

Begin with the preflight checklist:

**Ask for God's blessing:**

**Pray:** Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

**Assert spiritual authority:**

**Say aloud:** As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

**Ask for forgiveness:**

**Pray:** "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of \_\_\_\_\_. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

**Forgive others:**

**Pray:** God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

**Pray:** God, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ (name of person) for \_\_\_\_\_. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the people you know who need physical healing.

**The Holy Spirit**

a deeper dive  
(part seven)

**Bible Reading:****Joel 2: 28**

After all of this

I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your elderly will have prophetic dreams;  
your young men will see visions. (NET)

**Questions:**

- 1) On what kind of people will God pour out his Spirit?
- 2) When God pours out his Spirit on all kinds of people, what will result?

**Worship:**

God pours out his Spirit, not because we deserve or earn it, but because he is generous. Worship God for his generosity, thanking him for his abiding presence.

**Meditation:**

Revisit one of the encounter meditations. (Posted below, after Saturday's devotional.) Refresh your memory with the scripture and then make two passes through it—the first time being present to observe the scene, the second time from the perspective of the main character. Engage with Jesus in the manner suggested by the encounter.

**Concluding Prayer:**

Jesus, you are just as available to us today as you were in the days of your earthly ministry. In fact, through the outpouring of your Holy Spirit, you are more available to us today. Make your presence known to us today and help us to grow in faith in all areas of our lives. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Monday's Exercises.]

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**Forgive others:**

**Pray:** God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

**Pray:** God, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ (name of person) for \_\_\_\_\_. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the people you know who need emotional healing.

**The Holy Spirit**

a deeper dive

(part eight)

**Bible Reading:**

**Acts 2: 38 - 39** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for

you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.” (NET)

**Questions:**

- 1) What does Peter promise will be the consequence of our repentance and baptism?
- 2) For whom is this promise?

**Worship:**

The Holy Spirit is given as a gift for all who repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Consider how freely this gift is given to us. Praise God that it is our repentance, and not our moral perfection, upon which the Spirit is given to us.

**Meditation:**

Revisit one of the encounter meditations with which you’re the least familiar. (The encounters are posted below, after Saturday’s devotional.) Refresh your memory with the scripture and then make two passes through it—the first time being present to observe the scene, the second time from the perspective of the main character. Engage with Jesus in the manner suggested by the encounter.

**Concluding Prayer:**

Jesus, how freely you give the gift of your Spirit! May we live our lives in greater and greater awareness of the one you’ve given to live in and with us. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Tuesday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

**Ask for God's blessing:**

**Pray:** Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

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**Say aloud:** As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

**Ask for forgiveness:**

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"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of \_\_\_\_\_. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

**Forgive others:**

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(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

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(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for salvation and/or spiritual breakthrough for friends and family members who need it.

**The Holy Spirit**

a deeper dive  
(part nine)

**Bible Reading:**

**Luke 11: 13** (Jesus:) If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (*NET*)

**Questions:**

- 1) What is it that even evil parents know how to give to their children?
- 2) According to Jesus, what is it that our Heavenly Father does better than human parents?
- 3) What, according to Jesus, must we do to be given the gift of the Holy Spirit?

**Worship:**

Think about this: God releases to us the greatest possible gift for the asking. Worship God for how eager and willing he is to give the Holy Spirit to us.

**Meditation:**

Revisit your favorite encounter meditation. (Posted below, after Saturday's devotional.) Refresh your memory with the scripture and then make two passes through it—the first time being present to observe the scene, the second time from the perspective of the main character. Engage with Jesus in the manner suggested by the encounter.

**Concluding Prayer:**

Father God, pour into me the gift of your Holy Spirit. And may your Spirit accomplish in me every thing you intend. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Wednesday's Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

**Ask for God's blessing:**

**Pray:** Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

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**Forgive others:**

**Pray:** God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

**Pray:** God, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ (name of person) for \_\_\_\_\_. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the specific needs of immediate family members and loved ones.

**The Holy Spirit**

a deeper dive

(part ten)

**Bible Reading:**

**Titus 3: 5** He saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit... (*NET*)

**Questions:**

- 1) Are we saved through our “works of righteousness”?
- 2) What does our salvation depend upon?
- 3) What role does the Holy Spirit play in saving us?

**Worship:**

Reflect on your salvation: you don’t deserve it; you didn’t earn it, and you can’t pay God back for it. Yet, because of God’s mercy, we have been washed, born again and renewed through the Holy Spirit. Thank God (again) for doing for us that which we couldn’t do for ourselves.

**Meditation:**

Revisit one of the encounter meditations. (Posted below.) Refresh your memory with the scripture and then make two passes through it —the first time being present to observe the scene, the second time from the perspective of the main character. Engage with Jesus in the manner suggested by the encounter.

**Concluding Prayer:**

Father God, I am saved, not by my works, but through yours. Renew me afresh by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Thursday’s Exercises.]



Begin with the preflight checklist:

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**Pray:** Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

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"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of \_\_\_\_\_. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

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(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for government and world leaders—that God would grant them wisdom, courage, knowledge of the truth and genuine faith in him.

**The Holy Spirit**

a deeper dive  
(part eleven)

**Bible Reading:**

**Romans 14: 17** For the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. *(NET)*

The above is written by the apostle Paul in response to a dispute about certain foods (meat which had been sacrificed to idols) and whether it was okay for a Christian to eat them. Paul addressed the issue but then reminded the believers in Rome that not all issues were of equal importance. The essence of the kingdom of God was not about food and drink; the essence was about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Questions:**

- 1) Of what does the kingdom of God consist?
- 2) Paul writes that the kingdom consists of these three things. Do you think this is an all inclusive list, or could it be expanded upon?
- 3) Would it be fair to include the “fruit of the Spirit” in the list of things of which the kingdom consists? (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.)

**Meditation:**

Read quickly through the list of encounter meditations (Posted below.) After each encounter, summarize with one word what the encounter reveals about the character of Jesus.

**Worship:**

Reflect on the character of Jesus. Thank Jesus for who he is. Thank him that his kingdom is characterized by righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Concluding Prayer:**

Jesus, through your Spirit, produce in me the righteousness that you desire me to embody. Let me rest in the peace you offer. Increase my joy. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Friday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

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(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Ask God to bless and protect your congregation. Pray for its members, its ministries and its leaders. Pray that God would bless, encourage, protect and deliver the persecuted church.

**The Holy Spirit**

a deeper dive  
(part twelve)

### **Bible Reading:**

**1 Corinthians 12: 7 - 11** To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. For one person is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, and another the message of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another performance of miracles, to another prophecy, and to another discernment of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. It is one and the same Spirit, distributing as he decides to each person, who produces all these things. (NET)

### **Questions:**

- 1) To whom are the manifestations of the Spirit given? (The answer is found in the first sentence.)
- 2) Which of the gifts has the Spirit has given you?
- 3) Is there a gift that you don't currently have that you'd like?

### **Worship:**

Reflect on the gift giving nature of God: He gives us life and salvation leading to eternal life. He give freely of his Spirit who, in turn, gives gifts to all believers. Thank God for his generosity in all things.

### **Meditation:**

Spend a moment with a favorite encounter. Let the character of Jesus as revealed in the encounter minister to your spirit.

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Jesus, your Spirit is both a gift and a gift giver. Help me to identify the gifts the Spirit has given me that I might better use them for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Saturday's Exercises.]

## **A List of the Encounters** (so far)

### **The Leper**

**Matthew 8: 1 - 3** After he came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. And a leper approached and bowed low before him, saying,

“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” He stretched out his hand and touched him saying, “I am willing. Be clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (NET)

### **The Blind Man**

**Luke 18: 35 - 43** They [Jesus and his disciples] came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many scolded him to get him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called the blind man and said to him, “Have courage! Get up! He is calling you.” He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man replied, “Rabbi, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go, your faith has healed you.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the road. (NET; brackets added)

### **The Synagogue Rule**

**Mark 5: 22 - 24** Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him. (NIV)

### **The Hemorrhaging Woman**

**Mark 5: 24 - 34** Now a woman was there who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years. She had endured a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she kept saying, “If only I touch his clothes, I will be healed.” At once the bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Jesus knew at once that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing against you and you say, ‘Who touched me?’” But he looked around to see who had done it. Then the woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” (NET)

## **Blessing the Children**

**Mark 10: 13 - 16** Now people were bringing little children to him [Jesus] for him to touch, but the disciples scolded those who brought them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” After he took the children in his arms, he placed his hands on them and blessed them. (*NET*)

## **The Bent Over Woman**

**Luke 13: 10 - 13** Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, and a woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up completely. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” Then he placed his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. (*NET*)

## **The Widow**

**Luke 7: 11 - 15** Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. (*NIV*)

## **The Wind and the Waves**

**Luke 8: 22 - 25** One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples and said to them, “Let’s go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. Now a violent windstorm came down on the lake, and the boat started filling up with water, and they were in danger. They came and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are about to die!” So he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they died down, and it was calm. Then he said to them, “Where is your faith?” But they were afraid and amazed, saying to one another, “Who then is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him!” (*NET*)

## **Healing All**

**Matthew 15: 29 - 31** When he left there, Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up a mountain, where he sat down. Then large crowds came to him bringing with them the lame, blind, crippled, mute, and many others. They laid them at his feet, and he healed them. As a result, the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they praised the God of Israel. (NET)

### **The Ten Lepers**

**Luke 17: 11 - 19** Now on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten men with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance, raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went along, they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He fell with his face to the ground at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. (Now he was a Samaritan.) Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to turn back and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to the man, “Get up and go your way. Your faith has made you well.” (NET)

### **“Help My Unbelief”**

**Mark 9: 14 - 27** When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and experts in the law arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran at once and greeted him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” A member of the crowd said to him, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that makes him mute. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able to do so.” He answered them, “You unbelieving generation! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I endure you? Bring him to me.” So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Then Jesus said to him, “If you are able?” All things are possible for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the boy cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Mute and deaf spirit, I command

you, come out of him and never enter him again.” It shrieked, threw him into terrible convulsions, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He is dead!” But Jesus gently took his hand and raised him to his feet, and he stood up. (NET)

### **“Do You Want to Become Well?”**

**John 5: 1 - 9** After this there was a Jewish feast, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool called *Bethesda* in Aramaic, which has five covered walkways. A great number of sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people were lying in these walkways. Now a man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and when he realized that the man had been disabled a long time already, he said to him, “Do you want to become well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am trying to get into the water, someone else goes down there before me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk.” Immediately the man was healed, and he picked up his mat and started walking. (NET)

### **Peter’s Mother-In-Law**

**Mark 8: 14 - 16** Now when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying down, sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and began to serve them. When it was evening, many demon-possessed people were brought to him. He drove out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. (NET)

### **Jesus On the Cross**

**Luke 23: 32, 33a... ...39 - 43** Two other criminals were also led away to be executed with him. So when they came to the place that is called “The Skull,” they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left... ...One of the criminals who was hanging there railed at him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” (NET)



## **“Doubting” Thomas**

**John 20: 24 - 29** Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “Unless I see the wounds from the nails in his hands, and put my finger into the wounds from the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe it!”

Eight days later the disciples were again together in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and examine my hands. Extend your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue in your unbelief, but believe.” Thomas replied to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are the people who have not seen and yet have believed.”

*(NET)*

## **The Man with the Withered Hand**

**Mark 3: 1 - 6** Then Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they could accuse him. So he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Stand up among all these people.” Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or evil, to save a life or destroy it?” But they were silent. After looking around at them in anger, grieved by the hardness of their hearts, he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. So the Pharisees went out immediately and began plotting with the Herodians, as to how they could assassinate him. *(NET)*

## **The Man with an Unclean Spirit**

**Mark 1: 21 - 27** Then they went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law. Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” But Jesus rebuked him: “Silence! Come out of him!” After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. They were all amazed so that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.” *(NET)*

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**The majority of the biblical quotes are from the New English Translation (*NET*)**

NET

New English Translation

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