

## Devotional for the week of February 25

Also available at <http://connellnazarene.wordpress.com>

### Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, You give hope to the hopeless. Come and place your hope in my life today, through Christ, Amen.

### Daily Reading and Reflections

**Prayer:** for the church, for others, and for myself

**Hymn:** “Jesus, Thine All-victorious Love”

Jesus Thine all-victorious love  
Shed in my heart a broad;  
Then shall my feet no longer rove,  
Rooted and fixed in God.

O that in me the sacred fire  
Might now begin to glow,  
Burn up the dross of base desire,  
And make the mountains flow!

O that it now from heav’n might fall,  
And all my sins consume!  
Come, Holy Ghost, for Thee I call;  
Spirit of Burning come!

Refining Fire, go thro’ my heart;  
Illuminate my soul.  
Scatter Thy life thro’ eve’ry part,  
And sanctify the whole.

My steadfast soul, from falling free,  
Shall then no longer move,  
When Christ is all the world to me,  
And all my heart is love.  
– Charles Wesley

### Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, I have loved being in your presence today, help me to continue to recognize your presence in my life this week.

### Monday

**Read:** Exodus 17:1-7

**Reflect:** This passage shows the people of Israel suffering without water, but they do not show endurance, character, or hope. Ultimately, God provides for the people, and they were proven to have no reason to test God after all. Can you identify with the Israelites in this story? What does this passage teach us about the experience of suffering and growth?

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 95

**Reflect:** It may be helpful to re-read Exodus 17:1-7 to remember how the people of Israel hardened their hearts against God. How did God respond to the heard heartedness and testing of the earlier Israelites? How do the first seven verses of this Psalm relate to the rest of the passage? What can we do to remember God’s goodness in times of difficulty and suffering?

### Wednesday

**Read:** John 4:5-42

**Reflect:** Did Jesus give anything to the woman at the well? Why did she believe in Jesus? How does her story give us hope in God?

### Thursday

**Read:** From: “The Privilege of those that are Born of God” a sermon of John Wesley

*Exactly and essentially, the life of God in the soul involves the continuing inspiration of God’s Holy Spirit. It is God’s breathing into the soul, and the soul’s breathing back what it first receives from God. This exchange is a continual action of God upon the believers’ souls and a response of the believers’ souls to God. The Life of God in our souls is his unceasing presence as a loving, pardoning God, who is revealed to our hearts and received by faith. This life requires our unceasing return of love, praise, and prayer. We offer up to him all the thoughts of our hearts, words of*

*our mouths, and works of our hands. Our entire bodies, souls, and spirits become holy sacrifices, acceptable to God in Christ Jesus.*

**Reflect:** How often does Wesley say we experience and respond to God's grace? What do you think Wesley says we are to do if we experience suffering or something that threatens to take our focus away from God? How does the continual exchange of God's action and the believer's soul look in day-to-day life?

### **Friday**

**Read:** Romans 8:6-11

**Reflect:** What does this passage say about a person who would like to have life? How can you practice setting your mind on the Spirit?