

Week 44 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

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Reflect

The context for this passage is that the Christians were being challenged by Paul to not make decisions based on personal expediency or just because they believed they were free to do so. They were to consider the glory of God and the good of others in the decisions they made regarding all their life choices...eating, drinking, or whatever they did.

Respond

In what ways could you in good conscience say "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"? What ways would this not be true? Ask God to make you into a person...from the inside out...who could say this to others without pride and without hesitation.

Day 2

Read

"Death and hell are never satisfied and neither are the eyes of man."

Proverbs 27:20

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Psalm 34:8

Reflect

"Death and hell are never satisfied" is an intentionally dramatic way of getting your attention. Once the writer has your attention he makes his point..."Neither are our desires." This is not stated merely as a truism like "The skies are blue." It is a challenge, a warning...and in context...a clear motivation for us to find our satisfaction in Christ. If we attempt to satisfy our desires by merely giving in to them we will never find satisfaction. On the other hand if we attempt to deny our desires in order to make them less powerful we will become more disciplined but largely unchanged. We must let our desires...all of them...drive us to Christ.

Respond

Your physical body is demanding. "Feed me, give me pleasure, stop this pain...!" You should do all you can to take care of it but you must not be ruled by its tyranny. Jesus is Lord of you...what does that mean for how you use your body? Stand up, lift up your hands, and your eyes/face to heaven...say to God..."I give myself to you...body and soul."

(Don't do this unless you mean this or want this to be true)

Day 3

Read

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.' "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

Jeremiah 7:1-7

Reflect

In the Old Testament God's Spirit dwelt among his people in physical places like the Tabernacle and the Temple. Over time the people of God began to put more faith in the Temple of God than the God of the Temple. They stopped doing the things with their bodies and their time that pleased God and yet believed that the temple of God would somehow save them from harm. In the New Testament we are the "temple of God." God dwells in his people in the Holy Spirit. We must not believe that just because we have "prayed a prayer" or have become a Christian that it doesn't matter what we do with God's new temple...our physical bodies. We do not "own" these bodies, they belong to God. We must take good care of them. We must do all we do with them to honor him and bless others.

Respond

Is there some way you should take better care of God's temple? Will you surrender your body to Christ anew? Will you take steps to get the help you need to follow through on this commitment?

Day 4

Read

"When a man's own folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the Lord."

Proverbs 19:3

Reflect

This Proverb is full of irony. A person's life is ruined because of their own foolish choices but in their heart and mind they blame God for what has happened to them. What makes this ironic is that not only has God not caused their ruin, God has given his word to lead them in paths away from ruin and into life. Of course not all that happens in our lives is the result of folly. Proverbs are not "laws" but statements of how life generally works. Some people have experienced difficulty through no fault of their own. However ultimate "ruin" is something that results from a life lived in long-term rebellion to God's will and ways.

Respond

Pray for people in your life who are far from God. Pray God will open their eyes and hearts to the truth of the gospel. If someone you know who is not a Christ-follower is going through difficult times ask God to use their difficulties to draw them to himself. Perhaps someone is suffering physically or mentally/emotionally...ask God to give you opportunity to speak into their life. Very often this suffering is evidence of God at work in a person's life.

Day 5

Read

"Whatever you do whether in word or deed do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Col. 3:17

Reflect

"Whatever you do whether in word or deed" is a phrase intentionally designed to cover everything. There is no part of your life outside the parameters of this claim. All you do is to be done in the "name of the Lord Jesus." "In the name of" means "under the authority of" or "control of." Every single act and moment of our lives are to be lived under the control of the Lord Jesus. Our lives are to be a continual process of relinquishing control to Him. This a bold claim on your life. Nothing is yours.

Respond

Have you laid claim to some part of your life? Repent, this is sin. It all belongs to him, every part. To realize this is wisdom. To live this is freedom.

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:

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.