

**Walking in Christ's Light**  
**Daily Prayer Journal**  
**November 10-15, 2008**

*Growing our souls is a partnership with Christ.  
To enable your soul's growth, use this material with Christ as your guide.*

**Next Week's Sermon**

<b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 25:14-30
<b>Theme:</b> Loving service replaces fear based living
<b>Sermon:</b> "The Biblical Understanding of Fear"
<b>Question:</b> What can I do to break the strong hold of fear in my life?

**MONDAY**

*Read:* Matthew 25:14-30

*Prayer:* Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for inviting me to be one of Your disciples. Thank You for giving me opportunity to build up Your New Jerusalem. Knowing my limitations and myself, I am amazed that You have put so much trust in me. Lord Jesus, I ask You to help me to be more faithful. I want to be one of Your faithful builders. Yet, I know that fear can easily cause me to drop into inaction and denial. Strong God, enable me so to live that others might look at me and see Your Kingdom of peace overcoming fear in my life. Amen.

*Journal Reflection:* God loves this world! Why else would God send Jesus into the world for our salvation? (John 3:16 tells us this truth) As God lovers we are also called to risk our creative energy to make this world a better place. When we risk for God, we are promised that God will be with us. When we cast aside fear and lovingly trust God, we are promised that we will be blessed. Decide today to do some act of kindness, some work of beauty, or some touch of ministry in Christ's name. Choose one way you can make this world a little better place because you love God and love this world.

*Resolve:* I will be a conduit for God's love today.

**TUESDAY**

*Read:* Psalm 123

*Prayer:* Lord God, Creator of the Universe, when I consider Your power, Your majesty, how awesome You are, I tremble. I depend upon Your mercy. I depend upon Your loving kindness for life, for love, and for energy to create. Thanks for being so generous and understanding with me. And, thank You Gracious God for being the amazing creative God You are! Amen.

*Journal Reflection:* "Lord have mercy" is an early Christian prayer. Consider it for today. In postmodern America, we do not think in terms of mercy. We think God is lucky we talk with Him every now and again. However, if you allow yourself to ponder the majesty of God, if you are in touch with your failings and foibles, then you will quickly move into the position of seeking God's mercy. God's mercy is extended to you with no strings attached! God's mercy is God's forgiving love in action within your life!

*Resolve:* I will celebrate the majesty of my merciful Creator God today.

**WEDNESDAY**

*Read:* I Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Prayer:* Loving God, all around me are signs of Your gracious bounty. Your gifts to me are so many that I cannot list them all. Forgive me for taking for granted all I am given. Forgive me especially when I forget Your wonderful gifts of love, hope, and faith. Thank You for giving me another day to share my love with you through gifts of time, money, and skills. Thank you for giving me one more day to celebrate Your presence in my life and share Your love with others. Amen.

*Journal Reflection:* The "Day of the Lord" is coming. Do you respond with fear, boredom, or preparedness? The Apostle Paul suggests that you be prepared. Decide to live today as if it were the day that Jesus returns. What difference will it make in your agenda, attitude, and anticipation?

*Resolve:* I am looking forward to Jesus' coming for me today.

## **THURSDAY**

*Read:* Judges 4:1-7

*Prayer:* Holy Spirit, be alive within me. I need courage to live a righteous life. I need patience to live a holy life. I need Your presence to enable me to love my enemies. I need Your guidance to know how to use my life to better this world. Holy Spirit, I want to make a difference with my life today. Empower me to live for You so that others might know You through my actions. Amen.

*Journal Reflection:* Early in the history of God's people a woman was in charge. The Prophet Deborah was a leader of God's people! God gives leadership gifts to many people including women and men. Sometimes, we followers of Christ have placed limits on what God can do by excluding women from leadership positions in the church. We have misread the Bible to exclude people that God wanted us to include. Many of us have these 'exclusive' teachings still rumbling around in our minds. Examine your mind and see if you are sinning against God by being against women leaders or other persons whom you might deem unworthy. If God can call Deborah into God's service, then God will call Sarah, JoAnn, Lucy, and many more women!

*Resolve:* I thank God for all God's leaders!

## **FRIDAY**

*Read:* I John 4:13-21

*Prayer:* "O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others. Open my ears that I may hear their cries. Open my heart so that they need not be without succor. Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places. And so open my eyes and my ears that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for You." Amen. (Alan Patton, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, p.456)

*Journal Reflection:* Fear is the opposite of God's love. Think upon that truth. In an age of excessive fear ask yourself the question, "How does fear damage my life?" Fear of what others will think is strong. Fear of pain is real. Fear of the unknown, including death, is human. Fear of not having enough money is rampant at this time. What are your "fear buttons"? Ask the Holy Spirit to move within your heart today and cast out all fear. When you actually believe that God loves you, then you can trust that your Loving Father will actually watch out for you! Ask the Spirit to fill you with Christ's love in such a way that you know the power of God's presence. You can, with God's help, turn loose of fear and enjoy God's love today.

*Resolve:* I am one of God's beloved lovers today.

## **SATURDAY**

*Read:* Isaiah 35:1-10

*Prayer:* King of the Universe, Lover of my heart, I am in awe of You, Almighty God. I love You. Each day Jesus, my Lord and Savior, gives me the gift of loving You. I am blessed by the opportunity of being loved by You and responding to Your love. Thank You for inviting me to be a part of Your family here on earth. I will do my best to love You by growing Your Beloved Community in my time and place. Amen.

*Journal Reflection:* Isaiah talks of the coming "Day of the Lord". He urges that you not be afraid, rather that you work with joy to bring it about. The "Day of the Lord" will come! Christ will return in glory and the age of this world will end. You do not know the time or the place when the end will come. And, seeking to guess the mind of God is useless, if not blasphemous. So, what you can do is choose today to follow Isaiah's challenge and really work to build up God's family on earth.

*Resolve:* I am, and will continue to be, on fire with the Holy Spirit doing Christ's work in my world.