

Week 31 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

Day 1

Read

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:26-29

Reflect

Paul's letter to the Galatians was a response to a group of Jewish background "Christians" who were teaching that obedience to law, revealed in the practice of circumcision was a prerequisite for salvation. These people were called "Judaizers." They were a serious threat to the Gospel because they undercut salvation by faith alone. It was a powerless and false version of Christianity. It was reliant on human ability to keep the law which had proven impossible over the long history of humanity. Christ alone kept the law perfectly and faith in him alone could lead to being sons and daughters of God.

Respond

There is a constant tension in our relationship with God. We cannot earn God's favor by our obedience but because of his favor we want to obey. It is easy to fall off the wall one way or another. One side is to live in constant dread of failing God. The other side is to live flippantly...believing that grace means it doesn't really matter if we obey. Most don't live in the extremes but is there a way you tend to lean? Are you failing to live in the freedom of faith...fully accepted no matter what you do? Or are you failing to live in the freedom of obedience...fully accepted and now empowered to do what God wants you do? Where do you lean? Lean back into balance.

Day 2

Read

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:26-29

Reflect

To be clothed with Christ is a symbolic way of saying put on his attitudes and actions. We became sons and daughters of God by faith and then our baptism was an outward demonstration of this inward reality. Now external actions must reveal our internal transformation. We are to look like Christ on the outside as we become more like him on the inside.

Respond

Where are you failing to look like Christ? What specific attitudes internally and actions externally look less like Christ and more like just you? Name those attitudes and actions now to God...confess them as sin. Then contemplate the attitudes and actions of Christ and mentally think of "putting them on" like a child putting on a superhero costume. Unlike a child's costume as you continually "put on Christ" you can actually become like him in his power.

Day 3

Read

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:26-29

Reflect

Paul names three barriers that the gospel has broken down: ethnicity, social status, and sex. These things remain essentially aspects of who we are. We have not lost our distinctiveness but these things now longer define us and must not separate us. We are all now one in Christ.

Respond

Have you taken pride or felt ashamed of some aspect of your life? Your heritage, education, social status, ability, accomplishments? Has that pride or shame shaped your thinking and how you approach God and others? You may need to take a minute and think deeply about this. A flippant answer just won't do. Repent now of your pride or your shame. God desires to get glory in your life as it is right now. He intends for you to become more like Christ over time...but he desires to use you to bring glory to Christ all the time. Pride and shame are both barriers to his glory revealed in your life.

Day 4

Read

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:26-29

Reflect

God made a promise to Abraham long ago and to his seed. Abraham's seed would be a great nation and God would be their God. The fulfillment of that promise was in Christ. If you have received Christ by faith then you are now an heir to the promise. You are part of God's great family and the nation of faith. God is your God. You may be an American, or some other nationality but your highest citizenship is in heaven. You may be proud of some aspect of your heritage (in a healthy way) and yet your highest gratitude must be for the fact that you are a son or daughter of God.

Respond

Rejoice in all God has done to bring you to this day. Perhaps it is not an exciting day. Perhaps it is a day that is hard and the future is uncertain. Perhaps it is just a tedious day. Nothing in it looks to be of great interest to you. But God has worked in human history for millennia to bring about this very day. Of course, this day is not about you, it is about God...just like every other day. However, God has included you in this day. You are included in his plans. You have been on his mind from eternity past. Now this day is before you, will you live like those who don't know God or will you live like a son or a daughter of the King? How you live this day begins with how you see this day in your "mind's eye."

Day 5

Read

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:26-29

Reflect/Respond

There is much national and international tension regarding differences between people. These differences include nationality, race, political persuasion (ideas) and many other things.

Today spend your time with God praying for peace. Pray for people you know who are struggling with anger or separation from others. If you are angry or confused pray for yourself. Pray for peace among nations and peace within nations. Pray that the gospel would be bring reconciliation among all people.

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:

Philippians 2:3-7

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.