

DEVOTIONS FOR THE
RESURRECTION

MARCH 1 – MARCH 28, 2016

Devotions for the Resurrection

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Read: Genesis 1:1-5

Additional Scripture:

John 1:4-5 *In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

II Corinthians 4:6 *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Isaiah 45:18 *God fashioned and made the earth..... He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.*

*Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may **dwelt in your hearts** through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be **filled** to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Ponder: To be full of His light

Light! God does not leave us in the dark but He gives us light and that light is good and that light is Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who makes all things visible and who, when we receive Him into our heart, gives sight to our blind eyes and hearing to the ears that are deaf. The believer, having the light, now has understanding because of the Light filling him. The glory of God has bearing upon us. This is all because of His love toward us. (Ephesians 3). Welcome The Light!

Questions:

1. Think about your life pre-Christ. Describe the differences from being empty to now being full – full of Christ, full of the light.

2. To be filled to the full, what must be realized?

Prayer: Father, you fill me with the light of your salvation; you fill me with Jesus Christ. I thank you for this filling and the light that reveals darkness and sin. Please continue to reveal more that I may be filled with more of the glory, more of Jesus Christ. In these days toward Easter, draw me closer. Give me an expanded understanding of your love. I give you thanks for pouring your love into my inmost being. Amen

Application:

Read: Luke 1:26-38

Additional Scripture:

Luke 1:30 *But the angel said to her, "do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son and you will give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.*

I John 4:18 *There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

Luke 2:7 *And she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger because there was no room in the inn.*

Ponder: To make room is to lose your fear

He was the Son of the Most High, and yet they had no room for him in the inn. The Son of the Most High! No room for Him! The situation is prophetic - men will have difficulty seeing they should make room for Jesus in their hearts.

He who comes with love asks for a room. Mary was told do not be afraid and make room! So she made room! What have you given Him so far - a no-vacancy sign, one small room, or every nook and cranny you have? When one gives Jesus the whole inn – the possibilities for joy and peace are boundless! And when perfect love fills *every* room, your fear will leave.

Questions:

1. The Lord says to us all, "Do not fear". Do you fear something? What and why? Write here, what you fear most in this life:

2. What are you holding back from giving full access to the Lord? (your time, a specific fear, total devotion, a secret sin, your marriage, your children, etc).

Prayer: Lord, as I think about it, I realize I have not given you access to all of me. In fact, if I were an inn, I would have to admit I have some rooms locked up, denying you access. I now identify these rooms (areas) of my life to be: _____

I choose now to unlock the room(s) I have kept back from you and I say, "Come in, Lord." As I give it all over and totally surrender to your perfect love, I gladly receive the peace that passes understanding in place of having fear of punishment, damnation, guilt and condemnation. For the areas I can't seem to let go of, I pray you help me to come to your altar and lay it down so you can do a work in me. Please deliver me from all my fears as I choose to give you all of me. Amen

Application:

Read: Luke 2:41-52

Additional Scripture:

Luke 2:40 *And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.*

Luke 2:46 *After 3 days they found him in the temple courts sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*

Luke 2:49 *.... Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?*

Ponder: Growing in the Lord

In these passages from the Gospel of Luke we get a pretty clear picture of Jesus as a boy who is inquisitive and eager to learn. Jesus, the boy, was drawn to the things of God, and so he grew in wisdom, finding grace and favor with God and men as he pressed in. Where did Jesus want most to be? It was in his Father's house! This is where He would grow!

How is your growing going? Is it toward the Light of heaven or elsewhere? What is so special about the Father's house anyway? Jesus knew. Do you?

Questions:

1. Luke 2:46 is a key verse in today's reading. Did you ever wonder why Jesus the boy, but also the Son of God, would need to ask questions? Do you think it was for their benefit? His benefit? Or both? Explain.

2. What is the Father's house to you and what makes it good?

4. Ask the Father some questions from today's reading. What is one of your questions and its answer?

Prayer:

Father, like Jesus, I want to grow in wisdom. I want to know more about you and I want to know your ways and walk in them better. Grow me in two areas. **First**, teach me to grow from you written word – I want to converse with you regarding your word and read your word with my spirit. **Second**, draw me to your house, into the inner chambers. I want visit with you face to face, and have relationship. In your house is love and love is what I need. In your house is truth and I need truth. Thank you for the example of Jesus as a boy. Amen.

Application:

Read: Matthew 4:1-11 the temptation of Christ

Additional Scripture:

Matthew 4:4 *Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Matthew 4:7 *Do not put the Lord your God to the test.*

Matthew 4:10 *Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.*

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge*

Ponder: Without knowledge we perish

The temptation of Jesus! Here the devil *attempts* three things - to convince Jesus to ignore the word of God by **disobedience**, - to convince Jesus to test God **calling God a liar**, and - to convince Jesus to worship Satan and **give way** to evil.

Satan has not ceased in his temptations and continues full force tempting Christians. Jesus did not succumb to the temptations but stood firm. What of us? Let's be honest, we have succumbed to some temptations. What was it about Jesus that he did not? How did he manage to be so strong? This is an answer we need to know!

Questions:

Read the entire passage of the account of the temptation of Jesus in Matthew and then answer the questions.

1. In each of these temptations Satan wanted something... he would greatly delight in each time he succeeded in getting Jesus to listened to him and do what he suggested. List three things from todays reading that you can say Satan delights in us doing:

- Satan delights in our _____
- Satan delights in our _____
- Satan delights in our _____

2. What would have been the long-term effects on us **if** Jesus had turned the stone to bread, jumped off the pinnacle, or worshiped Satan?

3. A warrior is taught that to be victorious in war it is advantageous to know both yourself and your enemy. This is why Jesus did not take the bait - He knew who he was and he knew who and what Satan was. Below is a graph for you to complete - because without knowledge we perish.

Satan said to Jesus, "**If** you are the son of God..." Praise God! Jesus knew it was not "IF" but "I AM". What do you know? Complete the graph.

Continued...

Jesus would say:	Jesus would say of Satan:	You can say:
I am the Son of God	He is the enemy of God	I am a child of God
I am here for the Cross	He is defeated by the cross	I believe in the Cross
I tell you the Truth	He is a Liar. He twists truth	I listen to God's truth
I have a plan for you	He has a plan for you	
If you follow me you live		

4. Identify a present temptation you have. To not go to church? To not read the Word? To not fellowship? To sin (specifically _____)?

My present temptation is _____

Why would Satan want you to give in? What would he gain?

Prayer: Father, Satan is a liar who wants me to disobey your commands, to miss my calling and to give way to evil. Father, I am convinced how serious it is when I choose to cave to temptations, go my own way and ignore your call on my life. If Jesus had gone Satan's way, I would not be a child of God today. It is a somber thing when your children take the bait of Satan and so open the door to a curse rather than a blessing.

I thank you, Jesus, that you clung to the word of God, and did not ignore Father God's voice, for a loaf of bread. I thank you that you refused to test the Father and forego the Cross. And I thank you that you did not pledge your allegiance to the devil leaving the world without a sacrificial perfect lamb.

I want to confess my sin of not believing you, of not respecting your word, of giving way to evil. Specifically _____. I ask your forgiveness. Please forgive me my trespasses and deliver me from the evil one. Today I choose to believe and remember who Jesus is, who the devil is, and who I am in you. By knowing these things, I will, with your help, walk in victory over temptations. Please strengthen me in the Holy Spirit to walk in your ways and keep to your path. I do not want to miss what you have for me. Amen.

Application:

Read: John 1:35-51

Additional Scripture:

John 1: 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

John 1:48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Phillip called you."

John 1:50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that."

John 1:51 He then added, "Very truly I tell you you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Ponder: What do you want?

You've been gathered to Jesus if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. Today ponder and then answer this, "What do you want?" What do you want of this Christian life? Do you just want to be known by God? (Nathaniel was excited just about that. v. 50). But Jesus' reply was, "You shall see (experience, realize) greater things than that."

So, what do you want? Do you want one encounter with Jesus or many? Jesus was gathering but also offering. He was offering a complete change of life and an ongoing, daily encounter with the Son of God! "What do you want?" he asks.

Questions:

1. Shut your eyes and envision Jesus saying John 1:51 to his new disciples. How do you hear him saying it? (As a rebuke? Serious? Excited? How do you hear it?). Your thoughts?
2. What do you want in your relationship with Jesus?
3. What does He say back to you? What is He asking?
4. He gave Simon a new name. Ask Him what new name He has for you. Listen. What is it?

Prayer:

Jesus, I have thought about this and I very much want to give _____ to you. I know you are the Messiah, the Lamb of God, and you are my savior. I am ready for more of you, and I want to commit more. I do not want to be unengaged. I do not want to be standing afar off from you. I do not want to be only known but not knowing. I do want more of you, more time with you, more knowledge of you. So I give you me, more of me. Gather me and take me where you want. Ask me to do what you want and I will obey. Thank you for calling me and being patient with me. Amen.

Application:

Read: John 2:1-11

Additional Scripture:

John 2:11b He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in Him.

Psalm 77:11-14 I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

Ponder: Lessons He gives

The first public miracle Jesus performed happened at a wedding in Cana. The wine had run out and Jesus' mother, Mary, knew Jesus could do something about it; so she appealed to him, "they have no more wine."

Mary instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them to do to remedy the wine shortage. You see, Mary already knew who Jesus was and what he was capable of (miracles)! It was the disciples who were in for a surprise. The miracle of the wine happened and their faith increased. The lessons begin!

Questions:

1. Jesus had them fill 6 stone jars with water – producing about 180 gallons of wine! We don't know how big the wedding party was, but this is a lot of wine. What does this tell you about Jesus and miracles?

2. Through Jesus performing a miracle, the disciples came to understand a bit more about the man they were following. The scripture says His glory was revealed! Boost your faith today by remembering back to a time Jesus found you an empty vessel and filled you. What was the increase he gave you?

Prayer:

Jesus, I thank you for many answered prayers in my life. I also realize there are many times you have moved on my behalf and I was unaware of it. Thank you. I know you care for my every circumstance, that you are gracious, and that your love is abounding. Specifically, I thank you for the time you _____. Continue to boost my faith that I would walk in a fuller measure of faith. Amen.

Today, I need a miracle, and my faith boosted (or someone I know needs a miracle and their faith boosted). So I ask:

Application:

Scripture

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Mark 9:37 Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 10:16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Matthew 18:3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Ponder:

Jesus loves children! They are special to him. But why children? Why not women, men, teens, dogs, or cats? Is it their innocence, their vulnerability, their trust, or maybe because they delight in small things? What is it that makes him set his angels around them to protect them? (Matthew 18:10). Jesus loves the children.

Questions:

1. When presented with the gospel, what percentage of young children do you think would accept it and what percentage would scoff at it? Why?

2. Jesus calls us to "change" (Mt. 18:3) and become like children in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He understands that adults lose their childlikeness as they age, but he implies it is necessary for us to pick some of it up again. What childlike quality did you pick up in order to trust Jesus?

Prayer:

Father, I thank you for the reminder that you prefer us to be childlike when we relate to you. Believing you will always protect me, defend me, and care for me allows me to sleep like a baby because all my cares and burdens are released to you. Abba, I receive your perfect love today.

Abba, I receive your love.

I also pray for these children in my life: _____. I pray they would know who they are in Christ. I pray they would know your Father-heart and have the assurance of your love for them. I pray they would learn to hate evil and love good and always fear you. Amen

Application:

Read: John 6:67-69

Additional Scripture:

John 5:18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Matthew 10:34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

John 15:19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Ponder: Being a fool for Christ

The Jews attempted to kill Jesus many times, for he continually broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, he infuriated them. Jesus shook things up. He spoke against their rules and their traditions. He was an aggravating shaker to those set against him. They may have called him (in today's words) stupid, narrow minded and not with the program. Today, consider these wise words from Justice Antonin Scalia and reflect:

"God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools...and He has not been disappointed....If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world."

Questions:

1. The religious leaders and Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus for the words he spoke, but he continued to speak. How easy can others shut you up?

2. When you make a stand for your Christian beliefs and meet discord, rejection, or even persecution, how can your thoughts from today's devotion help?

Prayer:

Father, I stand with you today even when it is unpopular. I do this because I know only you have the words of eternal life. Where else would I go? You are the Holy One of God, you shake the stiff necked, the religious, the proud. And I am in need of shaking. Shake me up and show me where I am yet religious and contrary to you. Mold me into the image of Jesus Christ and forgive me when I do not forgive quickly those who reject the good news when it comes from my mouth. Give me greater love for the lost and lead me into more truth. Amen.

Application:

Read: Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 22:1-5

Additional Scripture:

*Genesis 2:9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the **tree of life** and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

Galatians 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’” (Gal. 3:13)

*Revelations 2:7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the **tree of life**, which is in the paradise of God.*

*Revelations 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the **tree of life** and may go through the gates into the city.*

Ponder: The middle tree

We are told of two significant trees in the garden. The first is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve took of the tree’s forbidden fruit which led them, and all mankind, to death, a curse, and most importantly, to separation from God. There was also the tree of life there in the garden. This tree would lead to eternal life, to healing and to fellowship with God.

But let’s think about a third tree, one that was not in the garden, but was on Calvary many years later. This tree we know as the Cross! To pluck from the fruit from this tree, (which is the finished work of Christ) you will move from tree one (death) to tree two (life). The middle tree, the Cross, and the Man on the tree, Christ, is the way to eternal life.

Questions:

1. The Spirit says something to the churches. (Rev. 2:7). What is it, in your own words?

2. Revelation 22:14 talks about the believer’s *right* to the tree of life. How is it we acquire this right?

Prayer:

I thank you, Lord, for your plan of salvation for fallen man. I thank you for the tree upon Calvary that your son, Jesus Christ, died on giving me eternal life. Thank you for becoming my righteousness and reconciling me to the Father. I ask for a deeper understanding of these three trees, but mostly an understanding of the middle tree. I am in deed grateful for the finished work of the Cross and choose to apply it to every area of my life as you reveal my needs and struggles with sin. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

Isaiah 45:19b I the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

3 John 3 It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.

Ponder: Holding on to the truth

The North Star, which stands almost motionless in the northern hemisphere while the other stars appear to rotate around it, was a reliable navigation tool for sailors of long ago. (Before the compass, sextants or computers). When we want truth, it is best to make Jesus our North Star. If we choose anyone other than Jesus to guide us, we will find we are not following truth at all. Jesus repeatedly said, "I tell you the truth" And Pilate asked, "What is truth?" Truth is vital if you want to live. "What is truth?" Pilate asked, and it was right there in front of him. Jesus is truth!

Questions:

1. What were you set free from when you chose to believe the truth?

2. What does it mean to be "hold to the truth"?

3. Per John 8:31-32, complete the "If -Then":

If _____, then _____.

Prayer:

Father I thank you for your son, Jesus Christ, who is the truth. I pray for those I know who have their eyes on false north stars being deceived and lost. I specifically pray for _____. Help them to see truth, love truth, and walk in the truth. Help me to always keep my eyes on Jesus and to keep on course. Thank you for your direction and setting me free. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

*John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the full.*

*Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless **I live**. Not I but Christ lives in me. The **life** that I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave himself for me.*

*Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a **new life**.*

Ponder: Life to the full

Life comes through Jesus Christ alone. The enemy does not want us to have this life and will try and take it. But know this, for the believer, his old man, his old nature, is dead and buried with Christ. It is good to realize that any of the old man appearing through us after we are born again is an imitation of the old self by the enemy and should be rebuked. The old man, according to Galatians 2:20, no longer lives in us, but Christ lives in us! You see, Jesus gives us life and life to the full. Do not be deceived to believe anything else.

Questions:

1. What is it the thief wants to steal, kill and destroy in the believer?

2. According to Galatians 2:20 and Romans 6:4 the believer is crucified and buried. What is the rest of the story?

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for giving me eternal life and new birth to my spirit man. All things are new and the old things have passed away. I proclaim that I am crucified with Christ and any of the old me that arises I shall push down and reject in the name of Jesus. I proclaim that Christ lives in me to the full. I have been resurrected with him and I have the life. I stand in the victory of Jesus Christ to cleanse me from the flesh and enable me to live without sin's hold. I now put off the old nature, specifically _____, (lust, unforgiveness, etc.) and put on the new nature, specifically _____ (righteousness, holiness, etc) in Jesus' name. Amen.

Application:

Read: John 15:1-17

Additional Scripture:

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:7 If you remain (abide) in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Ponder: To abide

It is very simple – if you want to be like Christ, then abide. If you want to bear fruit, then abide. If you want your prayers answered, then again, abide. An abider in Christ will reflect Christ. An abider in Christ will produce Christ-like fruit. And an abider in Christ will pray the prayers that reflect the will of heaven, which of course will be answered. Just abide.

Questions:

1. Abide! One might abide (live and breath) in a house, or abide (obey) by some one's rules. How does abiding in Christ look in you?

2. We cannot overflow with Christ (bear fruit) if we are not abiding in Christ. What fruit of His Spirit do you desire to have more evident in your life?

Prayer:

I thank you Lord that I am now a partaker of your divine nature as I choose to walk in a manner worthy of you, being fruitful in every good work. Help me to be an imitator of you and to always walk in love. I pray the words that come from my mouth would be pleasing to you and be the very words that edify and encourage others. I thank you that as I abide in you I will know how to put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience because I am your workmanship. I especially pray regarding the fruit of _____ that I fail at so often. Please work in me to produce this fruit unto your glory. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

Psalms 30:11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

*Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the **joy** set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Ponder:

Can you imagine the Lord singing over you a song of joy? The song he is singing is for you... you make him have joy and so he sings over you! The Lord's joy is immense and he wants us to have joy too. After all there has been a victory! He has endured the cross – for us – and for the joy set before Him.

And He fills us with **joy** in his presence (Psalm 16:11) and fills our mouths with laughter and our lips with shouts of joy (Job 8:21). We cannot fabricate the joy the Lord gives, but we can receive it. Joy can overflow into dancing and singing. Dancing and singing unto the Lord is good and it is powerful. The Lord loves joyful singing and dancing! May we delight in Him like David did (II Sam. 6:14)! May we also understand why He has great joy and why we should rejoice with Him!

Questions:

1. In Zephaniah 3:17, note that it is a “mighty warrior” that is rejoicing over us. What typically does a warrior rejoice over?
2. Have you ever considered the Lord taking delight in you and singing over you, the spoils of the battle? How does this make you feel?

Prayer:

Father, when I've been with you, breathed you in, found rest and comfort in you, I go out with joy. Thank you. May I remember to take the time to drink deeply from your well daily and receive this joy that comes from you alone. I give you praise that your joy is my strength, my pleasure and my delight. You have given me a new song every morning when I make you my delight. Your joy is my strength. I thank you, too, that you delight over me and I keep in mind that this joy came at a cost, the cross. Thank you. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

I Cor 1:9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Rev. 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Ponder: Opening doors

Through the scriptures it is easy to see that Jesus seeks fellowship with every one of us. He is a communicating God. When we accept to have communion with him, we are in for a treat.

In Revelation 3:20 it is Jesus who knocks... and we are the one to open the door. He is always knocking but we are not always opening. He wants to dine with us, have fellowship, communion, converse, share, and even listen. What do we miss when we keep the door closed to deeper fellowship with the Lord?

In Matthew 7:8 we are the ones seeking and knocking. And there is a promise – If we knock He will open the door. He will always open the door. He loves fellowship.

Questions:

1. In I Corinthians 1:9 we are called into “fellowship” with Christ. How are you doing?
2. Think about Hebrews 11:6. What is the promise?
3. When Jesus knocks, what is he seeking?
4. When you knock, what are you seeking?

Prayer

Lord, today, I am knocking and seeking fellowship with you. I admit, sometimes I do not know how to enter in, sit and be with you. Help me to cultivate my private time with you that it would be an experience of your presence. Help me to hear, sense and see you. Help me to pass through the door and enter in. I thank you that you are a communicating God and always available. Thank you for doors and doors that open. Amen.

Application:

Read: Luke 14:15-23

Scripture:

SS 2:4 Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love.

Luke 14:15 “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 13:29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Mt. 25:10-12 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’”

Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready

Ponder: The vacant chair at the banquet table

Banquets, feasts, and wedding meals are celebrations. We are told that when the bride, who is us the church, is brought to the Kingdom of God to be with the groom, who is Jesus, that there will be a great feast, a wonderful celebration. There will also be a banner in the banqueting hall over each of those who are given a place at the banquet. The banner is His love. But there will be some who will not make it to the feast because their oil lamps were empty. Oh the loss!

Questions:

1. Using any of the verses above, let your imagination go and describe a conversation at this banquet that you might have.

2. In the parable of Matthew 25 we see that there will be that moment that the door is actually shut and now no one else can enter. Describe how it would feel if it were you who came to the door for the banquet and were not given admittance.

Prayer:

I have been called to the Lord’s banqueting table and His banner over me is love! Father I thank you for feasts and celebrations and I look forward to the most wonderful feast of all when all who love you will partake of a great banquet in heaven. My concern today, Lord, is regarding those who will miss out because they have not come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. I pray for _____ that you would open their heart so that they would hear and receive the Word of God. Cause them to feel and know the burden of their sin that they would come to you for forgiveness and salvation. Amen

Application:

Scripture:

John 10:3b, 4b, 5 ... and the sheep listen to his voice his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.

Matthew 13:23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Ponder: Fine-tuning our ears

For salvation, for guidance, for life, there is one voice above all other voices that we need to be listening to. It of course is the voice of the Lord. We have heard it and we have loved it, but the scriptures tell us to be trained to know it so well that we cannot be deceived by other voices, mistaking them for the Lord's voice. There is only one way to do that and that is to spend plenty of time listening to Him, be it through the written word, or through the still small voice spoken in our ear. Because the time is near, it is important that our ears and hearts are trained to recognize the Shepherd's voice. We need to be familiar with his way of talking and his character so there is no mistaking the voice.

Questions:

1. In John 10 (above), what stands out to you regarding the actions of a sheep that has been spoken to by a stranger? What might the stranger be saying?

2. By these scriptures we see there is a flip side to hearing. Find your answers in the passages given and fill in the blanks:

We are right to listen and follow; hear and _____; hear and take _____.

Prayer:

Fine-tune my ears, Lord, as I read your word. Reveal your son to me in the pages of The Book that I would be familiar with all his ways, his heart, his character and his commands. Let me not stray by following a voice that is not yours. Please loose me from any and all spiritual deafness, so I may be good soil, producing 100 fold. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

John 12:24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Matthew 10:39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Mark 14:31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Ponder: Death producing life

The lesson to us is that when a kernel of wheat dies it will eventually produce many seeds. This is good, is it not? It is a clear picture of death resulting in life! So now Peter, and all Jesus' close disciples, pledge to die for Him. This is admirable..... but they find out later, hard. And then we are told we should die, to lose our life in order to have life. He leads the way for us because He is the kernel of wheat that died for us while we were yet sinners. He has set us free from the power of sin that we may live. And so, we who are born of the seed of faith, having faith in the Kernel of Wheat that chose to die for us, are a living product of death!

Questions:

1. Peter's words speak loud. He meant every word but he failed miserably when needing to put it into practice. We each are called to die in order to be a disciple of Jesus. If we refuse to die can we live? Your thoughts?

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for your death so I may live. You have given me life and given me life abundantly. I choose to daily die, take up my cross and follow you. Help me to die to my self more, and love others fearlessly and selflessly as you so have loved me. When my good is evil spoken of, help me take it in silence. When I see others prosper, get attention and receive honor, may I rejoice for them and feel no envy. When I receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than myself, may I humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, and without resentment. And when I am forgotten or neglected, may I be happy in spite of it and counted worthy to suffer for Christ. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

Matthew 7:14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

John 10:1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

John 10:7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Ponder: Such a small gate

A gate provides a way to a place secured. Without a gate there is no rightful entry. A criminal way to enter might be by breaching a wall bypassing the gate. But to do it this way is to be like a thief.

The way to the kingdom and to the Father is through a gate also, and there is only one right and accepted gate to the Father - a small one at that. Ponder that today. Jesus is the only way to the Father!

Questions:

1. The gate is small, having very little space. Why do you think the gate to the Kingdom was made small?

2. Read John 10:1 and answer: Who are the thieves and robbers? What do the thieves want? What do they steal?

Prayer:

I thank you, Lord, that you warn us that the way to the Father is small and limited. There is no room for an Allah, a Buddha, salvation by good works, or even a specific church denomination, to get us past the gate and into the kingdom. The gate is too small to accommodate so many ways. Thank you, Jesus, for making the way. Forgive me if I have relied on my good works for my salvation or any other means to salvation. I put my whole trust in Jesus Christ, the Gate, the only way. Amen

Application:

Read: Psalm 103

Scripture:

Psalm 103:4 Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with loving-kindness.

Luke 5:13 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

Luke 5:30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Ephesians 3: 17-19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ponder: Being made lovable

Augustine said of the Lord, "In loving me He made me loveable". Yes, this is what Jesus does. Jesus did this for Peter when he reinstated him, for lepers who he touched, for tax collectors who he ate with, for the demon possessed, for the blind, for the crippled, and for the outcast. He does it for you. God's love is powerful. His acceptance is powerful and transforming. His unconditional love tells you that you are lovable. When we become secure in this love, it will no longer matter what others say of us; it won't matter that we know we are imperfect and lacking. He loves us anyway.

Questions:

1. You could probably name several things that make you imperfect. Do you let that get you down at times or do you not worry about it any more?
2. What does Jesus say to you about the characteristics you have that others could find unlovable?
3. Jesus touched the lepers when others wouldn't. Jesus ate with sinners when others wouldn't. What man calls unacceptable and unlovable, God calls what?

Prayer:

I thank you Lord for your great love for me. You are mine and I am yours. What peace and security I derive from that. I know that nothing can separate me from your love, nothing! Your love is better than the choicest of wines and in it I can be rooted and grounded and made secure. I thank you that I have been called to know this rich love and to be filled to the full with it. You call me lovable and you call me your child. Thank you. Amen.

Application:

Read: John 2:13-17

Scripture: *Parentheses added

Psalm 69:9 Zeal for your (the Father's) house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you (the Father) fall on me.

Isaiah 53:12 Jesus poured out his life (such zeal) unto death (he was consumed) and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin (which he hates) of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that

Ponder: The driving force behind the actions

The definition of zeal is to have great fervor or passion for a person, cause or object. It is zeal that consumed Jesus when the sin he witnessed in the temple stirred him up so much that he turned tables over, lashed a whip and drove out the animals. Do we really understand what was going on there? Was Jesus angry? Stirred by Love? Or both?

Questions:

1. "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market?" We are the Father's house, a temple for the Holy Spirit. What might be found in us that is something akin to the "market activities" that upset Jesus so?

2. Circle key words in Isaiah 53:12 then comment on one:

3. Jesus' zeal (love) for us, consumed him so much that he went to Calvary. He cleansed the temple but what did he cleanse on Calvary?

4. *The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"* (John 2:18). What authority did Jesus have to cleanse the temple?

Prayer:

Jesus, forgive me that I have not had a righteous anger towards my sins as you desire I have and instead have allowed certain sins to remain in your temple, my body. I repent now of the sin of _____, which I mistakenly thought was so small and insignificant but now see that no sin is small. Because you would not tolerate sin in the temple in Jerusalem, I too, will not tolerate sin to have a place in me. I choose to hate sin as you do and will not put up with it any longer. Thank you for going to the cross and breaking the power of sin over my life. I thank you for continually interceding for me. I am stirred by your consuming love for me that chose to bear my sins and take my punishment. So great is the love of my Father that gave his son to die for me. Amen

Application:

Scripture:

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Romans 3:25a God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—

Hebrews 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

1 Peter 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Ponder: A lamb given for me

Jesus is the sacrifice for our sins. He was "oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth but he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7). Due to Jesus, the sacrificed lamb, we are fully reconciled to God, we are presented holy in God's sight, we are made to be without blemish and we are now free from accusation. (Colossians 1:22). Father God gave us the lamb. In a few days, it will be Easter... and we will celebrate the Lamb of God who took away our sins.... forever.

Questions:

1. We must not forget that it is the blood of the lamb that was required for our sins, not just a lamb living, but a lamb bleeding, dying. How would you feel if a baby lamb was killed every year because of your mess-ups? As you watched the slaughter of the mild and gentle farm being, what would your thoughts be?

2. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 2:22). We are offered forgiveness. Do you have anything to confess and ask forgiveness for today and give thanks to the Lamb?

Prayer:

Thank you Jesus. Because of you I am now washed in your blood because I have put my faith in the Lamb's blood. My soul has been cleansed. I am not only cleansed but I am redeemed, reconciled, sanctified, victorious and alive for eternity. All of these, are due to your love. I now fully know that God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Father, I believe, and believing I receive. I receive your love! Amen

Application:

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 11:27-28 (You shall receive) a blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day; and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God....

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Ponder: Breaking the curse

When we break the law of God we come under a curse. When our ancestors broke the law, they came under a curse and the curse was passed down to generations. (Dt. 5:9). Because of man's sinful nature, no one escapes the curses resulting from sin. But Christ became a curse for us, bore our sins, broke the curses and set us free from the curse of the law (Romans 8:2). This freedom from the curse is ours when we believe in the atoning power of the Cross and Jesus' death and sacrifice. Jesus became a curse *for us*.

Questions:

1. Can you identify any ancestral curses in your family? For example, does alcoholism run in the family, poverty, sexual abuse or mental illness, criticalness, accidents or other? List a few here:

Prayer:

I affirm that I have been crucified with Jesus Christ and raised to walk in newness of life. On this basis, I announce to Satan and all his forces that Christ took upon Himself the curses and judgments due me. I apply the cross and I break every curse that has come upon me because of my ancestor's sins or my own sins. I choose to forgive my ancestors and I choose to forgive myself for yielding to these sins and their curses. I renounce the sins and curses of _____ . I break this power from my life through the power of the Cross. I receive my freedom from every one of these curses I have specified.

I thank you, Jesus, for hanging on a tree where you died for me that I can be free from the curse that sin brought. Amen.

Application:

Read: Mark 14:32-44

Additional Scripture:

Luke 22:39-44 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in him shall never perish, but have everlasting life.

Ponder: When things are hard

Jesus, praying on the Mount of Olives and knowing that his arrest and crucifixion was at hand, was in great sorrow and anguish. Just like we would be if we knew something very hard awaited us. Imagine, knowing you were going to die in just a few hours and that it would be a painful. But Jesus took courage by the time his prayer was over so much so that he came away saying, "Rise, let us go. My betrayer is at hand." (Mark 24:42). He was **ready** to face the Cross!

Questions:

1. An angel appeared and strengthened Jesus in Gethsemane. Was he strengthened physically? Was he strengthened mentally? What do you think? What strengthening did Jesus need?

2. Jesus shows us that when something hard is required of us we should pray and pray until what?

3. What does this time in the garden praying tell you about Jesus that inspires you?

Prayer: (from Colossians 1:9-14)

Lord, help me be a person who never stops praying. As I pray, I ask you fill me with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. I pray I would live a life worthy of you and that I may please you in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. I pray I would be strengthened with all power according to your glorious might so that I may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to you, Father. I have been qualified me to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. Your son has rescued me from the dominion of darkness and brought me into His kingdom. In Jesus Christ I now have redemption and the forgiveness of my sins. Thank you, my Lord, my Savior. Thank you for going to the Cross. Thank you for preceding the Cross with your prayers at Gethsemane where I am inspired to pray as you pray. Amen.

Application:

Day 24 – Jesus – A Servant

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2016

Read: John 13:1-17 (Foot washing); Luke 22:14-23 (The Last Supper)**Additional Scripture:**

John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Ponder: The servant's sacrifice

This day is Maundy Thursday. Maundy is a term derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," and refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper. This night he showed them how to love with humility by washing the disciple's feet. Also at the meal he told them to remember his sacrifice, pointing out his body to be broken and his blood to be poured out. Jesus, a servant, sacrifices.

Questions:

1. How is serving with humility expressing love while serving without humility doesn't?

2. The last supper's elements are symbols of Christ's body (which would soon be broken) and Christ's blood (which would soon be poured out). This was his sacrifice and his serving. How can dying be serving?

Prayer:

Father, I want to serve others with the humility of Christ. I want to be a giving person with the intent of blessing others. Help me to see and meet the needs of others that I may be Christ to them. I desire to serve with gentleness, compassion, and tenderness. I thank you also, for your ultimate act of service – going to the cross and dying for me. Thank you for giving. Amen

Application:

Read: Mark 15:21-41

Additional Scripture:

Isaiah 53:5^b But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:10a Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer.....

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, (to suffer for doing good) because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.

Ponder: Embracing suffering

Jesus embraced the cross. Jesus chose the cross. Jesus bore the cross and he bore it with humility and peace. On top of that, it was the Father's will (Isaiah 53:10) for Jesus to be crushed. Why? Because of love! Jesus was pleased to suffer for us because He loves us. In fact, the Cross is a pledge between you and Christ reassuring you of his love. We do well to always remember the Cross. Especially when we ourselves suffer.

Questions:

1. When we suffer, how can we embrace our suffering (James 1) and also say that it is well with our soul?
2. If someone has crushed you and caused you great suffering, how should you to handle it like Christ?

Prayer

Father, no one goes through life without suffering. Suffering is hard. In acknowledging that, I too acknowledge how much you suffered for me. Thank you. I am forever grateful. Please give me a greater understanding of the Cross and your sacrifice. Lord I want to accept my own crosses – the trials in my life you allow. I want to learn to walk through them with peace. Help me to not resist my cross and thus prolong the pain of the trial. Instead, I choose to look beyond my suffering, see your hand in my circumstances and allow my cross to do a work in me. I abandon myself to your will, so that a crucifixion of self will occur. Lead me in your way and mold me. I want to be able to say, "It is well with my soul". Amen

Application:

Day 26 Jesus- Entombed

Saturday, March 26, 2016

Read: Mark 15:42-47**Scripture:**

Luke 24:6-8 Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "
Then they remembered his words.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Ponder: Remembering his promises

There are no scriptures to tell us what the disciples were doing in this specific Saturday. We know Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Matthew 28:1) were planning on visiting the tomb as soon as the Sabbath was over, Luke 23:56 tells us they rested on this day, because it was the Sabbath. Per Luke 24:5-8, we know they were not expecting Jesus to rise from the dead because they had forgotten his words.

On this specific Saturday, after the crucifixion and before the resurrection, the disciples were grieving and probably asking questions to which they had no answers: Why was Jesus crucified? Why did God allow it if Jesus was the Son of God? What were they to do now?

Saturday was a long day; they had not remembered his words, his promise, his promise to rise to life! It was a miserable Sabbath Saturday.

Questions:

1. What would you have been doing/feeling on that Sabbath after the crucifixion, had you been one of Jesus' followers?

2. In Matthew 27:62-66, we are told that the chief priests and Pharisees remembered that Jesus had said he would rise again after three days, requesting the tomb be secured. The disciples did not remember. Why had they forgotten when the Pharisees had not?

Prayer:

Lord I thank you that your promises are sure and amen in Christ. (II Cor. 1:20) and your promises never fail. Today, I embrace your promise to _____ and apply it to my situation (or the situation of someone I know is struggling). I thank you that you promise to never leave us nor forsake us, that you give us a hope and a future. Amen.

Application:

Read: John 20:1-18

Scriptures:

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"

I Cor 15:54b-57 ... then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 11:14 Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

I Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ponder: I have seen the Lord!

What an amazing and joyous day! We cannot even begin to imagine it! Or can we? Doesn't our spirit leap when we revisit the resurrection day of our Lord. Through experiencing the new birth and being quickened by the Holy Spirit, do we not rejoice right along with the disciples who were rejoicing over 2,000 years ago? Yes, we do! No more grave clothes! We now stand and walk in victory. Hallelujah!

Question:

1. Are you walking in the resurrection life? Are there grave clothes you need to get rid of?

Prayer 1:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the cross, the resurrection, and for life eternal. I thank you that I have seen you, invited you into my heart and now live a resurrected life. Thank you for affording me this life in You. I thank you that the grave did not conquer you but you conquered the grave. I thank you for tearing the veil and giving us access to the Father. And I thank you for resurrection power, your Holy Spirit, who dwells in me. Today, I stand and rejoice as a victor in Christ. Amen.

Prayer 2:

Lord Jesus, I want to invite you into my heart. I now believe in the crucifixion, your death on the Cross for my sins. I now believe in your resurrection and that you make all things new and that you will make me new. I want this newness of life from this day forward. Please forgive me of my sin and come be Lord and Master of my life. By faith, I receive your salvation. Amen.

Application:

Scripture:

Mark 16:15-16 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

I Corinthians 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Col. 2:13-14 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Isaiah 40:31 Those who hope in the lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles, ...

Ponder: Who I am in Christ

Victorious living as a Christian is dependent upon us knowing who we are in Christ. Because of the finished work of the Cross, the blood of Jesus poured out for us, we are now many new things. Apply the cross to your life. Rejoice in the victory, walk in resurrection power, and put all your hope in the Lord Jesus Christ! Now is the time to dig into the Word of God to know your position. Then go and walk the way of victory, the way of love, the way of power.

Question:

1. Were you aware that you, a child of God and believer in Christ, can say:

I am a recipient of all spiritual blessings in Christ
I am accepted in the beloved
I am alive though once dead
I am an aroma of Christ
I am the head not the tail
I am loved with unconditional love
I am made firm to stand in Christ
I am never alone
I am rescued from darkness and the power of sin
I am righteous in His eyes
I am rooted and established in his love

2. Which of the "I Ams" in question #1 are you needing to stand on today? Can you find in the verses above what else you are!

Prayer:

I am now redeemed by Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross; I am cleansed and clothed in His righteousness. I step intentionally into the protection of the blood of the Lamb of God. The blood is my shield from the evil intents of the enemy. Because of the cross, the devil has no place in me, and no power or authority over me. I reject all accusations and condemnation the enemy would throw at me because all my sins and guilt are nailed to the cross. I stand in the victory that is in Jesus Christ. I am now triumphant. I am complete. I am courageous and absolutely full of faith. Amen and Amen.

Application:

VICTORY IN JESUS

I HEARD AN OLD, OLD STORY
HOW A SAVIOUR CAME FROM GLORY
HOW HE GAVE HIS LIFE ON CALVARY
TO SAVE A WRETCH LIKE ME.

I HEARD ABOUT HIS GROANING,
OF HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD'S ATONING
THEN I REPENTED OF MY SIN
AND WON THE VICTORY.

OH, VICTORY IN JESUS,
MY SAVIOUR FOREVER
HE SOUGHT ME AND HE BOUGHT ME
WITH HIS REDEEMING BLOOD
HE LOVED ME ERE I KNEW HIM
AND ALL MY LOVE IS DUE HIM
HE PLUNGED ME TO VICTORY
BENEATH THE CLEANSING BLOOD.

I HEARD ABOUT HIS HEALING,
OF HIS CLEANSING POW'R REVEALING.
HOW HE MADE THE LAME TO WALK AGAIN
AND CAUSED THE BLIND TO SEE;
AND THEN I CRIED, "DEAR JESUS,
COME AND HEAL MY BROKEN SPIRIT,"
AND SOMEHOW JESUS CAME AND BRO'T
TO ME THE VICTORY.

I HEARD ABOUT A MANSION
HE HAS BUILT FOR ME IN GLORY.
AND I HEARD ABOUT THE STREETS OF GOLD
BEYOND THE CRYSTAL SEA;
ABOUT THE ANGELS SINGING,
AND THE OLD REDEMPTION STORY,
AND SOME SWEET DAY I'LL SING UP THERE
THE SONG OF VICTORY.

OH, VICTORY IN JESUS,
MY SAVIOUR FOREVER

Eugene Bartlett, 1939