

Devotions: 10-19- to 10-24

Monday: Do Not Fear

Deuteronomy 31:8 - The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. We are looking ahead at uncertainties, letting them unnerve us. Fear and discouragement are waiting alongside our pathway into the future; ready to accompany us if we let them. Yet the Lord is always with us, holding us by our right hands. Because He lives beyond time, He is also on the path up ahead; shining brightly, beckoning us on, encouraging us to fix our gaze on Him. Cling tightly to His hand, and walk resolutely past those dark presences of fearfulness and despair. Deep looking toward His radiant Presence that beams our rays of unfailing Love and endless encouragement.

Our confidence comes from knowing He is continually with us and He is already in our future, preparing the way before us. Listen as He calls back to us; words of warning and wisdom, courage and hope: Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

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

Tuesday: Peace

Lamentations 3:22-24 - Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Beloved, My compassions never fail. They are new every morning. So we can begin each day confidently, knowing that Christ's vast reservoir of blessings is full to the brim. This knowledge helps us wait for Him, entrusting our long-unanswered prayers into His care and keeping. He assures us that not one of those petitions has slipped past Him unnoticed. He wants us to drink deeply from His fountain of limitless Love and unfailing compassion. As we wait in His Presence, these divine nutrients are freely available to us.

Although many of our prayers are not yet answered, we can find hope in His great faithfulness. He keeps all His promises in His perfect way and timing. He has promised to give us Peace that can displace the trouble and fear in our hearts. If we become weary of waiting, remember that He also waits; that He may be gracious to us and have mercy on us. He holds back till we are ready to receive the things He has lovingly prepared for us. Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

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Wednesday: Prayer

Colossians 1:16 - For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Never underestimate the power of prayer! People who are feeling discouraged and hopeless often say something like, “There’s nothing left to do but pray.” The implication is that this is their last resort; and a feeble one at that. Nothing could be further from the truth!

God created mankind with the ability to communicate with Him. Since He is the eternal, immortal invisible King of the universe, this is an astonishing privilege. Even when the human race became tainted with sin through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, he did not withdraw this glorious privilege. And when He lived in our world as a flesh-and-blood man, He relied heavily on praying to His Father. He was keenly aware of how continuously He needed His Father’s help.

Persistent, heartfelt prayer will bless not only us but also our families, friends, church, even our country. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to pray effectively. Find others to join you in this venture of seeking His Face in humility and repentance. Beseech Him to heal our land.

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Thursday: Joy

James 1:2-3 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

When we bump into massive difficulties on our life-paths, Christ wants us to consider it pure Joy. As we bounce off these “impossibilities,” His everlasting arms are wide open; ready to catch us, calm us, and help us to do what does not seem possible. We can be joyful in the midst of perplexing problems because He is God our Savior, and He has already accomplished the greatest miracle in our lives: saving us from our sins. If we keep looking to Him, our resurrected Lord and King, our pessimism will eventually give way to courage. Though we are an earthbound creature, our souls share in His eternal victory.

He has infinite Power, so “impossibilities” are His specialty. He delights in them because they display His Glory so vividly. They also help us to live the way He intended: in joyful, trusting dependence on Him. The next time we face an “impossible” situation, turn to Him immediately with a hopeful heart. Acknowledge our total inadequacy and cling to Him, relying on His infinite sufficiency. All things are possible with Him!

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Friday: Future Hope

John 14:20 - On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

We can find our security in Christ. As the world we inhabit seems increasingly unsafe, turn our attention to Him more and more often. Remembering that He is with us at all times, and He has already won the ultimate victory. Because He is in us and we are in Him, we have an eternity of perfect, stress-free life awaiting us. There will be no trace of fear or worry in heaven. Reverential worship of the King of Glory will flood us with unimaginable Joy!

Let this future hope strengthen and encourage us while we are living in this deeply fallen world. When we start to feel anxious about something we have seen, heard, or thought, bring that concern to Him. Remind ourselves that He is the One who makes us secure, in all circumstances! If we find our minds gravitating toward an idolatrous way of feeling safe, tell yourself: “That’s not what makes me safe.” Then look trustingly to Him, and think about who He is: the victorious Savior-God who is our Friend forever. In Him we are absolutely secure!

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Saturday:

Waiting on God

Isaiah 40:29 - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. So do not be discouraged by our weakness. There are many kinds of weaknesses, and no one is exempted from all of them. He uses them to keep His loved ones humble and to train them to wait on Him in trusting dependence. He has promised that those who wait on Him will gain new strength.

This waiting is not meant to be practiced only sometimes. He designed us to look to Him continually, knowing He as the Living One who sees us always. Waiting on God is closely related to trusting Him. The more time we spend focusing on Him, the more we will trust Him. And the more we trust Him, the more we will want to spend time with Him. Waiting on God in the midst of our moments also increases our hope in Him. This hope blesses us in countless ways; lifting us above our circumstances, enabling us to praise Him for the help of His Presence.

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