

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

“CHRISTIANITY IS HELPING OTHER CHRISTIANS”

SCRIPTURE:
Ephesians 6:12-18

We spend much of our time praying for our friends who do not know God, of course, but how often do we remember to pray for other Christians even when it doesn't seem as though they are particularly in need of prayer?

Yet Paul says, “Pray at all times and make supplication for the saints.” And when Jesus was in the garden the night of His betrayal, He prayed for a long time for His disciples. Why?

Prayer strengthens us for future encounters just as surely as food or rest prepare us for physical crises. When you pray for someone, that person will be better prepared for whatever may come to him.

Remember your children no matter how smoothly things seem to be going. You know how quickly this can change. Pray for your parents, for your dear friends, for your pastors . . . pray especially for those who seem to be so self-sufficient. Often there are those who find it hard to ask for a prayer — yet they so often need the extra strength of prayer. Prayer *is* power. Let us never forget that. And as long as we pray for one another, Satan will have very little success in our lives and churches.

Prayer: Lord, make me a faithful person in prayer. Give me a sensitivity to deep needs, to stress, to pain or trouble in the faces of those I meet. May prayer be a continually greater contribution in my life for others. AMEN

SATURDAY

“CHRISTIANITY IS CLIMBING OUT OF THE PIT”

SCRIPTURE:
Revelation 7:15-17; Job 33:24-30

If we were only bodies that would one day die and simply cease to be, life would be a pretty frantic kind of existence. We would scratch and dig and claw out of life every single pleasure and advantage we could find.

But we are not just physical bodies; we are spirits made in God's image and when these bodies in which we happen to live die, our spirits continue on into a new kind of life . . . one that never ends and is lovely.

This is why we Christians should never permit the things that happen in this life to defeat us or discourage us. It isn't the end; it isn't even the beginning of the best yet.

We can suffer; we can fail; we can feel alone and find our efforts frustrated; we can feel inadequate and foolish. But this is only the outer life. What about that inner vitality? Even while our circumstances seem to place us in a hopeless pit, within we are lifted to the presence of God

. . . to the sure knowledge that this outer pain and chaos will pass but that the inner life with our Lord will always be there — as alive now as later.

When things seem particularly bad, look within to the soul and its lovely ability to rest quietly in God.

Prayer: Lord, just as the deep waters remain undisturbed by surface storms, so let my inner life in Thee remain poised and quiet. AMEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022

“CHRISTIANITY IS A RELATIONSHIP”

SCRIPTURE:

I Corinthians 10:31, 32, 33

The world is often puzzled as it watches Christian behavior: it differs so much from person to person. One man will say, “I can do this; it isn't wrong for me.” Another says, “I don't think I can do this and be the best Christian example.” Why is this?

In the first place, Christianity was never meant to be a legalistic religion. It is and always has been a *relationship* between a man and Jesus Christ, between a man and God.

And it is pretty safe to say that we can usually judge the depth of a man's relationship to Christ by the kind of life he leads. The greater his love for his Lord, the finer and more Christ-like his life.

The more casual his acquaintance with Christ, the more casual his attitude toward the things he does and the kind of person he is.

While this sometimes weakens people's respect for Christianity, it leads to an unlimited quality of living for the man who really worships and adores his Lord. He is never satisfied or smug with what he can accomplish for God. Christian faith is one in which we grow in every single day in some way — closer to Christ . . . because we love Him.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me never to seek the loophole in any ecclesiastical law, but make me eager to do more than I thought I could for You. Make my love for Thee a light to others. AMEN

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TUESDAY

*“CHRISTIANITY THRIVES
WHERE THE ACTION IS”*

SCRIPTURE:
Romans 8:35-39

So many religious draw men away from the ordinary life into seclusion where they can “perfect” themselves.

Christianity pulls men *out into* a life where people are living and the need for God is so great. It’s a faith that works best where the action is.

Why? The Christian faith is “one man leading another to God” — not every man for himself. It is this element which makes our faith so challenging, for no one at any time has an excuse for “not being needed,” for “being alone,” for not having a special niche.

As long as there are men, women, and young people who have not found God, each Christian has his challenge . . . something still to do.

Just look around you. At school, at the office, in your neighborhood or wherever you spend your time. Despair, loneliness, hopelessness, illness and real, destructive sin . . . What are you doing for these people? Christ no longer walks our roads as He once did; He works through us now . . . Is His love and compassion felt when you are in a room — as it once was?

Our Lord can still heal broken or hurt hearts. He can forgive the most destructive sin, the most wasted life, if only people can come to Him.

Prayer: Lord, I rely on Thee so much yet I sometimes forget how bleak and hopeless life would be without You. O God, give me more love for those You have entrusted to me. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

*“CHRISTIANITY IS THE BEAM FROM
THE TOWER”*

SCRIPTURE:
Psalm 37:5, 6

A boy accompanied his father on a plane flight one day when suddenly a dense fog closed in and they couldn’t see the ground to land. The boy cried, “Daddy, don’t go down! You can’t see where you’re going!”

The father said, “I don’t have to see, son. I have a friend in the radio tower and he’s bringing me in. I’m listening to him now.”

There are times when as a college student, a businessman, a mother or an ordinary citizen you will feel the dense fog of unfamiliar and frightening situations suddenly close around you. You are literally “flying blind.” There is nothing familiar by which to get your bearings. People with you are as helpless as you are. What do you do? Are you accustomed to listening to God? Are you so familiar — so at home with the particular tone of His “beam” that you can fly as easily in the fog as in the sunshine?

Part of the Christian life is the training for emergencies. Practice feeling the will of God, the special “tone” He gives to life when the going is good. Once you are familiar with it, you will be quick to recognize that same will when the “fogs” close in. And there will be many.

Prayer: Dear Lord, it is so easy to panic when I cannot see the road ahead. Yet God, You have promised always to be there. Teach me the skill of reaching out for Your will; train me to know Your voice always. AMEN

THURSDAY

“CHRISTIANITY BEATS THE DEVIL”

SCRIPTURE:
Mark 5:1-19

This is one of the remarkable instances in which Jesus released man from demon-possession. It was a real condition — just as today in certain areas of the world it is still prevalent. It is a terrifying thing to be around, and for years the people in this place where Jesus was walking must have been afraid to go anywhere near the demoniac.

Now suddenly they are free from it and what do they do? Thank Jesus? They can think only of the swine they have lost — not of the miracle that’s taken place before their very eyes.

Has God ever taken anything out of your life that once made you fearful and apprehensive — and have you later forgotten how it *used* to be, and think now only of the “loss”?

God had the same trouble with the Hebrew people after He had freed them all from the Egyptians. It was unbelievable how quickly they forgot the terrible persecution and slavery; all they remembered was the food, the leeks and garlic and flesh pots!

When you begin to wish for “good” old times, remember *everything* about those times; God does not take from our lives anything without putting in its place something far better — that is if we are committed to Him.

Prayer: Lord, I thank Thee that Thou dost still have the power to transform my life in so many ways! AMEN