

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal

April 4 – April 9

*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 11:1-45 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+11:1-45)

Theme: Making room for Christ

Question: How do I deal with death?

MONDAY **4-4-11**

Read: Genesis 3 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+3)

The Refrain: Our God is a God of life, not death

Prayer: God, you offer me life. From your hand I receive all that I need. Because you provide for my needs, I have nothing to fear; not even death itself.

Reflection: The serpent tricked Eve by twisting the truth to reveal a God who threatens us with death for simply touching forbidden fruit. But it says in Genesis 2:9 that God provides us with a tree of life in addition to a tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gives us life, not death.

The Refrain: Our God is a God of life, not death

TUESDAY **4-5-11**

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ecclesiastes+3:1-8)

The Refrain: There is a season for all things

Prayer: God, today may be a bad day, but tomorrow may be a good day. I may experience the stress of the workplace, but there is peace at home. Tomorrow, there may be peace at work and chaos at home. This is the life I live. I will endure the ups and downs and trust you in all situations.

Reflection: As you read this passage, what thoughts come to mind? What positive and happy memories can you recall? What negative and discouraging images emerge? Where is God in the positive and happy thoughts? Where is God in the negative memories?

The Refrain: There is a season for all things

WEDNESDAY **4-6-11**

Read: Romans 6:22-23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=romans+6:22-23)

The Refrain: We have been given the gift of life!

Prayer: God, I open my hands. I open my mind. I open my heart to the gift of your grace which gives eternal life. I deserve not better than death, and yet you have come into this world offering the free gift of life to all who would receive it.

Reflection: Paul says that we have been set free from sin? What sins had previously held you down? In what ways has Christ freed you? How are you experiencing eternal life today?

The Refrain: We have been given the gift of life!

THURSDAY **4-7-11**

Read: Psalm 130 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+130)

The Refrain: Hoping for life is stronger than fearing death.

Prayer: God, I will cry out to you in dark times and I know you will hear my cries. I will ask for your forgiveness and I know you will pardon. I will wait for you to act and I know you will offer me unfailing love and redemption.

Reflection: These words were written by someone who appears to be close to death. Does death frighten you? Do you turn to God with hope? Do you trust God during your times of stress? Do you trust in the love of God?

The Refrain: Hoping for life is stronger than fearing death.

FRIDAY **4-8-11**

Read: John 11:17-26 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+11:17-26)

The Refrain: I believe.

Prayer: God, we are surrounded by tragedy and pain, agony and loss. It all feels so overwhelming. Sometimes, we fall at your feet and ask “Why?” We wonder at the mystery of your ways. Help us to believe in the power of your resurrection and the authority you have over death.

Reflection: Have you ever been in Martha’s position, wondering why God seemed to delay? Read Jesus’ question (v. 26). What is your response?

The Refrain: I believe.

SATURDAY **4-9-11**

Read: Revelation 21:1-4 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+21:1-4)

The Refrain: God will defeat death.

Prayer: God I look to the day when heaven will be established here on earth. I look forward to the day when you will live among us and wipe every tear from our eyes. I look forward to the day you eliminate mourning and delete the stranglehold of death.

Reflection: Make a list on a piece of paper of all the burdensome, painful unpleasant things in your life. Achy knees? Anger at the kids? Loneliness? Fear of the future? Cancer? Runny noses? Empty bank accounts? Read Revelation 21:4 once again, but this time replace “tears,” “death,” “mourning,” crying” and “pain” with the things in your list (Example: “God will wipe away my achy knees. There will be no more anger at my kids, loneliness, cancer or empty bank accounts.”). Let this hopeful exercise encourage you.

The Refrain: God will defeat death.