

Walking in Christ's Light

Daily Prayer Journal

July 6-11, 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: Old Testament Psalm 47 & New Testament I Peter 1:7-9

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+47)

([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+1:7-9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+1+7-9))

Sermon: "Dancing with Joy"

MONDAY 7-6-09

Read: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+6:30-34;53-56)

Prayer: "As by God's courtesy, God forgives our sins when we repent, even so God desires that we will forgive our sin, and so give up our senseless worrying and faithless fear. Our desire is to fear God reverently, to love God humbly, and to trust God mightily." (Prayer by Julian of Norwich)

Journal Reflection: Jesus invites his disciples to come away with him and rest. The action/rest dynamic that Jesus has followed privately is now extended to his disciples. In our frantic paced existence, we need to hear Jesus invitation to come away with him. Come away with Jesus in daily prayer. Come away with Jesus in weekly Worship. Come away with Jesus and enjoy God's Sabbath Day of rest. Come away with Jesus in seasons of rest and relaxation. Reflect upon your schedule and decide to change it as Jesus directs so that you align yourself with his action/rest model.

Resolve: I will come away with Jesus today.

TUESDAY 7-7-09

Read: Psalm 23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+23)

Prayer: Faithful Shepherd, thank You for always being with me. Thank You for assuring me in so many ways that I am never alone. Thank you for walking with me through the dark valleys as well as the green pastures. Thank you for the promise of a great banquet feast with God in heaven. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist is King David. He rose from being a lowly shepherd to being the great king of Israel. He did not forget his roots. He learned much from his time alone with God and the sheep. King David writes for us the metaphor of God's continuing presence in our lives. God is the Shepherd of our lives. Let yourself become aware today of the subtle ways God is present with you. Be aware of the touch of his rod when you need discipline. Be aware of the touch of his staff when you need guidance. When you notice God's touch in your life, give thanks for The Shepherd's gentle presence.

Resolve: I will follow the Shepherd wherever I am lead.

WEDNESDAY 7-8-09

Read: Ephesians 2: 11-22 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+2:11-22)

Prayer: God, I am a stranger when it comes to knowing how to relate to You. I am a poor guest in Your fabulous mansion. I am uncertain how to act. I am constantly filled with feelings of unworthiness. Thank You for continually reminding me that I am accepted and loved just the way I am right now. And, thank You Eterna God for Your promise of growing into a more mature and joyous follower of Jesus. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The Apostle Paul writes that once we were strangers, now we are accepted in God's household. Give yourself some time to reflect upon the meaning of being accepted into God's family. Think of all the negative aspects of life on Planet Earth right now. Now, consider the power of God's positive presence in your life when you accept your invitation into God's family. If you were still a stranger outside the door, what difference would that make? Consider all the people you know who are truly in the stranger condition. Pray for them today.

Resolve: I am accepted in God's family, Hallelujah! I will invite a friend into God's family this week.

THURSDAY 7-9-09

Read: II Samuel 7:1-14a (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ii+samuel+7:1-14a)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, teach me the difference between a building of concrete, wood, or stone and relationships with real live human beings. It is so easy to build something concrete. Teach me the eternal value of growing Christ centered relationships. Teach me, Spirit, how to grow relationships based upon Your presence and knit together by the Word of God. Amen.

Journal Reflection: King David has a laudable idea. He is in a palace. God should be treated better than being worshipped in a tent. David's motives are good. His focus is misplaced. God teaches him that what lasts for all eternity is not a building, but personal relationships. David hopes to honor God and himself by building a great sanctuary. God is honored far more by righteous living within a covenant community. In our culture we are often lead astray by a "things" focus. We forget too quickly that what lasts for all time is the relationships in Christ that we build with our children, our families, and our friends. Decide today to be a builder of relationships with people that will last for all eternity.

Resolve: I will be a builder of Christ centered relationships.

FRIDAY 7-10-09

Read: Revelation 7:9-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+7:9-17)

Prayer: Christ, I pray today for the many people who are being persecuted because of their faithfulness to You. I specifically pray for Christians in the Middle East, in Pakistan, and in Egypt. Christ, I ask that you comfort and strengthen them in their hours of tribulation and pain. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Honor and glory are given to Almighty God. That is the way this vision begins. A great multitude is gathered before the throne. Many different interpretations of this vision are offered throughout the history of the Christian Church. Indeed, much blood has been spilt over determining the "right" interpretation. Let's by pass the arguments and accept the vision as it stands. The martyrs of Christ are restored and healed. The God who is Most High becomes the God Most Nigh in verse 17. God is their Shepherd who will heal, comfort, and sustain. All the suffering of this world is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God. Let this vision of God's majesty and intimacy seep into your soul today. Allow the vision to empower you to pray for those Christians who are undergoing persecution in our world right now.

Resolve: O God, You are my God, and I will ever Worship You.

SATURDAY 7-11-09

Read: Proverbs 13:1 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+13:1)

Prayer: O God, My Father, I open my life so that I may learn from You. Forgive me for the way I have been closed to Your instruction. I want to listen. I want to learn from You. Teach me, Father. I am open and listening. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Defensiveness is a learned behavior. Somewhere in our past we learn to protect ourselves from criticism rather than learn from it. So, instead of understanding that correction helps us grow, we learn to defend ourselves and ignore the educational opportunity. Choose today to be open to God's discipline and instruction. God is a Loving Parent who desires the best for you. Choose to allow yourself to hear what God has to say about your values, your living, and your choices. Choose to learn from what God says even if the words initially hurt.

Resolve: I will be open to God's teaching, even if it initially stings.