

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

"HOW MUCH DO YOU BELIEVE?"

SCRIPTURE:
Acts 26:6-18

Before a Christian can be convincing as a witness, he himself must be convinced.

If you were driving down a road at night and suddenly came to a washed-out bridge - and if someone you loved were following you, would you turn aside and let him go on to his destruction? Even for a stranger, you would make some effort to warn him.

How convinced are you that without Jesus Christ, the people you love are going to pile up their lives eventually on a "road" that leads nowhere? Our Lord said, "I am the Way, the Truth - and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Why would He say it if it were not true?

Let us never make the mistake of trying to convince someone else of a fact that we ourselves are not able to believe. Sooner or later, people will know our witness is counterfeit and they will reject it - and perhaps even our Lord.

You do not have to "know all the answers" or even defend every skeptical taunt. If you simply *believe*, and they see this, God will bless the witness, and someday your faith in Him - your unwavering certainty in His promise - will help to nourish their own faith. We are not meant to be the way; we are merely asked to point the way to others. Can you?

Prayer: Lord, someone cared enough to show me the way; so may I be able to point those I love to Thee. Father, I know that in Your love, you desire all men to come to You. Help me to guide them, I pray. AMEN

SATURDAY

"A STRAIGHT FURROW TO GOD"

SCRIPTURE:
Psalm 121
Proverbs 6:20-23

When a farmer plows a furrow, he takes a sight on one object and sets his course by it. If his gazeshifts or his pivot-object changes, his furrow will wander crooked, too.

Our children are the most precious trust God has given us. Either we succeed in showing them how to plow that straight furrow to God, or in our own vacillation, we wander between worldly approbation and God's approval, between God's will and our selfish objectives, between spiritual incentive or social pressure.

When you make a decision regarding your child, what is your basis for it? Popular trend . . . maintaining harmony between you and the child, or a sincere desire to seek God's will in the situation?

When your child rebels against the beliefs he has been taught, do you in your anger set yourself as authority, or do you step aside and let him argue with God's Word?

We must not be afraid to trust our children to God's power - once we've committed them to His love. We will always stand as imperfect adults before our children. Only our Lord is worthy of their idealism and hope - their trust and total commitment.

Prayer: O God, help us to yield ourselves to Thee as vessels of Thy infinite grace - not as idols of our own selfish egos. Lord, may we keep Thy face before us as before our own children so that together we may seek Thy perfection, guidance and will for our lives, we pray. AMEN

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022

*"TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,
AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE"*

SCRIPTURE:
Ecclesiastes 3:1
Proverbs 2

In the years before he is twelve, a child has a unique capacity to memorize; the brain is particularly impressionable and things committed to memory are deeply absorbed and retained. Often years later, Bible verses learned as a child can be recited unerringly by a person in his seventies or eighties.

This is why it is so essential for our children to commit to memory now as many verses as possible while that ability is still so keen. They needn't understand it all now: understanding belongs to another age - college and business years when there is no time to memorize. At that time they will need the spiritual ammunition immediately, right at hand, where it can be grasped and used as needed.

While yet children, the satisfaction of accomplishment lies in memory work itself.

Do we realize how we are crippling our children's tomorrows by deleting their memory work today? These years are like a foundation to a house: if they are built solidly now, they can withstand anything later.

Prayer: Lord, help me to guard these early years - to treat them with the respect for the potential You placed there. May I value each stage of my child's development - treasure every year for Thee - give each one a real significance so that nothing is wasted. In these early carbon-copy years of theirs, give me wisdom and faithfulness, I pray! AMEN

TUESDAY

"TRUE REFORMS"

SCRIPTURE:
I Corinthians 1:20-25

Look back over the great Christian reforms of the past. What was their primary accomplishment? They cut away the extraneous, the man-made veneer, the distorted interpretations of the original Gospel.

If you were to take a cross and begin to cover it with layers of paint and clay, papier mache, cloth and putty, it would not be long before that cross, its lines and details, would scarcely resemble the original one.

Today, the world is rejecting the Cross as The Way, for it sees only the outer mass, the blob of our human effort to doctor up the Gospel: it is a clumsy, imperfect symbol which does not have the simplicity of the original, but is legalism or philosophy or another social instrument.

True Christian reform attempts to strip away that which in any way conceals or covers the intricate perfection, detail, symmetry or balance of this powerful Lord and His way.

We must stand aside and let people see Christ as He is - not as we think Him to be in one individual opinion. He is the answer to every man's problem if only men can come face-to-face with Him and His Word.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive me when I try to give people my interpretation of what You say, instead of simply allowing them to see You. Give me that wisdom and humility which leads other seekers to Thee, to Thy truth, to Thy compassion, understanding and Life. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

"LET'S ALL PULL TOGETHER"

SCRIPTURE:
II Timothy 4:1-5
II Timothy 3:14-17

Christian education is everyone's business: parent, teacher, minister - and older brother and sister. Each of us has a unique place in it.

As parents, we have the first and critical obligation: 1) to see that a child is familiar with the simplest portions of our belief early - the love of God, the fact that Jesus is His own Son, there is a place for us with Him and those we love after death, that no matter how wrong we have been, we can be forgiven if we are truly sorry.

2) To take the child to Sunday School regularly and to choose that church wisely and prayerfully which will best minister to his spiritual education.

It is the obligation of the teacher to see that each moment of class time is used for the essentials, bearing in mind that often the *only* spiritual training some children will obtain is what they can find in that brief but potent hour with you.

It is the very real duty of older brothers and sisters to encourage the younger by example and support.

It is the duty of the minister to see that the training and development of the church school is the finest he is able to get. Our children are God's raw material. If we lose them, we must answer to Him one day.

Prayer: O God, so often we have given to Thee second-best, the dregs or leftovers. Forgive us, Father, and help us to treasure the souls of our children as You do. AMEN

THURSDAY

"IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE"

SCRIPTURE:
Jeremiah 7:23-26
Proverbs 22:6

A small child had started across the street, when suddenly her mother saw a car bearing down on her. She only cried, "Stop!" and the child stopped, inches short of the speeding car.

A neighbor exclaimed, "How lucky she happened to obey you." The mother said, "That was not coincidence - it was habit. She has been taught to obey immediately and ask questions afterward."

This is something we as Christians could learn. How often we hesitate to obey God while we question and weigh the decision! Many times we are much too late and God's plan is thwarted, or our own life has been damaged.

Sometimes your obedience to God's command could mean spiritual life or death to you. A jolt of conscience - ignored - could bring disaster on you and someone you love. A burden to immediate prayer, which you put off or forget, could mean a critical difference to someone.

Obedience is not agreement: it is bowing to authority out of honor, respect, or love. It acts without questioning, and it is one of the most essential qualities in spiritual, social and individual harmony. God cannot begin to function in our lives without it any more than a parent, government or other community unit can succeed if it is lacking.

Prayer: Lord, as Thy Son was so quick to obey Thine every desire, so make me eager and sensitive to Thy will, may I obey without reluctance or lack of any trust in Thee, my Father. AMEN