

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
November 16-21, 2009

*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: Luke 21:25-36 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+21:25-36)

Theme: Thanksgiving is a gift from the heart

Sermon: "An Attitude of Gratitude"

Question: What can I do to daily live with gratitude?

MONDAY 11-16-09

Read: Matthew 25:31-46 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+25:31-46)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, my Judge and Redeemer, I stand before You. You judge me by my words and deeds. My life is in Your hands. In the light of Your love, Your sacrifice, and Your mercy, my life looks very small. Yet, I know that You count my every good action as important. Encourage and strengthen me, Jesus, so that I can see and respond to You in the faces of people in need. Amen.

Journal Reflection: "The least of these" can be anyone. Certainly there are hungry and homeless people who need our compassion. There are also spiritually hungry people who need to find their true home with God. Christ is within everyone you meet. Every person you meet is burdened with: unforgiven sin, unresolved conflict, painful relationships, physical disabilities, psychological traumas, etc. Look for the face of Christ within each person you meet today. Then, respond as you would respond to Jesus.

Resolve: Jesus is in my heart and mind today.

TUESDAY 11-17-09

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

Prayer: Almighty God, I praise You for Your creative genius. I love all the diversity You continue to create in this amazing world. There are so many personality types, ethnic origins, and national identities. Wow, God, what a complex world You are creating! I must admit that people who are different from me also frustrate me. Diversity in theory is OK, Lord, but in real life, it's not easy. Thank You for continuing to create in me the vision, patience, and grace to appreciate all of Your creation (even the hard to like ones). Amen.

Journal Reflection: In your mind's eye imagine what worship will look like following this Psalm's directions. Wow! Joyful noise will be coming from all kinds of instruments—even people's voices! Thankful hearts will be praising a wonderful God. Gladness will be the hallmark of the singing! Affirming God's ever present goodness is first and foremost. Pray today that the Creative God of the Universe will ignite a passionate fire of joy within Christ's Church. And, pray that you will be the spark of God's fire in your home and work this week!

Resolve: With God's help, joy will be in my living today!

WEDNESDAY 11-18-09

Read: Ephesians 1:15-23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+1:15-23)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, grow a passion within my heart and for actively loving You. Teach me to unite my faith talk with faith action. Move me beyond repeating belief statements to actually living faith with You as my guide. Build me up into a "Good News" messenger. Grow me up into a fully mature, actively loving and living person in Your great family. Jesus, let Your joy flow through me today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Reread the Scripture today as if the Apostle Paul were writing to you. Pay attention to the Apostle's prayer for you to grow in faith. Notice the prayer for your wisdom based upon God's revelation of truth. Give thanks for the prayer that asks for you to be filled with the riches of God's Kingdom. Make this prayer a personal one so that you can accept God's blessings today and every day of the rest of your life!

Resolve: Today, I will celebrate the power and glory of Christ Jesus my Lord.

THURSDAY 11-19-09

Read: Ezekiel 34:11-16 and 20-24 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ezekiel+34:11-16)

Prayer: Thank You God, for being You and letting me know who You are. Thank You for loving me and all human beings with an unconditional love. I know I don't deserve Your love and I thank You for loving me anyway. Thank You for being my Shepherd. When I am honest, I know I need both Your rod and staff because the walk is at times dark and the way is difficult. Thank You for being with me and for me no matter what I do. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Prophet Ezekiel assures you that God is Your Good Shepherd. God will feed and water God's flock. Even if one of the sheep wanders off, God will search and find the lost one. In your mind's eye today picture Jesus as your Good Shepherd. See Jesus standing beside you with the Shepherd's rod and staff. Give thanks today for the Shepherd's guidance, discipline, tender mercy, loving kindness, and unconditional compassion. Give thanks that you have a Shepherd who is with you all the time!

Resolve: Thank You, Good Shepherd, for being who You are!

FRIDAY 11-20-09

Read: Mark 10:46-52 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+10:46-52)

Prayer: Gracious God, I need Your healing at the core of my being. There are wounds that I cannot heal by myself. There is old pain that I cannot ignore anymore. Some of it I brought upon myself and I cannot forgive myself. Some of the pain is from others. Some of it is just from living in this world. Gracious and loving God, I need Your healing touch within my heart of hearts. Forgive my self-centered anxiety and liberate me from my fears. Holy Spirit, I am open to your healing touch in my inner core! Touch me and heal me today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Handicapped people are often looked at with pity. Unfortunately, they sometimes get caught in a pity trap themselves. The way to live a joyous life above and beyond the handicap (which we all have) is to accept the healing power of Jesus into your life, then act upon it. Honestly identify your handicap (physical, spiritual, emotional). Ask Jesus for His healing touch in your life. Accept Christ's forgiveness that is an integral part of the healing. Now live beyond your handicap.

Resolve: I am willing for Christ to heal and empower me for New Jerusalem living.

SATURDAY 11-21-09

Read: Psalm 95:1-7 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+95:1-7)

Prayer: Loving God, every once in awhile I hear Your creation music. I hear the joyous sound of Your love being acknowledged. I am aware of Your presence in a whisper or perhaps a shout. Whenever I catch a glimpse of You at work, I am thrilled by Your joy and love. Thank You for including me in Your song. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The essence of God's presence in the world is love, joy, peace, mercy, compassion, goodness, justice, and righteousness. The Psalm for today tells you that God is everywhere. God is a part of all creation. God is outside of all creation. When you choose to act in love, to share joy, to grow peace, to provide mercy, to give compassion, to live with goodness, to work for justice, and to practice righteousness, you then are close to God's heart! God is, so that you can be alive and grow toward maturity. Reflect upon the greatness of God today. In everything you do and say, give praise to God.

Resolve: My life will be a joyful song to the Lord today!