

## **Week 3 2019 Daily Devotional**

### **I. Prayer to enter the Lord's presence:**

*Be still for a moment. "Lord, I give the day that is now past to you. It is yours. I give the day that is to come to you; help me to see where you are working and to join you there. Speak to me during these moments. I commit them and myself to you."*

### **II. Prayer of Confession:**

*"Lord, you are faithful to forgive me and cleanse me of my sin when I confess it to you. I confess my sin(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ . Thank you for forgiveness." (1 John 1:9)*

### **III. Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*Choose to be thankful, speak out loud of what God has done.*

*"Thank you, Father, for \_\_\_\_\_ . Fill my heart and my mouth with gratitude throughout this day."*

### **IV. Scripture Reflection**

#### **Read:**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." Genesis 3:6

"Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness" Genesis 15:6

"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" Genesis 50:19

## **Reflect:**

**Day 1:** These verses form the framework for Genesis and for our lives. God is before all things and has made all things. Man sought to determine good and evil apart from God, the result was death. God initiated our rescue through the family line of Abraham and we are made right with God by faith, just like Abraham was. Finally, God continually turns evil into good because he is good.

**Day 2:** The earth and the cosmos were designed to allow human life to exist. Some believe the Universe is too extravagantly large to be just for the existence of humans. But God is indeed extravagant in his creativity and in his grace. It is no more effort for God to create a Universe as large as ours than it is to create a single flower. He does both with effortless ease.

**Day 3:** God made a covenant with Abraham. It had conditions for temporary blessing and yet it was unconditional in its ultimate blessing. Abraham's lineage, Israel, struggled to live consistently in the conditional blessing of the covenant and yet in Jesus God fulfilled the unconditional promise he had made. What does this tension feel like in your own life? Do you understand that you must choose to trust and obey to live in God's abundant life? Do you also understand that Christ has obeyed for you and so you are an heir to his life?

**Day 4:** God's blessings came with conditions but the conditions are not arbitrary but rather they are part of the blessing. God will not put up with idols, he is a jealous God. But this is due to the fact that he alone is worthy of worship and he knows that we become like what we worship. If we worship other than him, we are destroyed. If we worship him, we are made whole. Who or what has captured or threatens to capture your attention and affection? Health, stuff, pride, pleasure, reputation? God alone is worthy of your heart's full affection.

**Day 5:** You are not in control God is. You are responsible and must not be passive but you are not in control, God is. How has your desire to control outcomes and others negatively impacted your ability to trust God and love others?

## **Respond:**

**Day 1:** Worship God by rehearsing in your mind (or out loud) all these great things he has done in history. Think or talk about not only these great things but also of what he has done in your life to bring you to relationship with him. Put aside other fears, worries, concerns for now...worship by remembering.

**Day 2:** Speak to God of his extravagant love and mercy for you. Choose to be amazed and grateful whether you feel that way or not. You can direct your mind and your imagination, God has given that capacity to you. Now, direct your mind to amazement and gratitude. Direct your imagination to the far reaches of space and to the depths of the ocean floor. "See" things there that are beautiful and awe inspiring. Be amazed at God. Then enter your day or into tonight's rest with the perspective of one who has been amazed by God.

**Day 3:** Do not be confused by the tension, live fully in it. Live a life of committed obedience to the will and ways of God. He offers you a path of freedom in his will but you must choose to walk in it at the same time you cannot earn God's favor you can only receive it by faith. So, go and live the tension...obey and be grateful, be grateful and obey.

**Day 4:** Do an honest assessment of the condition of your heart by considering what is "most" in your life. What do you think most about? What do you worry most about? What do you speak most about? Has something or someone become an idol? Has it stolen first place in your heart and life? Close your eyes and your fists. Imagine whatever has become a "most" in your clasped fist. Now open your hands and lift them to God and as you do, give this to God. You may need to do this throughout the day.

**Day 5:** Stop believing you are in control...you are not.  
Stop acting like you must be in control...you need not be.  
Rest in him, not by being passive, but by dying to your foolish attempts to control outcomes and others.

## **V. Prayer for others:**

*Pray specifically for the concerns of your life and the lives of others.*

## **VI. Prayer of commitment:**

*“Lord God, I commit to love you with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my strength and with all my mind and to love my neighbor as myself. Empower me today to love you and others with everything that I am.” (Luke 10:27)*

## **This Month's Scripture Memory:**

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. <sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.