

**Devotions:**                      **10/26 to 10/31**

**Monday:**                              Call to Christ

*Ephesians 1:18 - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

Our prayers are not cries in the dark; they rise to Christ's kingdom of glorious Light. Call to Him and he will answer us and show us great and mighty things. Mankind has long been plagued with eyes that do not see what is most important. People often fail to perceive the most obvious things. He can perform miracles before their very eyes, yet they see only mundane occurrences, or label them coincidences. Only the eyes of our hearts can perceive spiritual realities.

Christ delights in people who have a teachable attitude. When we come to Him eager to learn great things which we do not know, He rejoices. A good teacher takes pleasure in a student who puts forth extra effort to discover new things. He is pleased with our desire to learn wondrous things from Him. Our openness to His teaching helps us understand the hope to which He has called us, the riches of His glorious inheritance in which we share. We can look forward to living with Him in the Holy City, where the Glory of God provides Light.

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**Tuesday:**                              Fear the Lord

*Psalm 147:11 - the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.*

The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing Love. "Fear of the Lord" is often misunderstood, but it is the foundation of spiritual wisdom and knowledge. It consists of reverential awe, adoration, and submission to His will. We submit to Him by exchanging our attitudes and goals with His. Since He is our Creator, aligning ourselves with Him is the best way to live. When our lifestyles exhibit this biblical fear, He takes delight in us. Seek to feel His pleasure shining on us at such times.

Living according to His will is not easy; there will be many ups and downs as we journey with Him. But no matter what is happening, we can find hope in His unfailing Love. In our world today, many people are feeling desperate. They've become disillusioned and cynical because they put their confidence in the wrong thing. But His steadfast Love will never let us down; it will never let us go! Cling to hope, beloved. It is a golden cord connecting us to Him.

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**Wednesday:** God Cares

*Psalm 62:8 - Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.*

When our world looks dark and threatening, come to God. Pour out our hearts to Him. Knowing that He is listening and He cares. Find comfort in His sovereignty: He is in control even when global events look terribly out of control. Actually, many things are not as they should be, not as they were created to be. We do well to yearn for perfect goodness, someday those longings will be wondrously satisfied.

Consider the prophet Habakkuk as he awaited the Babylonian invasion of Judah. He knew the attack would be brutal, and he wrestled deeply with this prophetic knowledge. Finally, though, he wrote a hymn of absolute confidence in God. After describing utterly desperate circumstances, he concluded: "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

Feel free to wrestle with Him about our concerns. But remember that the goal is to come to a place of confident trust and transcendent Joy. You won't understand His mysterious ways, but we will find hope and help in His Presence. He is our Strength!

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**Thursday:** Comfort

*John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Let Christ's unfailing love be our comfort. "Comfort" eases grief and trouble; it also gives strength and hope. The best source of these blessings is His constant Love that will never ever fail us. No matter what is happening in our lives, this Love can console us and cheer us up. However, we must make the effort to turn to Him for help. He is always accessible to us, and He delights in giving us everything we need.

He has complete, perfect understanding of us and our circumstances. His grasp of our situation is far better than ours, so beware of being overly introspective; trying to figure things out by looking inward, leaving Him out of the equation. When we realize we have done this, turn to Him with a brief prayer: "Help me, Jesus." Remind ourselves that He is the most important part of the equation of our lives! Relax with Him awhile, letting His loving Presence comfort us. In the world we will have trouble; but be of good cheer, He has overcome the world.

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**Friday:** Joyful

*Acts 2:28 - You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.*

Learn to be joyful when things don't go as we would like. Do not begin our day determined to make everything go our way. Each day we will bump up against at least one thing that doesn't yield to our will. It could be as trivial as the reflection we see in the mirror or as massive as a loved one's serious illness or injury. Christ's purpose for us is not to grant our every wish or to make our lives easy. His desire is that we learn to trust Him in all circumstances.

If we are intent upon having our way in everything, we will be frustrated much of the time. He doesn't want us to waste energy regretting things that have happened. The past cannot be changed, but we have His help in the present and His hope for the future. So try to relax; trusting in His control over our lives. Remember: He is always close to us, and there is abundant Joy in His Presence. In fact, His Face radiates with Joy that shines on us.

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**Saturday:**

Thankful

*Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,*

Thankfulness is the best antidote to a sense of entitlement; the poisonous attitude that “the world owes me.” This misconception is epidemic in the work world, and it is contrary to biblical teaching. The apostle Paul commanded Christians to “keep away from every brother who is idle.” Paul also taught by example; working day and night to make himself a model for others to follow. He even gave this rule; “If a man will no work, he shall not eat.”

One definition of entitlement is the feeling or belief that we deserve to be given something. Thankfulness is the opposite: a grateful attitude for what we already have. If Christ gave us what we deserved, our ultimate destination would be hell, we would have no hope of salvation. So be thankful that He is rich in mercy; it is by grace we have been saved.

Thinking that we deserve more that we currently have will make us miserable, but a grateful attitude will fill us with Joy. Moreover, when we are thankful, we worship Christ acceptably with reverence and awe.

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