

## **Devotions**

### **Monday**            Our Foolishness

This morning's scripture is 1 Corinthians 1:25 – “For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.”

Sometimes the day-to-day duties can become so overwhelming that we may make careless mistakes or unwise decisions. “Foolishness” strikes when we are tired and vulnerable, making us feel even worse. The opposite of foolishness is wisdom; God's specialty. We may be fools, but God is always there with us, ready to carry us when we blunder. Even God's foolishness (if there is such a thing!) is wiser than our greatest intelligence. The extreme end of God's weakness is stronger than we can imagine.

God knows that humans will make mistakes. As our Heavenly Father, He shares His wisdom and strength with us. As long as we are relying on God, then it is okay to be a fool. Even in our most foolish moments our God of strength and wisdom is there. We should thank God for His wisdom when we are foolish and His strength when we are weak.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

### **Tuesday**            I Am Blessed!

This morning's scripture is Psalm 144:15 – “Blessed are the people of whom this is true; blessed are the people whose God is Lord.”

There are days in the life of every person where you simply feel “given” out. It's hard to find the blessing, particularly if the situation you're in doesn't seem to be improving or if you're feeling exhausted or consumed by the task at hand.

But take heart! If you've made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, you are blessed. He is your God, your King. He's invited you to share your burdens, to climb in His

lap and rest your weary head on His shoulder. What a blessing to know that your heavenly Father cares enough to carry the load for you.

The next time you're struggling to find the blessing amid the exhaustion or pain, close your eyes and take a deep breathe. Repeat these words: "I am blessed! I am blessed!" Remember, you are His and He is yours. God will give you the strength to carry on, and He will cause joy to rise up in you as you focus on caring for others.

Daily we are to thank our Heavenly Father that we are children of the Most High God. Remind ourselves daily just how blessed we are, especially when we don't feel like it.

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### **Wednesday**                      Giving Thanks

This morning's scripture is Psalm 92:2 – "It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening."

Do you feel liked giving thanks today? Do you recognize your many blessings? Your eyes may have opened this morning to situations and circumstances that don't inspire joy, but in spite of the worry and uncertainty, this day is a treasure. You're alive; you drew a breath when you awoke. Praise God!

Each day is a special gift to be savored and celebrated. God has created this time for us; and He's given us too many blessings to count. An attitude of praise and celebration will lift our spirits and help us commune with Him. So look for the good things this day, the treasures. Sing a song in the shower or hum a tune over the washing machine. Whisper a prayer of gratitude before you turn out the light. Recognize the Lord. Show Him your gratitude.

Despite the mundane, everyday tasks we encounter, there is something special about each day. God has ordained that. He is in control. Praise and rejoice, for this is the day He has made (Psalm 118:24).

Thank our Heavenly Father for another day of life. Let us celebrate this day and use it according to His plan.

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**Thursday**                      Personal Choice

This morning's scripture is Psalm 49:7-8 – "Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice."

There are some things no person can do for another. For example, none of us can make a decision to accept Christ for another. Every soul makes its own choice. That truth hurts many of us, because we love people who have resisted the gospel message. Though we seek to share the joys of Jesus, some will never come to Him. When that's the person we care about, it is a heavy load to bear.

God does not hold us accountable for another's decision. He only tells us to bear the news. We should do that gently, with respect, because we all know those who have irritated others by coming on too strong. Pushing doesn't work. It causes resentment, not faith. If a loved one refuses God, perhaps it's time to stop talking and start praying. Maybe another messenger will open that hard heart to the truth. Perhaps it's time to live our faith as much as speaking it.

Ultimately, that decision lies between on person and God. Give them the truth, let your loved ones choose, and trust God for the outcome.

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**Friday**                      Praying Always

This morning's scripture is – "Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You, I pray."

The apostle Paul told us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) But often we get so busy and bogged down with everything that needs to be done, it's

hard to even think about prayer. Good luck finding special moments of uninterrupted fellowship with God!

But let's remember that we can choose the work we do in life as not only a ministry but a fellowship with God; in many ways, a prayer on legs. Whatever we do for the Lord gives Him praise and glory and can be considered a type of prayer. As we work through the day, we may at times cry out to the Lord, but that's not an interruption, just a continuation, of our day of prayer.

What a joy to live our prayers all day long, praising and glorifying our God with the work we do. What a comfort to know that the Lord is right beside us every step of the way. He's just waiting for our requests, many times answering before we even think to ask. As we care for others, we can truly "pray without ceasing."

We should thank the Lord Jesus for His hand on our lives. Thanking Him for giving us a ministry that is a constant prayer throughout our day. Pray that He will help us to remember He is with us always; without ceasing.

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**Saturday**                      Overwhelmed? Cry Out

This morning's scripture is Psalm 102:1 – (Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the Lord.) "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee.

If any word describes life in the twenty-first century, it's overwhelming. It doesn't matter if we are single or married or if we stay at home or have an outside job. Even with all of our modern conveniences, we never seem to get on top of things. There's always one more thing to do; always one more hug to give, one more call to answer, one more crisis to solve. Life never lets up. It's overwhelming. And it becomes more overwhelming when we get so busy we forget our source of strength and sanity. When we forget to pray. May we never overlook this vital connection with God.

Our Lord loves us. He is not surprised when we are overwhelmed; He is not afraid of our complaints. He is ready to answer when we cry out for mercy and strength.

While God hears silent prayers, it is the cry of His people that seems to get the ear of God and move His hands more dramatically. When we cry out, we admit that we cannot help ourselves and we need His help. God is there and He does not want us to be silent. So don't be afraid to pray to Him like this:

Father, HELP! I have more than I can handle. Help me to say yes to the best things and no to those less-important things that tend to overwhelm me. Thank you for hearing my complaint and answering, for turning my plea into praise! Amen.

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