

**Walking in Christ's Light**  
**Daily Prayer Journal**  
**April 27- May 2, 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**

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+15:9-17](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+15:9-17))

**Theme:** Accountability

**Sermon:** "Our Accountability to Jesus"

**Question:** How can I live my life accountable to Jesus?

**MONDAY** 4-27-09

**Read:** Luke 24:36-48 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+24:36-48](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+24:36-48))

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, I pray for those who have trouble believing in Easter. For those who have experienced so much death, failure, and frustration in life that they find it difficult to believe that You, God are life, and that in You life triumphs over death. I pray for those who find it difficult to have faith in something they have not seen, so they cannot believe without seeing. I pray for those who have become so hurt, or frustrated, or bored by the church that they are disbelieving that the Risen Christ is in the church. For all these and more I intercede, asking for your healing, caring, and loving presence in their lives so that they might have faith in your triumphant Easter victory over death. Amen (adapted from William H. Willimon, *Pulpit Resource*, May 7, 2000, p.27)

**Journal Reflection:** Questions about Jesus' resurrection are expected. The disciples asked them. Notice in verse 41 the disbelief of the disciples is reported. Jesus' resurrection takes us beyond our rational comfort zones. What is not possible when it comes to the Easter message is a rational explanation. You must step outside the rational box and experience the Risen Christ who is alive in your life. When you know Christ Jesus then you can leap beyond the questions into a life of faith in God. The good news is that the Risen Christ is with you every day in every way!

**Resolve:** I am open to encountering the Risen Christ today.

**TUESDAY** 4-28-09

**Read:** I John 3:1-7 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+john+3:1-7](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+john+3:1-7))

**Prayer:** "O Gracious God, we have no hope apart from you, for in you we find life. You desire that all your children live abundant lives. Our problem is that we often have a limited view of what it means to be your children. We see our privileges clearly, but our responsibilities only dimly. At times, we even go to great effort to keep ourselves ignorant of the many needs of people around us. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us not to trust in our static righteousness but to seek to live quiet lives of love. May we find no service to you or your children beneath our dignity. Amen" (Louis Pratt, *Sing Praises to His Name*, Lima, Ohio: C.S.S. Publishing, 1986, pp.37-38)

**Journal Reflection:** You are God's beloved child! Your DNA is marked with God's image. Ponder and celebrate your heritage and inheritance today!

**Resolve:** I will live as God's child today.

**WEDNESDAY** 4-29-09

**Read:** Acts 3:12-19 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+3:12-19](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+3:12-19))

**Prayer:** God of resurrection power come into my life today. Help me to grow in hope, faith, and love as I do the little things of life. Amen

**Journal Reflection:** This Scripture is an early witness to the power of God's resurrection of Jesus. People were transformed from weakness to strength, from fearfully hiding to publicly witnessing, and from doubt into faith. The Apostle Peter spoke boldly in public about Jesus' resurrection! And, God blessed the church!

**Resolve:** I am open to the Risen Christ transforming me and our Church.

**THURSDAY****4-30-09**

**Read:** Psalm 4 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+4](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+4))

**Prayer:** God above us, leading us to exaltation; God beneath us, lifting us out of degradation; God around us, attracting our adoration; God before us leading us to perfection; God behind us, guarding us from discouragement. Where would we be without you? What future could we anticipate without your leading? We worship you, God of all nations. We follow you, loving Messiah. We welcome you, indwelling Spirit. Amen” (David Hostetter, *Prayers for the Seasons of God’s People: Year B*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999, p. 103)

**Journal Reflection:** The prayer in verse 6b is one that will heal even the deepest wound: “Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.” The result of God’s light is gladness of heart and peacefulness of soul. God’s light can cleanse even the darkest stain. God’s light can heal even the deepest wound. God’s light is available to you through prayer. Be aware today that God’s light can and will shine upon you when you ask God for it. You can walk in the light and not in the shadows. You just need to pray the prayer of the Psalmist.

**Resolve:** Shine down upon me all day today, Lord Jesus Christ.

**FRIDAY****5-1-09**

**Read:** Matthew 5:43-48 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:43-48](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:43-48))

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, I must admit that only the resurrection power of God working in me can transform my negative feelings for some people into Christ like love. I cannot love some people on my own. I am just too wrapped up in the past. I need you to help me grow past my negative emotions so that I can love all people as you love them. Help me, Holy Spirit, for without your help I am lost. Amen

**Journal Reflection:** Jesus teaching on love is without exception. We are to love our enemies, love those persons who reject us and unfairly treat us. Such love is God’s kind of love and cannot be tied to our limited and finite human emotions. You must choose to love like Christ loved. You must open yourself to the Holy Spirit so that God’s resurrection power can work within you. Choose one person whom you cannot love and begin today to pray for them while you pray for yourself. Once you begin to pray for your ‘enemy’ watch for the signs of the Holy Spirit at work within your soul.

**Resolve:** I am open to learning how to love like Jesus loved.

**SATURDAY****5-2-09**

**Read:** Matthew 6:24 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:24](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:24))

**Prayer:** Loving God, I am a child of yours who is strongly influenced by the values of this age. I want to love you, but all the “things” call to me first. I want to share with you, but all the “stuff” calls louder. Forgive me, Lord, and teach me how to live a faithful life of love for you in the midst of this consumer culture. Amen

**Journal Reflection:** Let today be the day you are honest with yourself about your first love. Reflect upon your priorities with your money and your time by asking who is first? If God is not first in your checkbook, where is God on your list? Do you spend more on your pets than you give to God? What does that say about your love for God? What does your honest list tell you to do so that God can be first? Decide today to follow Christ Jesus by opening your heart, mind, soul, and body to love God first.

**Resolve:** I will love the Lord God with my actions as well as my words.