

**Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal**

August 23- August 28, 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: Ephesians 5:15-20 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+5:15-20)

Sermon: "God's in Charge...so, Say Something"
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**Monday: 8-23-10**

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+kings+2:10-12;3:3-14](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+kings+2:10-12;3:3-14))

**Prayer:** Lord, teach me to turn toward you, even if I don't yet know how to look at you.

Lord, you know my strength, even if I don't know how to grasp you.

**Reflection:** Oh hey, what would you do if you were king or queen? Solomon says, "I am only a little child; I don't know how to come out or go in. Solomon asks God to help him be a good king. God responds by saying some who are in authority would have asked for money or long life, or the death of their enemies, but Solomon just asks for help.

**Tuesday: 8-24-10**

**Scripture:** Psalm 111 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+111](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+111))

**Prayer:** Lord, you are my salvation, even if I don't know how to believe. Lord, you are me pardon, even if I don't know how to repent.

**Reflection:** There is a joke about a man who walks into a pet store and says, "I want to return this talking bird."

The store owner says, "Well, sir, we guarantee that our birds can talk, but we can't guarantee they will talk." "No, no," the man says. "The bird talks all right, but I don't like it's attitude. For six days I said to the bird, 'Can you talk?' The bird said nothing. Every morning and every night I stood in front of the cage and said, 'Can you talk?' The bird still said nothing. Finally this morning I lost my temper and shouted, 'You stupid bird, can you talk!'" "So," the store owner asked, "what happened?" "The bird looked at me and said, "Yeah, I can talk. Can you fly?"

**Wednesday: 8-25-10**

**Scripture:** John 6:51-58 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+6:51-58](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+6:51-58))

**Prayer:** Lord, teach me to turn toward you, even if I don't yet know how to look at you. Lord, you are love, even if I don't know how to love.

**Reflection:** "God moves in wondrous ways, his mysteries to perform.' I know you think I wrote that incorrectly. I did Not. I wrote what I meant, and I meant what I wrote. The old hymn is true: 'God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.' But it is equally true when you flip-flop the language. We have seen first hand the wondrous ways God chooses and uses to perform his mysteries in the downtown church."

-Howard Edington, *Downtown Church, The Heart of the City*

**Thursday: 8-26-10**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:15-20 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+5:15-20](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+5:15-20))

**Prayer:** Living Lord, help me to figure out what will please you; and then help me to do it!

**Reflection:** "I am convinced the God speaks not out of burning bushes but in our burning hearts; from within, through the very processes that God implanted in us...our reason and our conscience. God speaks through our inner values."

-Psychologist Edward Stein in, *Pastoral Psychology*

**Friday: 8-27-10**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:35ff ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+15:35ff](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+15:35ff))

**Prayer:** Gracious God, please give me the wisdom and energy to change the things I can, to accept the thing I can't, and to be comfortable enough in my own skin to know the difference.

**Reflection:** Every time I think I'm getting a sense of what "God has prepared for us," I read 1 Corinthians 15:35ff and realize how far I really am from even beginning to "comprehend the concept of resurrection. Jesus' body can be touched and handled (John 20:27; ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:27)) Luke 24:39)([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+24:39](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+24:39)), bears the marks of the wounds inflicted on his pre-death body (John 20:20, 25, 27)([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:20;25;27](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:20;25;27)), and not only cooks fish (21:9) but eats it (Luke 24:41-43)([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+24:41-43](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+24:41-43)). On the other hand, Jesus' body apparently rose through the grave clothes (John 20:6-8) ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:6-8](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:6-8)). Appears in a locked room (20:19, 26) ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:19;26](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+20:19;26)), and is sometimes not (at least initially) recognized. The best I can do is to say, "God's in charge, so shut up!"

**Saturday: 8-28-10**

**Scripture:** Psalm 40 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+40](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+40))

**Prayer:** Eternal One, Speaker, from whom my words come; Questioner, from whom my curiosity rises; Lover, of whom my loves are hints, Disturber, in whom alone I find rest; Mystery, in whose depths I find healing and myself; embrace me in your presence; restore me in your peace; renew me through your power; ground me in your grace.

**Reflection:** Jewish rabbis tell a poignant story of knowing what to say and when to say it on behalf of God in Christ (check out Proverbs 18:21.) ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+18:21](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+18:21)) As the story goes, one day, the rabbi asked his servant to go to the market to buy good some food. When the servant returned home, he presented the rabbi with tongue. The next day, the rabbi asked the servant to go to the market to buy some bad food. Again he returned with tongue. When the rabbi asked the servant why he returned with tongue both times, the servant made this observation: "Good comes from it and bad comes from it. When a tongue is good, there is nothing better, and when it is bad, there is nothing worse."