

Devotions: 12-7 to 12-12

Monday: Everlasting Love

1 Peter 2:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Jesus has loved us with an everlasting love. Before time began, He knew us. For years we swam around in a sea of meaninglessness, searching for Love, hoping for hope. All that time He was pursuing us, aching to embrace us in His compassionate arms.

When the time was right, He revealed Himself to us. He lifted us out of that sea of despair and set us down on a firm foundation. Sometimes we felt naked; exposed to the revealing Light of His Presence. He wrapped ermine robes around us: His robe of righteousness. He sang us a Love song, whose beginning and end are veiled in eternity. He infused meaning into our minds and harmony into our hearts. Join Him in singing His song. Together we will draw others out of darkness into His marvelous Light.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless.

Tuesday: The Desire of Our Hearts

Psalm 37:4 - Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Jesus is Life and Light in abundance. As we spend time soaking in His Presence, we are energized and lightened. Through communing with Him, we transfer our heavy burdens to His strong shoulders. By gazing at Him, we gain His perspective on our lives. This time alone with Him is essential for unscrambling our thoughts and smoothing out the day before us.

Be willing to fight for this precious time with Him. Opposition comes in many forms: our own desires to linger in bed; the evil one's determination to distract us from Jesus; the pressure of family, friends, and your own inner critic to spend time

more productively. As we grow in our desire to please Him above all else, we gain strength to resist opponents. Delight ourselves in Christ, for He is the deepest Desire of our hearts.

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Wednesday: Children of God

Philippians 2:15 - so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

See Christ's face, and we will find all that we have longed for. The deepest yearnings of our hearts are for intimacy with him. He knows because He designed us to desire Him. Do not feel guilty about taking time to be still in His Presence. We are simply responding to the tugs of divinity with in us. He made us in His image, and He hid heaven in our hearts. Our yearning for Him is a form of homesickness: longing for our true Homes in heaven.

Do not be afraid to be different from other people. The path He has called us to travel is exquisitely right for each of us. The more closely we follow His leading, the more fully He can develop our gifts. To follow Him wholeheartedly, we must relinquish our desire to please other people. However, our closeness to Him will bless others by enabling us to shine brightly in this dark world.

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Thursday: Let Go

Colossians 4:2 - Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Trust Jesus by relinquishing control into His hands. Let, go and recognize that He is God. This is His world: He made it and He controls it. Ours is a responsive part in the litany of Love. He searches among His children for receptivity to Him. Nurture it with the Light of His Presence.

When we bring Him prayer requests, lay out our concerns before Him. Speak to Him candidly; pour out our hearts. Then thank Him for the answers that He has set into motion long before we can discern results. When our requests come to mind again, continue to thank Him for the answers that are one the way. If we keep stating our concerns to Him, we will live in a state of tension. When we thank Him for how He is answering our prayers, our mind-set becomes much more positive. Thankful prayers keep our focus on His Presence and His promises.

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Friday: Ever-living Hope

Hebrews 6:19 - We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

Jesus is our Risen, Living Savior! Through His resurrection we have been born again to an ever-living hope. It is vital for us to remain hopeful, no matter what is going on in our lives. People put their hope in a variety of things; wealth, power, health, medical treatment; but these are all insufficient. When storms break upon our lives, we can find only one adequate source of help: Christ! The hope He provides is an anchor for our souls, firm and secure even in the most tempestuous waters. A good way to remain anchored in Him is to whisper as often as needed: "Jesus, You are my Hope." This affirmation strengthens us and keeps us connected to Him.

He is constantly working to transform our lives. We Need His help continually to keep our hope alive. He stands ready to help us at all times; during stormy episodes as well as times of smooth sailing. He is not only ever-living but also more abundantly alive than we can possibly imagine. There are no limits to what His great Power and Glory can accomplish! He can change the most hopeless situation into outright victory. Moreover, as we affirm our trust in Him; no matter how difficult our circumstances; He is able to transform us: gradually, lovingly. Those who hope in Him will not be disappointed.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless.

Saturday:

Rejoice

1 Peter 1:3-4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling. He knows how weak we are: how easily we would stumble if He were not holding on to us. He can also present us faultless before the Presence of His Glory. We are growing in grace, but complete freedom from sin will not be possible until we leave this fallen world. Nonetheless, because we truly trust Him as Savior He keeps us from stumbling in the ultimate sense: He won't let us lose our salvation.

He is able to present us faultless; blameless. Perfect, unblemished, before the Presence of His Glory because He has clothed us with garments of salvation and arrayed us in robes of righteousness. He wants us to wear these royal robes with confidence. We are absolutely secure because it is His righteousness that saves us; not ours.

Exceeding Joy is for both us and Him. He delights in us now, but this Joy will be astronomically magnified when we join Him in Glory. The Joy we will experience in heaven is so far beyond anything we have known on earth that it is indescribable. Nothing can rob us of this glorious inheritance which is imperishable and will not fade away. Rejoice!

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