

Walking in Christ's Light

Daily Prayer Journal

April 19-24 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: Revelation 7:9-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+7:9-17)

Theme: "No one is in charge of your happiness but you."

Sermon: "God's Grace Filled Wash Tubs"

Question: How can I clean up and stay clean for God?

MONDAY 4-19-10

Read: John 10: 22-30 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+10:22-30)

Prayer: Thank You, Christ, for continuing to tell me who You are. I know You, but my need to have proof every day confuses me. Thank You for patiently loving me even with my unbelief. Thank You for bringing clarity to my confused mind and peace to my tumultuous heart. Thank you for never giving up on me, even when I tend to give up on You. Christ Jesus, my Risen Lord and Savior, thank You for being who you are for me and for the world. Amen

Journal Reflection: The religious people of Jesus' day wanted continual proof. Jesus knew that a relationship with God was a matter beyond proof. After all, how can you prove a love relationship? Jesus invited them into a loving relationship with the Creator of the Universe. Jesus offers you the same invitation today. Decide today to live in a growing and loving relationship with Christ, no matter what questions you carry in your mind.

Resolve: I believe in Christ as my savior and friend.

TUESDAY 4-20-10

Read: Psalm 23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+23)

Prayer: Loving Father, remind me each day that You are at work within me and around me even when I am blind to Your presence. Thank You for Your protection, guidance, and invitation to the joy of eternal life with You. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Joy is the spiritual gift of God's presence. The Apostle Paul shared toward the end of his life that he was living in Christ's joy no matter what the circumstances. God invites you to learn to live rejoicing in all things. (Philippians 4) Life is a banquet each day if you choose to let the Spirit fill your life. Life is a foretaste of a joyous celebration with the saints of God. In this most famous Psalm, we see our lives laid out before us. Faithfully follow God's path and be rewarded with a banquet feast of God's love! Choose today to know Christ's joy no matter if you are in green pastures or the valley of the shadow of death.

Resolve: Christ's joy is mine today and every day.

WEDNESDAY 4-21-10

Read: Revelation 7: 9-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+7:9-17)

Prayer: Creator God, I open my life to You. I open my heart so that You can teach me to love. I open my mind so that You can teach me wisdom. I open my wallet so that You can teach me generosity. I open my body so that You can teach me your healing peace. I open my emotions so that you can teach me joy. Creator God, I open my whole life to You. Come on in! Amen

Journal Reflection: As a baptized Christian you wear the white robe of a follower of Christ. At the beginning the robe is too large. The values, standards, and lifestyle are just too much to "put on" all at once. We must grow into the white robe. Reflect today upon how you are growing within your robe. What do you need to do to grow closer to Christ today? This is one set of clothes that it is ok to completely fill up!

Resolve: I will wear Christ's robe with joy today.

THURSDAY

4-22-10

Read: Psalm 100 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+100)

Prayer: (Prayer from Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in *Between Heaven and Earth: Prayers and Reflections That Celebrate an Intimate God*) “How easy for me to live with You, O Lord! How easy for me to believe in You! When my mind parts in bewilderment or falters when the most intelligent people see no further than this day’s end and do not know what must be done tomorrow, You grant me the serene certitude that You exist and that You will take care that not all the paths of good be closed. Atop the ridge of earthly fame, I look back in wonder at the path which I alone could never have found, a wondrous path through despair to this point from which I, too, could transmit to mankind a reflection of Your rays. And as much as I must still reflect, you will give me. But as much as I cannot take up, You will have already assigned to others.” Amen.

Journal Reflection: “Shout for joy!” We do that kind of shouting at an athletic event, but not at church. We will shout at the television watching a sporting event, but not for God in church. Do you wonder if our “Puritan stiff upper lip” Protestant worship style is missing a key Biblical ingredient? What boundaries are you afraid to cross in worship? What would happen if you sang God’s praises at the top of your voice with great joy? I think God would love your praise!

Resolve: Open us up, Holy Spirit! Open us up to authentic, praise filled worship.

FRIDAY

4-23-10

Read: Acts 9: 36-43 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+9:36-43)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, empower me to wash what is dirty; to water what is dry; to heal what is wounded; to warm what is cold; to guide one who is off the road; to love those least loveable because they need it most. Holy Spirit, I need Your strong presence in my life because without You, I will fall back into myself and see no need around me. With Your help, I can see the needs and respond with appropriate love. Teach me and empower me to do Christ’s work today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: In this early Church history lesson the Apostle Peter following Christ’s direction raises a Godly woman from death. Our first reaction is to question. Put your critical reflection aside and let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this account. Life itself is a miracle of God. Love is a miracle from God. Miracles happen every day. Open your eyes and ears and celebrate God’s resurrection power in your life! Look around you today and see God at work in the ordinary world that you normally take for granted.

Resolve: God’s resurrection power is flowing in my life today!

SATURDAY

4-24-10

Read: Acts 13:15-16, 26-33 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+13:15-16;26-33)

Prayer: Loving Redeemer, I thank You for Your gentle guidance. With Your help I am able to walk with confidence. Through Your presence in my life I am able to see the positive and let go of the negative. Thank You for redeeming my life each day. Amen

Journal Reflection: The early Christians were transformed by the power of God’s resurrection of Jesus. They lived with that resurrection power in their lives. They beamed with God’s light. They flowed with God’s energy. They spoke with God’s confidence. Decide today to open your life to God’s resurrection power. God can and will fill you up with power to live a joyful energized life. Stay focused on God’s resurrection power and let go of the negative self talk that is habitual in most of our lives.

Resolve: Fill me up, Holy Spirit! Fill me up to overflowing!