crowd gathered for the dedication of the Temple. He explains again how it was his father David's wish to build the Temple, but that God reserved that privilege for Solomon.

**READ: I Kings 8:16-21**

Notice that Solomon begins and ends his explanation by mentioning the same event - the Exodus from Egypt. (vs. 16 and 21) The Exodus is a picture of God delivering us from sin - of our salvation. It's a picture where the first stroke of the brush and the last both tell the story of how God saves us. If our lives can be compared to a book, we can say that we don't know much about the middle of the book (what God has for us in our lives), but we know how it started - with God drawing us to Himself; and we know how it will end - with God taking us to Himself! Our lives are enveloped by His great salvation!

### WEDNESDAY

Solomon begins his prayer of dedication. He stands before the altar of the Lord raises his hands towards Heaven, and prays, saying that there is no one else like God, for God keeps His promises with His people.

**READ: I Kings 8:22-23**

*There is none like you!* What an awesome way to approach God! That's the reason we pray to Him - because there's no one else like Him! There's no one else to whom I can open up my very soul and pour out my deepest joys and sorrows. God will keep his covenant of love with you and me forever, as we whole-heartedly follow Him. Not half-heartedly. Not one-tenth-heartedly. But whole-heartedly! Help me, Lord, to say today, "Here's my heart, O Lord. It belongs to You. All of it!" Why? Because there is none like you!

### THURSDAY

Solomon continues his prayer by praising God for keeping the promise He had made to David about the building of the Temple.

**READ: I Kings 8:23-24**

Solomon says that God promised with His mouth and fulfilled His promise with His hand. That's why we can trust His promises: because He is able to do what He promises! How many times has a well-meaning friend said to us, "I promise you - everything will be fine." But in fact, everything was not fine. That's because hoping for the best and producing the best are not the same thing. God performs what He says. "Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling... to Him be the power and glory and honor forever more!"

### FRIDAY

Solomon continues his prayer by thanking God for his faithfulness, reminding Him of His promise to David, that one of his sons would sit on the throne.

**READ: I Kings 8:25-26**

Solomon prays to God on the basis of God's promises! Not on the basis of Solomon's commitment or holy living or humility or whatever else. But on the basis that God said! What a great way for us to learn to pray! "Lord, you've promised to be with me today. So thank you for being here now. You have promised to bless Your word as Your people share it with others. Lord, I claim that promise today as I talk to my others concerning the things of God." Then, watch God fulfill His promises!

### SATURDAY

Solomon continues his prayer at the dedication of the Temple: although it is not possible to imagine that God would live in a Temple on the earth, (*even the heavens can't contain Him*, Solomon confesses) still, in some sense, His presence will be there, for He has said, "My name shall be there."

**READ: I Kings 8:27-30**

Solomon asks the Lord to hear the prayers of His people when they pray towards the Temple. Only priests could enter it, but others have it before their eyes, or, if far removed, in their mind's eye as they face Jerusalem as they pray. In our prayers, we need to see the Lord on His throne, high and lifted up, exalted above the nations. Not a Santa Clause who gives presents; not a grandfather who smiles benevolently; and not a fairy god father who waves his magic wand about. We must see God in His glory; God in His majesty; God in his holiness. Let us come before Him in holiness and fear, humbled to behold His majesty. Lord, God Almighty, hear our prayer.