

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
December 21-26, 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: Acts 2:36-40 and Ephesians 2:4-9

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+2:36-40)

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+2:4-9)

Sermon: "The Best Gifts In Life Are Free"

Dr. April Joy Ping

MONDAY 12-21-09

Read: Luke 1:26-38 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+1:26-38)

Prayer: Mysterious and All Loving God, I praise You with my whole being. I praise You for the joy You bring to me even in the midst of pain. I praise You for the peace You bring even in the most difficult of circumstances. I praise You for the wisdom You are giving me as I live through trying times. I praise you with all my heart! Amen.

Journal Reflection: Mary chose to praise God with her whole life for her opportunity to share God's love with the world. Mary said "YES" to the angel Gabriel even though she knew that the rejection, shame, and perhaps persecution would come to her and her parents. The earthly pain and shame were nothing compared with her opportunity to share God's love with the world. Remembering the big picture helped Mary! Let your mind follow Mary's lead today. Remember the mysterious power of God is at work within you all the time. You are a Heaven bound pilgrim invited to share God's love! Wow!

Resolve: I will celebrate God's great salvation plan for the world today by sharing God's love!

TUESDAY 12-22-09

Read: Psalm 89:1-4,19-26 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+89:1-4;19-26)

Prayer: Thank You, God, for providing me with life so that I might sing of Your great faithfulness. I admit that at times I am not faithful to You. I am ashamed of my wandering heart and mind. I find myself going through an entire day without ever thanking You for being with me. Yet, Lord, You are faithful. You are beside me all the way. Thank You for your faithfulness! Create in me the awareness and the strength to be faithful to You today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist sings of God's faithfulness throughout all generations. During this day give yourself permission to remember all the ways God has been faithful to your family. (Include more than your generation) Look for the positive, life-giving gifts you have received. Observe that God blesses even the "odd relations" in numerous ways. Thank God for the blessings God has given to you and your family. Now, chose as a family to be a blessing to others this Christmas season.

Resolve: I will spend today giving thanks to God for God's faithfulness!

WEDNESDAY 12-23-09

Read: Romans 16:25-27 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=romans+16:25-27)

Prayer: Jesus Christ, Lord of my Life, I pray for strength today. There are days that I feel weak and useless. I wonder if anything matters. Sometimes the darkness seems to overcome me and I wonder if evil really will win. When I lose heart, Jesus strengthen me in my innermost being. Give me the courage to live Your truth for another day. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Apostle Paul is blessing the Roman church with this Scripture passage. It is a benediction. Paul knows they need Christ's strength if they are to remain faithful followers of "Christ's Way" to God. The difficulties of life were increasing for them. Take a personal inventory of your weak areas. Where is it that you need Christ's strength? Let today be the day you open up your weaknesses to Christ's power.

Resolve: I am will allow Christ to strengthen me in my inner being.

THURSDAY **12-24-09**

Read: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ii+samuel+7:1-11:16)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, I am encouraged by Your faithfulness to King David. I remember what a low life he was at times. The self-righteous part of me cannot imagine You continuing to love him after his participating in murder and adultery. Yet, You remained faithful to King David! And, even more surprising, Jesus was born into the family of King David as You promised. Great is Your faithfulness, O God! Thank You that Your faithfulness does not depend upon mine. Thank You for forgiving me as You forgave King David. Thank You for all the ways Your faithfulness inspires me to be faithful to You and to my family and friends. Amen.

Journal Reflection: King David was a blessed and forgiven sinner. (He was a really big sinner, too!) Take heart! God forgives! God's grace is real. If God can forgive King David all his transgressions, then God can forgive you as well. Jesus demonstrated the power of God's forgiveness through His genetic makeup. Jesus was born into King David's family. Salvation came to earth as God promised to David—through the "house and lineage of David!" God forgives you even the most awful of sins!

Resolve: I will accept God's forgiveness and let go of myself reproach!

FRIDAY **12-25-09**

Read: Luke 2 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+2)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, because I cannot come to You, You came to me. Because I cannot make my home with God, You came to make Your home with me. Today is Christmas! This is a day filled with joy because my hope is fulfilled through Your gift of "no strings attached" love for me. Thank You for becoming flesh and living among us. Thank You for Your promise of love, Your gift of hope, and Your joyful presence in our lives. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Take some time today and ponder what it would mean to you if Christmas did not exist. If Christ had not come; If no angels had sung; If no shepherds had run to the manger; If no wise men traveled from the East; What would your life be like if no Christ child were born? The reality; however, is that Christ is born! Now give thanks that Jesus did come and God's great saving love is available to you and all your family through Him! Celebrate Christ within your family today and make a clear decision to celebrate Christ's presence each day of the next year.

Resolve: Thank You, God, for the gift of Christmas!

SATURDAY **12-26-09**

Read: Luke 2:21-40 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+2:21-40)

Prayer: God of Heaven and Earth, Father of all life within this universe, I turn to You this day with joy in my heart and soul. Your love knows no boundaries. Your love cannot be stopped by anything. Your love will win out over death! Your love will victoriously defeat evil. Your love is the very essence of the universe. Without Your love our world dies. With the song of Your love undergirding all life, we are enabled to live. We live and breathe by Your gift of love. I celebrate Your love made real to all human beings through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Mary and Joseph's courage is incredible. But, God's mysterious love is unfathomable. Imagine, God coming to earth so that we can know who God is. Imagine God being so in love with you that God was willing to take on the confining form of a human baby. Imagine God's great love for our world! Let your imagination range throughout the universe and be aware that God's love is greater than that! Let God's love touch you in a deep inner place so that Your soul appreciates and celebrates God's great love for you and for all humankind.

Resolve: I celebrate the mysterious, awesome love of God today.