

FRIDAY

"WHO THEN, IF NOT YOU?"

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:10-18

Have you ever stopped to think that the times you have disobeyed God may have resulted in the postponement of a plan He had for someone?

This awareness of our responsibility to be on tap for God is one which every Christian should develop keenly. We are Christ's hands now, His words, His compassion, His perception. When we allow ourselves to become numb to inspiration, only God knows what damage we have done to His Kingdom plans.

Each day before you get up, ask God to give you a special awareness during that day, so that not a single act or word He may need from you will be neglected or lacking.

If every Christian simply did what God brought to him each day, what an amazing life this would be, how quickly the love of God would be felt and how prominent the radiance of our Lord in even mundane things.

God's will for your life is a daily, never-flagging thing. Not a day in your life will pass that you cannot do something for Him. If you never aspire to anything else, be one of those sensitive persons who, like wind-chimes, make God's music with the slightest touch from Him. How hungry the world is for this kind of living.

Prayer: I know, Lord, that You can speak through me if I remain committed to You, that You can move through me to Your world. Make me more alive to Your will daily. May I be one whose every moment is completely in Thy hands and under Thy guidance. AMEN

SATURDAY

"A PERMANENT NICHE"

SCRIPTURE:
Mark 1:16-20

Probably one of the most important needs of the human heart is to find its specific place in life — a place which no one else can fill quite as well. Many psychologists feel it is this urge that lies at the root of a great deal of delinquency these days; this desire to be uniquely, especially needed. In earlier days, the young people were an essential part of the economy — either on the farm, in the home or in the family business. Most of them now are reduced to "chores," or making their own spending money — which is helpful but not always essential to the family's very survival.

The same is true of the roles of mother and father. There are a variety of substitutes being offered . . . not as good, of course, but available.

Yet when a person gives his life to Christ, immediately the need to be needed in a specific way is filled. From that moment on, he is "on call" for God — and what he does to earn a living merely becomes the framework for his real vocation: serving God.

Nor is it a dull 8-5 routine. We find God needing us at the most unexpected moments. It is this air of expectancy that lends so much color and vitality to Christian living! No two days are alike — and we know that no matter where we are, we are where we are needed — by God at that moment.

Prayer: Lord, may I greet each new day as a new opportunity to be used by Thee. Lift me from the drag of ordinary days into Thy challenge for me. AMEN

Daily Family Devotions

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022

"THE FINE ART OF LOGIC"

SCRIPTURE:
Acts 8:26-39

Logic can be one of the most effective enemies against the will of God in our lives. If you had been Philip, how quickly and unhesitatingly would you have obeyed God in this instance? Most of us, probably, would have felt ridiculous, running out across a desert to an unknown rendezvous. Yet through this single act of obedience, Ethiopia received the Gospel.

There will be many times when you will be led to do something so incongruous, so totally illogical that if you stopped to think about it seriously, you simply would never embark on it at all.

Scripture says, "His ways are not our ways," and many times you cannot know what God has in mind for you until you have obeyed His summons. Only then are His reasons clear to you.

Is there something now which keeps pulling at you, something that won't let you go—urgency? Stop analyzing it and resisting for a day. Commit yourself to it wholly and see if peace comes. It may be something you feel you cannot do well enough, or a road that seems to lead nowhere. But if this thing is from God, you will have peace. Put out your hand to Him and let Him lead. Trust Him.

Prayer: Lord, I thank Thee that Thy Spirit is able to communicate with me. I thank Thee for prayer, for Thy power, and the privilege of serving. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“THE AUTHOR OF OUR DESIRES”

SCRIPTURE:
Psalm 37:4-7a

When one first reads this verse, it is natural to interpret it to mean that God will give us what *we* desire.

Yet think of it this way: that it is *God* who gives us our deepest desires in the first place.

If this is true — if our deepest, most sincere desires (those which motivate us most) are initiated by God Himself, think how much more we can count on His leading us to the realization of those dreams.

Is there something for which you have been longing? If it is good and true, if it does not harm another and if it edifies both you and your commitment to Christ, perhaps God put it there in your heart. Count on Him then, to aid you in obtaining it.

We have all seen men totally captivated by one single desire; we have seen them succeed in spite of tremendous obstacles. When we are similarly consumed with a deep desire to do an uncommon thing which no one else can understand, perhaps it is God's desire working through us.

Examine those deepest of all your desires. Could they be from God? If so, it is just a matter of time before He will bring them to fruition.

Prayer: Lord, when I stop to realize the great love you have for us, the desires You put in our hearts, the hope and vitality and certainty we need to endure, I thank Thee, God, for Thy faithfulness to me. Please help me be worthy of that love, and to follow Thy will in all things. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“GOD'S THERMAL POWER”

SCRIPTURE:
Isaiah 40:29-31

God's will is to the Christian what the thermal air currents are to the airborne glider. The only effort the glider must make is to find the current which will carry him aloft. And the only effort the Christian should make, is to find God's will for his life and let God's power sustain him and lift him far beyond the limits where he could go alone.

When we are in God's will, we find the struggle and strain are gone. Life takes on an effortless soaring; we do more than we dreamed we could do, have more strength to endure.

But often we who have committed our lives to God, forget to take Him at His word — to actually rest in Him. As years go by, we notice lines of anxiety, the deadened response to life, the care and worry and weariness that should not be reflected from a Christian's face if he has learned the secret.

Sometimes in our zeal to do all we can for God, we stand in the way of His doing all He can through us.

What He desires is that we be able to trust Him to carry us where He wants us to go, to be our strength, to save us from needless and wasted struggle. In this way we are revitalized — renewed daily, sustained in Him . . .

Prayer: Lord, I want so much to take Thee at Thy word. Please help me to trust to Thee those things which weigh down my spirit and threaten my life with You. Teach me the feeling of absolute dependence on You. AMEN

THURSDAY

“THE ART OF FOLLOWING”

SCRIPTURE:
Psalm 37: 23, 24

A ski instructor — who had been attempting to teach a much-indulged, only daughter of a wealthy couple, came back after the third lesson with the girl.

“Doesn't my daughter learn quickly enough?” the mother exclaimed.

“She skis well but I cannot teach her anything new. She does not know how to take instruction.”

So many of us are like that. We always want it our way. Seldom do we bother to ask God's guidance, as long as things seem to be going smoothly. It is only when life becomes complicated and tangled that we finally do turn to Him with the mess.

How long since you have really prayed about an important decision. When did you last *wait* to feel if God gave you His peace in making it? Learning to follow God's guidance takes practice and humility, like everything else we learn.

First, pray that God will illuminate every facet for you, pro and con. Then examine the advantages and disadvantages, the spiritual first, the materialistic second. Turn to Scripture . . . then commit yourself to Him.

God's seal for that decision will be the peace that passes understanding — and joy and excitement.

Prayer: Lord, keep me from the pride of the “self-made” man. May I learn more each day that only what You desire for my life is the very best. Teach me patience in Thy timing and trust in Your ability to carry me where You would have me go. AMEN