

## ***Walking in Christ's Light***

### **Daily Prayer Journal**

**November 30-December 5, 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:** Isaiah 2:1-5 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+2:1-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+2:1-5))

**Theme:** the joy of Christmas

**Sermon:** CHAT DRAMA: "Christmas in Cricket County"

#### **MONDAY 11-30-09**

**Read:** John 1:6-8, 19-28 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:6-8; 19-28](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:6-8; 19-28))

**Prayer:** Forgive me, Lord, I leave so little room for wonder in my life. I am too often obsessed with control and explanations. A surprise throws me off balance and the unknown scares me. Amaze me again with Your grace and help me to recognize Your marvelous deeds. Mysterious Word of God: give me strength to open my eyes, wisdom to open my ears, so that you might fill my life with amazement and wonder today. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The Word of God is another way of talking of the Creator of the universe! The Word of God in the flesh is Jesus Christ. By some mysterious, only God knows, why, the Creator is One and more than One. The Word is flesh and spirit completely. Jesus is fully God and fully human. John the Baptizer is the person chosen by God to point to the mystery of God unfolding in his lifetime. John was amazed by what God was doing. John did not understand, but John trusted Jesus. Unhook your mind from all known ideas about God today and allow yourself to imagine the depth, height, and breadth of the Eternal, Mysterious, and Personal God.

**Resolve:** The God of the universe is much bigger than I can comprehend, but personal enough to love me and accept my love.

#### **TUESDAY 12-1-09**

**Read:** Psalm 126 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+126](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+126))

**Prayer:** Jesus, if I fall into a complaining mode today, remind me to stop long enough to count my blessings and to hear Your reassurances. Give to me the insight to hear myself being negative and teach me to see the orchid in the swamp of life. Help me to open up my ears to hear Your music in the most raucous sounds. Jesus, I know you are with me and desire to fill me up with Your joy, grant to me the wisdom to open up and allow Your presence in my life today. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The people sang this Psalm as they climbed up to Jerusalem. As they joyfully marched up the 3000 foot incline, they remembered God's saving actions. "The Lord has done great things for us," was their celebration message. In your mind list all the great things God has done for you and your family. Remember the power of God in your life as early as childhood. Let your memories become a song!

**Resolve:** I will sing of God's saving action in my life today!

#### **WEDNESDAY 12-2-09**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:16-24 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+thessalonians+5:16-24](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+thessalonians+5:16-24))

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, I live under the influence of a fear based, market driven economy. If I am going to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances," then I need Your help. I can cast out anxiety from my heart, but I need you to fill it up with hope quite quickly. I can stop thinking negative, judgmental thoughts, but I need You to fill up that mental space with love. Thanks for Your partnership for a more joyful life. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Give the Holy Spirit a chance today to fill you up with God's joy, mercy, peace, and love. Notice any way you consciously or unconsciously quench the Spirit, and then open up your soul to more of the Spirit. Be aware of Jesus' deep desire to bring you joy and accept the gift with gratitude.

**Resolve:** Holy Spirit, come with joy into my life today!

**THURSDAY****12-3-09**

**Read:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+61:1-4;8-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+61:1-4;8-11))

**Prayer:** Today I am going to do my best to see the world through Your eyes, Jesus. Most of the time I have tunnel vision just focused on my wants and needs. And, Jesus, I know I can so easily be deceived. Teach me today to see clearly the world as You see it, so that I may share Your love with others more nearly as You would do. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Jesus used this Scripture to identify His call to ministry. (Luke 4:18) Jesus said that He fulfilled this Scripture. His call, and the call upon all His followers is clearly demonstrated here. Take an inventory of your schedule for today. How are you going to follow Jesus' example? Be open to Jesus' leading to reach out to someone who is blind, deaf, hungry, imprisoned, or oppressed (either physically, emotionally, or spiritually). Be ready and willing to let Jesus lead you into a ministry to the "least of these" today.

**Resolve:** I celebrate the ministry of Jesus in my life today!

**FRIDAY****12-4-09**

**Read:** Luke 1:47-55 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+1:47-55](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+1:47-55))

**Prayer:** Loving God, I am continually amazed at the courage of Mary. The world was against her. Common sense and reason "should have won out." Yet, Mary said yes to Your messenger. Loving God, I need a Mary kind of courage in my life. Grant to me enough personal strength to stand with You and for You in every aspect of my life today. I love You, Lord, and I want to serve You today! Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Imagine being confronted as Mary was! We can look back and say, "O, Yes!" But, Mary was looking forward not knowing the future. She identified that the message was from God. She loved and trusted God enough to risk her life following the vision God gave to her. Her village could have stoned her to death. At the least, she would be an outcast in her own home village. Yet, Mary said yes to God. Ponder the faithfulness of Mother Mary! In spite of everything that could have gone wrong she did not give up her hope in God. Let Mary be your faith mentor today.

**Resolve:** I will live with Mary's kind of faithful courage as I follow Jesus today.

**SATURDAY****12-5-09**

**Read:** Psalm 13 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+13](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+13))

**Prayer:** Eternal God, I respectfully request that You hold out Your hands. I am going to give you all my worries one by one. My health, my family, my job, my friends, my church, my future, my world---all I these and more give over to You. I am willing to work hard for Your Kingdom God. I am willing to be a responsible member of Your family. But, I can no longer carry all these worrisome burdens. Thank You for being willing to carry them for me! Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** In the midst of life's storms it is difficult to remember to trust the Lord. Sometimes we are so filled with worry that there is no place for God to come into our lives. Decide today to empty out the worry from your inner life. You might need to write all the worries down on a piece of paper. However you do it, choose today to let go of your anxiety so that God can be more alive within your life.

**Resolve:** I am emptying my heart of worry, so that I can trust God more!