

Devotions: 11-2 to 11-7

Monday: Our Strength

Psalm 59:17 - You are my strength, I sing praise to you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

Christ is our strength. On days when we are feeling strong, this truth may not speak powerfully to us. However, it is a lifeline full of encouragement and hope, and it is always available to us. Whenever we are feeling weak, our lack of strength can help us to look to Him and cling to this secure lifeline. We may call out to Him at any time, "Lord, save me!"

For His unfailing Love be our comfort. When we seem to be sinking in our struggles, it is crucial to hold onto something that will not fail us, something we can trust with our very life. His powerful Presence not only strengthens us; it holds us close and doesn't let go. He has a firm grip on us, beloved.

Because He is always near, there is no need to fear being weak. In fact, his Strength comes into its own in our weakness; the two fit together perfectly. So, thank Him for our weaknesses; trusting in His ever-present Strength.

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

Tuesday: Joy

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The prospect of the righteous is joy. This means our prospects are excellent, for He have clothed us with His robe of righteousness. So begin each day eager to receive the Joy He has for us.

Some of His followers fail to find the pleasures He has prepared for them because they focus too much on problems in their lives and trouble in the world. Instead of living to the full, they live cautiously, seeking to minimize pain and risk. In doing so, they also minimize their Joy and their effectiveness in His kingdom. This is not His way for us.

As we awaken each morning, seek His Face with hopeful anticipation. Invite Him to prepare us not only for any difficulties on the road ahead but also for the pleasures He has planted alongside our path. Then take His hand as we begin our journey through the day, and let Him share in everything we encounter along the way; including all the Joy!

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Wednesday: Choose Joy

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Joy is a choice; one that we face many times each day as long as we live in this world. When we graduate to heaven, indescribably glorious Joy will be ours; effortlessly. We won't have to exert our will to be joyful. It will come naturally and be constant.

While we journey through this fallen world, Jesus wants to help us make increasingly wise choices. We need to become aware, and stay aware, that we can choose to be positive and hopeful moment by moment. Make it our goal to find Joy in the midst of our day. If we notice that we are experiencing discouragement, frustration, or other negative feelings, let those prickly emotions prod us into remembering Him. Seek His face and talk with Him. We can pray something like, "Jesus, I choose to be joyful because You are God My Savior and nothing can separate me from Your loving Presence."

Live victoriously, beloved, by seeking to find Him in more and more of our moments.

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Thursday: Water of Life

Revelation 21:6 - He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

To the one who is thirsty Jesus will give water free of charge from the spring of the water of Life. Drink deeply from this spring so that He can live abundantly in us. Let the water of Life soak into the depths of our beings, refreshing and renewing us. Since this Life-water is free, we can have as much as we want; as much of Him as we want. He is Christ in us, the hope of Glory!

He longs for us to thirst for Him, our God, more and more. Thirst is a very powerful appetite; this is necessary because drinking sustains life even more than eating. Pure water is a much healthier choice than canned drinks full of sugar or chemicals. Similarly, thirsting for Him first and foremost is crucial for our spiritual health. Though other things may seem to satisfy us for a while, they will not slake the thirst of our souls.

Rejoice that what we need most is free of charge! Joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.

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Friday: Believe in Jesus

1 Peter 1:8-9 - Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Even though we do not see Jesus, we believe in Him. He is far more real, complete, unchanging, unlimited, than the things we can see. When we believe in Him, we are trusting in rock-solid Reality. He is the indestructible Rock on which we can keep standing, no matter what our circumstances may be. And because we belong to Him, He is devoted to us. Beloved, He encourages us to take refuge in Him.

Believing in Christ has innumerable benefits. The most precious one is the salvation of our souls, forever and ever. Our belief in Him also enhances our present lives immensely, making it possible for us to know who we are and Whose We are. As we stay in communication with Him, He helps us find our way through this fallen world with hope in our hearts. All of this enlarges our capacity for Joy. The more we seek Him and the more fully we know Him, the more He can fill us with inexpressible and glorious Joy!

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Saturday:

On our Journey

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

As we journey through life with Christ, see the hope of heaven shining on our path, lighting up our perspectives. Remember that we are one of His chosen people, belonging to Him. He called us out of darkness into His wonderful Light. Savor the richness of these concepts: He chose us before the creation of the world, so nothing can separate us from Him. We belong to Him forever! He drew us out of the darkness of sin and death into the exquisite Light of eternal Life.

The brightness of His Presence helps us in multiple ways. The closer to Him we live, the more clearly we can see the way forward. As we soak in this Love-drenched Light, He gives us strength and blesses us with Peace. His radiance blesses not only us but also other people as it permeates our whole beings. This time spent focusing on Him helps us to become more like Him, enabling us to shine into the lives of others. He is continually drawing His loved ones out of darkness into His glorious Light.

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