

# Daily Family Devotions

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

## FRIDAY

### "WHEN GOD OVERWHELMS EVIL"

#### SCRIPTURE:

John 3:18-21

Romans 12:21

I Corinthians 10:13

There are certain cancer cells which when grown in a test tube medium with human cells, grow at the same rate as the human cells. But when the same cells grow in a living human body, the cancer cells begin to outnumber and crowd out the natural, body cells. Why?

Human cells are designed to respond to certain physiological controls in the body - enzymes which keep the human body from growing to monstrous or unlimited proportions. The cancerous cells do not have this built-in control response to the body; therefore they quickly outnumber and overwhelm the healthy cells for they respond to no restraint.

In life, evil knows no restraint of either moral or spiritual control and it seems - and many times it is true - that evil literally swallows up and overcomes good. What can we do about this to prevent it?

God has given us the power to outgrow - to stay up with and *overcome* - evil providing we allow him to stimulate the growth of the Holy Spirit in our souls. This was the secret of Jesus' power over sin and evil.

Prayer in our life is a releasing of God's power over evil in any area. When you feel evil begin to overwhelm you, pray for greater growth in that area, a stimulation of God-in-you.

*Prayer: Lord, you have given us an antidote for everything that threatens our spiritual life. Check any growth in my life that is not of you. AMEN*

## SATURDAY

### "GOD'S RETURN ON HIS INVESTMENT"

#### SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 25:14-30

We are familiar with the kind of contest in which three people are allotted \$100, three others \$500, and a third group \$1000, with which they are to select a wardrobe. The one in each group, who makes the most of the money, wins the prize.

Life is like this. God has given each of us certain "talents" - assets which we are to use and multiply in our lifetime. It is interesting how three people, with similar potential, can come up with such different results! Many times those with great talent, numerous abilities, make less of their lives than those with only a fraction of that ability.

Look at your life. It is all you will have to give God when this life is over. The capacity to love ... how much has it grown? Patience ... is it stronger? Your faith ... has it been shaken? And your talents? Do you know what they are - or do you have a preconceived notion of what they should be to be "acceptable"? Any ability - no matter how insignificant it *seems* to you, is needed by God somewhere.

God does not ask our evaluation of what he has given us other than that it be dedicated to helping his world and to bringing people to a knowledge and understanding of his love and his Plan for us. He knows what we are capable of. It is to him we will answer one day.

*Prayer: O Lord, help me to run to do your will. Give me an eagerness and gratitude for what I can do for you in this life. Help me to dedicate it to you, Lord, I pray. AMEN*

## MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

### "THE REALITY OF PERSONAL PRAYER"

#### SCRIPTURE:

John 17:1-11

We have all heard people say, "I don't believe in prayer. God is a creator, too universal to be concerned - too great to care about my problems."

Turn to Scripture. Does Jesus pray as though he believes God is an unattainable force? He prays to him as a Father with a certainty, love and intimacy which is deeply moving and to us, very revealing.

This mystery of the personalness of God is something we must accept on faith. It defies description and cannot be argued logically. If anyone is in doubt, all we can say is, "I know because Jesus prayed believing, and he commanded us to pray in the same way." (Matthew 6:7-13)

The world can destroy the faith of the Christian if he takes his eye off Christ; it can argue us into all sorts of doubts, ridicule our belief, because there may be times when you wonder if indeed God does hear. When that time comes, turn to these verses, claim them as truth, and wait in Faith for your God to work his great will in your life. Your faith will be renewed.

*Prayer: O God, how we thank you that your Son has shown us the way in every area of our spiritual life. Father, we would not know of your personal love - your ability to speak with us, to answer our prayers if it were not for his example. We thank you Father. AMEN*

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## TUESDAY

### "ARE YOU INTIMIDATED?"

#### SCRIPTURE:

Acts 4:14-31

It takes courage today to speak of your faith - if you are a Christian. Somehow the world is more lenient toward the agnostic and the atheist than it is toward people who follow Christ as their Lord.

But read this passage in Acts again: the Sadducees were afraid of the power of this risen Lord; they had seen a man healed, and there were hundreds of accounts of miraculous happenings daily in their city that they could not explain with their rigid logic.

The same is true today. Many do fear the true Christian experience, because it still has inexorable influence over people and events, whereas agnosticism and atheism are limited by purely human endeavor.

In your campus, office, club meeting or politics you often find more fear and resistance at the mention of Christ than you do at the mention of a mere political rebel, moral corruption - dishonesty, materialism. Why? Because people instinctively feel they can cope with these manmade threats. The power of God working through people is something else.

They see the poise and certainty in your life which nothing can touch - and they see God at work; they cannot hurt you. They are suddenly helpless in the face of this invisible force.

People have always feared a *living, involved God*. Such a God demands some sort of response - belief or rejection.

*Prayer: Lord, as long as you continue to reveal your power through your people, lives will be changed and events shaped. Help me to be such a one, a true and faithful witness to this amazing strength - this God-with-us which is my life daily. AMEN*

## WEDNESDAY

### "A MIXED BLESSING"

#### SCRIPTURE:

Mark 10:13-16

Luke 10:21-23

A wise old philosopher once said that maturity is a left-handed asset: we need it to get along in this world, but it can take the magic out of life!

What did he mean? We need to be mature, in control of our emotions and in the judgment by which we make decisions, our ability to take life in stride. But the place it threatens to defeat us is in our attitude toward others, our relationship with God!

Why is it that in the Bible, the intellectual, the proud, the independent are never mentioned as those receiving his greatest approval or his richest blessings? Why is it we are admonished to "come as children" to him?

Because only as we become totally dependent, like children before him, can we ever realize the full wonder, the real meaning of the God-man relationship. The man who has never cried out to God in utter helplessness - to suddenly feel his powerful presence beside him - can never understand his omnipotence. The man who has never felt like a lost child, has never felt, either, the overwhelming love of a divine Father.

It is only as we stand before God as children that we see his awesome and compelling love. If you have never reached out for this, if you have not yet thrown yourself in his arms, you have a lesson to learn in security. Security in this world is God.

*Prayer: Father, so many times I do long to be a child again, to give up the pretense for just a moment of being so strong and self-sufficient. If I come now to you, please let me believe and feel your presence. AMEN*

## THURSDAY

### "WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?"

#### SCRIPTURE:

Habakkuk 1:2-5

Philippians 1: 3-6

"Two men looked through prison bars; the one saw mud, the other stars."

Which are you? In the passage above we see God commanding his people - "Look and be astounded!"

But it is so easy today to look and "be dismayed." We see the social depravation, the moral decay, the disintegration of the family and we throw up our hands in defeat.

It is time for believers to once more lift up their faces and really *look* at what God is doing for us and among us. Who does not feel the silent power of his hand when humans are rescued from near fatal tragedies, or when wars long endured by innocent civilians are finally ended?

The quiet continuing work of the Holy Spirit will always balance the scale according to the need and the cries of God's people. The greater the falling away on one side, the greater will God's hand come among those who call for him.

Look into just your own heart ... how much more mature are you in your faith than you were before you were tested - how much more reliant on God - how much more *personally* aware of his presence in your life, of your daily, critical need of him? Of course.

*Prayer: Father, give me patience - eyes to see that you have not changed your timetable - that you are still reaching out to take men into your love and will continue to do so until our Christ comes. AMEN*