

**Friday**, January 5: Read [\*Psalm 139\*](#)

Let's finish the week's devotional readings on a positive and powerful note. Study this Psalm carefully. Take note of what we can learn about God's character and his genuine love and concern for you. According to this passage, you are intimately known and loved by God. How can this truth help fortify you in the face of daily challenges and difficulties? Where else can you turn in scripture to find comfort and strength from God when you are feeling alone and vulnerable? Pray verses 23-24. Ask God to show you what's going on inside your soul and ask him to guide you in decisions that will draw you closer to him in the coming days.

Notes:



## Spiritual Disciplines

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
  1. *How does this apply to me?*
  2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
  3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

**Monday**, January 1 Read [\*Psalm 90\*](#)

To start out the new year, I would like to take a look at five different passages of scripture (one for each of the next five days) and ask God to help us evaluate our lives in the light of his word. Turn today to Psalm 90, "The Psalm of Moses". Read this passage pensively. Moses writes from the desert. He seems to be experiencing an existential crisis. Death and dying are all around him. Notice how he contrasts the transitory nature of human existence with the eternity of God. Underline verse 12 if you haven't already, and ask God how you can literally apply Moses' plea to your present life situation. Not to do so would be foolish. Note also Moses' prayer in verse 17. What "work" of your hands would you like to see God bless and establish? Like Moses, are you hoping to make a lasting difference in your life? What kinds of things could you commit time to in the new year to more better live with "a heart of wisdom"? Take note below:

Notes:

### **Pray for Our Missionaries**

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (South Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad Babjack** (InterVarsity), **Salomon Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA)

**Pray for:** My relationship with God, my life roles, my personal needs/weak areas, my goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, January 2: Read [\*Isaiah 38\*](#)

Place yourself in Hezekiah's shoes. If you knew your death was fairly imminent, how would you finish your life? What would you need to do to "put your house (life) in order"? Could you honestly say, like Hezekiah, that you've walked faithfully with him, lived with wholehearted devotion and done what is good in his eyes?

Notice Hezekiah's Psalm of Praise, when God answers his prayer for more time. Few of us will know how near we are to death. And fewer will have a stated time given for future years, but we should all live with full commitment to God and his purposes -- whether our lives are long or short. Do you need to make any adjustments to how you are living so as to better honor God in the future days, weeks or years that he allots you?

Notes:

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

## Wednesday January 3: Read [\*Daniel 4\*](#)

Study Daniel's account of the conversion of King Nebuchadnezzar. Like him, you and I may have a problem with pride and a sense of self-sufficiency. What crisis or tragedies have God brought your way that have served to humble you in the past? By chance, are you needing another dose of humility these days? Note Peter's admonition to us in [\*1 Peter 5:5-9\*](#) and consider how you could apply this to your present life circumstances. Consider telling someone just how God has "spared you" and why you now serve him like Nebuchadnezzar of old (Daniel 4:34-37).

Notes:

**Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church  
(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2017 and beyond.

## Thursday, January 4: Read [\*1 Kings 19\*](#)

Have you ever been burned out, emotionally depressed or spiritually discouraged? If so, read with interest the account of how God rejuvenated one of his choice Old Testament prophets when he'd gotten to the end of his rope. Take note of any principles of renewal that might also apply to your life and even your present difficulties, pressures or temptations. What practical steps can you take now to guard against discouragement, depression and even despair? Who might be someone you can look to or lean on if things get tough in the new year? And who might you be able to help or support with any insights learned from Elijah's crisis in 1 Kings 19?

**Notes:**

**Thursday Pray for "My World"**

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can I invite to church this Sunday?
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.