

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
April 26-May 1, 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: Psalm 23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+23)

Theme: "The best is yet to come."

Sermon: "A Royal Invitation"

Question: What kind of life does Jesus invite me to experience?

MONDAY 4-26-10

Read: John 13:31-35 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+13:31-35)

Prayer: Loving Lord, teach me how to love. Your love is a decision of my will. Strengthen my will! Your love is a decision of my mind. Enlighten my mind. Your love is a decision of my heart. Empower my heart. Lord Jesus, fill up my life with Your unconditional love. Amen

Journal Reflection: This passage of Scripture is taken from Jesus' last conversation with his disciples. Jesus' directive to His disciples is to love like He loves. Jesus' love is the tough, determined, decisive love that chooses to love another no matter what the consequences. Jesus' love is the kind of love that causes a person to choose to die for another person. Today, I invite you to remember people who have unconditionally loved you with Jesus' kind of love. Decide today to be one of God's people who will love others with Jesus' kind of love. Make a point of loving someone with Jesus' kind of love before the day is over.

Resolve: Christ-like love is my decision for today and every day.

TUESDAY 4-27-10

Read: Psalm 148 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+148)

Prayer: I celebrate Your creative power, O God. I praise You for the joy of Your world. Thank You for sunrises and sunsets. Thank You for birds singing and water rippling. Thank You for colorful flowers and new green trees. Thank You, Creator, for the beauty You place all around me. Amen.

Journal Reflection: God is creating amazing beauty every day all around you. Are you observing God at work? Decide today to allow God to surprise you. You will need to be observant and expectant. You will need to set aside your pre-conceived notions and let God work a new idea, a new design, or new vision into your mind. Decide today to allow God to surprise you today!

Resolve: I am open and ready for God's surprising presence in my life.

WEDNESDAY 4-28-10

Read: Revelations 21:1-6 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelations+21:1-6)

Prayer: Christ, we have bolted down the pews in our churches. We have built our houses of worship heavy and substantial. We have become fixed, settled in our place. And yet, there is Easter. The tomb is empty. Jesus Christ is raised from the dark tomb bringing light into a dark world. Life conquers death. You are the Lord of life! Eternal God, deal with our deadliness. Bring an Easter Spirit into our midst. Prod us. Open us up. Cut things loose. Shine! Spirit, spur us. Push us out. Show us, by your prodding, life-giving fire among us that Easter is true. We are called to follow You living life and holding high Your light. Empower and enlighten us to be vibrant and fully alive Easter people. Amen

Journal Reflection: Imagine a new heaven and a new earth filled with the love of God! Imagine that vision being alive in your world today! You can work with God to bring about a little more light, a little more love, and a little more spiritual power in our world. Decide today to be one of God's partners in bringing about a new earth.

Resolve: I am a partner with God in growing Christ-like love.

THURSDAY

4-29-10

Read: Psalm 145 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+145)

Prayer: (From Bob Benson, *Laughter in the Walls*) O Lord, make us serene like the hills, clear like the sky, pure like the clouds, upright like the trees, warm like the sunshine, refreshing like the rain, bubbling like the stream. O Lord who makes all things, and makes them beautiful, make us beautiful, too. Amen.

Journal Reflection: “Great is the Lord...” What a wonderful message. God is greater than anything we can imagine. God is greater than anything we can create. Who can imagine a God great enough to love us enough to die for us? Who can imagine God coming to earth to die so that we might know of His great love? God is great!!! Take time today to meditate upon the greatness of God. Focus your mind upon God’s greatness. Celebrate God’s greatness! Give thanks all day for God’s greatness. And, when you find yourself beginning to drift into negative thoughts then, at that moment, think of God’s greatness.

Resolve: God is great. God is good. God is love!

FRIDAY

4-30-10

Read: Acts 11:1-18 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+11:1-18)

Prayer: Send me a vision, Lord. Send me a vision that moves me beyond my pre-arranged plans and pre-conceived notions. Remind me once again that I am not in control! You are. Speak to me in my heart of hearts, Holy Spirit, so that I may grow in my understanding of Your mission for the world. Enflame me, Holy Spirit, with Your power to share the love of Christ with everyone I meet today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: God takes Peter beyond anything he ever knew. Peter visits a gentile and eats with him. Unthinkable under Jewish law! God tells Peter that the dietary laws are over! Unbelievable! Peter’s whole world is turned upside down! And, Peter does not argue. Peter follows the Holy Spirit’s leadership. The gentile becomes a follower of Jesus. Peter grows in understanding of the greatness of God. Think about your own “laws.” What does God need you to give up so that you can grow in Christ like love?

Resolve: Anytime and anywhere, Jesus, I will follow You!

SATURDAY

5-1-10

Read: John 15:9-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+15:9-17)

Prayer: Today and every day, Lord Jesus, I will take time to remember some of the many blessings You have given to me. Thank You for life! Thank You for joy! Thank You for opportunities to learn. Thank You for work to do that brings Your kingdom one day closer to reality. Today and every day, Lord Jesus, I will celebrate the blessings You bring into my life. Amen

Journal Reflection: This is another time in Jesus’ last conversation with His disciples where He mentions a command to love. The Greek word is *agape*. The meaning is no strings attached, self-giving love. Take a personal inventory today. Do you love with no strings attached? Are you willing to give up your rights for the sake of your children and spouse? Christ-like love is best lived out within the walls of your home.

Resolve: Christ-like love will be actually lived within my family.