

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

“JOY IS A GARLAND FOR GOD”

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 3:11-14; Proverbs 31:10-31

A young mother, well-loved in the community and even more deeply loved by her bereaved family, was beautifully remembered by a phrase which a friend spoke shortly after her death. “Joan had a way of garlanding every day with her joy”

Some women have the gift of making an ordinary day lovelier for having passed through it. There is something in the way they smile, a certain assurance in their sweetness, a peace in their poise, a lift in their spirit which touches everything with a glow.

A woman who fails to create beauty in some small way fails in a measure, as a woman. She need not be an intellectual stimulant; she need not be a musician, an artist, a writer or a gourmet; but somehow, in her own way, she must learn to bring beauty into living.

When we see how lavishly God has garlanded this world with beauty, even in out-of-the-way places where we might never go, we know that beauty is of God — and for God. And as we try to create beauty within and around us, we ourselves shall become more beautiful.

What lovelier gift could we offer our Lord than that which He has offered to us first?

Prayer: God, so often I excuse my carelessness in everyday things, thinking because others do not see, I need not care. Lord, help me to create beauty where I am, as a sign of my love to you. AMEN

SATURDAY

“DO FAITHFULLY
WHATEVER YOU DO”

SCRIPTURE:

III John 5 (King James Version)

“Do not copy those who place perfection in undertaking *many* things, but rather those who do well what little they perform. It is better to do little well than to undertake a great deal and do it badly . . .

“Hence if we desire to become especially pleasing to our Lord, we need not double our work, but merely double our zeal in performing it.

“To perform any action well consists especially in doing it with a pure intention and a determined will to please God alone.”

St. Francis de Sales

“Leave some good work behind you so that no day is lost . . .” Is there no want, no suffering, no sorrow you can relieve? Is there no act of tardy justice you can perform? No reconciliation of an old quarrel, payment of a long-standing debt — no deed by which you can promote the glory of God or sweetness among people?

“If there is any such act in God’s name — in Christ’s name, go and do it.”

From A. P. Stanley

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive me for wasting a single day which you in your mercy have given to me. Let me begin to count my days as opportunities to show you my life, especially in any small and quiet way. Lord, make me aware of your presence so that all I do may bear the mark of my Lord — and others feeling this presence, may see your love and be drawn to it. AMEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10 2025

“JOY COMES WITH SPIRITUAL
MATURITY”

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 4:4-7; I Thessalonians 5:16-19

Have you reached the place where no matter what happens to you, you can find some reason to be grateful, some reason for “joy”?

Christian joy is not a Pollyanna kind of giddiness. It is the deep, inner assurance that in spite of surface storms, even those of hurricane velocity, God is able to keep us and that which we have committed to him.

Most people, if they are honest, can look back to a very difficult or unhappy time with a kind of nostalgia, realizing that life at that certain time had a special kind of meaning, a dimension and urgency, an aliveness that easier times often do not have. They remember these times with a sense of loss . . . Why?

Perhaps it is because during times of great stress, the spirit reaffirms its vitality, its mysterious ability to tap the resources of God so that the physical man may survive through the life of the spirit. The Christian should be aware of this unique power of the spirit *during* his times of anguish and stress, grateful for his divinely fashioned soul which can hold fast to God when the physical heart threatens to break under the strain.

In every single circumstance, there will be a blessing. Don’t be afraid to seek it. It is there.

Prayer: Lord, help me to remember that there is no place where you cannot come to me. Help me to look for you and to trust your love for me. AMEN

Web: <https://dailyfamilydevotions.org>

Email: info@dailyfamilydevotions.org

Voice Message: (818) 457-1798

TUESDAY

“JOY IS A CLEAN HOUSE”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 51:10-14

A certain woman in the neighborhood was known for her bitter grumbling complaining; her house was “darker than the others . . . the sun never shone as brightly . . . colors did not show up.” Finally one day, a young woman who had just moved into the neighborhood came over to visit the well-known complainer. After only a few minutes, she jumped up, saying she would return soon.

She came back with her husband — and soon they were both busy. While she washed the windows, dusted the furniture and shined the grimy and dingy floors, her husband cut down the thick, gnarled shrubbery that almost obliterated the light; he tacked up the sagging shutters and pruned a tree whose limbs hung too low . . .

By afternoon, the grumbling woman was silent as she gazed in amazement at her sunny, light house.

“You see,” the young woman said, “we all have access to the same sun. But we have to learn how to make use of its warmth and light.”

The human heart is like this, too. So many times we have gloomy attitudes dimming our interiors, thick overgrowths of prejudice blocking our view, the dirty windows of resentment or rebellion casting their pall between us and the joy all of us should be enjoying. Are you living in the shadows? Ask God to illuminate what is blocking your joy.

Prayer: Lord, we become so used to being in shadow we forget that it is your will that all of us live in the sunshine of joy — with you. Show us how to let it into our lives! AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“THE ENEMIES OF JOY”

SCRIPTURE:

John 16:23, 24; Proverbs 17:22

There is perhaps nothing so beautiful or coveted as joy in a person . . . It seems to transform everyone and everything it touches. Yet how rare it is. How few people really have it! Why?

Because joy, for all its strength, for all its brilliance, is a fragile thing. So many things can dull its brilliance, dissipate its vitality.

There is *guilt* . . . as heavy and unresponsive as lead, insulating the spirit from God’s presence, bringing the well-known fatigue and lethargy . . .

There is *dissatisfaction* . . . irritating, relentless, agitated, grinding the silken threads of joy to shreds.

And there is *lack of love*, which deadens and makes barren the soil in which joy can thrive.

Most of us who are not experiencing the joy of which Paul speaks so eloquently can trace our lack of it to one of these sources.

A lack of joy, it seems, is indicative of a break in God-man relationship. We are meant to have it. It is available for all of us. Therefore, let each of us examine that area in our lives which may be the enemy of our joy. Once we commit this to God, we will know release; when release comes, joy will follow.

Which area stands in your way?

Prayer: Lord, as a child cannot enjoy the simplest pleasures when he knows he has disobeyed, so I, too. Lord, I am robbed of the joy of each day when I continue to turn away from you. Help me to seek this joy you offer by simple obedience, gratitude and acceptance, I pray. AMEN

THURSDAY

“JOY IN THE MIDST OF FAILURE”

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 10:21, 22

Jesus has just finished a frustrating experience in three cities; in spite of his healings and blessing of the crowds, these cities have not believed, but continued to resist him. (13-16)

Yet in the very next breath, after his denouncing these cities, we see him turn toward God in thanksgiving and praise — “I thank you, Father, that you have revealed these things not to the intellectual and cunning, but to those who can be children before you . . .”

He had failed with certain of the people — but immediately he turns from this “failure” to thank God for those whom he has made it possible to reach through their faith and trust in God.

When you go through a period of intense disappointment, remember this moment of Christ’s. Turn from the failure and then thank God for that which he has made possible for you to do. Not only will the one failure be left behind, but you will be able to recognize and appreciate those areas which God does intend to bless, and which He has already prepared for you.

Perhaps you are working among people who because of pride and spiritual arrogance cannot accept Christ’s precepts. Don’t fret. There are others who are searching and who will welcome your words.

Prayer: Lord, help me to weigh my disappointments, not to be overwhelmed by them. Make me aware of the places where you are already preparing the way, and lead me to those who wait for you, I pray. AMEN