Monday, January 5, 2009 -- (Meditation: Psalm 27:4-5)
God, You are my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? You are the strongholds of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evil advances against me, it will stumble and fall. Though I am besieged, my heart will not fear. Though everything is against me, even then will I be confident. In the days of trouble, You keep me safe. In darkness, You are my light. Praise be Your Name, O God! Amen. (from Psalm 27)

Tuesday, January 6, 2009 -- (Meditation: I John 4:7)
Thank You for unexpected joys! . . . for the one who brought flowers to work . . . for the one who brought in coffee . . . and for the memo that said, "I appreciate what you did." Thank You for the one who put a hand on my shoulder . . . for the one who listened when I needed to talk . . . and for the one who said, "Way to go!" Thank You for glimpses of encouragement, appreciation and thoughtfulness through the day. And God, help me to do these things for others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday, January 7, 2009 -- (Meditation: Isaiah 40:8)
God, when I read the Scriptures, help me to do more than just skim over the words. Help me to enter the scene, to hear what is being said, and to picture, first-hand, what is happening. Help me to lay my worries and cares aside, so I can hear Jesus' words, and learn from His actions. God, let Your Word speak to me, and open my heart to follow You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, January 8, 2009 -- (Meditation: Luke 12:22-26)
God, I'm afraid of failing. I want to rise to the top. I want to be a success. I want my family to be proud of me. But the pressures I feel make me both resentful and scared. Sometimes I try to be someone I'm not. God, teach me what success really is -- success in Your eyes. May I strive simply to live for You and to please You. And may I trust Your promise that "all these things will be added unto you." In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, January 9, 2009 -- (Meditation: II Corinthians 9:6-8)
God, make me a generous and thoughtful tipper. When I eat out, or take a taxi, or have my bags handled, make tipping the joy-of-giving rather than the reluctance-of-obligation. I pray for those who help me, and who make my life better. I want every tip to be a genuine "Thank you." In Christ's name. Amen.
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