

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Monday, November 9

*Listen*

***29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. Matthew 25:29***

***Use what talents you possess; the woods would indeed be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best. (Odd Moments, Sunshine Private Press)***

Is there someone in your life who believed in you and encouraged you to use the talents you have for others. Was it your mom or your dad? Was it your first employer? They gave you a chance when others wouldn't. They helped you see the possibilities that were right in front of you.

This is what God does in our lives. He has given us faith in Christ so that we may use the talents He's given us to enrich others. God knows our true potential and even though we fail from time to time. He loves us even when we come up short and encourages us to use our talents for His Kingdom.

A young man applied for a job as a farmhand. When the farmer asked for his qualifications, he said, "I can sleep when the wind blows." This puzzled the farmer. But he liked the young man, and hired him.

A few days later, the farmer and his wife were awakened in the night by a violent storm. They quickly began to check things out to see if everything was secure. They found that the shutters of the farmhouse had been securely fastened. A good supply of logs had been set next to the fireplace. The young man slept soundly.

The farmer and his wife then inspected their property. They found that the farm tools had been placed in the storage shed, safe from the elements. The barn was properly locked. Even the animals were calm. All was well.

Then the farmer understood what the young man's words meant, "I can sleep when the wind blows." The farmhand faithfully and loyally worked when the skies were clear, so when the wind blew, he wasn't afraid. He could sleep in peace.

Every aspect of our lives is to be centered in Jesus Christ. All we do and say is a reflection of our relationship with Him. So, when the wind blows or difficult times come, we can say, ***"I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him."*** (2 Timothy 1:12) God is always faithful. We are called to use the talents given to us for His glory.

***Almighty God, teach me to use my talents for You in the tasks You have given me to do. Help me to listen to Your gentle guidance in my life that I may serve Your Kingdom. Amen***

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Tuesday, November 10

*Pray*

### 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

**<sup>9</sup> or God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.**

We accompanied our son and his fiancé when they met with her priest to sign some pre-wedding ceremony papers. While filling out the form, our son read aloud a few questions. When he got to the last one, which read: "Are you entering this marriage at your own will?" he looked over at his fiancé. "Put down 'Yes,'" she said. (Lilyan van Almelo, Reader's Digest, May 1993, p. 138)

All kidding aside, God has always known just what He's doing. He knew even before the foundation of the world was laid that He would send His Son to die for our sins, that we might have eternal life. When we look to God, we see God who has adopted us as His own children through Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of His will. (Ephesians 1:5) After all God has done for us we still doubt. We still wonder if the depth of God's love for us is true. We have a difficult time believing it's true. But this changes everything.

This means that we don't have to be afraid, and we can trust in His grace and forgiveness. We set our hope on Christ Jesus our Lord and what He has done. We don't have to be afraid of what will happen tomorrow, because He is there to guide our lives and give us a peace that passes all understanding, according to His good pleasure.

Take **2 minutes** to pray about what God has been teaching you in the Scripture.

How has God's Love for you changed your perspective of life when you go through difficult times. "If God is for us who is against us?" (Romans 8:31) Pray for those going through difficult times that they may know the depth of Christ's love for them.

Almighty God, I may never understand Your love for me, but may I never doubt Your love for me. Teach me to live my life as a child. Excited about each day and what new things we have to discover. Teach me not to be afraid, but to trust in You. Open my heart that I may see others as You see them. Amen

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Wednesday, November 11

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Activity 1: Write down what you are thankful for today.

Activity 2: Do you have a prayer routine? Do you pray in the morning when you've just awakened or maybe before bed? Or do you pray anytime that feels right? There's no right or wrong time or way, or number of times to pray. However, you pray God will be there listening. Just pray!

To help kids learn to pray, check out the prayer prompt cards from Meet Penny.

[Prayer Prompt Cards from Meet Penny](#)

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Thursday November 12

*Study*

### Matthew 25:14

<sup>14</sup> **“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them**

Jesus called His disciples and He calls us today; “My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me.” (John 10:27) “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” (Matthew 16:24) 2) Jesus will come again. “Jesus said, ‘I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.’” (Mark 14:62) Jesus makes it very clear, He will come again. Until He comes again, we are to take care of what He has entrusted to us. <sup>5:18</sup>“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...<sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20) This is our calling.

What are we to do in the mean time? **1) Jesus calls us to love one another.** “**35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**” (John 13:35) We are to preserve the unity of the body of Christ. **2) We are called to devote ourselves to the teaching of the apostles’ and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.** (Acts 2:42) Fellowship looks different today, it’s a phone call, visiting outside with a mask, a card or letter in the mail. It’s the promise that you don’t have to go through life alone. I am there with you. **3) He calls us to “pray without ceasing.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Throughout the day we should have an ongoing conversation with God. He wants to hear what is on your heart. **4) Give generously.** We are called to carry out the ministry Christ has given us together, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7) **5) Listen to your leaders.** This is a difficult one, we are to, <sup>17</sup>“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.” (Hebrews 13:17) Not many Americans like to be told what to do, but here we are called to trust those who love us and are there to guide us. **6) Serve faithfully** as Paul says, **“fight the good fight”** (1 Timothy 1:18) Every day is different with new challenges. Paul says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” (Ephesians 5:10) We need the whole armor of God as we fight not blood and flesh, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 5:12)

We don’t do any of this alone, but only by the grace of God through the power of His Holy Spirit and the promise we have received through Jesus Christ. It’s there that we find peace in a world that is unpredictable.

***Almighty God, teach me to listen to You and to follow Your Son Jesus Christ my Lord. Open my heart that I may see the many ways You are working in my life today and every day. Keep my family and me safe and help me to simply follow You. Amen***

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Friday, November 13

Hymn of Day Devotion: When Peace Like a River

Knowing that this hymn grew out of tragic circumstance and many people have used this song for devotional purposes, I would like to share with you a beautiful commentary on this hymn written by Lloyd Newell:

<https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/articles/it-is-well-with-my-soul.html>

*“Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life’s dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence?”*

*Horatio Spafford knew something about life’s unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.*

*Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sank. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford’s precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: “Saved alone. What shall I do?”*

*Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.<sup>1</sup>*

*As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-loved hymn:*

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,*

*When sorrows like sea billows roll—*

*Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know*

*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, ‘It is well, it is well with my soul.’”*

Let us pray: Heavenly Father. We so often turn to You during times of trouble, and You are there to help us through our trials and tribulations. Help us to remember to not only lean on You to give us comfort, but to rejoice in You for all You provide. You are truly always there for us and provide for our every need. We truly thank You for Your care and everlasting love. In Your name we pray. AMEN.

1. Randy Petersen, *Be Still My Soul: The Inspiring Stories behind 175 of the Most-Loved Hymns* (1973), 153.

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Saturday, November 14

*Prepare for Worship*

Zephaniah 1:7

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord God!  
For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

The day of the Lord was a hot topic for prophets around 700 B.C. This was a day of judgement that the prophets knew was coming not just for Israel, but for all the nations. Zephaniah sets up a terrifying image in these opening verses. God has invited the nations to a sacrifice. Upon arrival they understand that there is no lamb to offer up. There is no grain to give in thanksgiving. No, those who have been invited are the sacrifice. It is a terrifying and total judgement. Silence is the appropriate reaction.

Here is the hard work of hearing God's Word. We have to become familiar with the judgement of God to truly grasp his mercy. Once we realize that God is calling for a sacrifice because of sin, we look again on Jesus with fresh eyes. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God," (2 Corinthians 5:21). Our Lord Jesus took on the full judgement of God in punishment for sin so that we might know God's mercy through grace, forgiveness, and love.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, we are sometimes astonished by your judgements. They can be terrifying and so final that it's hard to understand. But we know that those who are in Jesus Christ are free from condemnation. Help us to be certain of this that we would have the full assurance of faith in Jesus Christ in whose name we pray, Amen

## Saving Grace Daily Devotions

Sunday, November 15

*Praise*

Psalm 90:1, 12

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

Our days are numbered. God is *not* towering over us waiting for the moment to bring our lives to an end in judgement. We know this is true because of the Scripture we have been reading this past week. Yet, he is the God who holds all people accountable and one day we will go to be with him in heaven. Our days are numbered. But whether we are here or in heaven, God calls us to worship him. The Psalmist stirs our hearts to worship by reminding us that God is the creator of heaven and earth. In our day, the Psalmist would remind us that God created the Chippewa Valley long before any of us were born...and the Chippewa Valley will be here long after we have left this earth. If we compared the length of our days to the majesty of God, it would be like comparing the Chippewa Valley to a blade of grass. Our days are numbered, but God is eternal. The grass is here today, gone tomorrow, but the Valley has stuck around for quite some time. Our God who created the Chippewa Valley can still be active in our humble lives. He can create things and opportunities that have real lasting value. So, the Psalmist says, "Let the favor the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!" (Psalm 90:17).

Prayer: Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, you are eternal and majestic. We are in awe of your great power. Our days are numbered here on earth, but we know the God who will welcome us into eternity with him. We look to you for stability and certainty in this life and help us, Lord, to make good use of the time we have on earth! Help us Lord, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen