

**Walking in Christ's Light**  
**Daily Prayer Journal**

---

**February 14 – February 19**

---

*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:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=leviticus+19:1-2;9-18](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=leviticus+19:1-2;9-18))

**Theme:** Saying "no" helps me align my priorities.

**Question:** What does my faith require me to exclude and embrace?

**MONDAY** 2-14-11

**Read:** Matthew 5:38-48 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:38-48](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+5:38-48))

**Prayer:** God, show me how I have fallen in step with generally accepted principles and practices. And show me instead the way of your son, Jesus, who calls us to live life differently. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Faith is often credited with giving us comfort and stability in times of need and stress. But faith can also be rattling. Faith can challenge our preconceived notions and confront old habits and harmful practices. Does your faith comfort more than it confronts? Does it coddle you more than it challenges you?

**Resolve:** Reflect on the impact of your faith on daily practices.

**TUESDAY** 2-15-11

**Read:** Luke 9:57-62 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+9:57-62](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+9:57-62))

**Prayer:** Later. Maybe. Possibly. Hopefully. Many times, God, my prayers have begun with these wishy-washy, non-committal words. I have been hesitant to follow you and have put other things ahead of your teachings. Help me to begin my prayers with more resolute terms, like "certainly," "absolutely," "definitely," and "Immediately." Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Following Jesus and obeying his teachings are never convenient or easy. They rarely fit into our schedules or flow easily into our daily routines. Jesus' response to our hesitation is clear: Decide now and don't look back. Follow me.

**Resolve:** Follow the way of Jesus without pause.

**WEDNESDAY** 2-16-11

**Read:** Isaiah 58:6-12 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+58:6-12](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+58:6-12))

**Prayer:** Help me, O God, to see religion as more than a list of don'ts but as a list of do's. Help me to discover the true meaning of fasting and festivals. May this pray compel me toward action rather than inactivity.

**Journal Reflection:** Many people accuse religion of being a list of don'ts. They claim religion restricts one from enjoying and experiencing the fullness of life. But, Isaiah reminds us that true religion compels us towards action, towards giving others life. How does my faith affect my activity.?

**Resolve:** I will consider my faith today; taking note of the ways my faith compels me towards action.

**THURSDAY** 2-17-11

**Read:** Colossians 2:20-23 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=colossians+2:20-23](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=colossians+2:20-23))

**Prayer:** God, expand my imagination, broaden my perspective so that I may see the wonder of your grace and the power of the cross. Break the bonds of human regulations and instead release me on Freedom's wings.

**Journal Reflection:** Fasting, prayer, study and other spiritual disciplines are meant to draw our focus away from ourselves towards God. But if we're not careful, such acts of piety can make us feel proud. Jesus was quick to warn his disciples of such pride, and Paul spilled much ink telling his churches to think beyond the man-made legal regulations and look instead to the love of Christ that transcends any human practice.

**Resolve:** I will focus on what I can do today, rather than what I can do.

**FRIDAY** 2-18-11

**Read:** Genesis 2:15-25 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+2:15-25](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+2:15-25))

**Prayer:** You are the God who gives generously. Remind me of the blessings you have given me, instead of obsessing over things which may harm me.

**Journal Reflection:** God has given us so much. In Genesis we read that God gives Adam a partner, a mission, an environment of harmony and peace, and the freedom to eat from any tree he desired. Only one tree could not be a source of food, and Adam could not live accept such a restriction. Why is it so difficult for humans to be content with what we have?

**Resolve:** I will strive to be content with what I have.

**SATURDAY 2-19-11**

**Read:** Matthew 4:1-11 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+4:1-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+4:1-11))

**Prayer:** Give me strength to endure temptation today. Bring to mind Scriptures to defend me and rebuff the attacks of the enemy. Remind me that my refusal goes hand in hand with acceptance of God's leadership in my life.

**Journal Reflection:** Many have said that after 40 days, Jesus was in a weakened state when he faced the temptation of Satan in the wilderness. But I would contend that this duration of abstinence and prayer probably strengthened Jesus, leaving him supremely prepared for the attacks of Satan. When we abstain from the necessities of life, our focus is shifted to the source of our life.

**Resolve:** Challenge yourself to go without food, television, music, or some other pleasure for a 24 hour period. Spend time in prayer during that time of abstinence.

**LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**For Sunday, February 13, 2011's Sermon**

**Foundational Scripture: I Corinthians 3:1-9**

([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+3:1-9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+3:1-9))

**Featured Scripture Reflection:** "Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working."

**(I Corinthians 3: 8-9)** ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+3:8-9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+3:8-9))

Opening Icebreaker: What kind of field would you describe the Christian Church to be at this time in history? (Fully green and beautiful; full of weeds; ripe for harvest; just beginning to grow; etc.)

**Scripture Questions**

**What is the scripture saying?**

- Since each of the factions in the Corinthian Church thought they were more spiritual than the rest, how do you think they would respond to the first 4 verses?
- What does Paul mean when he uses the word picture of infants and milk?
- What is Paul attempting to teach in verse 5-9?
- What is the main focus of this passage?

**How is your life touched?**

- What is the difference between respecting a Christian leader and what the Apostle Paul is talking about in this section of his letter?
- What reasons can you think of for the emphasis upon servants working at minimum wages?
- What could be the driving emotions behind the factions in the Corinth Church? (Fear, pride, etc.)
- What is your first emotional response to times of transition?

**What is God's invitation to you?**

- You are called to focus your attention on Jesus and Jesus alone. What keeps you from maintaining that focus in your life?

**What can you pray for?**

Pray that Chilson Hills will be filled with spiritually aware, passionate and gifted servants of the Lord Jesus Christ who are willing to serve in whatever way God calls?