Monday, June 8, 2009 -- (Meditation: Romans 8:38-39) God, I know that everyone suffers. At some point every person feels the sharp pangs of tragedy, the void of loss, the anger of helplessness. Yet, O God, You do not leave us to suffer alone, for Your Son drank the whole cup of suffering. And You have shown us what is beyond our suffering . . . where suffering is no more . . . and where joy is endless. Thank You, God, for sharing our suffering, for healing our wounded hearts, and for showing us the glories of what lies beyond. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 -- (Meditation: Psalm 28:7) God, I have to walk a fine line in my work. I have to be strong for others, even when I share their fears. I have to be enthusiastic for others, even when I'm discouraged. Responsibility for the work of others is not an easy weight to carry, and it is lonely. But I'm GLAD I can talk to You. Amen.

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 -- (Meditation: Psalm 29:11) Our National Anthem was written about our flag still waving above the smoke of perilous battle. Our nation still toils and struggles to protect freedom, to spread freedom, and to share the truth that every person has value, has dignity, and has rights because we bear Your image. May our flag always symbolize the land of the free and the home of the brave. May it symbolize the land that opposes oppression and tyranny, and spreads freedom and opportunity. We know that these blessings come from You, O God, and we pray that You will bless America. In Jesus' name.

Thursday, June 11, 2009 -- (Meditation: I Corinthians 15:55-57) O God, when I meditate on the cross, help me to see the Creator of the universe hanging there, rejected and despised. Help me to see the blood on His brow from sharp thorns, the blood on His side from a sharp sword, and the blood on His hands and feet from sharp nails. Help me to see that He did this for me and for all who believe in Him. Help me to see victory in His suffering, and resurrection in His dying. O God, thank you for sacrificing Your Son on the Cross of Calvary, and for His victory over sin and death! Amen.

Friday, June 12, 2009 -- (Meditation: Proverbs 1:5) God, I have so many strong, fixed opinions that I've lost some of my ability to listen objectively, to be open, and to be loving. My need to be right, to defend myself, and to be in control erode careful hearing, new understanding, and spontaneous intuition. God, still my need to control, to justify, to dominate. Grant me the freedom to listen without judging, to forgive without anger, and to trust You without fear. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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