

## ***Walking in Christ's Light***

### **Daily Prayer Journal**

**May 10-15, 2010**

*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 8 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+18](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+18))

**Theme:** "Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful, or joyful."

**Sermon:** "God's Abundant World"

**Question:** What can I do to actually accept my God given inheritance?

#### **MONDAY                      5-10-10**

**Read:** John 5:1-9 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+5:1-9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+5:1-9))

**Prayer:** Loving Christ, there are times when I hear You speak to me and I ignore You. There are times when I know I need to do something for someone else and I ignore him or her. I can get so busy that I ignore the world and anything or anyone in it. Thank You for not ignoring me. Amen

**Journal Reflection:** There are sick parts of every person's inner life. The traditional teaching of the Pharisees identified illness with sin. Although there is some correlation between the two, not every illness is sin. Jesus knew the connections. When the man in the story wanted to be healed, more than his legs needed healing. What part of you is keeping you from enjoying full and vibrant health? Listen to Jesus and learn how you can "get up and walk."

**Resolve:** I will listen and respond to Christ today.

#### **TUESDAY                      5-11-10**

**Read:** Psalm 67 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+67](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+67))

**Prayer:** Gracious God, the excitement and joy of this day surrounds me. Help me remember that it is not my own doing that brings me life, but only Your grace and love. Your love has surrounded me from my birth even though I have not seen it. Teach me to walk gently in Your path of love, seeking justice, making peace, cherishing the earth and one another. Enliven my imagination that I can see through present ills to a future newness. Embolden me with Your love, that I may live now as if the new had already come. In joy, I offer my praise to You this day! Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** This psalm is a blessing from God. Like the Irish blessings that you read on plates, this blessing is joyful. After all, God is pure joy! Reread it as God speaking directly to you. Hear each phrase as God's gift of life, health, joy, and peace to you. Let God's blessing fall upon you as a gentle spring rain.

**Resolve:** I accept the blessing of God today.

#### **WEDNESDAY                      5-12-10**

**Read:** Revelations 22:1-5 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelations+22:1-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelations+22:1-5))

**Prayer:** Thank You, Almighty God, for this vision of eternity. Thank You for encouraging me by letting me see a time when the curse of evil will be no more. Thank You for allowing me to celebrate Your presence in my life now and for all eternity. You truly are a great and wonderful God. Amen

**Journal Reflection:** The vision God gave to John tells of a time when the curse of evil will be no more. Just imagine what the world will be like when Christ is present and all evil is gone! All of the negatives that pull us down will be gone. The pain, the suffering, the hurt, and the horror of evil will end. All disease and even death itself will be no more. Let yourself imagine a world without sin. In your mind's eye, see a world with only friends and no enemies. God is promising that all God's children will know only joy and peace. Let this vision fill up your soul today.

**Resolve:** I put my trust in You, O Lord God of time and the universe.

## **THURSDAY** 5-13-10

**Read:** Psalm 8 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+8](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+8))

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, my life is rich and full because of Your generosity. I give You thanks, O Lord. I am grateful to You. I am who I am because You created me. You give to me a wonderful inheritance. I have an opportunity to grow with You to become the person You envisioned when I was born. I pray that I may continually give You thanks, grow in Your grace, and share Your love. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Make a list of all the positives in your life. The old gospel hymn suggests that you count your blessings and name them one by one. Why not follow the song's advice. All through today let your mind thank God for one of God's blessings. Thank God for health, for life, for friends, for shelter, for food, for clothing, for skills, for..... Be thankful to God today---all through today! Give thanks to God by looking up toward Heaven and letting go of the things of the earth that would pull you down.

**Resolve:** Thank You, God, for redeeming my life from the pit of negativity.

## **FRIDAY** 5-14-10

**Read:** Acts 16:9-15 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+16:9-15](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+16:9-15))

**Prayer:** Lord, You have dealt with me, not on the basis of what I deserve, but on the basis of Your extravagant, unconditional love. Overlooking my faults, forgiving my sins, setting aside my guilt, You love me with a love that will not let me go. Forgive, therefore, my inability to love as I have been loved. Continue to overlook the ways in which I condemn others for the sins of which I think I am innocent. Make me more forgiving, more understanding, more willing to see the world from their perspective, more eager to use what we have for the good of others in need. In all things, when I love, I truly love because You first loved me. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Have you ever had an experience like Paul? Have you ever felt the call of God to go somewhere other than your plans? Are you willing to change plans in order to follow such a vision? Think back over your life to a time when you trusted God and not your own plans. God blessed you didn't God? Choose today to let God have control over your schedule. Listen for God's plans for your day without filling up your day with your own.

**Resolve:** God and God alone can know what I need to do today.

## **SATURDAY** 5-15-10

**Read:** John 14:23-29 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+14:23-29](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+14:23-29))

**Prayer:** Christ, I truly need Your help to criticize less and praise more. I need Your help to judge less and love more. I need Your help to condemn less and encourage more. Lord, You know that I can quickly judge others and even myself with a sting that is very unlike You. Help me remember that as I need to be praised, loved, and encouraged, so others have the same need. Thank You for meeting my needs first. Teach me how to share Your love. Amen

**Journal Reflection:** Jesus commands you to love. Jesus kind of loving is not just a sentimental feeling. Jesus' love is a choice of your will to love even the unlovable people of your life. Determine who it is that you have difficulty loving. If you are like most of us, the list can be long. (i.e. different cultures, races, cleaning habits, eating practices, etc) Pray for them! Pray for God's great blessings to be with them!

**Resolve:** Bless my enemies even more than you bless me, O Lord.