

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

WHY SUICIDE?

SCRIPTURE: John 1:11-14;
Mark 10:26, 27

A famous doctor once said, "Suicide is never a way out . . . it's man's pathetic — and vain — attempt to find The Way In." Of course.

Yet in spite of today's insight into the needs of the human heart, we do tend to overlook this terrific drive to find and be with God. For man being made in the image of God, a spirit, has within him that which demands fulfillment, desires inner power and yearns for *real* communication with Him. Especially *here* and *now*.

Many people think Christianity is merely a way to life after death, but in order to find life after death we must first enter it here in this life. It is designed for this life, for the day to day living amid the turmoil, despair, desperation and failure of our world. It is walking without being afraid, working with a purpose, living for God.

That lack of purpose in your life which seems to make everything only a void, can be filled. The innocuousness of daily routine becomes opportunity to show God what you can make out of what He has given you. Grinding monotony, despair, hopelessness will disappear as you waken each day with the realization that God *is* present with you. How can this all be? Because He is God.

Prayer: Lord, we all hunger for real meaning to life, for the assurance that there is something more than appears on the stormy surface. Give me the awareness of Your love, Father. AMEN

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE:
Revelations 3:20

Are you one of those still standing on the sidelines of Christianity, wondering whether or not you want to get "involved?" Are you still a spectator in your church, in a discussion?

Does it still seem to be a kind of emotional wingding, a subnormal reaction, a weird momentary response to a nebulous sort of primal urge?

Does Jesus Christ embarrass you as "the Son of God?" Do you suspect this act of "giving one's self" to Him as being a little eccentric even if it were a possible accomplishment?

Becoming a Christian is simply the logical response of the human heart to God; it is recognizing in Christ the pattern for living, accepting Him as what God says He is: The Son who has been given power to forgive our worst sin, to remove our guilt, to give us a new outlook on living — actually as "new men," our example, our Lord and mediator in all life.

There is nothing weird or abnormal about it. It is people with spirit, seeking communion with His spirit.

It usually comes as a quiet thing, this believing in Him . . . as a handing over of a messed-up life, all the smashed dreams . . . the guilt, failure and weariness.

It is letting go and letting God into your heart.

Prayer: Lord, I have tried so many things, and yet I still keep searching. Lord, let me feel Your love and presence in my heart. Forgive my indifference to You and help me in my search for Your will for my life. AMEN

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

"GIVING IS TRUSTING"

SCRIPTURE:
Malachi 3:8-10

Nearly every doctrine of Christianity is based upon Faith: through belief man accepts God's Word, then he acts upon it — and it proves true . . . as a seed proves itself only through planting; dissecting, microscopic analysis or chemical breakdown will not reveal the tree or flower secreted in its germ. Only planting will bring a consummation.

Tithing is like this. You can argue or reason with a man, you can quote a verse of Scripture, but unless that man is willing to *try*, to literally take God at His word, of course he'll never experience the thrill and productivity which comes from Christian tithing. It is the deepest sense of integrity and joy a man can know.

You set aside a tenth, either weekly or monthly, and suddenly you forget that this money was ever available for anything else. You hear of a need and now you find the giving easier. As the womb which has given birth before, opens more readily for each succeeding birth, so the heart which is once opened to give, gives more easily with each call from God . . .

God has provided you with something and it is from this that you commit a portion to Him. Give without apology, with gratitude, what you can give.

Prayer: Lord, help me to look on my gift to You as a symbol of my love. Please keep me from self-centered or empty living, I pray. AMEN

TUESDAY

“PROFILE OF A GIVER”

SCRIPTURE:
Matthew 6:19-21;
Luke 21:1-4

How many times have you decided not to give because what you had to give seemed so small you felt it was hardly worth giving?

Never let this affect your giving to God, for Christian giving is based not on comparison to what others are giving, but upon what God has given to you: this is the basis upon which He Himself judges a man.

For this very reason no man has an excuse for not giving God His tenth. That is IF he really believes as a Christian that all we have comes from God in the first place.

Of course, right here many people are not honest with themselves. There are some professing “Christians” who still cannot credit God with their fortunes, their lives, their entire existence; naturally, these people will resist giving “back” what they don’t believe came from God in the first place.

Are you having difficulty bringing yourself to tithe? Does a tenth seem too much — an amount you can’t really part with? A payment on a TV; a dress, a theater ticket.

Sit down sometime and be honest. List the things you buy for yourself and family. Then list all the things you “buy” for God’s work. This is a fairly accurate profile of your commitment to Him — and probably a glimpse of what God Himself sees in your heart.

Prayer: Lord, may my love magnify the blessings I have received from thy hand! AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“THE BIGGEST HURDLE OF ALL”

SCRIPTURE:
Luke 20:21-26

Most people look horrified when we suggest that giving to God should be part of Christian discipline. “Giving should come from the soul, out of love” they state piously. It *should* — just as our life for Him and obedience should stem from love . . . but somehow the spirit speaks softly and carries a tiny twig, and God is not a tyrant either and so these very people who react so violently to sensible Christian stewardship are frequently those who feel that giving to God is an option: you can, or you don’t have to. It is catalogued with luxuries, future plans or occasional bursts of largess and benevolence.

Giving to God is a discipline at first for many people; it is the struggle of the natural man against the spiritual — self warring against surrender to God. And how logical Self can be! Somehow a sum we would ordinarily spend without a backward glance suddenly becomes very expendable for everything.

And in a world where security is always measured by what we can keep, the concept of giving to God seems to be at the bottom of the list of items. There are no creditors, no embarrassing showdowns, no public record of our giving (or non-giving). Yet someone who has made it clear that God is Lord of his life, will willingly give to that God — money as he gave his own soul.

Prayer: Lord, teach me the difference between the kingdom of this world and that of Thy Son. It is so easy to serve men for credit. AMEN

THURSDAY

“TO RUN AND NOT WEARY”

SCRIPTURE:
Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you ever think, “What can I possibly do that could make a dent in this mess around me? Why not give up and join the melee?”

But you won’t stop even the “insignificant” offerings you are making in your group . . . you will go back to the same office, listen to the same problems, smile at the same people — work at the same job . . . because today it might *not* be the same . . . today someone might be stronger because you shared your faith with her; today someone may have started to lick a habit because he discovered that all you said about God and forgiveness is true — that “Jesus Christ” is not just a curse but Someone we can talk with, the divine Son of God who once walked this same earth and knows exactly what we are up against . . . that somehow, miraculously through Him, God has found a way to touch us and say, “I do love you . . . I do understand . . . I am able to do exceedingly above all you could hope or think.”

We cannot always measure the extent of our influence for God in daily living, and while this sometimes makes our days seem ineffective, at least we can bring the peace, assurance, vitality and hope that our Lord has so graciously given us, and in a world so torn with chaos and fear, perhaps this glimpse of God will bring quietness to others.

Prayer: O Lord, may I never seek to be a part of the confusion. In spite of my own imperfections, please use me to help someone. AMEN