

Dovations: 11/16 to 11/21

Monday: Intimacy With Christ

Romans 3:23-24 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ, the Eternal Lover of our souls, desires intimate connections with us. When we seek to know Him more fully, this brings Him much pleasure. His knowledge of us is unlimited: He knows everything about us, and chooses to love us ardently in spite of our imperfections. He has already paid the penalty for all the things in our lives, past, present, and future, that could isolate us from Him.

Though there is still some darkness in our hearts the Light of the knowledge of His Glory continues shining within us, as a Light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. Our part in this unfolding drama is to wait trusting in His holy Presence. This is the most effective way to develop a more intimate relationship with Him. Though waiting can be a difficult discipline, the blessings far outweigh our efforts. Moreover, the effort itself can bless us, because it keeps us focusing on Him. As we wait in the Light of His Presence, his Love falls steadily upon us. In this brilliant Love-Light we can sometimes catch glimpses of the Glory revealed in His Face.

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

Tuesday: Jesus's Loving Presence

John 20:19 - On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Taste and see that Jesus is Good. The more intimately we experience Him, the more convinced we become of His goodness. He is the Living One who sees us and longs to participate in our lives. He is training us to find Him in each moment and to be a channel of His loving Presence. Sometimes His blessings come to us in mysterious ways: through pain and trouble. At such times we can know His goodness only through our trust in Him. Understanding will fail us, but trust will keep us close to Him.

Thank Him for the gift of His Peace, a gift of such immense proportions that we cannot fathom its depths or breadth. When He appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, it was Peace that He communicated first of all. He knew this was their deepest need: to calm their fears and clear their minds. He also speaks Peace to us, for He knows our anxious thoughts. Listen to Him! Tune out other voices so that we can hear Him more clearly. He designed us to dwell in Peace all day, every day. Draw near to Him; receive His Peace.

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Wednesday: Sit Within Christ's Love

2 Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Let Christ's Love enfold us in the radiance of His Glory. Sit still in the Light of His Presence, and receive His Peace. These quiet moments with Him transcends time, accomplishing for more than we can imagine. Bring Him the sacrifice of our time, and watch to see how abundantly He will bless us and our loved ones.

Through the intimacy of ur relationship, we are being transformed from the inside out. As we keep our focus on Him, He forms us into the ones I desire we to be. Our part is to yield to His creative work within us, neither resisting it nor trying to speed it up. Enjoy the tempo of a God-breathed life by letting Him set the pace. Hold His hand in childlike trust, and the way before us will open up step by step.

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Thursday: Follow Jesus

2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we live by faith, not by sight.

Follow Jesus one step at a time. That is all He requires of us. In fact, that is the only way to move through this space-time world. We see huge mountains looming, and we start wondering how we are going to scale those heights. Meanwhile, because we are not looking where we are going, we stumble on the easy path where He is leading us now. As He helps us get back on our feet, we tell Him how worried we are about the cliffs up ahead. But we don't know what will happen today, much less tomorrow. Our paths may take an abrupt turn, leading us away

from the mountains. There may be an easier way up the mountains than is visible from this distance. If He does lead us up the cliffs, He will equip us thoroughly for that strenuous climb. He will even give His angels charge over us, to preserve us in all our ways.

Keep our minds on the present journey, enjoying His Presence. Walk by faith, not by sight, trusting Him to open up the way before us.

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Friday: We are Loved

Ephesians 1:4 - For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

We are Christ's beloved children. He chose us before the foundation of the world, to walk with Him along paths designed uniquely for us. Concentrate on keeping in step with Him, instead of trying to anticipate His plans for us. If we trust that His plans are to prosper us and not to harm us, we can relax and enjoy the present moment.

Our hope and our future are rooted in heaven, where eternal ecstasy awaits us. Nothing can rob us of our inheritance of unimaginable riches and wellbeing. Sometimes He grants us glimpses of our glorious future, to encourage us and spur us on. But our main focus should be staying close to Jesus. He set the pace in keeping with our needs and His purposes.

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Saturday: Jesus Fills Us Full

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

Jesus is the resurrection and the Life; all lasting Life emanates from Him. People search for life in many wrong ways: chasing after fleeting pleasures, accumulating possessions and wealth, trying to deny the inevitable effects of aging. Meanwhile, He freely offers abundant Life to everyone who turns to Him. As we come to Him

and take His yoke upon us, He fills us with His very Life. This is how I choose to live in the world and accomplish His purposes. This is also how He blesses us with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory. The Joy is His, and the Glory is His; but He bestows them on us as we live in His Presence, inviting Him to live fully in us.

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