

FRIDAY

“HANGING ON TO THE LAST”

SCRIPTURE:
John 14:1-7

“I will not let my heart be troubled, nor will I let it be afraid. I will believe in Him, whose redeeming power has overcome the world, and I will place all my confidence in His mercy.

“He is often the nearest to me, when I think Him at the greatest distance, and when I have given up all as lost in darkness, the light of life and peace is ready to break upon me”

(Storm)

During a spring flood which was threatening their home on a river island, a family had to evacuate without the assistance of their boat. The father, in preparing for such an emergency, had secured a long stout rope with a block and tackle from a tree by the porch to a tree across the narrow channel on the mainland.

He said to the three children: “This rope is tied securely to two living trees. The rope will hold and the trees will stand, but it is up to you to hold onto the rope, or it cannot bring you across.”

Then he and the oldest son assisted the younger ones across the rising water to safety.

In our times of spiritual upheaval, our faith is the rope and it is secured between our Lord and His Father in heaven. All we need do is to hold on as we make our way to Him.

Prayer: Lord, though You have promised to guide us in time of storm, help me to remember that unless I hold onto You, Your power cannot guide me. Give me strength, I pray. AMEN

SATURDAY

“TRANSLATING FOR OUR OWN PEOPLE”

SCRIPTURE:
I Corinthians 14:6-11

Sometimes the Christian may find himself in a society as alien toward him as a foreign land to a missionary.

And it is true that unless we learn to “translate” what we have learned as Christians into words and phrases that people can understand, we might as well be speaking a foreign language.

Perhaps the world has no interest in “salvation,” but it understands all too well the desire to be saved from a life of futility and failure, from uselessness and guilt . . .

They may not acknowledge the existence of “sin” — but your friends have experienced loneliness and the emptiness of being separated from God . . .

They may not comprehend “eternal life” — but they fear death, and what comes, or may not come after . . .

They may not see how Christ can be divine, God-with-us — but they do desperately want a personal God, One who would care enough to send His Son to identify with us . . .

If we “make love our aim,” we will find the door somehow that will open the reality of God for our friends, for our Lord is the answer to every man’s hunger, to everyone’s need.

Prayer: Lord, may love direct my words and make them keys that will free men and bring them in to Thee. Give me wisdom to know their particular need, and the faithfulness to perform that which You have given me to do. AMEN

Daily Family Devotions

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

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

“THE STONES THAT TESTIFY”

SCRIPTURE:
Joshua 4:19-24 (Entire story read 3:1-4:24)

Have there been times in your life when God has done something marvelous, almost miraculous? Are people aware that it was God who performed it for you? Did you give Him the credit?

Often, once a prayer is answered, we make no more mention of it. Nine of the ten lepers Jesus healed, went off without saying thank you, without telling others whose power and compassion had freed them. And all too often we go our way, never revealing to others the way in which God’s power has touched our lives.

When you come to the end of the day, make it a habit to remember all the things God has done for you, the numerous prayers He has quietly answered, the paths He has smoothed.

Our prayers of thanks, our witness to others are our “stones of remembrance” to God’s faithfulness. By this, people will know that Almighty God still moves through and for His people.

Prayer: Lord, how often I forget to acknowledge Thy hand in my life, how easy it is to lay my successes to a coincidence or to my own efforts . . . Lord, may my life be marked by the altars of thanksgiving, my witnessing to others, and may I never take Thy faithfulness lightly but with reverence and awe, I pray. AMEN

For information regarding these devotions, contact:
Daily Family Devotions
Tel: (818) 457-1798 • info@dailyfamilydevotional.org

TUESDAY

“PARENTAL PITFALL”

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 12:5-17; Proverbs 22:6

A European psychologist, in an address to a large group of parents in this country said, “You Americans are too preoccupied with the desire to be popular with your children, forgetting that your first and primary duty toward them is to fit them for life, to produce mature, well-adjusted adults.

“To be this, a child must know that when he disobeys, he brings punishment and yes, temporary rejection — that if he should slander another, he will cause a breakdown in that relationship; that selfishness most often brings loneliness, that kindness is a gift, and that in all of life we live according to response and consequence: we bring upon ourselves much of what we suffer.”

As Christian parents, this is especially true regarding the spiritual training of our children. God is often likened to a parent — loving, guiding, protecting, yet disciplining, withholding that for which we are not yet prepared, and limiting our actions in areas where such action might cause hurt to ourselves or to others.

If we fail to stand firm, we fail our children, and their approval will soon turn to disillusionment and anger when they realize they are not prepared to face the merciless demands of the world. We must: show them God; teach them goodness; and let them go. This alone leads to supreme freedom.

Prayer: Give me an extra measure of love for both my child and Thee as I strive to be a parent after Thy pattern. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“MANY PATHS TO THE PALACE; ONLY ONE INTO THE FATHER’S CHAMBERS”

SCRIPTURE:

John 1:1-14; Mark 9:2-7

Today there are many sects that claim they are the way to God, to reality, to peace or love. They flatly denounce Christianity as the only Way, saying all faiths, and all good intentions lead eventually to God.

Christ said, “I am the way . . . no man comes to the *Father* but by me.” He uses the word “Father” — not merely “God” or “Creator” — and it is this one word which makes the Christian faith unique: only through Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, can we come into a relationship with God that is so intimate, so secure, so overwhelming.

And isn’t this, after all, what we all seek? Not worship through fear, but access through love: a personal, warm relationship to God; access to Him without another man except Christ, without man-made rules; a relationship of love and understanding, communication, and total awareness. Your friend can pray to God, can even feel His presence from time to time without being a believer, but he can never enter God’s Kingdom as a son unless he is willing to obey the divine edict: “This is my Son. Hear Him!” Believe Him, obey Him, follow Him. Those who do not will only stand before God as subjects, not sons, under the law, not under love. God has given us the choice now.

Prayer: Lord, so often my faith stops with belief, never going on into true obedience which is a result of belief. God, help me to know that if I love, I also believe, and that if I believe, I will obey Thy Son in all things. AMEN

THURSDAY

“THE DISCIPLINE OF LOVE”

SCRIPTURE:

II Timothy 4:1-5

An elderly woman, once exceeding wealthy, had escaped from Poland with only one possession: a small, exquisitely formed silver crucifix. She kept it beside her bed in a velvet-lined box and polished it regularly.

Her granddaughter laughingly said, “Grandmother, you will wear it out — with so much polishing!” The old woman said, “Oh no . . . this silver is meant to bear the weight of much polishing, for without polishing, the image of Christ is not seen.”

And so it is with each of us. We are fashioned to bear the weight of much polishing by God and by those who love us. For love does polish that which was intended to shine out. Love not only desires the best *for* those it loves, but also the best *from* those it loves. Love constantly coaxes the best, the loveliest, and the highest for it knows that in such a way we know fulfillment, and those around us are blessed.

As friends, as parents, as fellow Christians we should lovingly work to bring out all the luster and the beauty of spirit which God has placed in each of us.

Prayer: Lord, so often I would prefer to be left alone — to escape the tender “polishing” of Thy hands. Yet Lord I know that the slow corrosion of sin and indifference, selfishness and indolence will soon obliterate the image of God in my spirit. Give me humility; make me willing to accept the efforts of those who love me and who serve You, I pray. AMEN