

Daily Family Devotions

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first.

FRIDAY

"BUOYANCY OF LAUGHTER"

Scripture: Proverbs 17:22; 18:14

A little boy was watching his mother attempt to ice skate for the first time. After her first, embarrassing fall, he said nothing. But the second time she fell, he noticed her flushed face and tight lips. Finally, unable to stand it any longer, he called to her, "Smile, Mommy. It doesn't hurt so much when you smile!"

This is true in the Christian life, too. So often when we fail in full view of the world, we tend to become tense, angry, preoccupied. Our joy flies out the window and we become "determined," flint-jawed, and dogged, the very kind of Christian we don't want to be.

Christian living, like everything else we do, gets easier with practice. Even though Christ gives us the power, the Holy Spirit guides and motivates, we still have to go through the painful process of becoming seasoned mature Christians.

So let us not forget joy. Lightness of heart is to the Christian what rubber is to a ball: without it we have no rebound; we simply lie where we fall.

Laughter is an indication of optimism, good faith and not too much self-pride. It makes your mistakes easier for you - and for others - to bear.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank You for the laughter You have put into our hearts. We know that joy is one of Your gifts to us and that we can claim it in everything we do. AMEN

SATURDAY

"HIDDEN DEATH"

Scripture: Matthew 9:11-13; Romans 3:23

Do you ever wonder why some people are so disinterested - even hostile - to the Christian faith? They seem to regard it as an unnecessary involvement both emotionally and practically. They find no attraction in it whatever. Often these people seem perfectly happy, too - outwardly successful, unperturbed.

There were people like this during Jesus' time, too, but how often His keen glance must have looked through the outer veneer to the inner soulsickness we all have. Many times, without warning, He would look at a person and "put His finger" directly on their trouble, the unbelief, immorality, unforgiven sin, their craving for money.

There must have been many times, too, when He saw the sickness in their souls, but because of their resistance or disbelief He passed on. We never find Jesus arguing or coaxing. Before a man could listen to Jesus, he had to be aware of his condition. As He said, He had come for those that were sick.

We cannot expect everyone to be aware of their sin. Most people are not and do not want to be reminded of it.

But for each or those who do not want help there will be those who do need it desperately; often their desperation comes from having looked so long for help that they have despaired of ever finding it. These are those to whom Christ comes - those who will live because He has touched them.

Prayer: May I not be blind to those in search of Thee. Lord, give me wisdom, compassion and the memory of what I was before You came to me. AMEN

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

"SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE"

Scripture: Galatians 5:19-24; 6:7-10;
I Corinthians 15-21, 22

Sin is that which separates us from God. It can be attitude or act, violence or indifference. The woman who turns politely aside from divine persuasion in her heart is as far from God as the narcotic or murderess. The intellectual who hardens his heart against God's effort to redeem him is as separated from Him as the militant agnostic who shouts curses, and blasphemes.

The state of sin - the state of being separated from God - is the climate that forms hell. It is this state in which Satan rules and from which God is repulsed, this atmosphere that smothers the soul, kills the spirit.

All the things which today we call "sin," are merely the symptoms of Sin, evidence of the insidious presence of the disease in a person's soul. And no man living escapes this inherited illness.

But as a person suffering from a disease cannot rid himself of the symptoms until he is cured, neither can a person under the influence of sin rid himself of his immorality and Godlessness until he has been touched by Jesus Christ. This is why the Christian should not try to treat the symptom or correct the habit. Get to the seat of the disease - the separation from God. When God fills that life, the habits, the sin will go. Your only task is to lead people to the Great Physician.

Prayer: Lord, give me a love that woos men to Thee, that seeks and finds those in need. AMEN

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TUESDAY

"DIVINE PRESCRIPTION"

Scripture: II Kings 5:1-14; John 11:25, 26

If you had a terminal disease, and the doctor told you to do something which seemed absolutely ridiculous - how would you react? Like Naaman? Or would you rush to do exactly as your doctor had ordered?

Much would depend upon your opinion of your doctor, your trust in him.

Many people today are like Naaman; God has told them what to do to be healed of their spiritual debilitation and illness. But it is such a simple thing, such a ridiculous order, that they simply shrug and turn away, annoyed that it is not something grand, something they could be proud of performing.

Like Elisha's order to Naaman, God's order to us is humbling - and whether we follow it or not depends a lot on just how much we want to be healed - how much we want to live.

God has Himself declared that only one "prescription" can save us from eventual spiritual death. If we do not accept it, we will die spiritually. It is as simple as that. And it is ours to choose or reject - just as it was Naaman's choice. If he had walked away Elisha would not have run after him - and if you walk away from God, He will not run after you.

He has done all that needs to be done for our spiritual salvation. It is up to us whether we believe in Him enough to follow.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive me for desiring always that which will edify my own pride. Thank You for offering us a way of life again! AMEN

WEDNESDAY

"RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A CLOAK"

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8, 9;
Romans 5:1, 2; 10:3, 4

Righteousness is a word which makes many people cringe; it sounds so pompous and prohibitive. What IS it?

Righteousness is the first prerequisite for coming in to God; it really means acceptability to God. It is purity, perfection, holiness.

But who on earth could ever be any of these much less all three? No one. And this is the dilemma in which the human heart finds itself caught: how can we ever hope to be good enough to approach God?

In the old days, before men could come in before a king, a royal cloak was dropped over their shoulders. Underneath, they were still the beggar, the criminal, the outcast, but they were outwardly acceptable to come.

This is what Jesus Christ has done for us. He has taken His cloak which designates His Sonship to God, and has put it on our shoulders. Now not only can we come into God, but we are also afforded all the privileges that the wearer of the Son's robe enjoys. This is what Christ means to the Christian.

This is also why no Christian can ever look down upon another man - for we are all unworthy, with or without the robe. Not one of us came into the courts of God without the compassion of Jesus Christ and His "cloak."

Now we begin to see why pride has no place in conversion or in the Christian's experience. We are all debtors to God and to His Son for their love.

Prayer: Make me more aware each day of the privilege of being adopted into Thy household, I pray. AMEN

THURSDAY

"THE SECRET OF BELIEF"

Scripture: John 3:16-18; 14:1-6

The one qualification for becoming a Christian is "belief." On this single filament, hangs the whole weight of the Gospel - the beautiful, powerful faith God has fashioned for us.

Belief sounds like such a small, insignificant thing, but it is the only way man could possibly reach out, and accept the fabulous plan God has in Store for him. How - but by belief - can you accept the divine birth, God the Father, Mary of Nazareth, Jesus - Son of God and son of man? How except through belief do you accept a love that willingly took on all the foulest sins of the world and with them, the penalty from God - giving us in exchange, free passage into the presence of God?

How except by belief could you accept the fact that God had the power to raise Christ from the dead? How except by belief could you comprehend the fact that God has prepared a place for us after this life, and that He has the power to raise us, too, as He raised Christ.

These things defy human proof, or scientific logic. They are so far beyond our comprehension that we would not even dream to look for them if God did not ask us to "believe it!"

If you had not believed that Christ could give you the desire to go on living, the power to correct your life or the joy to serve others, you would never have put out your hand to Him, would you? How else could you have come, except by belief ... Thank Him for it.

Prayer: Father, we thank Thee for the ability of our human spirits to believe in Thy divine power. AMEN