

Devotions: August 9 to August 15

For daily devotions I am going to start using Grace For The Moment by Max Lucado.

Monday: In The Eye Of The Storm

Matthew 8:25-26 - His followers went to him and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We will drown!" Jesus answered, "Why are you afraid?"

Read this verse: Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33 NIV). After the storm, [the disciples] worshipped him. They had never, as a group, done that before.... You will not find them worshipping when he heals the leper. Forgives the adulteress. Preaches to the masses. They were willing to follow.... But only after the incident on the sea did they worship him. Why? Simple. This time they were the ones who were saved.

Take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday: Walking With The Savior

Isiah 54:13 - All your children will be taught by the Lord, and they will have much peace.

Never underestimate the power that comes when a parent pleads with God on behalf of a child. Who knows how many prayers are being answered right now because of the faithful ponderings of a parent ten or twenty years ago?... If what we are doing, in this fast-paced society, is taking us away from prayer time for our children, we are doing too much. There is nothing more special, more precious than time that a parent spends struggling and pondering with God on behalf of a child.

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Wednesday:

He Still Moves Stones

Isaiah 40:29 - He gives strength to those who are tired and more power to those who are weak.

An example of faith was found on the wall of a concentration camp. On it a prisoner had carved the words: I believe in the sun, even though it does not shine. I believe in love, even when it is not shown. I believe in God, even when he does not speak. What hand could have cut such a conviction? What eyes could have seen good in such horror? There is only one answer: Eyes that chose to see the unseen.

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Thursday:

A Gentle Thunder

Romans 5:4-5 - Patience produces character, and character produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us.

God is often more patient with us than we are with ourselves. We assume that if we fail, we are not born again. If we stumble, then we are not truly converted. If we have the old desires, then we must not be a new creation. If you are anxious about this, please remember, “God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.” (Philippians 1:6)

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Friday:

When God Whispers Your Name

Psalms 32:3 - When I kept things to myself, I felt weak deep inside me.

Ask yourself two questions. Is there any unconfessed sin in my life?...Whether it is too small to be mentioned or too big to be forgiven is not yours to decide. Your task is to be honest....Are there any unsundered worries in my heart? “Give all your worries to him, because he cares about you”(1 Peter 5:7). The German word for worry means “To strangle.” The Greek word means “to divide the mind”....Worry is a noose on the neck and a distraction of the mind, neither of which is befitting for joy.

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Saturday: Just Like Jesus

Romans 12:6 - We all have different gifts, each of which came because of the grace God gave us.

There are some things we want to do but simply are not equipped to accomplish...Paul gives good advice in Romans 12:3: "Have a sane estimate of your capabilities" (Phillips). In other words, be aware of your strengths. When you teach, do people listen? When you lead, do people follow?...Where are you most productive? Identify your strengths, and then...major in them....Failing to focus on our strengths may prevent us from accomplishing the unique tasks God called us to do.

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Sunday: When Christ Comes

1 Corinthians 6:19 - You should know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit who is in you. You have received the Holy Spirit from God. So you do not belong to yourselves.

You will live forever in this body. It will be different, mind you....What is now faulty will be fixed. Your body will be different, but you will not have a different body...God has a high regard for your body. You should as well. Respect it....It is after all the temple of God...You would not want anyone trashing your home; God does not want anyone trashing his.

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