

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

"NEVER PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW"

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 55:6-7; Luke 12:16-21

Christ is not condemning this rich young ruler for making provision for his future. He is warning him about putting off indefinitely his relationship to God.

Procrastination — the art of putting off until later — is one of the strongest of human traits. We are all escapists at heart. But what is it about the spiritual that makes us turn away? Why do we try to separate ourselves from God? Is it because we want to be free of all responsibility to Him — to live without a feeling of guilt or anxiety?

Yet look at those people who do live this way. Where do we find the deeply secure man without God? These men run from death continually . . . striving to prolong physical life, sensing no meaning beyond here and now. This is not peace and strength.

There is nothing in the truly spiritual life that can diminish living. The spiritual life is to living what the pilot flame is to the stove. We were created to have both — and this is what Christ wanted for the young ruler—full, abundant life! And he turned away.

The man who puts off until tomorrow may never find his tomorrow . . . will continue to live as half a man, groping toward the future fearfully and without certainty.

Prayer: Lord, knowing You here in this life answers all my fears — not only for tomorrow, through death and tears, but especially for today and its threats, its uncertainties, its waste places. God, how I thank Thee that Thou hast made it possible for me to be with You here . . . now -- as I need You. AMEN

SATURDAY

*"UNFORGIVENESS IS A
SPINNING WHEEL"*

SCRIPTURE:

I Peter 2:15-25

"Suffer not your thoughts to dwell on the injuries you have received, or the provoking words that have been spoken to you. Not only learn the art of neglecting injuries at the time you receive them, but let them grow less and less every moment till they die out of your mind."

Watts

Going over and over things that people have done or said that have hurt you, is like spinning your tires in loose sand or mud. You simply get deeper and deeper in a rut, until at last you are bogged down so far, you can go nowhere.

This "pit" or depression we experience when we are hurt is a very real one. We all are familiar with it. The secret of getting out of it — or not allowing ourselves to become swamped in the first place — is something we need to learn.

Each time something threatens to make you withdraw, some hurt, some unkind word or act, immediately "Think Christ:" — what would He do? How would He react? *Why* should I let this bother me?

This remembrance of our Lord is like a lever that will lift us out each time — will keep us from becoming mired in self-pity. Try it. He does help.

Prayer: Lord, as You walked away from the many hurts and injustices done to You, so make me able to say, "Forgive them —" God, I want to be productive for You; please help me stay out of the muddy places of despair and hurt. AMEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

"THE FRUIT IDENTIFIES THE TREE"

SCRIPTURE:

James 3:8-18

Is there anything more disconcerting than to take a bite into a green persimmon, take a sip of turned milk or taste an omelet made of bad eggs?

There are times in life when we encounter the same unpleasant shock in people we meet. Outwardly, they seem attractive. Then they speak and their words are bitter or sour — or just plain rotten.

Christ says that what comes out of a man is usually an indication of what that man is like. Of course, very often our words are the leftover residue of the uncommitted portions of our lives; it does not always mean the entire soul is bad.

But no matter how insignificant, our words are a sign of the presence of impurities within us that should be removed, for even small impurities can spoil our witness to others . . .

Examine your life today—certain conversational habits you have developed, attitudes you seem to follow more easily lately . . . All these are an indication of the climate of your inner self, and often they can tell you as much about yourself as they are revealing daily to friends.

Prayer: God, forgive me when I pride myself on my purity and righteousness. Lord, there is never a time when I do not need to recommit some imperfection to Thee. Please make me more eager to become better for Thee. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“LEAVE THEM TO GOD”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; II Corinthians 11:12-15

Today there are heretics in our midst — men who seem to create more havoc by one cleverly written column than a hundred men can resolve with hours of rebuttal. If ever the Christian needed assurance of God’s power in spite of these false prophets, it is now.

We try to refute the twisted theology, the shaded interpretations with which the Gospel is polluted; we try to neutralize the poison and heat generated by their fermenting words . . . and it seems the harder we try, the less impact we have.

But Christ told us two thousand years ago that these men would crop up as silently and profusely as the tares. (Tares were weeds which looked so like wheat that even the farmer had difficulty in distinguishing them until harvest.)

Now notice what He says: “Leave the tares. The harvesters will cull them out and they will be burned.”

It is not for us to eradicate these men in our midst; the time is not yet ripe and we are not equipped to deal with them. When God eventually judges men and nations, He will sort the true believer from the heretic.

Prayer: Lord, it is so hard to live in confidence when all around I see so much seed planted by Satan. Help me simply to outlive these and bear fruit for Thee. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“RUSSIAN ROULETTE,
SPIRITUAL STYLE”

SCRIPTURE:

John 3:14-21; John 14:1-15

If anyone asked you to play Russian roulette, you would not be foolish enough to agree. Yet how many of us do just this with our spiritual lives.

No one likes to think of dying tomorrow or even next year. So we live as though it won’t happen.

Isn’t this rather foolish? God has provided us with the power and motivation to live now and in such a way that we can forget about when we may die: it really doesn’t matter, once we accept this special relationship, this amazing gift of God’s.

Think of it. God has offered us assurance and life without fear — today. No need to wait. It is available, and the men and women who accept it are the ones who go through life with absolutely no fear about “when death may come.” It doesn’t matter. They’re prepared and do not waste time worrying or wondering. This is real freedom!

Prayer: Lord, I want to be a person who can live life confidently and in real strength. I know I can only do this by being sure of my relationship with Thee. Lord, please be a constant presence with me always. I pray the life I lead with Thee here will make physical death not the end, but the beginning. AMEN

THURSDAY

“HOW TO KILL THE
MONOTONY OF LIFE”

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 55:6-13

A man was released after thirty years of exile in the same house. When he returned to his country, he seemed as healthy and alert as when he had left long before. Someone asked him how he had kept his sanity during all those years of seeing the same scenery, the same people, the same rooms.

He replied, “Each day I greeted the morning from a different window, and I turned my thoughts toward a different delight. And God was there.”

What a wonderful appreciation he had of the hidden variances available to us if we will only look!

Thousands of people are daily going about their work, their eyes down never looking up and around at the subtle changes God gives to those who look. A change of sky, a small infinitesimal shift of color in the trees, a new face, new sounds . . . memory that suddenly comes to the surface like a bubble bursting.

But most of all, through it all God. Always there. Always. Wherever we go.

Yet we deny this most precious of all realities when we refuse to look up for the beauties and the lovely surprises with which He blesses each day.

Prayer: Lord, let my life be a reflection of Thy faithfulness to me. May it reflect my love, the hope I have — not in a nebulous future but in the knowledge that You hold my life in Your hands. Thank Thee, Lord. AMEN