

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
December 28, 2009-January 2, 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: John 1:1-18 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:1-18)

Theme: God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do!

Sermon: "New Beginnings Count"

Question: What can I do to begin my life again this year?

MONDAY **12-28-09**

Read: Luke 2:22-40 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+2:22-40)

Prayer: O God, Creator of all life, I pray for Your continuing presence within all human beings. Restore within our hearts the appreciation for life. Grant that we who follow Jesus may share in His divine call to transform this world into a place of goodness and peace where God's gift of life is valued. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Simeon and Anna affirm the young parents of Jesus. Surely Joseph and Mary must have wondered whether they were really in touch with God or just a little "off". God provided two wise people to support the new parents. I imagine Mary and Joseph remembered this Jerusalem encounter with the prophets even after many years. Who has God provided for you to support you at just the right time in your life? As you remember them, give thanks to God for their willingness to be God's prophet for you. And, if God asks you to support someone else, be ready to do so at a moment's notice! You never know when you can be a Simeon or Anna for someone.

Resolve: I will accept God's affirming word whenever it comes to me.

TUESDAY **12-29-09**

Read: Psalm 148 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+148)

Prayer: God of the Universe, I praise You. I jump with joy because You give me the opportunity to know You. I am amazed by Your love. I am in awe of Your creative power. I am thankful for Your continuing patience and forgiveness. But most of all I praise You for being You—God of All that is! Great Jehovah! Creator of the World! Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist is one of God's cheerleaders. We are reminded that praise is natural when we think of God. The Psalmist teaches us that praise for God comes from all living beings. Interestingly enough, we are also taught that "inanimate" objects also praise God. The entire universe praises God. God loves you because of who God is, not anything you have done or didn't do! Spend time today praising God in your own unique way.

Resolve: I will praise God today!

WEDNESDAY **12-30-09**

Read: Galatians 4:4-7 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=galatians+4:4-7)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, Comforter and Counselor, be present in the life of this child of God today. I must be honest and share how often and how long I forget my identity. I chase after so much stuff I forget who I am. Thank You for finding creative ways to continually remind me that I am your child, a beloved child of God. I praise You for continuing to teach me about my Jesus' inheritance. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Through the action of Jesus, God adopted you as one of God's children. Nothing you do can change the fact that you are a member of God's family. God loves you unconditionally. God loves you because of who God is! How do you respond to God's love? Evaluate your relationship with God today. Decide how you can be a better member of God's family in the coming year.

Resolve: God can count on me to be a responsible family member!

THURSDAY **12-31-09**

Read: **Isaiah 61:10-62:3** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+61:10-62:3)

Prayer: Joyful God, forgive me for so often getting caught in the “pious trap”. I find myself thinking about You and I begin to act “pious”. There is a part of me that thinks You want me to be sour faced, laughless, and extremely “under control”! Forgive me for not knowing You better. Help me remember that You describe living with You as an eternal marriage banquet! Remind me over and over again that true joy is a spiritual gift from You! Joyous God, please let Your joy bubble up within me in all I say and do today. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Joy is an essential part of who God is. Joy is what God experiences in the act of creation. Joy comes to us as a gift from God. Isaiah (and Jesus) describes the joy of heaven as a marriage banquet. Another metaphor is the spring time explosion of grass, flowers, and green leaves. God wants you to live in God’s joy! No matter what your circumstances, God’s joy is available to you in your inner being. Examine your heart today for anything negative and cast it out, Then you can really believe God in your heart of hearts that God wants you to be joyful. Spend some time today talking with God about your desire for joy!

Resolve: I want to live with God’s joy bubbling up within me today.

FRIDAY **1-1-10**

Read: **Matthew 2:13-15** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+2:13-15)

Prayer: God of the traveler, wanderer, and wayfarer, thank You for traveling with me. My life’s pilgrimage is not a direct one. Mary and Joseph traveled straight to Egypt. I have traveled in circles, into dead ends, and even into a few ditches. Thank You, God, for being with me every step of the way! Thank You for protecting me when I should have been in an accident. Thank You for watching over me even when I was not on the good path. Thank You, God, for being with me and staying with me. Help me to be more open to Your directions in the future. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Do you wonder if Joseph stopped and asked directions? After all, his family had not traveled to Egypt before. And, we human beings are notoriously independent when it comes to asking for help! (Yes, women, too!) Reread this short travel story and place yourself in it. Would you have left because of a dream? Do you think King Herod would really kill the children? (He actually did you know!) How do you listen to God today? Are there “King Herod’s” alive today that will kill indiscriminately? How do you fit in this story?

Resolve: I am asking God to travel with me all day today.

SATURDAY **1-2-10**

Read: **John 1:1-18** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+1:1-18)

Prayer: Creator of all matter, time, space, and life, Word of God, I celebrate this New Year as a gift from You! You are still creating, Christ. Hallelujah! You still care about our world! Thank You! And, Gracious and Loving Spirit thank you for trusting me enough to ask me to help create Your New Community. This year, I will do my best to live my best so that Your New Community can be the best that we can be! Amen.

Journal Reflection: Read the Holy Scripture today as a family remembering who God is and what God is still doing for us all! Pay attention to the beautiful poetry that is written. Pay attention to the power of the words written here. And, allow your soul to hear with wonder the mystery of Christ coming to earth to open the doors of heaven so that you can travel back to God.

Resolve: I celebrate God’s continuing creative activity in the universe!