

## **Devotions: 10-12 to 10-17**

**Monday:** His Light

*1 John 1:5 - This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

God has good intentions for us. They may be radically different from what we hoped or expected, but they are nonetheless good. He is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all. So look for His Light in all our circumstances. He is abundantly present in our moments. Our assignment is to be open to Him and His ways with us. Sometimes this requires relinquishing things we had planned or dreamed. WE need to remember and wholeheartedly believe that His way is perfect, no matter how hard it is.

God is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. When we are feeling afflicted or afraid, come to Him and say: "Lord, I take refuge in You." He does not shield us from things He intends for us to deal with, for we have an important part to play in this world. However, He protects us from more dangers and troubles than we can imagine. So make every effort to live the life He has assigned us. Do this in joyful dependence on Him, and our souls will be richly satisfied.

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

**Tuesday:** Let Christ Lead

*Lamentations 3:25 - The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;*

Seek to become increasingly receptive and responsive to the Lord. He is always actively involved in our lives. Instead of trying to force Him to do what we want, when we want it, relax and look for what He is already doing. Live in a receptive mode; waiting for Him, trusting in His timing. He is good to those who wait hopefully and expectantly for the Lord. Ask Him to open our eyes to see all that He has for us. Such awareness helps us to live responsively, ready to do His will.

His followers often fail to see the many blessings He has showered on them. We are so busy looking for other things that we miss what is before us or is on the way. We forget He is sovereign God and the timing of events is His prerogative.

He wants us to trust Him enough to let Him lead. When a couple is dancing, one of them leads and the other follows. Otherwise, there is confusion and awkwardness. Dance with Him, beloved. Follow His lead as He guides us gracefully through our lives.

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**Wednesday:** Seek His Face

*1 Chronicles 16:11 - Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.*

The Lord is richly present in the world around us, in the Word, and in our hearts through His Spirit. As Him to open our eyes of our hearts so that we can “see” Him, for He is lovingly present in all our moments. It is vital to set aside blocks of time for seeking His Face. This requires sustained mental discipline: pulling our thoughts back from the idols that entice us and choosing to think about Him. He is the living Word, so we will find Him vibrantly present when you search for Him in the Scriptures.

The Lord created breathtaking beauty in the world, to point you to the One who made everything. Without Him, nothing was made that has been made. Whenever we are enjoying something beautiful, thank the Lord. This pleases Him, and it also increases our pleasure. When we encounter difficult, ugly things in this broken world, trust Him then too. Looking for Him in the midst of our good times and our hard times. Find hope and comfort through knowing that all our times are in His hands.

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**Thursday:** Do Not Fear

*Isaiah 41:13 - For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.*

Christ is the Lord our God, who takes hold of our right hands and says to us, Do not fear; He will help us. It is essential for us to recognize and believe that He is not only our Savior, He is also our God. Many people try to cast Him as a great human model, a martyr who sacrificed everything for others. But if He was only human, we would still be dead in our sins. The One who takes hold of our hands

and calms our fears is the living God! Rejoice as we ponder this astonishing truth. Delight in the mysterious wonder of the Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit; one God.

Take time to wait in My Presence. Tell Him our troubles; pour our hearts before Him. Hear Christ saying, “Do not be afraid, beloved. I am here; ready to help you.” He does not condemn us for our fears, but He does want us to displace them with hope and trust in Him. As we trustingly put our hope in Him, His unfailing Love rests upon us.

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**Friday:** Rest in God

*Psalm 37:7 - Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

Be still in God’s Presence and wait patiently for Him to act. Stillness is a rare commodity in this world. Many people judge themselves and their day by how much they have accomplished. Resting in His Presence is usually not one of those accomplishments. Yet how much blessing can be found in this holy rest!

Peace and Joy abound in His Presence, but it takes time for them to soak into our inner beings. It also takes trust. Instead of fussing and fuming when our plans are thwarted, wait patiently for God to act. We can watch in hope for Him because He is God our Savior. Be assured that He will hear us. He may not answer as soon as you or I would like, but He always responds to our prayers in the best way.

Don’t worry about evil people or fret about their wicked schemes. He laughs at the wicked, for He knows their day is coming. Rest in Him, beloved. Be still, and know the He is God.

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**Saturday:**

New Birth

*1 Peter 1:3 - 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,*

We have received new birth into a living hope through Christ's resurrection from the dead. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of all His followers. However, if He had remained dead, our faith would be useless and we would forever be spiritually dead; still guilty of our sins. Of course, it was impossible for His death to be permanent because He is God! As He stated clearly to those who questioned Him, He and His Father are One.

His resurrection is an extremely well-documented historical fact. This miraculous event opened the way for us to experience new birth. By confessing our sinfulness and trusting Him as our Savior, we become one of His own; walking along a pathway to heaven. Because He is our living Savior, we walk along a way of living hope! The Light of His loving Presence shines upon us always, even in our darkest, most difficult moments. Look up to Him, beloved. Let His brilliant Love-Light pierce the darkness and fill our hearts with Joy.

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