

## Devotions

### **Monday:** God of Hope

This morning's scripture is Romans 15:13 – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Let God fill you with His joy and peace. They flow into you as you sit quietly in His Presence, trusting Him in the depths of your being. These blessings are essential for nourishing your souls. The Joy of the Lord is your strength, so don't neglect this delightful gift. It is for all times and all circumstances, though sometimes you have to search for it. You also need His Peace at all times, and He bestows it on you freely as you trust in Him.

Remember that He is the God of hope. The hope God offers is not wishful thinking. It is absolutely certain, even though it refers to things not yet fully realized. It is utterly secure because Christ Himself obtained it through His finished work on the cross. This hope is the foundation of the Joy and Peace you find in Him. No matter how hard your life may be at this time, you have full assurance that endless delight awaits you in heaven, where Jesus has prepared a place for you. As you ponder this glorious truth, you can enjoy hope that overflows by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless!

### **Tuesday:** New Creation

This morning's scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Christ is the Risen One who shines upon us always. We worship a living Deity, not some idolatrous, man-made image. Our relationship with Christ is meant to be vibrant and challenging as He invades more and more areas of our lives. Do not fear change, for He is making you a new creation, with old things passing away and new things continually on the horizon. When we cling to old ways and

sameness, we resist His work within us. He wants us to embrace all that He is doing in our lives, finding our security in Him alone.

It is easy to make an idol of routine, finding security within the boundaries we build around our lives. Although each day contains twenty-four hours, every one presents a unique set of circumstances. Don't try to force-fit today into yesterday's mold. Instead, ask Christ to open our eyes so we can find all He has prepared for us in this precious day of Life.

This truly speaks to us in our present situation and all the changes we face in life. Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless!

**Wednesday:** Hints of Heaven

This morning's scripture is 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 – “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”

Heaven is both present and future. As we walk along our life-paths holding Christ's hand, we are already in touch with the essence of heaven: nearness to Him. We can also find many hints of heaven along our pathway because the earth is radiantly alive with His Presence. Shimmering sunshine awakens our hearts, gently reminding us of His brilliant Light. Birds and flowers, trees and skies evoke praises to Christ's Holy Name. Keep our eyes and ears fully open as we journey with Him.

At the end of our life-path is an entrance to heaven. Only Christ knows when we will reach that destination, but He is preparing us for it each step of the way. The absolute certainty of our heavenly home gives us Peace and Joy to help us along our journey. We know that we will reach our home in His perfect timing: not one moment too soon or too late. Let the hope of heaven encourage you as you walk along the path of Life with Christ.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless!

**Thursday:** Future Hope

This morning's scripture is John 14:20 – “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

We are to find our security in Christ. As the world we inhabit seems increasingly unsafe, we are to turn our attention to Him more and more often. Remember that He is with us at all times, and Christ has already won the ultimate victory. Because He is in us and we are in Him, we have an eternity of perfect, stress-free life awaiting us. There will be no trace of fear or worry in heaven. Reverential worship of the King of Glory will flood us with unimaginable Joy!

Let this future hope strengthen and encourage us while we are living in this deeply fallen world. When we start to feel anxious about something we have seen, heard, or thought, bring that concern to Christ. Reminding ourselves that He is the One who makes us secure; in all circumstances! If we find our minds gravitating toward an idolatrous way of feeling safe, we need to tell ourselves: “That’s not what makes me safe.” Then look trustingly to Him, and think about who He is: the victorious Savior-God who is our friend forever. In Him we are absolutely secure! Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless!

**Friday:** Daniel's Hope

This morning's scripture is Daniel 7:13-14 – “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

Daniel, God's prophet, spent his life serving the Babylonian government that took him captive as a young man. Despite Nebuchadnezzar, the barbaric king, Daniel

prospered because God was with him. Now an old man, he dealt with the difficult new king, Belshazzar, and the threat Persia presented to Babylon.

During this unstable time, Daniel also dreamed of terrible beasts that represented wars between world powers. No doubt this elderly statesman felt deep concern about his loved ones' future and the fate of Israelites living in Babylon. But God gave Daniel a vision of Himself, the all-powerful Ancient of Days. He also showed Daniel one of the clearest pictures of Jesus in the Old Testament, a scene in which His everlasting kingdom was established and He was worshipped by all people. In these difficult times, we worry about our country, our loved ones, and ourselves. But the same God who guarded Daniel in the midst of constant danger reminds us of His supreme power and that of His Son, who will one day destroy evil and rule in righteousness and peace.

When we fixate on circumstances let us pray to Almighty God for forgiveness, for He has redeemed the past so we can trust Him for the present and the future. Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless!

**Saturday:** Foolish and Powerless

This morning's scripture is 1 Corinthians 1:26-27- "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."

Shortly after the Holy Spirit filled the early church with His power, Peter and John healed a crippled man outside a temple. As a result, they were arrested. The charge? Preaching Jesus Christ's resurrection.

However, the Jewish leaders couldn't ignore that a miracle had taken place. The lame beggar was well-known throughout Jerusalem and his healing was big news. So they asked Peter and John to explain where their power came from. Their answer? The resurrected Christ known as Jesus.

This was the same Jesus who had baffled the leaders when he was twelve. They couldn't understand how a poor carpenter's son from Nazareth could possibly know and understand scripture as He ably showed in His answers to their questions (Luke 2:47). Now, they were face-to-face with two of His followers, men they knew to be "uneducated and untrained" (Acts 4:13), yet full of understanding and ability to preach the scriptures.

Take heart weary people. God didn't choose you to serve Him because you knew all the answers or you were in a position of power or wealth. He chose you just as you are to confound those who are without Him, to make them curious, to draw them to the God of love and peace.

With our lives we are to exhibit Christ to a lost world, even in our weariness and obvious lack of wisdom of our own.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless!