

Devotions: 9/28 to 10/3

Monday:

Joy

1 Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

In Christ we can discover Joy inexpressible and full of glory! We will not find this kind of pleasure anywhere else; it is available only in our relationship with Christ. So trust Him, beloved, and walk confidently along our life-path. As we journey together, we will encounter many obstacles; some of which are quite painful. Expect these difficulties each day, and don't let them throw us off course. Refuse to let adversity keep us from enjoying Him. In His Presence deep sorrow can coexist with even deeper Joy.

Your life with Him is an adventure, and there are always some dangers involved in adventurous journeys. Ask Him to give us courage so that we can face our troubles boldly. Keep our hope fully fastened on Him and on the heavenly reward that awaits us. Our Joy will expand astronomically; beyond anything we could possibly imagine; when we reach our eternal home. There we will see Him face to Face, and our Joy will know no bounds.

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

Tuesday:

Nothing is Impossible

Mark 10:27 - Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

All things are possible with God! Let these powerful words light up our minds and encourage our hearts. Refuse to be intimidated by the way things look at the moment. He is training us to live by faith, not by sight.

The sense of sight is a spectacular gift from God to be used joyfully and gratefully. However, it is easy to be mesmerized by all the visual stimulation surrounding us and forget about Him. Faith is a type of vision that connects us to Him. Instead of being so focused on the visible world, dare to trust in God and His promises.

Live close to Christ, who is our Savior and Friend, but remember: He is also infinite God. When He lived on our planet, his miraculous signs revealed His Glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him. He continued to do miracles in our world, according to His will and purposes. Seek to align our wills with His and to see things from His perspective. Exert our faith to ask for big things, and watch in hope for Him to work.

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Wednesday: Trust

*Proverbs 29:25 - Fear of man will prove to be a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.*

God is worthy of all our confidence, all our trust. There are people and things that deserve some of our confidence and trust, but only He deserves all of it. In a world that seems increasingly unsafe and unpredictable, He is the Rock that provides a firm foundation for our lives. More than that, He is our Rock in whom we can take refuge; for He is our God.

We must not let our circumstances define our sense of security. Though it is natural for us to want to be in control of our lives, He can empower us to live supernaturally, resting in His sovereign control. He is a well-proven help in trouble, and He is always present with us. He helps us to face unwelcome changes, and even catastrophic circumstances, without fear.

Instead of letting anxious thoughts roam freely in our minds, lasso them by voicing our hopes in Him. Then bring those captive thoughts into His Presence, where He will disarm them. Whoever trusts in Him is kept safe.

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Thursday: Transcendent Joy

Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

The Joy Christ gives us transcends our circumstances. This means that no matter what is happening in our lives, it is possible to be joyful in Him. The prophet Habakkuk listed a series of dire circumstances that he was anticipating, than he

proclaimed: “*Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.*” This is transcendent Joy!

Christ is training us to view our lives from a heavenly perspective; through eyes of faith. When things do not go as we have hoped, talk to Him. Seek His Face and His guidance. He will help us discern whether we need to work to change the situation or simply accept it. Either way we can teach ourselves to say: “I can still rejoice in You, Jesus.” This short statement of faith; expressing our confidence in Him; will change our perspective dramatically. As we practice doing this more and more, our Joy will increase. This training also prepares us to handle the difficulties awaiting us on our pathway toward heaven. Rejoice in Him always.

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Friday: Hope

1 Peter 1:3-4 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

Through Christ’s Resurrection from the dead, we have new births into a living hope. His work in us is all about “newness.” Because we belong to Him, we are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come! Our adoption into His royal family occurred instantaneously, at the moment we first trusted Him as Saviour. At that instant, our spiritual status changed from death to life; eternal life. We have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade; kept in heaven for us.

We are indeed a new creation, with the Holy Spirit living in us. But our becoming a Christian was only the beginning of the work He is doing in us. We need to be made new in the attitude of our minds and put on the new self; becoming increasingly godly, righteous, and holy. This is a lifelong endeavor, and it is preparing us for heaven’s Glory. So receive this assignment with courage and gratitude. Be alert, and look for all the wonderful things He is doing in our lives.

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Saturday:

Know the Reason

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us the reason for the hope we have. It is easier to obey this command when we are well rested and our lives are flowing smoothly. It is quite another matter when we are feeling exhausted and frazzled. Yet this may be the time when our hopeful answer will make the greatest impact. So make it our goal to be prepared always. We also need to be ready to answer everyone who asks us the reason for our hopefulness. It is tempting to judge some people as poor candidates for learning about Christ and what He means to us. But only He knows their hearts and the plans He has for them.

Essential preparation for giving a good answer is living in awareness of His Presence; trusting Him fully as our Hope. This will steady us as we deal with the frequent ups and downs of our lives. Whenever we are struggling, encourage ourselves by pondering truths of the gospel and by gazing at Him, our glorious Hope.

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