

Daily Family Devotions

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first.

FRIDAY

“WHEN YOU, TOO, WILL NEED IT”

SCRIPTURE:

John 14:29-31; I John 2:21-25

The 14th through 17th chapters of John are the most poignantly revealing of the Christian faith. Notice how Jesus is continuously comforting, reassuring, promising His power and presence.

The poor disciples still do not realize that Christ is to be crucified and that they will be without Him for three days. Christ alone knows the bewilderment they are about to face — and He repeatedly tells them “so that when it happens you may remember and believe!”

For years, perhaps, you have read the Bible or heard it read; you have learned about the presence of God even in the midst of tragedy and death, and yet, until you have actually arrived at your dark hour, you really don't know what the full meaning of God's presence and comfort is.

Perhaps you can't believe Christ is the Son of God — until one day He conquers the power of Satan in your life. Perhaps you cannot accept the reality of the Holy Spirit — until the day you cry out for comfort and He is there. Perhaps you laugh at a faith which says Satan is real — until the time when you feel his unremitting effort to undermine all you are trying to do, to loosen your hold on Christ.

Remember the words of Scripture so that when the time comes, “you will believe.”

Prayer: Lord, I treat Your Word with such casualness, not understanding how great Your gift to us is. Father, help me to respond to Thee with a believing heart, I pray. AMEN

SATURDAY

“THE CLOSENESS OF GOD'S LOVE”

SCRIPTURE:

John 14:25, 26; I John 5:13-15

Some time ago, a woman who had undergone a devastating breakdown, came to a friend and said, “Do you believe God can make Himself felt?”

The friend, a Christian doctor, replied, “Of course. This is the power of the Christian faith: the constant presence and awareness of God.”

“But,” she continued, “It's *closer* than a universal God could be! It's as real as having a person beside me in a dark room. I can almost reach out and touch Him! Can He care that much?”

This is the secret of Christianity: that God does care that much, and until we understand this — until we can accept God in trinity, we never do fully accept Him. He came to us as Christ, His Son — fully, visibly expressed in human form. He comes to us now through the Holy Spirit — nearer than breathing, comforting.

God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the same today, yesterday and forever — in whatever form we need Him, as Father, Savior, King, counselor, healer and power; as we need Him, so He comes to us. And if we accept one part of Him, we must accept all to fully benefit from His grace.

Prayer: God, forgive my faltering belief when I cannot accept Your ability to come to me as You say You do. Forgive me for doubting Christ, for ignoring the Holy Spirit, for trying to limit Thy power according to my limited logic. God, give me a trust in Thy Word which will supersede my doubt and indifference! AMEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021

“THE LIFE AT WAR WITH ITSELF”

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 7:21-25; Acts 17:26-28

Think of yourself as two people in one. You are, really. This is what Paul is referring to in the passage.

The one part of you — the physical or ego — keeps pushing for Self: “Do whatever will make *you* happy; run your own life, don't give it to God. Live for today — forget tomorrow. The soul is a myth. You have only one chance to be happy -- grab it and forget others!”

This is the part Satan is best at maneuvering. He is prince of the Ego-world, persuader of the flesh, ruler of this world and those who want nothing else.

The other part of you — the spiritual or soul -- the God-like portion of you — keeps tugging you toward God, makes you lonely and dissatisfied so that you are driven to seek something else when you seem to have everything already. It is the quiet, relentless persuader of the spirit — that keeps whispering to you beneath the din — “There is a God — there is a God . . . find Him.”

This is the portion of you Christ rules if you let Him, the part of us which God values above all other for it is the eternal, living part.

The struggle we see around us today is the struggle of men, trying to decide which part shall win — which prince they will follow.

Prayer: Lord, since You have given me the choice of whom I may follow, please make the way clear, that I may follow Thy Son into Thy presence both here and after death. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“THE DAYS WHEN YOU CANNOT PRAY”

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 8:26-28; Isaiah 30:15a; Psalm 46:10

All of us go through periods when praying does not come easily, when it seems we are not “getting through.”

And there are times, too, when we do not seem to want to pray; either things are going so well, prayer is a kind of unnecessary nuisance — or things are so bad we feel sulky and out of sorts with God.

At times like these, the Christian must learn to give himself over to a spirit of waiting, a silent “soaking in faith.” Many times God is preparing our souls for something, a new experience, a different pace.

When prayer will not come, make a conscious effort to be *aware of God*. Let your senses become heightened to everything and everyone about you — see all of your ordinary life from a fresh viewpoint — as a stranger or as God might see it.

Then wait. Even in times of “sulking” or bitter disappointment, don’t turn from God. Wait. Be aware of Him. Watch to see what He brings out of your distress. The fact that you cannot speak to or communicate with Him is no indication that He does not always hear and know about you. All He asks at a time like this is that we be available for Him . . . Sometimes it is the only chance God has of getting in a word between our requests. Let Him have this chance.

Prayer: Dear Lord, far too often I do think of You as someone Who must answer my requests, do my bidding, forgetting You are my God and it is I who should be in debt, I who should be serving, I who should be pleasing. Forgive me. Lord, I pray. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“A GENUINE DESIRE TO KNOW”

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 8:1-21; Ephesians 4:17-23; I Corinthians 2:14

The attitude with which you approach your Bible is the key to how much will be revealed to you. Repeatedly Jesus warns that the man who comes with a skeptic’s pride rather than with the eagerness of a child to learn, will always be confounded by God’s mind. God has hidden Himself from the sauntering intellects who demand “proof.”

No truth of God can come without commitment of the mind to Him, and activation of the faith process. What do we mean by that?

God’s truth very often confounds human logic. Nevertheless, Christians — once they are in the family of God, want to see things as God sees them. Therefore, we commit our minds to Him; we read Scripture with an eye to seeing the hidden truths there. We read it *believing nothing is impossible for God* — no matter how difficult it is for us to accept. We trust God.

Secondly, instead of dissecting — and analyzing it by human knowledge, we try accepting the hypothesis — “What if it IS true! What then?” Then often you will have an insight into God’s mysteries that will stagger you as things fall into place; murky areas are illuminated and one by one the parts of the picture begin to fit together. This is the beginning of wisdom. Try it.

(Ephesians 1:16)

Prayer: Lord, I keep using my finite mind to search the vastness of Your mysteries. God, help me to use my faith by which all things are revealed by Thee. AMEN

THURSDAY

“I HAVE APPOINTED YOU! TURN THEM FROM THE POWER OF SATAN TO GOD”

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 26:15-18; Matthew 13:36-40; John 8:42-44

If this is the commission Christ gave Paul, how obedient are we to it ourselves as individuals and even as churches? Christ’s disciples were faithful in warning, exposing and encouraging the people regarding Satan and their battle with him. What can we do to identify him today? We know that:

Christ rules through truth, and love, and obedience to God.

Satan rules through deception, lust, and arrogance toward God.

Jesus Christ woos man to the surrender of his soul to God.

Satan dares man to be master of his own soul.

Jesus Christ places Self in the hands of God so that man can be lifted beyond his own power to a new dimension or living.

Satan places Self on the throne — and man never rises farther than his own intellectual endeavors.

Jesus Christ transforms the heart of man to a giving out which stimulates and enhances inner growth.

Satan solidifies the heart of man so that he becomes incapable of giving himself freely to God; until the soul has become stunted, and eventually dies.

Satan has taken every beautiful facet of Christ’s teaching and counterfeited his own. Can you recognize them? Peace, love, brotherhood, One-world?

Prayer: O Father, when I remember how valiantly Your Son battled with this prince of darkness, I ask forgiveness for my indifference. AMEN