

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
January 18-23, 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: Luke 4:14-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+4:14-21)

Theme: "What other people think of you is none of your business."

Sermon: "Engaging Life"

Question: What steps can I take to be involved in life?

MONDAY **1-18-10**

Read: Luke 4: 14-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+4:14-21)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, breath into my life the power to stand up and be counted for Christ. Jesus stood up for me. Even in the midst of the Nazareth skeptics, Jesus boldly spoke God's truth. Fill me with power to boldly follow my Lord. Amen

Journal Reflection: Words without wisdom are empty. Faith without action is just as empty. Nazareth people wanted the Messiah to come, but not Jesus! They knew his family. Could anything good come from Nazareth? Jesus did not fit their expectations. Their words were empty. They could not trust God enough to believe what was right before their eyes. Messiah lives in your life. Can you appreciate Jesus and follow Christ with your life? Seek Christ's filling of your empty places today. Seek Christ's power to live your faith in action. Seek Christ's transforming power for abundantly living life today.

Resolve: Faith for me is an active verb today!

TUESDAY **1-19-10**

Read: Psalm 19 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+19)

Prayer: (A prayer from Judith Lewiston, Des Moines, Iowa) "Almighty and Everlasting God, we exalt your name and offer You our most heartfelt praise and thanksgiving for the love and care You show us each and every day. Your mercy is unending and your greatness endures forever. We thank You for your free gift of eternal life and for sending your son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us so that all people who believe in Him may receive your free gift of eternal life. We ask that You fill us with your power each day so that we may reach out in faith to share with others the love and grace You give to us. We ask all this through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen"

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist praises God who is alive among God's people. With eyes wide open, the Psalmist sees the world as God's world! Give yourself permission to see the world through the Psalmist's eyes today. Look at all there is around you and give thanks to God! Spend today praising God in whom you live, breath and have your being.

Resolve: I put my trust in You, Lord Christ, in You alone!

WEDNESDAY **1-20-10**

Read: I Corinthians 12: 12-20 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians12:12-20)

Prayer: Loving God, thank You for creating the world so that we are all linked together. Teach me how to accept my place within Your body. Teach me to do the very best I can to live Your gifts to me in such a way that Your love and grace is shared with all whom I meet each day. Amen

Journal Reflection: The metaphor of the human body is Paul's teaching tool. Christ's Church is like a body. Every part of the body is important. Every part of the body needs to be healthy for the entire body to be healthy. Seek the Holy Spirit's discernment to identify your part within the Body of Christ. Seek also to honor the Spirit's gifts to you so that you can fulfill your part with excellence and love.

Resolve: I am linked with the Spirit through the Body of Christ!

THURSDAY **1-21-10**

Read: **Nehemiah 8:1-10** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=nehemiah+8:1-10)

Prayer: Eternal and Most Loving God, teach me that Your joy is my strength. I think that somber sadness is the religious way. I confess that I am wrong. Teach me, O Lord, to enjoy and bless each moment of life lived in Your name. Amen.

Journal Reflection: When the people heard God's law read aloud for the first time in decades, they were in awe. Their leaders suggested a banquet to celebrate God's presence in their midst once again. Are there ways you have forgotten God? Do you need to find God's joy again? Seek in prayer today the joy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Commit yourself to living in Christ's joy no matter what may happen.

Resolve: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

FRIDAY **1-22-10**

Read: **I Corinthians 12: 21-31a** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+12:21-31a)

Prayer: Grant to me, O Blessed Lord, the wisdom of living as a member of Your team. Forgive me when I think I am more important than the team. Teach me to joyfully live within my role as a team member. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Body metaphor can easily be translated into a team image in today's sports language. Each member of the team has a role to play if the team is to succeed. As each member chooses to place the team's interest above his own, the team will be victorious. As each member does his/her best to do their assigned role, the team progresses! As each member seeks to use their particular gifts to the best of their ability, the team becomes a powerful force! God is assigning you a place on the team. Seek in prayer to do your best for Christ's Kingdom team.

Resolve: Thank You Lord for including me as a member of Your team!

SATURDAY **1-23-10**

Read: **Psalm 113** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+113)

Prayer: (A prayer from John Henry Newman, 1801-1890, in *The Oxford Book of Prayer*) "Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as thou shinest; so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from thee. None of it will be mine. No merit to me. It will be thou who shinest through me upon others. O let me thus praise thee, in the way which thou dost love best, by shining on all those around me. Give light to them as well as to me; light them with me, through me. Teach me to show forth thy praise, thy truth, thy will. Make me preach thee without preaching—not by words, but by my example and by the catching force, the sympathetic influence, of what I do—by my visible resemblance to thy saints, and the evident fulness of the love which my heart bears to thee."

Journal Reflection: Praise the Lord! That phrase is not just a pious sounding mantra to be repeated in worship and forgotten. Praise the Lord is a lifestyle. The Lord is with you every moment of every day. The Lord wants to love you, guide you, fill you with joy, affirm your choices, and help you correct your wrongheaded decisions. The Lord lives. You live by a gift of breath from the Lord. Praise the Lord is a lifestyle of thanks for breath and commitment to sharing Christ's love.

Resolve: Today, all day, I will praise the Lord!