

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal

November 29-December 4, 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: Isaiah 11:1-10 and Luke 2:15-20

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=Isaiah+11:1-10) (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+2:15-20)

Theme: "Cry with someone. It is more healing than crying alone."

Sermon: "The Christmas Message Announced by the Shepherds"

Question: How can I more completely yield my life to the Good Shepherd?

MONDAY 11-29-10

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 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 11-30-10

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, be with me and fill me with Your joy. 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 12-1-10

Read: I Thessalonians 5:16-24 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+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. Notice any way you consciously or unconsciously quench the Spirit, then open yourself more to the Spirit.

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

THURSDAY 12-2-10

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. Help me today to see clearly so that I may share Your love more nearly as You would 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 Jesus 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). 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**12-3-10****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.” 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. 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****12-4-10****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 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 do so! 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. Decide today to empty out the worry, so that God can be more alive within your life.**Resolve:** I am emptying my heart of worry, so that I can trust God more!**LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS****For Sunday, November 28, 2010’s Sermon****Foundational Scripture: Romans 13:11-14 (NRSV)**<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>**Featured Scripture Reflection: “Wearing Jesus” (Romans 13:11-14 NRSV)****Opening Icebreaker:** What clothing did you used to wear either as a child or as an adult many years ago that you would be embarrassed to wear in public today (i.e. – leisure suits, bell-bottom pants, penny loafers, “hammer pants” etc.)?**Scripture Questions****What is the scripture saying?**

- Compare and contrast a Christian believer who is awake and one who asleep. What does an “awakened” believer look like and what does a “sleeping” Christian look like?
- What does Paul mean when he says that “salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.” (NRSV)
- How do your nighttime activities differ from your daytime activities?
- What are some examples of works of darkness?
- What is “the armor of light”?

How is your life touched?

- How does the urgency conveyed in this passage (“now is the moment...,” “...salvation is nearer,” “the day is near...,” etc.) impact the behavior of a Christian believer?
- The act of waiting often times has a passive sense to it. How does the example of a waiting Christian defy this misconception?
- It’s been said that integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching. How can we strengthen our integrity?
- How does “wearing Jesus” keep us from caving into the desires of the flesh?
- What are the consequences of submitting to the flesh?

What is God’s invitation to you?

- During this Advent season, how can Christians live “honorable” lives?
- How can we maintain a sense of urgency?
- What values and qualities can we develop in our own lives to counter the list Paul writes about in verse 13?

What can you pray for?

- Pray this prayer each day: “Come, Lord Jesus,” and let it serve as an invitation to the transforming power of Christ while also reminding you of Christ’s imminent return.