

Devotions: 9/21 to 9/26

Monday: Brokenness

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: Prayer

1 Timothy 6:15-16 – “God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.”

Marvel at the wonder of being able to commune with the King of the universe any time. Please don't take this awesome prayer-privilege for granted! Don't be let

foolish arrogance step in either, making you act as if you're doing God a favor by spending time talking to Him.

The best antidote to such foolishness is recognizing it and repenting of it. Then remember who He is: King of kings and Lord of lords, dwelling in dazzlingly unapproachable Light. His eyes are like blazing fire. His voice is like the sound of rushing waters. His face is like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Yet He is also your shepherd, tenderly leading you step by step through your life. He wants you to realize how precious you are to Him, how much He delights in you. He longs for you to reciprocate by delighting in Him.

He listens to your heart as well as to your words. When you approach His throne of grace joyfully, anticipating the wondrous pleasure of communing with Him, both you and He are blessed!

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Wednesday: Grace

Ephesians 1:7-8 – “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding”

Even our mistakes can be recycled into something good through Christ’s transforming grace. Do you believe this, believe that your mistakes can be used for good in His kingdom?

When we know we have made mistakes, it is easy to start fantasizing about what might have been, if only we had acted or chosen differently. But this accomplishes nothing!

The best strategy for accepting ourselves when we have made mistakes is to draw near to Christ. This nearness helps us see things from His perspective. We tend to view ourselves as people who should be almost perfect, making very few errors. His perspective is quite different: He sees us as His beloved children, weak in many ways, and prone to wandering from Him. However, our weakness and waywardness cannot diminish His constant Love for us. Moreover, His infinite

wisdom enables Him to take our errors and weave them into an intricate work that is good.

We need to accept not only ourselves but also the choices we have made. Fantasizing about having done things differently is a waste of time trap. The more we fantasize, the further from Him we wander. When we realize this has happened, turn around and run back to Him! Take time to talk with Him and relax in His Presence. Our perfectionist tendencies will dissolve as we soak in His transforming grace.

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Thursday: Freedom in Him

Hebrews 7:25 – “Therefore He is also able to save ^[a]to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (NKJV)

Christ has saved us to the uttermost, perfectly, totally, for all eternity! So our salvation is absolutely assured. He wants us to live in the freedom that flows from this indescribable gift. That is why He came into the world: to set us free from sin and bondage. Let the glorious truth of the gospel soak into our innermost being, and we will grow increasingly free.

He is the ideal Intercessor for us, because He understands us completely. He lived as a Man in our world for thirty-three years, and He knows firsthand how hard it is to resist temptation. Throughout His life on earth He endured one temptation after the other. When He was being crucified, people taunted Him mercilessly, saying they would believe in Him if He came down from the cross. He was fully capable of performing this miracle, which made the temptation all the more agonizing.

He lives to make intercessions for us. Since He is infinite in all His ways, He is never too busy: He is always available to help us. When we languish in the shadows, feeling bad about ourselves, he waits for us. When we come freely into His bright Presence, seeking His help, he joyfully responds to our needs. Remember that He is the One who understands us perfectly and loves us eternally.

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Friday:

Attitude

Romans 12:18 – “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Most people prefer to live peacefully with others, but when there are conflicts, many wait for the other person to make the first move. Problems inevitably arise when both parties wait for the other to take the first step. That is why the apostle Pau instructs each offended person to move towards the other. If even one of the two follows this teaching, there is hope for restoring the relationship.

Paul’s teaching reflects Christ’s own: Reconciling with an offended brother or sister should be done before offering your gift at the altar. Restoring peace in your relationships, as far as it depends on you, is a prerequisite for participating in worship. Paul’s command includes an important qualifying phrase: if it is possible. You might do all the right things without achieving reconciliation. In that case, you are free to live and love and worship with a clear conscience.

To live at peace with everyone, you need to control not only what you say and do but also what you think. It is common to assume that your thoughts about others do not matter much, as long as you keep them to yourself. However, He is fully aware of all your thoughts. When you indulge in negative thinking about someone, your relationship with that person is damaged. Those hurtful thoughts also affect your relationship with Christ, and they may have a depressive effect on you. The remedy lies in turning to Him and seeking His forgiveness. Then ask The Holy Spirit to control your mind and help you to think His thoughts. This is the way of Life and Peace.

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Saturday:

Depending on Him

1 Peter 2:9 NKJV – “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

Christ has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. He brought us not only out of darkness, but into His royal family. He clothed us with His own robe of righteousness, making us fit for His kingdom. We are one of His own special people: We belong to Him and He delights in us.

He has chosen to use imperfect ones like us to proclaim His praises. He knows we cannot do this as well as we would like. The truth is, without His help we cannot do it at all. This gap between His call on our lives and our ability to respond is part of His plan. It heightens our awareness of our utter insufficiency. Because we are His, He allows us to connect our deep inadequacy to His boundless sufficiency. Instead of focusing on our imperfection, make every effort to stay connected with Him. The more we depend on His resources, the more we can celebrate His Majesty. In whatever we do, consciously rely on His help; living in the joyous wonder of self-forgetfulness. As we look to Him continually for all we need, our faces will reflect the Light of His surpassing Glory.

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