

Week 41 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

1 John 4:7-13 Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Hosea 1:2 Go take an adulterous wife because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the Lord.

Hosea 3:1 Go show your love to your wife again. Though she is loved by another and is adulterous. Love her as the Lord loves Israel, though they turn to other gods.

Reflect

God's love is enduring. 1 John 4 claims that God is love. Love is part of God's intrinsic nature. If God has always been then God's love has always been. He endures and His love endures. There is nothing we could do to increase His love and nothing to be done to diminish His love. Reflect on the relationship with Hosea and his wife. God asked Hosea to marry an adulterous women. He is told to do this as an illustration of God's enduring love for Israel. Though Israel is faithless, God's love endures. God's love endures for you even if you are faithless.

Respond

Praise God for His enduring love. Thank Him for remaining faithful to keep his promise of love.

Day 2

Read

1 John 4:7-13 Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Romans 5:8 God demonstrated His own love for us in this that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Psalm 136:10-12 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt His love endures forever.
and brought Israel out from among them His love endures forever.
with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever.

Reflect

God's love is expressed. Earlier in 1 John the writer tells his audience to love with action and not just words. God has set the example of love in action and not just with words. He has shown us love by sending his Son. He showed love to Israel by rescuing them from slavery. Since God has expressed His love, we can now follow his example and express love to others. Sure we could just soak in God's love and affection. We will experience more of His love if we demonstrate love to others.

Respond

Who can you express love to? Do not look far. Family, roommate, boss, co-worker. All are deserving of love. Pray for that person and ask for God to help you see how to love them today.

Day 3

Read

Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth and his heart was filled with pain.

Exodus 3:7 I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

Duet. 7:7-8 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other people, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers and that he brought you out with a mighty hand.

Reflect

God is an emotional being. Often we do not think of God as being emotional. He is not driven by emotion but He does feel emotion. He does have concern and compassion. He is love. Do you think about God as distant or cold and calculating? Do you think about God like a supercomputer? Able to handle any problem but not really caring. God feels. His feelings are an expression of reality. His feelings do not dictate reality. We are made in God's image as emotional beings. We feel, but we must not let those feelings control us. Feelings of sorrow or anger can instruct us but they do not have to drive us. If you feel fear, sorrow, sadness, or feel empty, take a moment and reflect on your feelings. What might your emotions be trying to teach you?

Respond

Think about God as an emotional being. Someone who understands your heartache and concerns. Bring those concerns to God. He is interested in how you feel. If you feel emotion or a lack of emotion in your relationship with God, talk with God about that now.

Day 4

Read

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

1 John 4:7-13 Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Reflect

God is relational. Since before time began God has existed in perfect loving relationship. Stop and think for a minute - what was God doing before the world began? He was existing in joy in relationship - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is an important question to consider what God did before He created His children. Why is it important? It reminds that God does not exist for us. Yes, He loves us and wants us, but does not need us and we are not the center of the universe. A loving God is at the center of the universe. He gave of Himself so that we could know Him.

Respond

Praise God for His relational character. Confess the reality that life is not about you, but it is about God. Out of this confession, look for ways to strengthen relationship with the people God has given you to love.

Day 5

Read

1 John 4:7-13 Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Reflect

We are obligated to love one another. Obligation sounds like a “bad word.” We do not like to be obligated. For the person who has received God’s love, an obligation to love others is a delight. When we love others we experience God living in us and His love is made complete in us. We are not loving out of lack but rather out of the resources God has given. As we give love, we experience more of God. Loving others is a way for us to be filled anew with God’s love and presence. Who will you love and how will you love? Can you give love that is costly? One way to give love is to give someone your attention. We live in a world full of distractions and full of things vying for our attention. Can you give costly love today by being present with people? Give people your attention. Remember they are made in God’s image so they are people of value.

Respond

Who will you give your attention to today? Think about your day. Think of the situations and people you are likely to encounter. Commit to give your full attention to the people you interact with today. Thank God that He paid attention to you and made Himself known to you.

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:

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.