

# Daily Family Devotions

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

## FRIDAY

*“WHAT HAVE I TO GIVE HIM?”*

SCRIPTURE:

Micah 6:6-8; James 1:5-18

When we become Christians, the first thing most of us want to do is to decide what we have to offer God. Sometimes we turn in a reverse direction from the way we have been going and sometimes this is right, for our past way of life just would not fit into God’s kind of living.

Yet often we are already where He wants us to be — or we are involved in an obligation we have vowed to fulfill, such as marriage, a family, etc. In such a case, God will grant us the strength and *love* to go on.

Usually, God puts us in places in which we can work best, where our talents are utilized to their fullest, where our personalities can be most effective. God does not give us jobs in order to make us miserable. We can do anything He gives us and it will bring us joy if we give ourselves to it willingly and with love.

But there are times, too, when He puts us in places we simply cannot understand. We must trust Him then. He would not put us there if He did not need us in that place.

Once we offer ourselves wholeheartedly to Him, we must allow Him access to our lives, wherever that may lead or whatever it may require.

*Prayer: Lord, I know whatever You desire of my life. You will be there to help me. Please make my own trust in Thee deeper, and my desire to serve Thee stronger and less fearful, I pray. AMEN*

## SATURDAY

*“WHEN WE FIGHT THE ‘GOADS’ ”*

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 26:1-18

There are times when we feel the pressure of being a Christian as keenly as though it were a goad. A goad is a stick which was used in the Orient, and is still used some places today, to guide cattle. It was not necessarily a punishment, but an instrument of guidance. As long as the animal obeyed, he was not hurt; he did not feel the point of the stick. But if he did not obey, then the stick caused pain.

This is what Christ is saying to Paul. Paul had been fighting Jesus . . . he had been stubborn in refusing to acknowledge Christ as Lord. And Jesus in sympathy says, “Stop fighting, Paul. You are only causing yourself to be hurt. I need you. I have a tremendous task only you can do for me. Stop the fighting and come to me.”

Many of us — not only before we come to Christ — but even after we’ve given Him our lives, still fight the “goads.” We would rather wander into the thickets of selfish pursuits, into the swamps of lethargy and doubt; yet God, knowing the danger there, continues to faith- fully urge us along a higher and safer path.

Is there something you are fighting at this moment? Stop — and see if the discomfort does not disappear.

*Prayer: Lord, I know that whatever You desire for my life, is best for me, and will lead to greatest happiness. Help me to trust Thee so that I may be more eager to obey Thee. . . so that I may know greater freedom and peace. AMEN*

## MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021

*“FAITH IS BELIEF IN GOD”*

SCRIPTURE:

Daniel 6:13-23; 25-27

This is one of the most exciting stories in the Bible and the heart of it is in the 23rd verse, last part.

We read these stories and because of their tremendous impact, find difficulty in believing them. We shrug them off as legends or myths, but it is only because we ourselves have had such a limited experience of God.

God still works miracles for us today — but how seldom we know about them. Men and women this very day are still finding themselves in frightening extremities . . . figuratively, in “lion’s dens” of business, national and personal testing. God’s deliverance of these people is just as remarkable as was Daniel’s deliverance but often only those who have undergone such danger know the real depth of God’s power.

Think back over your life. How often have you been forced into a frightening situation, only to find that when you have put yourself in God’s hands, you are delivered from all that you feared?

If you have not experienced such a time, perhaps you have not dared enough for Him.

You will never know the power of real faith until you have felt it in your own life. It is real even today.

*Prayer: O Lord, I think of my life in terms of my own strength and forget that when I encounter trials far beyond my strength, You are still able to hold me, just as You held those who loved You centuries ago. I thank Thee, Lord, for Thy love! AMEN*

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## TUESDAY

### “ANTIDOTE FOR THE PIOUS OR THE DISCOURAGED”

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 12:1-14; John 14:10

A young artist who had been a devoted student of a famous painter, went away for a year to paint on his own. Shortly after his return, one of his friends came into his studio, and was appalled to see all his canvasses cut to ribbons. The attic was a shambles, and on the table was a hastily scrawled note: “Today I saw the work of the Master and what I have done is nothing!”

How often have you been brought up short like this after you have come back to God? Isn't it strange how long we can go on our own feeling so satisfied with what we have accomplished, especially as we compare our work with that of others around us?

Then suddenly, we come face to face with our Lord — with His perfection of love, His uncomplaining obedience and His powerful ministry to people's needs, and we want to rip to pieces everything we have done! We know discouragement and shame that is shattering.

But Christ did not come to make us feel discouraged and ashamed. He Himself said, “I can do nothing except the Father in me do it.” That's the secret! Letting God-in-us be our strength, our guidance, our wisdom. It is a continual stepping aside so that *He* can work in us. Then pride never enters the picture.

*Prayer: Lord, help me to learn the secret of a wholly committed life, the effortless yielding of my will to Thee. AMEN*

## WEDNESDAY

### “DELIGHT THYSELF IN HIM”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 37:1-11; John 10:10

There was a time in our history when Christianity was a grim, dab, judgmental kind of life. Men were almost afraid to take delight in living. Consequently, we are still living down the negative aspects of our faith.

Christianity *is* joy. Christ said, “I come to bring life and to bring it more abundantly!” An abundant life is marked by joy and an overflowing degree of appreciation, delight and awareness. The joy Jesus personified was so overwhelming that His enemies tried to explain it away by calling Him a drunkard. And in Acts, when the Holy Spirit entered the disciples, people were so astonished they, too, said, “They must be drunk!”<sup>1</sup>

We seldom see this kind of total, abandoned delight in the Christian today. Once more we are becoming too “dour,” too concerned, too weighted down with the burden of state, moral and personal problems. Where is our faith in God's ability to see us all through these times? Where is our anticipation of the wonderful things He is doing and will continue to do?

We lose a precious thing when we lose the ability to “delight” ourselves in Him. We lose a certain joy when we obey Him reluctantly or too self-righteously. Both our obedience and our giving, as well as our attitude in living should be marked most by our sheer delight in our Lord.

*Prayer: Lord, people are never drawn to glum, pessimistic people, and we know that Thou dost desire us to be joyful witnesses for Thee. Grant us the ability to follow Thee with delight, we pray. AMEN*

<sup>1</sup>Acts 2:12, 13

## THURSDAY

### “THE FACE OF A FRIEND IS A MIRROR”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 26:69-72; II Kings 14:8

How often have you said or done something without thinking, only to see suddenly a look of hurt or bewilderment on the face of your friends?

A very great German soprano, who was noted for her marvelous rapport with her audiences, was asked how she knew just what to do to gain this response from them time after time.

She said, “I always sing with my eyes open, looking into the faces before me. These are the mirrors of my song.”

Without this sensitivity to the reactions of others, we may often misjudge our influence on them entirely.

Jesus was probably the most sensitive human being who ever lived, for He sensed men's need and offered them that which they sought. Not only did He see the outward, but He sensed the inner need as well.

We can become more aware of men's inner response by growing more deeply aware of their outward reaction.

This week, take time to look into the faces of your friends. What do you see there? It is the mirror of your own spirit reflected back to you.

*Prayer: God, we are Your hands, and Your feet, Your lips, the expression of Your love. Please help me to be the best I can be, for You and for those I meet, that they may see Thee through my love. AMEN*