

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
May 3-8 2010

*Growing our souls is a partnership with Christ.
To enable your soul's growth, use this material with Christ as your guide.*

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Monday, May 3, 2010

Read: Psalm 104, vv. 30-34 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+104:30-34)

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for this time of renewal, this time of buds and blooms, of nestling birds and fawns rustling in the woods. Let me remember that this time of year is a blessing to behold, and a promise of future blessings. Let me remember that none of it is possible without your abundant love.

Journal Reflection: Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it.
Love every leaf, every ray of God's light.

Love the animals, love the plants, love everything.

If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things.

Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day.

And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

-Feodor Dostoevski

Resolve: I will remember and trust in God's care of all Creation and in God's unfailing love.

Tuesday May 4, 2010

Read: Proverbs 11: 1-16 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+11:1-16)

Prayer: Father God, Let me look honestly on my life today and see my best, my worst, and my middle-of-the-road behavior. Help me to become kindhearted in all that I do, so that as a believer, I can better raise my family, assist my co-workers, and bring everyone I meet closer to your Precious Son.

Journal Reflection: The psalmist tells us peace lives in a household- or a workplace, in our communities- when graciousness is balanced with humility and wisdom. We are told that mercy does good to both the recipient and the giver, and the righteous person receives the true reward.

Resolve: Jesus, You are the true reward! Let me live your example of mercy and generous giving every day!

Wednesday May 5, 2010

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

Prayer: Precious God, you exalt the humble and bring joy to the pauper. Help me to remember to always praise you for celebrating your love and caring for your people.

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist, rejoicing, reminds us to rejoice! God is to be praised for as long as Time, itself, exists, and from the sun's rising until its setting. Even if we have no children, are to be as joyful as mothers with houses filled with welcome, beloved children!

Resolve: I will remember to praise God every day, and with his help I will greet all people as though they are my own welcome, beloved children.

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Read: Proverbs 31, vv. 10-31 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+31:10-31)

Prayer: Lord, teach me to put my love into the work of my body today, whether it is the hard work of construction, the often tense work of the office, working to grandparent babies in daycare, or the all-day-all-night work of mothering. Let me never forget that in all I do, in all I love, I am really loving You, Father and Mother of us all.

Journal Reflection: All of us, no matter what work we do, grow tired or grouchy, and often want to just walk off the job- but we don't, or at least, few do. Most are faithful, even to jobs they loathe, not for their own sake, but for the sake of the ones they love. In the Proverb, the excellent wife never reveals that she is grouchy or tired, but works from before dawn until after dark, for the sake of her family. Perhaps you had a mother, or someone who took a mother's place, who rose early for you, and worked cooking, sewing, cleaning. After dark, perhaps that precious woman taught you to pray at bedtime before she went back to her never-ending work.

Resolve: Lord, Let me never forget my mother's work-hardened hands and love softened heart. Let me be as faithful as a mother in all that I do.

Friday, May 7, 2010

Read: Gen 17, vv. 15-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+17:15-17)

Prayer: God, the announcement that you were bringing a child into the world was greeted with laughter! How many ways, through the centuries, have we greeted that news? Lord, help us to remember that each child can fill us bubbles of laughter, if we will only open our hearts.

Journal Reflection: When God thought of mother, he must have laughed with satisfaction, and framed it quickly--so rich, so deep, so divine, so full of soul, power, and beauty, was the conception. ~ Henry Ward Beecher, Motherhood a Celebration, 1987

Resolve: Let me always greet new life, whether it is plant or animal, or a precious child, with joyful laughter.

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Read: Luke 1:46:49 (The Magnificent or Song of Mary) (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+1:46-49)

Prayer: Oh, God- is there any one of us who has not felt this way some time in our lives? Is there any mother, whether her child grew under her heart or in it, who cannot sing with Mary of her joy of being selected by you to care for own special family? Help me, Lord, to remember that all Creation grew "under" Your heart! Help me to honor your works and to love your people! Help me to remember and love the women who have mothered me throughout my life!

Journal Reflection:

To-day's your natal day;

Sweet flowers I bring:

Mother, accept, I pray

My offering

And may you happy live,

And long us bless;

Receiving as you give

Great happiness.

Christina Rossetti

Resolve: Abba, our mothers may be with us still or not; we may be mothers or not. This may not be our mother's birthday- her natal day. Yet, come Mother's Day, I will give her and the other women you placed in my life to guide and shape me a greater share of my time and loving attention than the usual rushed hello-and-goodbye. I will not let flowers alone tell her of my love for her. I will speak my love and I will speak my gratitude!