

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
November 23-28, 2009

*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 by Alia Schubbe
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MONDAY 11-23-09

Read: Mark 13:24-37 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+13:24-37)

Prayer: Faithful and Loving God, Your promises stand unshaken throughout all generations. Daily renew in me the hope of Your eternal love. Daily renew in me the strength of purpose to be alert, awake, and watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and Savior. Daily provide for me the strength to overcome the fearful media messages with the power of Your grace living within me. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Greek word (*gregoreite*) Jesus uses in vs.35 is the same word he uses in the Garden of Gethsemane when he tells the disciples to "Stay awake!" In other words: Stay conscious! Stay aware! Keep your head up and your eyes open, instead of just surviving today with your head down, doing the work you have to do! Choose to live fully alive in the Spirit of Christ. Eyes open to everyone and everything around you. Ears open to hear the words under the words that are spoken. Mind open to the creative learning that is possible when Jesus is the teacher. And, heart open to the moving of the Holy Spirit. Stay awake with Christ Jesus and be blessed today!

Resolve: I will live today awake and aware of Jesus presence in my life.

TUESDAY 11-24-09

Read: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+80:1-7;17-19)

Prayer: Lord God of Heaven and Earth, I join with the Psalmist and ask for Your shining face to be made known in all the world. Restore to Your Church the joy of Your salvation. Fill us all with the light of Your presence today and every day until the end of the age. Lift us up and carry us on the wings of Your love so that we might truly make a difference for good in our world! Amen.

Journal Reflection: Notice how God's work is always in the light. God is continually bringing light to darkness. Truth is identified in the light. The right way of living is in the light. The Spirit of Jesus Christ brings people from the darkness of sin (separation from God) into the light filled relationship with God. Jesus' self-identification is "the light of the world". Choose today to ask Jesus Christ to enlighten your heart, mind, soul, and body. Then, choose today to actually walk in Christ's light all day.

Resolve: I will walk with Jesus in the light all day today.

WEDNESDAY 11-25-09

Read: I Corinthians 1:3-9 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+1:3-9)

Prayer: Great is Your faithfulness, O God. I can trust You when I can trust no one else! Thank You for being in my life today and every day. I am thankful You chose me to be in Your family. I am blessed to be one of Your adopted children! I am grateful for Your inheritance of joy, peace, unity, faith, and love. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Through God's grace in Jesus Christ you are enriched! Ponder your true wealth today! Be awake to the impermanence of material wealth. Become aware of the eternal nature of spiritual wealth that is available to you through Christ Jesus. Ask Jesus to give you power to grow in spiritual treasure through the building up of God's Community in your neighborhood, place of work, and home. When you share acts of love with others, you invest in God's Community and in God's Bank of Heaven.

Resolve: I will share God's grace and grow in spiritual treasure today.

THURSDAY**11-26-09****Read:** Isaiah 64:1-9 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+64:1-9)

Prayer: “Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reign’s with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”
Amen. (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p.211)

Journal Reflection: The prophet Isaiah is caught between the desire for God’s power and the longing for God’s love. As he looks around him, Isaiah sees the absence of any respect for the Almighty. (Does that sound like 21st Century America?) He acknowledges the sin of the people and longs for an intimate relationship with God again. The spiritual life is just such a journey. We move from antagonism toward God, through interest in God, to a loving, trusting relationship with God. Where are you on the path today? Is God very real in your life or very far off? Faithful living for God’s way is much more difficult when we do not directly experience God’s presence. Faithful living is walking the “God path” even when you cannot experience God’s guiding hand. Make a clear choice today to walk in Christ’s path with Christ’s presence as Your guide.

Resolve: I will live for God no matter what anybody says or does today.

FRIDAY**11-27-09****Read:** Mark 14:32-42 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+14:32-42)

Prayer: Staying awake for Your mission and ministry, Jesus, is not an easy thing to do. I am lulled to sleep by good food, a comfortable home, a good job, and a nice family. Staying awake, staying alert, staying on watch for You is not an easy task. But then, Jesus, You did say that I would have more trouble following you than getting a camel through a needle’s eye. My great and loving Shepherd, take Your rod and staff and keep me moving and awake! I am open to Your leadership. I will follow You wherever You lead. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Do you see a parallel between keeping awake for the Second Coming of our Lord and staying awake while Jesus prays in Gethsemane? Do you see a relationship with the way the church is now and the way Jesus was in Gethsemane? Is your life in such a close relationship with Jesus that you can experience Jesus’ pain as he prays in Gethsemane? Choose today to ask Jesus to be so strong within your life that you cannot deny, wrongly observe, or forget Jesus Christ in your life today. Choose today to stand firm beside Jesus no matter what might happen.

Resolve: I am open to Jesus being powerfully present in my life today.

SATURDAY**11-28-09****Read:** Revelation 7:9-12 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+7:9-12)

Prayer: Infinite, Eternal Creator God, I join with people from every nation singing Your glory and honor! Thank You for granting me the opportunity to participate in singing Your joyful creation song. Thank You Christ for providing me with the opportunity to sing in God’s chorus! Thank You, Holy Spirit, for empowering me to sing with the angels. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Reread today’s Scripture with a visual picture in your mind. Imagine the millions of people gathered and singing! Ponder the beauty of “the Lamb, robed in white”. In your mind’s eye notice the angels and elders kneeling before God’s throne. Let their song be your song all day today. (vs.12)

Resolve: I unite my life with God’s creative and worshipful song today.