

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal
September 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: Mark 9:38-50 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+9:38-50)

Theme: Engagement with life is a grace gift from Christ

Sermon: "The Power of the Engaged Life"

Question: How can I be engaged with my life in a positive useful way?

MONDAY **9-21-09**

Read: Mark 9:30-37 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+9:30-37)

Prayer: Loving Lord, You give me ears, but often I do not hear. You give me eyes, but often I do not see. You give me a heart, but often I do not love. Renew me with Your Holy Spirit. Fill me with Your powerful grace. Teach me how to live joyfully sharing life as a child in Your great family. Amen

Journal Reflection: We learn as children how to manipulate a situation so that we get our own way. We learned as children how to build a wall around us to keep us from getting hurt too often. Our manipulations and defenses become unconscious ways that we create our world. For example: a well armored person often perceives the world to be a very lonely place. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you today how your childhood habits are harming your present life. Then ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom and the courage to change your old harmful habits so that you can begin to practice new life affirming ones.

Resolve: I can be a child of God without being childishly manipulative.

TUESDAY **9-22-09**

Read: Psalm 1 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+1)

Prayer: I pray for the roots of my life to be buried deep in the soil of Your Grace, O God. I pray for Your springs of everlasting water to flow within me. Refresh me. Renew me. Fill me up with Your grace and love so that I may do the work of Your family with joyful energy. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Read and reread this psalm today. If you can, memorize it. Close your eyes and allow the psalm to become a picture in your mind. See yourself as a tree planted by streams of living water. Be aware of your inner life being refreshed. Be in touch with the "fruit" God wants you to bear. Feel within yourself the joy that comes in having the opportunity to do something meaningful for Christ. Let the psalm be for you a way of refreshment and refocus when you are tired and weary from the day.

Resolve: I am planted in You, Lord God. Nourish me and I will grow.

WEDNESDAY **9-23-09**

Read: James 3:13, 4:3-8 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=james+3:13;4:3-8)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, grant me the gift of hope today. I look out upon the world and I am tempted to be cynical. I can easily side with the attitude of this age and become fatalistic, fearful, and hopeless. Grant me the gift of a vital, full, and abundant hope so that I may live with You and for You all day. Amen.

Journal Reflection: The writer of this letter knows human beings very well. He knows that our interpersonal conflicts are outward manifestations of inward insecurities and unfulfilled needs. He knows that our communities are torn apart by self centeredness and greed. He urges us to seek heavenly wisdom. The first step toward heavenly wisdom is humble submission to God. James knows the power of hope in your life. Once you let God be God you can know the great hope of God's abundant grace, peace, and love. There is no need to be anxiety ridden. You do not have to fear the future. In Christ Jesus, you have a strength to overcome anything this world throws at you. Celebrate God's abundant hope today!

Resolve: I bow my knee to You, O God my Father!

THURSDAY**9-24-09**

Read: Proverbs 31: 10-31 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=proverbs+31:10-31)

Prayer: Eternal and Loving God, help me to add to the beauty of this day. Guide me in showing kindness to someone who needs a smile. Give me insight in how to continually care for your planet. Grow up in me a desire to be a co-creator with You so that I can add to the beauty of this day. Amen.

Journal Reflection: Our Churches have been so intent on keeping women “in their place” that this passage of Scripture is overlooked. The woman pictured here is an accomplished manager and business person. She is doing the work she can with great skill. She is also caring for her family. Rather than talk of being less than a man (i.e. submissive), we need to affirm and celebrate the gifts God gives to women and men. Jesus had many women in his faithful circle of supporters. In fact, the women were last at the cross and first at the tomb! Let us celebrate God’s gifted, faithful, and talented women.

Resolve: I will celebrate God’s gifts to each person!

FRIDAY**9-25-09**

Read: Revelation 14: 1-5 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+14:1-5)

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for including me in Your great family. Thank You for providing a way for my sin to be forgiven so that I can stand with You. Thank You for redeeming me and letting me serve You. I praise and worship You, O God my Father, Creator of Redeemer of planet Earth. Amen.

Journal Reflection: A lot of incorrect understanding of God comes from this one passage. The Jehovah’s Witness take this passage literally. Others have as well. Revelations is a vision, not a scientific text book. We must read John’s vision from God as full of symbols. The number 144,000 most probably is a symbol of sacred completion. Rather than see it as a literal number that excludes. More than likely, the Holy Spirit is revealing a number that will be inclusive. The main emphasis is upon redemption and worship. Celebrate today your inclusion in God’s family through giving thanks for your redemption.

Resolve: I am redeemed and included in God’s great family!

SATURDAY**9-26-09**

Read: Jeremiah 11:18-20 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=jeremiah+11:18-20)

Prayer: Loving God, You give me strength to endure. You give me insight to protect myself. You give me Your presence to uplift me and carry me through the tough spots. Keep close to me and help me accept the faults of others. Amen.

Journal Reflection: God told Jeremiah that both Israel and Judah were following an idolatrous path. God had enough. Through Jeremiah God told of a coming cataclysm that would leave the people desolate. No one wanted to hear what Jeremiah said. They plotted to kill him. The Scripture today is Jeremiah’s prayer of thanks for God’s loving watchful care. Today, give thanks for God’s presence in your life. Share with your children God’s presence.

Resolve: I will witness to Your powerful presence in my life, O Lord.