

Daily God Walk

Promises

Volume

Eleven

Paul T Smith

© 2016, 2024 by Paul Smith – New Hope Ministries.
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission by the author.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV). All other translations used will be credited using these abbreviations:

(KJV) – King James Version

(NKJV) – New King James Version

(TLB) – The Living Bible

(TM) – The Message

(AMP) – The Amplified Bible

New Hope Ministries
2232 Terrace Ln
McKinleyville, CA 95519

www.DailyGodWalk.org
paul@nhmresources.org

Day One

Faith Comes By Hearing The Message

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. - Romans 10:17

Most of us are not consciously aware of how our environment affects us. The sounds, the sights, the odors/fragrances, the feel, the taste; all of these have an effect upon us. We form opinions and make choices based upon what we have been exposed to in our life.

If someone has never been exposed to the message of Jesus the Christ, that person cannot have faith toward Christ for salvation, or for any other blessing. The more a person is exposed to the true message of Jesus the Christ, the greater that persons' faith becomes.

That is why we are encouraged to daily go to the word of God for inspiration. In fact, that is why the Daily God Walk is written. Our purpose is to provide a daily message of inspiration and hope that challenges the readers to a deeper understanding of the faith walk.

As you are on the journey today I encourage you to limit your exposure to the thoughts, attitudes and ambitions of the world around you and open your heart, your mind and your spirit to hear the word of God as you expose yourself to its truths.

Exposure to the truth of Jesus the Christ builds faith in Christ and the promises in the word of God about him. Your faith grows as your knowledge of Him grows.

Prayer: Lord, I tend to be more influenced by the world around me than I should be. Grant me the grace to limit my exposure to that world and open my heart, my mind and my spirit to the deep truths in your word. In Jesus name, amen.

Faith Comes By Hearing The Message

Message: Exposure to the truth of Jesus the Christ builds faith in Christ and the promises in the word of God about him. Your faith grows as your knowledge of Him grows

Affirmation: I am gaining more knowledge of God through my relationship with Christ.

Reflection: Everything we know we have learned through our senses. What we know about Christ has come through what we have heard and seen. Give some thought to what you are hearing and seeing. Are those things enhancing your knowledge and relationship with Christ, or are they drawing you away from Him?

My Thoughts:

Day Two

Faith Produces A Sure Hope

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see... By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

- Hebrews 11:1-3

Faith is being sure of what we know about God and it is a gift of God. According to Romans 12:6 God gives a measure of faith to every person. God is telling us that he has a world available to us that cannot be seen by those who do not have faith - then he gives us the faith to enter that world.

As humans we are programmed to see and understand only what we can perceive through the experiences of our senses; sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. If we can't "sense" it we don't believe it exists. Then God blows all of that away when he drops a revelation into our hearts and suddenly we see things that others cannot see.

The very nature of faith is to see with our spirit what cannot be seen with human eyes. Those who see only with their natural eyes limit what the Spirit of God can do with them and through them. Those who, through faith, see what the Spirit sees, will by faith produce a manifestation in the physical realm.

Believing in what is not seen by the natural eye produces a hope that is certain. Faith comes when we are sure of what we know about God - it is God's gift to those of us who believe.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for the measure of faith you have given me. Grant me the grace to trust you fully so that your kingdom life may be shown through my life. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Three

Faith Produces Good Works

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

- James 2:15-17

Faith is not revealed by words but by actions. We all have faith and our actions reveal where we place our faith. James tells us that if we are extolling the virtues of our faith and our faith does not produce good works, then we have placed our faith in the wrong things.

Faith in Christ produces the Spirit of Christ in us. It is that Spirit that draws us to serve the needs of those around us. I am reminded of the time when Christ was ministering to people and when he looked around he saw the crowds. In his gospel Matthew wrote, "When he saw the crowds he was moved with compassion."

When we truly have the Spirit of Christ working in us we will have compassion on others. The needs of others will get our attention and we will be drawn to serve them. Remember that our life speaks louder than our words.

What does your life say about your faith?

Prayer: I ask you Lord to give me the Spirit of Christ that I may see the crowds as he saw them. Give me a consciousness of the needs of people around me and give me a heart to serve others at their point of need. Amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Four

Walking In Faith Brings Us Success

As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful. - 2 Chronicles 20:20

The people of Jerusalem were facing an impossible situation. They were about to be attacked by a federated army of four kingdoms. They were not only outnumbered they were outclassed in available warfare.

What was Jehoshaphat, the king, to do? He called them to prayer and fasting. When they prayed God spoke a word of instruction to the prophets. That word required great faith and strict obedience to what the prophets instructed them to do.

God was telling them to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” Then he further instructed them to go to a certain mountain and just stand there praising God. What a hope! Jerusalem was about to be destroyed by the enemy and the prophet was telling the people to just stand there and watch it.

There are times that the word of God does not make sense to those who do not believe - but to those who do believe it is hope. When the people of Jerusalem lived out their hope God gave them success beyond their wildest imagination.

Trust him - he knows what he is doing. Remember, living out God's word requires great faith and obedience to the leaders he has placed over us.

Prayer: God, grant me the grace to trust you and those you have ordained to lead me in the faith, even when what I hear does not make sense in terms of human reasoning. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Five

Be Wise In Preparedness

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. - Matthew 25:1-13

The three parables of Matthew 25 form the basis for the devotions over the next three days. These parables tell us to be watching, be wise and be serving.

In this first parable Jesus is contrasting those who are prepared with those who are not prepared. Most of us have had at least one time when we were asked to do something that filled us with excitement, in fact, we became so excited about being asked to do it that we forgot to adequately prepare.

This passage is the parable of 10 virgins who were invite to a wedding. Five of them were wise and prepared for the possibility of a delay and brought extra oil for their lamps.

Five of them failed to bring enough oil to keep their lamps burning. Perhaps if the groom had not been delayed they would have been ready, but he was delayed.

Unexpected delays are tests of our preparedness - be prepared for all things.

It was no accident that the wise virgins had enough oil. They anticipated the possibility of needing more so they were prepared. Think about it.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the wisdom to guard my life so that I will not fail to be prepared to serve you well and serve you faithfully. Grant me the fullness of your Spirit. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Six

Be Wise In Stewardship

I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground... His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant... You should have put my money on deposit with the bankers... Take the talent from him. - Matthew 5:14-30

Jesus tells the story of three servants who were each given the responsibility to care for a certain part of their master's wealth. Two of the servants did well and doubled the amount they had been given to invest. The third one failed.

The failure of the third servant was caused by one thing: Fear. Fear of loss will prevent us from investing in the future. This servant was not unwise in other areas and he did not squander the resources he was given; he was just paralyzed with fear.

His own words could be written on his tombstone, "I was afraid." At the end of our lives, when our master calls us to account for the resources he has invested in us we don't want our answer to be, "I was afraid."

A wise servant overcomes fear and takes measured risks that produce increase. Fear drove the third servant to make unwise choices.

God will release us from fear as we step into the arena of service - but we have to make the first step. We should practice thinking positively about God using our efforts to benefit his kingdom. Release your potential by using the resources God has given you.

Prayer: Lord, I know that you are fair and just -yet you are firm and expect faithful service as well. Grant me the heart to be a faithful servant so that your kingdom will advance. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Seven

Be Wise In Service

Then the King will say to those on his right, “come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. - Matthew 25:31-46

This concluding parable, that speaks of how we are to serve, wraps up kingdom life in a nutshell. When we are serving others we are serving him. It’s just that simple.

The first parable is about wise watching; preparedness. The second is about wise stewardship; confident service. The third is about wise service; serving others.

The conclusion of the matter is this: When we stand before Jesus at the end of time he is not going to ask what church we attended, who we knew, or how much we knew - he is going to ask, “Who did you serve? When you have done it to the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me.”

Be prepared to give confident service to those around you who need the grace of God and you will have fulfilled Matthew 25.

Remember, when you have served the least of these you have served the Lord himself. When we see Christ in the eyes of the needy ones, the hungry and the homeless then we will serve them as if they were Christ himself.

Prayer: Lord, I tend to think living in grace is about me and my relationship with you. Help me to learn that living in grace is about being prepared to use what you have given me to invest in others. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Eight

Do We Really Love Him?

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. - 1 John 5:3-4

The clear message of this passage is that a true test of whether we love God is the question; do we obey his commands? And, a true test of whether we have been born of God, or as we say, “born again,” is if we overcome the world. And overcoming the world is the proof of our faith.

Too many of us are trying to be “good Christians,” but we lack the ability to do so because we haven’t truly been born of God. We may have recited a prayer, or we may have believed a doctrine, but we haven’t had a true encounter with God through a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

If you are examining your life just now in the context of how we are looking at this passage and find that you fall short; don’t fall in the trap of trying harder.

The faith walk is not about trying to do right – it is about being changed on the inside so that we are living out his righteousness. It is our desire to be made right with God that draws us to Christ; let us be careful that we do not fall short of that goal by accepting something less than a life changing relationship with Jesus the Christ.

Prayer: I thank you Lord for drawing me to Christ. Grant me the faith that enables me to overcome the world and motivates me to discover what you have commanded and submit my life to your will. In Jesus name, amen.

.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Nine

Blessing Chasers

You are looking for me, not because you saw the miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. - John 6 26-27

Some people are attracted to Christ by the benefits, without counting the cost of commitment. I call them blessing chasers. These are the ones that go to every conference they can and are constantly looking for something besides what they have.

Chasing the temporary blessing misses the point. The important things are those with eternal value. Jesus was not telling people that food was not important, but he was driving home the point that he did not come to just feed loaves and fishes; he came to give them eternal life.

I am amazed by the way the gospel is promoted as a way to gain earthly prosperity while the true cost of discipleship is ignored. Jesus was calling us to look beyond those things that bring satisfaction for a short time and will leave us looking for more. He was telling us to put our efforts into releasing the grace of God for things of eternal value.

Look past the benefits that are short term and look to those things that are eternal. Loaves and fishes will come, but only as a necessary part of the journey of life - not as a destination.

Prayer: Lord, help me to not be sidetracked by short term blessings and miss the main point of the gospel. Grant me a desire to serve you regardless of the cost. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Ten

He Will Rescue Us

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death. - Psalm 68:19

Much of David's young life was spent in hiding from king Saul who wanted to kill him. He would hide in the mountains and in caves. Often he seemed close to death and his burdens became heavy.

In these verses David is lamenting that when his burden was heavy, and he was facing certain death, his Lord, who was always faithful, gave him a way of escape.

A unique factor in David's circumstances is that he was anointed king, and God had already withheld his blessing from Saul because of his disobedience. So, why didn't David just take the throne? It wasn't because he didn't have support for the people loved him and wanted him as king.

So, what was his problem? David was a man of prayer and spiritual understanding and God had not released him to assume the throne.

It was because David was listening to God and not his own ambition that he was often in hiding for his life. He was in bad circumstances because he was obeying God and God was protecting him.

God has not promised us that we will not have hard times when we follow him, but he has promised that he will guide us through and give us a way of escape. Follow him, he'll lead you to safety.

Prayer: OK Lord. I'll quit complaining about my circumstances and start trusting you to guide me through. Grant me the faith to walk in obedience. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Eleven

Walking In The Light

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. - Proverbs 4:18-19

If the righteous walked in the dark their fate would be like the wicked who stumble. But God lights our path as the Sun lights the earth. We can choose to walk in the darkness of the night or we can choose to wait for the early morning light of the Lord.

The reason believers do not stumble is not because they are righteous, though they are, but because the Lord lights their path. Because their path is lit they can safely walk out their journey of faith.

The wicked stumble because they do not have the light shining on their path. The contrast here is that when we are on a journey of faith God will give us a guiding light, but when we are going our own way we can only expect what we can provide ourselves, which is very little in this dark world.

I find it very interesting that so many people stumble in the darkness, going from one bad situation to another, blaming others, and even God for their misfortune; and all the time God is saying, "Come to the light."

God is light, and in him is no darkness...Walk in the light, as he is in the light (1 John 1:5-7). We who are in Christ are given the gift of light. As we walk in the light we will not stumble.

Stay in the light and you will not stumble.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace to walk in the path that you have lighted for me and to avoid going after my own way and stumbling in the darkness. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twelve

Keep In Step With The Spirit

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. - Galatians 5:25-26

The second great command that Jesus gave was that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we keep in step with the Spirit we will fulfill that command.

Living in the Spirit means we guard our hearts so that we do not become conceited. Keeping in step with the Spirit means we do not envy others and we are careful not to provoke others. That's a pretty tall order.

It is in our nature to be more concerned about ourselves than others. We get irritated when we see others, who don't put out any more effort than we do, advancing while we are overlooked. We envy their position and will tend to be sarcastic with them and critical of their success. That is the way of our natural person, but we can't be that way and keep in step with the Spirit.

When we see that tendency in ourselves - and I have found myself there many times; we must submit that attitude to the Lord and allow his Spirit to guide us back into step with him.

When we walk in step with the Spirit his love can flow through us and we do not become conceit or envy others. When we are careful to praise others from our heart we are walking in step with Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, help me stay in step with the Spirit so that I can fulfill the command of Jesus to love others as I love myself. Help me not to provoke others or to envy them. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Thirteen

Restore Your Brother

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Galatians 6:1-2

Two issues are being addressed in this short passage. The first is our attitude toward others who are struggling and the second is about guarding our own hearts so that we do not stumble.

The way we respond to another who is struggling will be a factor in how we are affected by their failure. We are instructed to, "restore him gently." To restore one gently we must have the goal of restoration rather than rebuke.

Our focus must be on the one being restored rather than focusing on the sin he has committed. When we do focus on the brother and his needs we will deal gently with him and patiently restore him. When we focus on the sin we open ourselves to be influenced by the sin.

I have been the victim of my own sinful folly and it was the loving restoration of people who had my interest at heart that helped me to be restored from my failure. That experience many years ago has helped me to be more loving and gentle with others who are struggling with failure.

Focus on the brother (or sister) - they will be restored and you will not be influenced by the sin. Choose to look beyond the sin and see the need for restoration.

Prayer: Lord, give me a heart that is firm in righteousness and gentle in restoring my brothers who have stumbled in their walk. Give me wisdom to discern how to gently restore. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Fourteen

An Inconvenient Love

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us – And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? - 1 John 3:16-17

He who calls us to love has shown his love in the most radical way; He laid down his life for us. Love costs much and sometimes demands the ultimate sacrifice. We are being called to love in a manner that does not consider the cost, but looks to the benefit of serving others.

How often have we heard love and charity preached from the pulpit but seen very little tangible evidence of that love in the community? We all too often have wept in intercession for those who do not know Christ while those who need him most wait just down the street for us to answer our own prayers.

Spoken love does little to relieve the suffering of others, but loving in deed proves spoken love to be true.

There was a mother who would not allow her children to participate in a neighborhood program led by local ministers. Then one day she sent her daughter to ask if she could be baptized. When asked why she had a change of heart she replied, “I saw the love you had for the children.”

Prayer, with love, changes things. When we are committed to serving those around us who are in need of the grace of God we are releasing God's love to them.

Prayer: OK Lord, I've been guilty of praying for the lost then speaking badly of those who are in addictions or chronically homeless. Grant me a love for others as you have loved me. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Fifteen

The Church – His Body

God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. - Ephesians 1:22-23

Several scriptures speak of the mystery of God and Paul in this chapter makes that reference. One of the mysteries of God is that he dwelt in Christ and through Christ is reconciling the world to himself. Jesus, the Christ, was God's body on earth. Now, according to this passage, we are the body of Christ.

The body of Christ in the earth today is the extension of the Christ, the anointing of God, that rested in Jesus. Jesus was one man on the earth, yet he was the embodiment of the Almighty God. The theological term is "God incarnate" (in flesh).

Today, the church is the embodiment of the Almighty God. Don't misunderstand this point. We are not little gods on the earth, but it is clear that God, the Holy Spirit, dwells in every believer.

Just as Jesus, the Christ on earth, had to submit to the will of the Father, so we, his extended body on earth, must submit to the will of the Father.

All that God intended to do through Christ has become the responsibility of the church. We are vital components to the will of God being fulfilled on earth. I challenge you, as James does in his writing, "Submit yourselves therefore to God."

Prayer: Father, I have received Christ, but I'm not sure I have learned to submit as Jesus submitted. Grant me the grace to yield my will and submit to your guidance that I might help fulfill your purpose on earth. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Sixteen

The Church – His Fullness Manifest

To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge for the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:12-13

Of all the mysteries of God it is this one that is the most challenging to accept. We accept that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, but it is difficult for us to grasp the full magnitude of the mature church being the fullness of Christ in the earth today.

With that being said, the absolute truth is this: We are the body of Christ today; we are his hands; we are his feet; we are his tongue. God has no hands but ours to serve him; no feet but ours to follow him; no tongue but ours to declare him to the world.

God had a purpose in becoming a man who was destined to die, be buried and to be raised again. His purpose was to reconcile the world to himself through Christ. The work of Christ is not complete without his body, the church, maturing to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Christ is still in the world today. He is in his body, the church. And his purpose is still the same - to reconcile the world to himself. It is through doing the works of service mentioned in this passage that we do the work of spreading the gospel that is the power of God to reconcile men to himself.

Remember: you are his hands, his feet, and his tongue.

Prayer: Help me Lord, to become mature as a believer and as the Christ on earth today. Grant me the grace to fulfill your purpose of reconciling men to yourself. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Seventeen

The Eternal God Is Your Refuge

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you. - Deuteronomy 33:27

The Lord never promised that there would not be any storms in our life, but he has promised that we can be sheltered from the storm. In times of trouble the eternal God is our everlasting refuge. Whatever our trouble he will always be there for us.

When I think of the hope in this passage I get a picture of a small child running into his father's arms crying, "Daddy, daddy, help me," and the father picking up his young one with the promise, "Don't worry, you're safe now."

In the middle of our darkest trials, when there seems no hope he wraps us in his love and promises, "You're safe now." When we have gone through a great loss his comforting love surrounds us with the promise, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you." When we are sick with a sickness that seems unto death he strengthens us with his embrace as he promises, "Though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will go with you."

When we surrender our life to Christ we become hidden in him as if we had found a secret shelter in a storm. It is then, when we are hidden in Christ, that he will drive away our enemies. Our hope is in the promise that he will always be there for us.

When trials come just run to Daddy cry, "Help me!"

Prayer: Lord, grant me the confidence to surrender myself to your care and protection, especially when I am in great distress over my circumstances. Drive away from me the enemy of my soul. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Eighteen

God Has Treasures Of Goodness

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. - Psalm 31:19

In Malachi there is a promise regarding the tithe. As a test of trusting, or fearing God, the Lord says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10).

This is not a lesson on tithing, but it is a lesson on God's provision. This promise reveals that God has laid in store treasures of blessings that he is holding in preparation for the day when people will trust him and take refuge in his promises.

God has stored up many good things for those who fear him. When we love him we will trust him. When we trust him we will obey him and when we obey him we turn the key that unlocks the windows of heaven so that he can bless us abundantly.

There are many who fear the Lord and the only thing others see is the blessing the Lord gives them. God will bless openly those who trust him privately. The depth of our faith is not always evident to others, but it does not go unnoticed by God.

God will reward before men those who take refuge in him and trust his ability rather than their own. The world does not know how we trust him, but they can see his hand of blessing upon us.

Prayer: Lord, I know you have treasures in heaven, but grant me the confidence that you have made those treasures available to me as I walk in faith and trust you. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Nineteen

Our Stuff Is Safe With Him

I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. - 2 Timothy 1:12

Paul is instructing Timothy about being bold to tell others of the grace that has been given to him. In this verse he is affirming a great confidence in God to guard what he has entrusted to him. He is not ashamed of the fact that he has placed his hope of eternity in the one who cannot be seen with natural eyes.

It is not embarrassing to trust God because we know he will guard what we have committed to him in the hope of an eternal reward. Even though others can't see it and many don't understand it, we know that he who has made the promise is faithful.

Paul makes an interesting statement in this passage; "He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." He had arrived at the place where he knew that there is no hope in this world and his citizenship was secure in the next world. His confidence was that God will guard his investment.

We have invested our life in eternity and we are waiting for the day of redemption. In another place it is written, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul" (Hebrews 6:19). It is this sure knowledge that God is guarding our investment that gives us hope for the future day of redemption.

Prayer: Lord, I am grateful that I heard the message of hope and invested myself in it. Grant me the full assurance of eternal redemption as I walk in the confidence that you will guard my investment. In Jesus name, amen

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty

Protect God's Investment In You

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you - guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

- 2 Timothy 1:13-14

In verse 12 Paul tells us that God is able to guard what we have committed to him. In these verses he is telling us that we are to guard what God has entrusted to us. We have a fiduciary responsibility to the trust God has placed in us.

The gospel of redemption from the effects of sin through faith in the sacrifice of Christ has been entrusted to us. We have been taught good doctrine and we must hold on to that truth.

Patterns of sound teaching produce faith and love in Christ Jesus. If we do not hold to these patterns of sound teaching our faith will grow weak and our love will grow cold. God has made an investment in us and it is our responsibility to guard his investment.

The Lord, however, did not leave us to guard this message all by ourselves. He has given us the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, to help us with this task. As we grow in grace and understanding we are to be careful to guard this precious message.

One of the best ways to preserve the message is to distribute it freely. Think about it.

Prayer: There are times Lord when I want to believe an easier message, but I know there is only one true way to reach you. Grant me the grace to stay faithful to sound teaching. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty One

Get Rid Of These Things

Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. - 1 Peter 2:1-3

Peter has summed up all of the issues that cause difficulty in relationships; malice (intent to harm another), deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander. When we resolve those issues we will tend to have healthy relationships. But that is a real challenge to our basic nature.

We are born into a world that is grasping and focused upon self. It is this self-centeredness that produces all of the attitudes listed above. Peter is calling us to surrender these attitudes and allow God to give us a new way of thinking - new attitudes.

God will cleanse our spirit when we invite him in - but we must be determined to rid ourselves of unacceptable attitudes and behaviors. We are to consecrate ourselves to God by getting rid of the attitudes and behaviors that are contrary to life.

When we have fully surrendered ourselves to his will, and have consecrated our lives in these areas, then we become innocent as new born babies. And, as newborn babies we must be dependent upon God and his word, just like babies are dependent upon their mother's milk.

We need to ask ourselves; what milk are we drinking? The milk of self satisfaction or the milk of the spirit?

Prayer: I need your help on these issues. I tend to be envious of others, and I'm not always kind toward them. Grant me grace. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Two

Watch Your Life Closely

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- 1 Timothy 4:15-16

When we are committed to walking in the gift of his righteousness we will be diligent in matters of lifestyle and doctrine. When we have done that then others will see the effect of the grace of God in us and desire what we have. Being diligent in the important things will produce noticeable progress in our walk.

That is why Paul writes to Timothy to watch his life and doctrine closely. Those who walk with us need to see consistency. They need to see a life that is guided by the word and will of God and they need to hear consistent doctrine that does not change with every new idea that comes along.

Whether you realize it or not, there are people who are watching your example. Paying close attention to these things will not only affect our own relationship with God but it will also affect those who look to us as examples in the faith.

We live in a time of uncertainty and change. People are concerned for their future. They need to see stability. Let them see it in you.

Carefully guard your lifestyle and the things you believe - it means salvation to yourself and others.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace of a life that is consistent with what your word teaches and help me to guard my heart so that I do not fall into error. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Three

Leaving Tracks Wherever You Go

The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden. - 1 Timothy 5:24-25

When I was 13 we lived on a small farm. We had about seven milk cows and it was my job to bring them to the milk barn every morning and evening. One evening when I was bringing the cows up for milking I was following behind them. It had rained and as the cows moved towards the barn they left tracks in the soft earth.

Right then I began preaching to the cows. My message was, "You're leaving tracks wherever you go." I still preach that message, though it has been refined just a bit. The truth of the message remains the same though; we are leaving tracks wherever we go. Every part of this earth we set our feet and every life that we touch carries the mark of our having been there.

Keep that in mind as you go throughout this day. Some of the deeds you do may not be evident just now, but in time the truth seems to always surface. If the truth of your life does not come out now, it will certainly be exposed on the day of judgment.

What kind of tracks are you leaving? Do you leave behind a trail of good deeds, or of sins and hidden things?

Remember people are watching you and they are being influenced by your tracks.

Prayer: Father God, help me to be conscious that my life affects all of those around me. Help me to guard my thoughts and my deeds so that the tracks I leave influence people for the good, In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Four

Obedience Makes A Good Foundation

Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say?... He who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice is like a man building a house who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it because it was well built. - Luke 46-48

Many people followed Jesus when he was going about healing and teaching people about the kingdom. Many who saw the works and heard the teaching were convinced to place their hope in Jesus as the Christ, but many more came just to see the signs and wonders.

We see the same thing happening today. People are drawn by the spectacular, whether it is a display of the supernatural or just a good production, people are drawn to such things. Many, in the excitement of the spectacular, make commitments based on emotion rather than on believing and trusting the truth. That is a faulty foundation.

Lasting faith is built on a solid foundation of faith in the truth. Jesus was comparing building a life of faith with building a house. A house built on a solid foundation will stand the storm and when our life is built on the sure foundation of truth we can endure whatever life brings to us.

A house of faith built upon the sure foundation of Jesus the Christ will endure all things.

Prayer: Lord, I enjoy the spectacular, but help me not to follow the signs but to believe and place my hope in the truth of Christ. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Five

Sleep In Peace And Confidence

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. - Psalm 4:8

When I was a child we were very conscious of the threat of nuclear war, although at the time we called it “atomic war.” At school we would practice getting under our desks for protection and the teachers would tell us to close our eyes so the blast wouldn’t blind us.

There was a lot of fear in those days, but nowhere was that more evident than in my home. I would go to bed at night and be awakened by my mother who had heard sirens going off. She would make me get up and get fully dressed so we would be ready to flee to the mountains when the bombs began to fall.

David had gone through many fearful times in his life, but he had learned that there was a place where he could dwell in safety. He knew that the devices of this world could offer very little in real security and his only hope was in his Lord.

If we are to be able to lay our head on our pillow at night and feel at peace and safe, we too must learn to trust in the Lord. The only sure hope for a secure future is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The cold war of the 50’s and 60’s is long over, but we still face many challenges today. With all of that we can still sleep in peace because we know that the Lord will keep us safe.

It is God's love for us that draws him to keep us safe as we put our trust in him.

Prayer: Lord, I know that there is no security in this world and my only hope for peace and safety is in Christ Jesus. Thank you for being there. Amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Six

Joy Comes In The Morning

Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. - Psalm 30:4-5

I can remember a time of great loss in my life. It seemed that God was a million miles away and that he had turned his back on me. I would lay in bed at night with my face pressed tightly against the pillow and scream at God. Those were terrible nights – but morning always came.

When we are in the midst of trying times it seems that the trial will never end, but trials are only temporary. If we can but hold on through the night morning will come.

When I came through the trying time mentioned above God gave me the greatest gift I could have imagined receiving. Because I endured the night the morning brought God's blessing.

Whatever your trial I can assure you that God has not left you. Even if you have been unfaithful to him, he will always be faithful to you. Sometimes the trial is God's way of saying, "Hey, you've made a wrong turn. Turn back toward me and I will end your night by bringing you a brightly lit morning."

It's OK to weep in the trial. And it is OK to feel abandoned in the middle of hard times. If you feel that way, don't deny it; but keep in mind what David said – "Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

Prayer: Lord, it's hard to keep the faith when times are so hard. Help me to focus on your loving kindness to realize that morning will come. Amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Seven

Commitment Produces Confidence

Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin... I have kept myself from the ways of the violent. My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped. - Psalm 17:3-5

A person must know where they are in Christ to ask God to probe their heart and test them, yet that is exactly what David does in this passage. He had confidence in his walk because he had resolved not to sin. Far too many believers lack such a resolve.

Somewhere along the way teachers began to justify inconsistent living by declaring, "We all sin a little every day." Unfortunately, that statement has become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

If we do not have the commitment to live above sin then we will justify living in sin. Consistent living comes from a made up mind. As long as we are wavering between what we should do and what we want to do we will not be consistent in our faith walk.

Diligence in our walk is required to keep our feet on the path of righteousness. David said, "I have kept myself from the ways of the violent." He was saying that he had made up his mind that he wasn't going there.

We have confidence with God and in our walk when we have purposed in our heart that we are through with sin.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace to resolve in my heart, mind and will, to walk consistent before you and to keep my feet in the path of righteousness. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Eight

The Cost Of Sacrifice

The king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” - 2 Samuel 24:24

David had sinned and as a result a terrible judgment had come upon Israel. An angel of death had been sent to bring judgment upon the people for David’s sin. Finally David cried out, “Enough! Withdraw your hand. I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. Let your hand fall upon me.”

In answer the Lord told David to make a sacrifice at the place where the plague stopped. It was land owned by Araunah. David offered to buy the land and Araunah wanted to donate it. David responded to Araunah with these words; “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

The price paid for his sin was great and David could not make a flippant offer to the Lord that had not cost him something. My friend, the price for our sin was greater yet, and there is no price that can be placed on our salvation - but it will cost us everything.

Offering to the Lord what cost us nothing is disrespecting the price he paid for us. We too often emphasize the free gift of salvation and as a result those who claim it have not realized it’s cost. Easy believism produces easy living Christians.

What has your walk cost you?

Prayer: Lord, help me to fully realize the price that was paid for my salvation and give me the grace to give back to you all that I am and ever hope to be. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Nine

The Cost Of This Treasure

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

- Matthew 13:44

I once had a business that I had started while working on another job. The business grew until I was making more money in the business than I was at my regular employment. I knew that one day I would have to quit my job and go full time in the business, but there was a lot of security in the job and the business could go bad on me. I was in a dilemma.

Then, the dilemma was solved by my biggest client. I lost that account because they could not feel secure that I would be able to complete the work in a timely manner due to my other job. I never recouped from that loss.

I am telling you this so that you can understand the dilemma we all face when we see the opportunity of the kingdom of God, but we still have an attachment to our old life.

What a person does with the knowledge of the treasure will decide whether he will enjoy the treasure. You can have the treasure of heaven, but it will cost you everything.

Only sold out Christ followers can realize the value of this treasure of the kingdom. The challenge of giving up our old life is outweighed by the joy of the new.

Prayer: Lord, I see the treasure of the kingdom, but it is hard to turn loose of the things I have known in my old life. I ask you for the faith, and the courage, to give it all up and pursue the treasures of the kingdom of God. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:

Day Thirty

The Cost Of Service

Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

- Acts 21:13

Some time back I clipped an article from the newspaper that told the story of a young woman, Karen Watson, who had gone to Iraq to serve as a missionary. While there she was killed when her car was ambushed by insurgents. Here is a paragraph from the article:

Watson, 38, was aware of the danger. In a letter to her pastor that was meant to be opened in the event of her death, she wrote: “To obey is my objective. To suffer is expected. His glory will be my reward.”

The apostle Paul could not have said it better, and he did say, “I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Paul, like Karen Watson, had a vision of a higher calling. A person cannot deny himself until he gets a vision of a higher calling - and that is to be the norm for believers.

These servants of God discovered that once committed to the Lordship of Christ there is no returning to the lordship of self.

We must live with the realization that our old way is dead and buried. Our life is now hid in Christ.

Prayer: Lord, I am challenged today to live as Karen Watson:” *To obey is my objective. To suffer is expected. His Glory will be my reward.*” Grant me the grace to live it out. In Jesus name, amen.

His Light In Us Is His Glory

Message: The light and the truth that is in us is the light of God and it is that light which is his glory. We must remember whose glory it is as we serve in the kingdom. we must keep in mind that it is not about us. We are just a vessel that is being used to serve Christ and his body.

Affirmation: The only glory I have is the glory of his light and life in me. I glory in the light of his Truth.

Reflection: Can you see the difference between promoting yourself and your work and allowing the Lord to use you to promote his kingdom? We must be careful that we do not promote ourselves, but we must also be humble enough to let others promote the kingdom, even when it involves promoting our work in the kingdom.

My Thoughts:
