

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
February 15-20, 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 4:1-13 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+4:1-13)

Theme: "Life is too short to waste time hating anyone."

Sermon: "A Second Look at Satan"

Question: How can I identify evil and overcome it in my life?

MONDAY **2-15-10**

Read: Luke 4:1-13 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+4:1-13)

Prayer: Christ, my Teacher, my Friend, I know You were strong enough to withstand the frontal assaults and the devious distractions of the evil one. I need You to teach me and walk with me so that I may follow Your example and reject Satan completely. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Satan attacked Jesus in His very humanity. Satan went after his self-interest, his power needs, and his attraction to spiritual pride. These are common needs for every human, including you. Do an honest self-evaluation today and decide what area of your life in each category is open to attack. Be clear about which area of your life the attack is coming. Then, spend some time in prayer and identify several passages of Scripture that you can memorize and have prepared for your next encounter with the evil one.

Resolve: Strengthen me, Christ, with the light of Your presence!

TUESDAY **2-16-10**

Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=deuteronomy+26:1-11)

Prayer: Thank You, Almighty God, for wanting to give me good things. Thank You for blessing me with abundant life. Forgive me when I am short sighted and think that You want to take life away from me. Thank you for not taking offense at my self-centeredness. Grant to me, O Gracious Savior the power to live a life following in Your footsteps. Amen

Journal Reflection: From the beginning of written history of God's relationship with human beings, God has wanted to give us life. We humans have imagined that God wanted to take life away from us. That negative dynamic occurs in all humans from Adam and Eve all the way to you. Ponder today how your inner voice plays out this old negative dynamic. Decide today to spend time thanking God for God's blessings. Dwell on the goodness and mercy of God all day!

Resolve: God is Good! God is Good! God is very, very Good!

WEDNESDAY **2-17-10**

Read: Romans 10:8b-13 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=romans+10:8b-13)

Prayer: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Universe, Lover of my soul, I believe in You. Thank You for believing in me. I accept You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for accepting me as Your friend and partner. Amen

Journal Reflection: Accepting with your heart, speaking with your mouth, and actually serving with your body are actions that the Apostle Paul recommends in his letter to the Christians in Rome. He is suggesting a complete body experience. This is not a head trip! This is a whole person pilgrimage! Let today be a day that The Word of God links into your words. Let today be a day that Jesus becomes more than a passing acquaintance. Let today be the day Jesus is Lord of your life! Ask Jesus to give you the insight and the strength to let go of any negative thoughts you have about another person. Let Jesus point out to you the ways you can get beyond yourself and serve others in the way Jesus would have you to serve.

Resolve: I am connected to you, Jesus, no matter what happens!

THURSDAY 2-18-10

Read: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+91:1-2,6-16)

Prayer: O Most High God, Thank You for inviting me into Your family. Thank You for opening Your home and including me. Thank You for extending Your love and protection to me. I will honor You by seeking to live in such a way that You are blessed by my thoughts and actions. I want to dwell with You forever. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist writes of the opportunity that God gives you to live under the protection of Almighty God. In what ways are you living with confidence and trust in God's power? What are some ways that you are living in fear and without faith? Observe yourself today. Notice the "mind speak" going on within your head. Is it negative or positive? Do you send yourself fearful messages or positive affirmations? Reread the Psalm as a personal invitation from God to you for today. You can be sheltered within the presence of Almighty God! You can know the peace that passes all understanding. You cannot generate that peace, but you can accept it as a gift from God who is protecting you every day.

Resolve: The Lord is my refuge and strength today and every day.

FRIDAY 2-19-10

Read: Matthew 6: 5-15 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:5-15)

Prayer: Forgive me, Holy Spirit, for my theorizing and theologizing about forgiveness. I can talk about it, but doing it is something else again. I can come up with so many excuses. I can so easily lay all the blame upon someone else. I can find a million reasons that I am right. Help me, Holy Spirit, to remember the innocent Lord Jesus hanging on a cross and help me to forgive as Jesus forgave. Amen

Journal Reflection: Jesus is not pulling any punches. He is straight to the point. Forgiveness is crucial to mental, physical, and spiritual health! Who do you need to forgive? Seek the Holy Spirit's help today to begin the forgiveness process. Yes, I suggested process. Forgiveness is a prayer process that begins within your own heart. After you are attuned to God through prayer, you can begin to let go of the bitterness, rage, hurt, and pain that is still within you. Next, you can begin to pray for the other person. Place them in God's hand. See them as God sees them. Pray for God's power to be within you and give you strength to let go! Once Christ is strongly present in your life, you are ready to forgive in ways that you cannot do when Jesus is not within you.

Resolve: Christ forgave me. With Christ's help, I can forgive others and I can even forgive myself!

SATURDAY 2-20-10

Read: Amos 5:18-24 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=amos+5:18-24)

Prayer: (Prayer from Fr. Gilbert Shaw, 1886-1967) "In these dark days when negation has so deeply entered into thought, and the futility of life oppresses many souls, when belief and unbelief appear indifferent and what is left is natural passion to express the pride of life, or the empty void of nothingness when the nerve to live and to create is weakened and suicides increase—O Lord, forgive the failures of your Church to witness to the world that justice should run on as water and righteousness a mighty stream. O Lord, forgive the failure of the Christian life that lives so worldly that few can see the life of Spirit that must proclaim the kingdom of God's love to glorify his Name." Amen

Journal Reflection: Reflect upon the Prophet Amos and Fr. Shaw's prayer today. Decide how you can live your faith in Christ in such a way that your family and your work associates will know you by the light of Christ that shines through you. Pray that you will reach out to those around you in such a way that they will know the love of Christ. When you are a Christ follower, you carry the name of Jesus Christ. Pray today that you might carry Christ name with humility, peace, and great love.

Resolve: They'll know I'm a Christian by my love.