

THURSDAY

7-29-10

Read: Psalm 49:16-20 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+49:16-20)

Prayer: “O God, listen to my prayer. Let my earnest petition come to you for I know that you are hearing me. As surely as though I saw you with mine eyes. I am placing a lock upon my heart. I am placing a lock upon my thoughts. I am placing a lock upon my lips and double-knitting them... Let no thought come to my heart. Let no sound come to my ear. Let no temptation come to my eye. Let no fragrance come to my nose. Let no fancy come to my mind. Let no ruffle come to my spirit that is hurtful to my poor body this night, nor ill for my soul at the hour of my death. But, may you yourself, O God of life, be at my breast, be at my back. You to me as a star, you to me as a guide, from my life’s beginning to my life’s closing.” Amen (A. Carmichael, Celtic Prayers, pp.34-35)

Journal Reflection: God is within, above, and beyond all life. Open your eyes and become aware of God’s presence in your world today. Suspend your “modern” skepticism and let God teach you about God’s wonderful presence in your world. God is with all people. Yes, God is with the wealthy and the poor. God knows what we often forget, that all humans will end up the same. We will all die. And, the fame and fortune we think is important in this life will fade away! God urges you to keep your life focused on what is eternally important!

Resolve: God is the only reason life exists.

FRIDAY

7-30-10

Read: Ephesians 4:1-6 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+4:1-6)

Prayer: Holy Christ, my Lord, strengthen me with mercy and love to do your work of peace. Let me be a person who works for unity within your church even in the face of self righteous, arrogant elitism. Teach me to respond to hatred with love. Guide me, O Great Shepherd of the sheep to trust in you completely. Amen.

Journal Reflection: There is only one church of Jesus Christ. All the splits and separations are creations of our imaginations. All the labels that we fixate upon are figments of our fantasy. In God’s eyes the Body of Christ is one. God’s vision of oneness can change your life forever! Seek today to let God’s vision of “One Lord, One faith, and One baptism” fill your mind and heart. Weep for our petty divisions. Work for God’s unity! There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us pray for all who serve the Lord no matter what their label.

Resolve: I will be an agent for God’s oneness today.

SATURDAY

7-31-10

Read: Acts 2:1-21 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+2:1-21)

Prayer: “Almighty God, you have called the church into being and have gathered us into one family. By the power of your Holy Spirit help us to live in unity and peace with all of your children. May our actions this day be fruit of our faith in your kingdom. In the name of Christ, I pray. Amen” (Norman Shawchuck, A Guide to Prayer, P.178)

Journal Reflection: The first Pentecost celebration marked the beginning of the public ministry of the church. Notice that at the beginning the church was multi-cultural. The One church began with a diversity of people, nationalities, religious heritages, and ethnic makeup’s! However, the presence of the Holy Spirit created unity and oneness in ministry and communication. Pray today and all throughout the world people will pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to once again unite all Christians.

Resolve: I will be one of God’s peace ambassadors to the world and the church.