

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
December 8-13, 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

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-8 and Luke 2: 8-14

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+91:1-8)

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+2:8-14)

Theme: Christ presence brings power to overcome fears

Sermon: "The Shepherd's Challenge"

Question: When I am overwhelmed, how can I overcome my fear?

MONDAY 12-8-08

Read: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:6-8; 19-28)

Prayer: Forgive me, Lord, I leave so little room for wonder in my life. I am too often obsessed with control and explanations. A surprise throws me off balance and the unknown scares me. Amaze me again with Your grace and help me to recognize Your marvelous deeds. Mysterious Word of God, fill my life with wonder today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Word of God is another way of talking of the Creator of the universe! By some mysterious, only God knows, way, the Creator is One and more than One. The Word is flesh and spirit completely. John is the person chosen to point to the mystery of God unfolding in his lifetime. Unhook your mind from all known ideas about God today and allow yourself to imagine the depth, height, and breadth of the Eternal, Mysterious, and Personal God.

Resolve: The God of the universe is much bigger than I can comprehend, but personal enough to love me and accept my love.

TUESDAY 12-9-08

Read: Psalm 126 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+126)

Prayer: Jesus, if I get into a complaining mode today, remind me to stop long enough to count my blessings and to hear Your reassurances. Teach me to see the orchid in the swamp of life. Open my ears to hear the music in the most raucous sounds. Jesus, in this season of mystery, teach me to trust in You and not in my own limited mind. And, Jesus, be with me and fill me with Your joy today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The people sang this Psalm as they climbed up to Jerusalem. As they joyfully marched up the 3000 foot incline, they remembered God's saving actions. "The Lord has done great things for us," was their celebration message. In your mind list all the great things God has done for you and your family. Remember the power of God in your life as early as childhood. Let your memories become a song!

Resolve: I will sing of God's saving action in my life today!

WEDNESDAY 12-10-08

Read: I Thessalonians 5:16-24 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=1+thessalonians+5:16-24)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, I live under the influence of a fear based, market driven economy. If I am going to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances," then I need Your help. I can cast out anxiety from my heart, but I need you to fill it up with hope quite quickly. I can stop thinking negative, judgmental thoughts, but I need You to fill up the space with love. Thanks for Your partnership for a more joyful life. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Give the Holy Spirit a chance today to fill you up with God's joy, mercy, peace, and love. Clean out your negative thinking habits. Throw out your judgmental thoughts. Give away your need to be needed. Let go of your habit of focusing upon yourself. Notice any other way you consciously or unconsciously quench the Spirit's presence in your life. Now, open yourself to the joy of the Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit fill up the now empty places in your heart, mind, and soul!

Resolve: Holy Spirit, come with joy into my life today!

THURSDAY 12-11-08

Read: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+61:1-4; 8-11)

Prayer: I am going to do my best to see the world through Your eyes, Jesus. I can so easily be deceived. I can think of myself as more important than I am. I can so easily allow my needs, my wants, my desires to become the focus of my life. Help me today to see the world clearly so that I may share Your love more nearly as You would do. Partner with me, Jesus, so that I can actually do the ministry you challenge me to do. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Jesus used this Scripture to identify His call to ministry. (Luke 4:18) Jesus said that He fulfilled this Scripture. His call, and the call upon all His followers is clearly demonstrated here. Take an inventory of your schedule for today. How are you going to follow Jesus' example? Be open to Jesus' leading to reach out to someone who is blind, deaf, hungry, imprisoned, or oppressed (either physically, emotionally, or spiritually). Will you even see these people who are described by Jesus and will be in your path today? Be ready and willing to let Jesus lead you into a ministry to the "least of these" today.

Resolve: I celebrate the ministry of Jesus in my life today!

FRIDAY 12-12-08

Read: Luke 1:47-55 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+1:47-55)

Prayer: Loving God, I am continually amazed at the courage of Mary. The world was against her. Common sense and reason "should have won out." Fear could have overwhelmed her. Yet, Mary said yes to Your messenger. Loving God, I need a Mary kind of courage in my life. Grant to me enough personal strength to stand with You and for You in every aspect of my life today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Imagine being confronted as Mary was! We can look back and say, "O, Yes!" But, Mary was looking forward not knowing the future. She identified the message as from God. She loved and trusted God enough to risk her life following the vision God gave to her. She faced certain ostracism from the community and the family. She faced a life of shame and possible persecution. And, in the face of all these negative possibilities, she said yes! Ponder the faithfulness of Mother Mary! In spite of everything that "went wrong" she did not give up hope. Let Mary be your hero today.

Resolve: I will live with Mary's kind of faithful courage as I follow Jesus today.

SATURDAY 12-13-08

Read: Psalm 13 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+13)

Prayer: Eternal God, I respectfully request that You hold out Your hands. I am going to give you all my worries and anxieties one by one. My health, my family, my job, my friends, my church, my future, my world--- all I give over to You. I am willing to work hard for Your Kingdom God. I am willing to be a responsible member of Your family. But, I can no longer carry all these worrisome burdens. Thank You for being willing to carry them for me! Amen.

Journal Reflection: In the midst of life's storms it is difficult to remember to trust the Lord. Sometimes we are so filled with worry that there is no place for God to come into our lives. Sometimes fears overwhelm us and we become lost in anxiety and worry. Sometimes we forget who we are and whose we are. Decide today to empty out the worry, so that God can be more alive within your life. Decide today to trust in God and God alone no matter what.

Resolve: I am emptying my heart of worry, so that I can trust God more!