

## **Devotions: 9/14 to 9/19**

### **Monday:**

#### **Brokenness**

This morning's scripture is John 14:27 – "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Nothing is wasted when it is shared with Christ. He can bring beauty out of the ashes of lost dreams; He can glean Joy out of sorrow, peace out of adversity. This divine alchemy will become a reality in our experiences as we learn how to share more and more of our lives with Him. We are to believe that He is capable to creating wholeness out of our brokenness and struggles. So He urges us to bring all these things to Him for transformation, trusting in His healing Presence.

He takes great delight in transforming His precious children. Give Him our broken dreams! Release them into His care and keeping. He will not only heal the brokenness, He will give us new dreams, ones that are in harmony with His plans for us. As we seek to nurture these budding dreams, we will find ourselves becoming more content and increasingly aware of His beautiful Presence.

Give Him our sadness and our problems as well. Sorrow share with Him is permeated with brilliant glitters of Joy; like numerous Christmas lights sparkling in the darkness. Accepting adversity as His gift to us. We will find golden pockets of Peace hidden in the hardness of our problems.

Christ is our devoted Friend and also our King of kings, accomplishing His divine transformations in us. All things are possible with God!

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

### **Tuesday:**

#### **Weakness**

This morning's scripture is Romans 8:17 – "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

Christ is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, for He has been tempted in every way. Not only does He understand us perfectly with all our weakness, but He has infinite resources because He is both Man and God. When friends try to help us with our problems, their own flaws and sinfulness can get in the way. He, on the other hand, comprehends us from both a divine, all-knowing perspective and a sinless human viewpoint. During His thirty-three years on earth He experienced terrible temptations, and He had to endure everything without sinning; in order to be our Savior. If we ever doubt His Love, just look at all He suffered so that He could spend eternity with us!

When we are going through painful trials, it is tempting to blame Him because we know that He has unlimited Power to intervene. However, Christ refrained from using that Power to save Himself from brutal torture and execution. Whenever He allows us to suffer, try to see it as His vote of confidence in us. It is a way of affirming us as a member of His royal family: a co-heir with Him. Call upon Him when we are in the midst of trials, and He will be ever so near us; entering into our suffering. Remember that He allows us to share in His suffering in order that we may also share in His Glory.

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**Wednesday:** Intimacy With Him

This morning's scripture is 1 Corinthians 13:12 – "For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face. Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by God]." AMP

Our souls can grasp matters that are too deep for our minds' understanding. One of these deep truths in Christ's Father's perfect Love for us; the very Love He has for Christ. Christ came to live on this planet so He could make this indescribable Love real for us.

Anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. Therefore, as we get to know Christ better, we simultaneously come to know the Father more fully. The better we know both of Them, the more Their sacred Love dwells within us.

Christ's Love and His Presence are inseparable: He, Himself lives in us! Thus, there are no limits to the depth of intimacy we and Him can experience. He knows everything about us, including our deepest desires and darkest secrets. He understands perfectly things about us which we have yet to discover. However, His knowledge of us is not clinical or detached: He views us through the eyes of a passionate Lover! He invites us to open our hearts and souls fully to Him; this will increase our intimacy, enabling us to experience more of His boundless Love. For now we know in part (imperfectly), but in heaven we will know and understand fully; even as we have been fully, clearly known.

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**Thursday:** Trust

This morning's scripture is John 4:23 – “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”

Lay our requests before the Father and wait in expectation. Waiting and trusting are ever so closely connected. The more we trust Him, the more we can wait with a positive attitude. Meeting with Him each morning is a profound demonstration of trust. This practice helps us to begin the day with a thankful heart, receiving it as a precious gift from Him.

Waiting in His Presence has beneficial “side effects,” so don't be overly focused on getting the answers we seek. In His holy Light we relate to Him as creatures to Creator, as clay to Potter. This humbles us and helps us worship Him as He truly is. Many people create in their minds a convenient god who suits their goals and lifestyles. They may call this god by His Name, but they are actually practicing idolatry. We need to search the Scriptures to protect ourselves from this tragic deception. As we read His Word, ask the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds so we can see Him more clearly, without distortions.

Feel free to bring Him many requests, because our world is brimming with neediness, as are each of us. While we watch and wait in His Presence, looking trustingly up to Him. He speaks graciously to our hearts, assuring us of His unfailing Love.

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**Friday:** Resting in Him

This morning's scripture is Matthew 11:28 – "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

God's Presence will go with us, and He will give us rest. Sometimes when we are quite weary, all we can think about is finding rest. As a result, our awareness of His Presence grows dim. He assures us, though, that even when our attention falters, His remains steadfast. Rejoice that the One who always takes care of us has an infinite attention span!

Even the most devoted parents cannot be constantly attentive to their children: They have to sleep some of the time. Also, they can be distracted by other demands on their attention. Many deeply loved children have drowned when their devoted parents took their eyes off them ever so briefly. Only God has the capability of watching over His beloved children continually, without the least interruption.

Instead of worrying about where and when you will find rest, remember that He has promised to provide it for you. Worrying wastes vast quantities of energy, the very thing we need most to help us reach a resting place. If we were driving a car with little gas in the tank and the nearest service station was far away, we would drive carefully and steadily, so as to minimize gas consumption. Similarly, when we are low on energy we need to minimize consumption of this precious commodity. Go gently and steadily through our day, looking to Him for help. Rest in the knowledge that His watch-care over us is perfect. Thus we make the most of our limited energy. Whenever we are struggling with weariness, come to Him and He will give you rest.

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**Saturday:**

## Renewing Our Minds

This morning's scripture is 1 John 3:2 – “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Christ understands our struggles; He knows that the world exerts relentless pressure on us, trying to squeeze us into its mold. This is why we need time alone with Him. When we open up to Him and invite Him to transform us, He can work freely in us and accomplish amazing things. One of His most challenging tasks is renovation our minds, and His Spirit is always at work on this project. He does not overwhelm us with His Power. Instead, He prompts us gently and convict us cleanly, showing us where we need to make changes and helping us develop new attitudes.

Many Christians are unable to discern Christ's will because their minds are entangled in worldliness. The glitter and glamour of this world distracts them from Christ, so they do not sense His nearness. As we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, we progress in our ability to discern His good and perfect will. We also become increasingly aware of His loving Presence with us. This awareness is so pleasurable that it draws us ever closer to Him, increasing the effectiveness of His work in us, creating an upward spiral of transformation. Thus we grow not only closer to Him but also more like Him. This is a foretaste of what is to come when He is fully revealed: We will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.

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