

Daily Family Devotions

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first.

FRIDAY

“WINDOWS AROUND YOU — OR MIRRORS?”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 16:24, 25; I Timothy 5:3-6

Do you live in a house of mirrors, or are you surrounded by windows that look out onto the world, skylights opening up to God?

Do you judge people by how they react to you. . . life by what it has to offer you . . . God by what he has done for you? Sometimes our lives can be a house of mirrors: no matter where we look, we see only ourselves reflected.

A person who is super-sensitive is often self-centered: everything is evaluated in terms of “me”. Rarely does a person like this view life in terms of what he can do for others, or for God. Self is the pampered master that must be continuously fed lest he feel hurt . . . slighted . . . snubbed . . . ignored. A person in such condition, is in no state to help others or God.

Such people are slaves to their egos. Their main goal is saving, serving and promoting Self. Christ warned: these people eventually lose every valuable spiritual advantage, while the person who has windows opening out to the needs of the world is inevitably, surely drawn out into the world, away from selfishness that breeds apathy — and spiritual death.

Windows not only open your world — they brighten your life. If you would live an interesting, unhidden, useful life — take away the mirrors and open the windows!

Prayer: O God, search me and see if there be any hidden sin in my life. Open the windows of my soul and keep me from the monotony of a self-centered life, I pray. AMEN

SATURDAY

“IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM”

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 4:11-13;
II Corinthians 12:8-10

One of the qualities that mark the Apostle Paul is his great enthusiasm. Even in prison he sings at the top of his voice! Why? Because he knows that no matter where he is he is still living for God. Instead of waiting for circumstances to suit him, he fits into circumstances. Of course, he could preach better in a synagogue — but if he happens to be in jail, then we see him ministering to the jailer and to the other prisoners.

It was never the circumstance that determined Paul's reaction: it was always the “why” — the motivation.

Have you this ability to adjust to God's circumstances? Are you really a servant of his, or are you attempting to be your own agent?

If we live for God, it won't bother us when things seem to fall apart, or if we find ourselves in strange or difficult situations.

Never feel as though you are on a railroad siding. Look around. God has put you here for a reason. He can always be served . . . even when we are alone: there is prayer then, and meditation, and more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of . . .

War, retirement, illness, bereavement and childlessness, there is more than enough work to go around if dedicated Christians will only be available to their Lord.

Prayer: O God, help me never to find an excuse for idleness. Help me to be at your bidding at all times, in every place, I pray you! AMEN

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

TO ME, TO LIVE IS _____?”

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 1:21;
John 4:31-34

People have been known to live and die for many reasons.

Paul's reason for living was Jesus Christ; everything Paul did, whatever he was, whatever he had to suffer was done in such a way that God would be pleased and Jesus Christ glorified.

What is your reason for living?

How would your “motto” read?

To me to live is popularity?

To me to live is financial security?

To me to live is my children?

To me to live is happiness . . . health . . . a full life . . . success?

Whatever you give your heart to is eventually going to shape your life.

Whatever you put your time and energy into will be the treasure you are left with at the end of this life.

Whatever you serve will become also your master.

Write your motto today. It may surprise you.

Prayer: God, I ask you to illuminate my inner-most thoughts. Show me where I am putting other things before you. Lord, teach me that if I put you before all else in my life, you will bless whatever else I may do because it is unto you. I thank you for your presence with me and your help. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“LIFE IS NOT A LEVEL ROAD”

SCRIPTURE:

I Kings 19:1-18

It is comforting to know that even God’s greatest men knew such discouragement. In this passage, Elijah goes off into the wilderness: “It is enough now, Lord — take away my life!” Man’s anguished plea for God to end it all.

Yet even here, Elijah turns *to* God, not away from him, and God sends help and strength and encouragement, as he always does. More than that, he even reveals the presence of others who —like Elijah — are faithful to him, so even his isolation is removed. What a comfort this can be!

Remember the times in your life you have felt you failed, that you stood alone, that there was no point in going on? Moses, John the Baptist, and even our Lord knew periods of such anguish. But what marks them is the fact that in this discouragement, they turned *to* God and were reestablished.

When your hour comes, don’t be ashamed to cry out to God. These often are the times when his love and power are illuminated most clearly for you.

We are never alone when we live to serve God; our lives are never wasted.

Prayer: O God, help me not to fear the times of discouragement, but to turn to you, no matter how great or insignificant my problems may be. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

*“LIFE CONSISTS
NOT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THINGS”*

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 12:13-31

Today everyone — society, governments, even the church — is feverishly interested in the abundance of the things which men possess. Each organization is trying to outdo the other in giving things — housing, medical care, education, financial security — to the world.

Why? Because today the “good life”, the “abundant life” is the accepted basis for happiness and contentment. We place little importance on spiritual poverty; we think that if a man has enough *things* he will somehow be free from problems, at peace with all.

This concept is opposite to what Christ taught: “Seek ye *first*,” he said, “the Kingdom of Heaven and all these things will be added unto you.”

Not seek ye first the other things and the Kingdom will come!

But we stubbornly go our way, offering everyone — even our children — so-called security in the form of things. Then we are bewildered when these are not enough to keep them from suicide, godlessness, apathy, crime and empty lives.

Are you careful always to minister first to the souls of men — so that a natural joy, vitality and industry in living come as a result of their relationship with God which leads to a continuing enrichment of their lives?

Prayer: Give me the kind of love that reaches out to a man’s soul, and give me wisdom in leading them to you. AMEN

THURSDAY

“WHICH LIFE?”

SCRIPTURE:

John 17:3;
John 14:3-9; 18-23

It is not easy to keep our minds on heaven and eternity when we are enjoying this life. Older people have as much trouble as the younger ones with this. We all keep putting off such pious thoughts believing we will have enough time later to plan for the other life.

Actually the two lives can be simultaneous; God intended them to be. If we fill the requirements for eternal life, we’ll find that the requirements for this life are fulfilled.

What are the requirements for the other life? “*To know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he sent.*”

This doesn’t seem so difficult after all. If we know God, we will know what is right for our lives. If we do what is right, we will not get in as many predicaments. If we know Christ, as Lord, our need for forgiveness has been met and we are no longer burdened with guilt. If we know him, if we believe what he said, we find truth, for he “is the truth and the life.”

Whatever we need to make us a success in this life will be fulfilled, if we seek first eternal life.

Try it — with friends, in the office, at home, on the playground. Put God first and see how quickly living can take on new power and smoothness.

Prayer: Help me to remember that this life is but the preparation for eternity. Make me the kind of person who puts you first in all things. Keep me close to you each moment, God! AMEN