

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
September 7-12, 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: James 3:1-12 and Mark 8:27-38

www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=james+3:1-12

www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+8:27-38

Theme: Spiritual toughness is living within Christ's strength

Sermon: "Spiritual Toughness"

Question: How can I be strong for Jesus around my friends and family?

MONDAY 9-7-09

Read: Mark 7: 24-37 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+7:24-37)

Prayer: Thank You, Christ, for moving beyond the comfort zone of the Jewish people and healing the Greeks. You were not supposed to walk in their towns. By the traditional law, You were to abandon the Gentiles to hell. Thank You Jesus, for loving the entire world and including us in Your salvation plan. Amen

Journal Reflection: The Gentiles were the scum of the earth. Good Jewish people did not even get dust from a Gentile town on their sandals. According to the Jewish law a person was unclean if they associated with unclean people. Jesus knew God's law surpassed human interpretations of the law. Jesus knew that in God's world there are no marginalized and outcast people. Jesus associated with, healed, taught, confronted, and forgave persons who were considered unclean and unacceptable. Who are the outcasts in our society? Can you begin to pray for them? Ask Christ to guide you in your prayers, attitudes, and finally actions. Then, decide to follow Jesus in actively praying for persons who are marginalized.

Resolve: I will follow Jesus, where ever he leads me.

TUESDAY 9-8-09

Read: Psalm 125 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+125)

Prayer: Almighty God, forgive my blindness to Your presence in my life. Open my eyes so that I can see the daily joys with which You bless me. Create in me, O Lord, an enduring faithfulness so that I can be counted as one of Your Mount Zion people. Grant me courage to stand fast in support of You. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Mount Zion is one of the tall places in Jerusalem. Currently there is a Church build upon Mount Zion that can be seen from many points of the city. Mount Zion is the symbol of strength, steadfastness, and courage. Mount Zion reminds us that God always surrounds God's people. Mount Zion teaches us that a relationship with God will create a strong character within us that cannot be shaken by the trials and tribulations of this world. If you want to be a person who stands strong when all around you are falling, then you will want to build your life in relationship to the God who is stronger than Mount Zion.

Resolve: I will be one of God's Mount Zion people.

WEDNESDAY 9-9-09

Read: James 2:1-13 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=james+2:1-13)

Prayer: Spirit of God, fill me with a desire to think of others. Forgive me when I am self absorbed. Grant me courage to help others when I am able. Let me be blind to their status. Let me only see one of Your children in need. Amen.

Journal Reflection: James warns the Church of being status conscious and exclusionary. James urges us to see only God's children in need. It is so easy to build walls to separate us from the people we are afraid of. It is so easy to create a label for people we do not want to associate with. It is so easy to ignore people who are poor, sick, or in trouble. Jesus told us that we would find Him when we met the needs of the outcasts and the poor. Today keep your eyes open and see the people who are hurting and marginalized. In the name of Jesus do some anonymous random act of kindness to someone today.

Resolve: I will rid myself of all barriers that separate me from God's beloved people.

THURSDAY 9-10-09

Read: Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+22:1-2;8-9;22-23)

Prayer: Beautiful Savior, as I reach out to You, I know You will take my hand and give me courage to face another day of concerns. Thank You for being with me. Thank You for being willing to help me with the little things of life. Thank You for providing light in my darkest moments. Thank you for Your assurance that You are with me no matter what I have to go through today. Thank You, Lord. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The wisdom writer of these proverbs knows that every person on earth is a child of the Living God. The common point of reference for every human being is our common identity as God's children. We may be different in so many ways that I cannot even begin to list here. But, there is one reality that is common to us all. "The Lord is the Maker of us all." Spend time today noticing people. Instead of seeing the differences, become aware of your common bond with each person. With God as our Father, brothers and sisters all are we.

Resolve: I will celebrate God's family today.

FRIDAY 9-11-09

Read: Revelation 12 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+12)

Prayer: Thank You, Almighty God that I am not left to the wiles of the powerful and deceitful dragon. Thank You, Eternal Father, that You provide for me the protection of Christ Jesus. I will stand with Christ against the dragon and all the dragon stands for. I can stand up to the dragon because I know that I am not alone! Christ Jesus is with me. I will follow Jesus Christ, no matter what may happen. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The image of the horrible dragon, even Satan himself, is pictured in this passage of Holy Scripture. Thankfully, the power of God is also portrayed in this vision. The authority of Christ is upheld. The power of God is assured. Satan can deceive, but not overpower. Satan can attack but not claim victory. All Satan's power comes from us when we hand over our power to him. The way to assure this satanic power exchange does not happen is to stay in close relationship with Jesus Christ. Decide today to follow Jesus in every decision, even the small ones.

Resolve: I am following and trusting in Jesus with my whole life.

SATURDAY 9-12-09

Read: Genesis 1: 27-2:3 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=Genesis+1:27:2:3)

Prayer: Creator God, I owe my life to You. You give me each breath that I breathe. You give me intelligence. (What little of that I have comes from You!) You give me the freedom to choose. I thank You for my life. I ask You, Lord God, to be present in my life with Your creative power and keep on creating in me a person of strong values, courageous character, and tender mercy. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Who are you growing to be? God created your face when you were born. You are creating your face as you grow through the decisions that you make. What face will look out from the mirror when you are in your old age? Ask God to be within you and guide your decision making so that you can grow to wear the face that God created you to wear. Rather than concern yourself with the outward appearance by covering over your flaws with cosmetics. Seek the Lord's help to grow your face from within through a life connected to Christ's Spirit of righteousness, mercy, and love.

Resolve: Create in me, Lord God, a fresh, merciful, faithful face.