

Devotions:

Monday: Cheerful Heart

This morning's scripture is John 16:33 – “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace *and* confidence. In the world you have tribulation *and* trials *and* distress *and* frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]”

A cheerful heart is good medicine. We have every reason to be cheerful because Christ has overcome the world. He has conquered it and deprived it of power to harm us through His victory on the cross. Moreover, nothing we will ever encounter along our life-path will be able to separate us from His Love. As we ponder these glorious truths about all He has done for us, let good cheer fill our hearts and radiate from our faces.

A joyful heart will improve our health; spiritually, emotionally, and physically. So fill our minds with thankful thoughts till our hearts overflow with Joy. Take time to praise Christ for all that He is; the One from whom all blessings flow. Let Him fill us with His Light and Life, for He designed us to be full of heavenly contents. As these divine nutrients soak into the depths of our beings, they strengthen each of us and enhance our health. Be of good cheer.

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

Tuesday: His Shield

This morning's scripture is Ephesians 6:16 – “In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.”

Christ gives us His shield of victory and His right hand sustains us. He won the ultimate victory through His sacrificial crucifixion and His miraculous resurrection! Christ did this for you and me, for all who trust in Him as Savior-God. He accomplished everything! Our part is just to believe: that we need a Savior to pay the penalty for our sins and that Christ is the only Way of salvation.

Our saving faith sets us on a path to heaven. Meanwhile, his victorious shield protects us as we journey through this world. Use the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. When we are in the thick of battle, call out to Him: “Help me, Lord! I trust in You.”

As we live in close dependence on Christ, His right hand does indeed sustain us, holding us up. He has indescribably great Power! Yet He uses His mighty right hand not only to protect us but to tenderly lead us and help us keep going. Sometimes He even gathers us in His arms and carries us close to His heart.

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Wednesday: Hope of Glory

This morning’s scripture is Colossians 1:27 – “God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Jesus Christ lives within us, the hope of glory. The Messiah, the Savior of the world live in us! This promise is for all who have faith in Him: He will dwell in our hearts through faith. This amazing blessing is a work of His Spirit in our inner being. The more we trust in Christ, the more we can enjoy His indwelling Presence, and the more effectively He can live through us.

In a world that may seem increasingly hopeless, remember that He is the hope of Glory. This hope is ultimately about heaven, where we will live with Him forever. But the Light of heaven’s Glory is so brilliant that some of its rays can reach us even in the present; no matter how dark our circumstances may appear. Christ is the Light that shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it. As we follow Christ along our life-paths, clothed in His righteousness, this Light shines brighter and brighter until full day.

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Thursday:

We Are Known

This morning's scripture is Psalm 139:1-4 – "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely." God is all around us, hovering over us even as we seek His Face. He is nearer than we dare believe, closer than the air we breathe. If as His children we could only recognize His Presence, we would never feel lonely again. God knows every thought before we think it, every word before we speak it. His Presence impinges on our innermost being. Can we see the absurdity of trying to hide anything from Him? We can easily deceive other people, and even ourselves, but God can read each of us like an open, large-print book.

Deep within ourselves, most people have some awareness of His imminent Presence. Many people run from God and vehemently deny His existence because His closeness terrifies them. But we, His children have nothing to fear, for He has cleansed us by Christ's blood and clothed us in His righteousness. May we be blessed by His intimate nearness. Since Christ lives in us, let Him also live through us, shining His Light into the darkness.

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Friday:

Faith

This morning's scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:7 – "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

God's light shines on you continually, whether you are aware of it or not. During the wee hours of the night, your thoughts are often distorted, even catastrophic. Although you may feel as if you're enveloped in darkness, remember that darkness and light are alike to god. He is with you, and His Love for you never fails. You need the Light of His Presence supremely more than you need the light of day.

When the way before you seems dark and threatening, you can still trust Him to guide you. Walking by faith is kin to using radar to discern the way you should go. Instead of trying to see through clouds of uncertainty up ahead, fix your eyes on Him. God can show you a way forward where there appears to be none. Moreover, as you strive to stay in communication with Him, your soul opens up to Him. Even in the midst of your struggle, His loving Presence can fill your soul with warm delight.

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Saturday: Joy

This morning's scripture is Philippians 4:4-5 – "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

Rejoice in the Lord Always. This is a moment by moment choice. It is possible to find Joy in Christ even during the most difficult times. Because He is always near, He is constantly available to help us. He can even carry us through times of extreme adversity.

Imagine a woman who has become engaged to a man she deeply loves and admires. Her heart overflows with pleasure whenever she thinks about her beloved. Problems fade into the background, unable to dampen her enthusiasm and excitement. Similarly, when we remember that Christ is our perfect Betrothed and that we are promised to Him forever, we can rejoice in Him even though we face many problems.

It is in the present moment that we find Christ ever near to us. His presence in the present is an endless source of Joy: a continual feast! The soul satisfaction we find in Him helps us relate well to other people. As we enjoy his abiding Presence, we can bless others with our gentleness.

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