

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

“LORD, HOW MANY TIMES!”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 5:38-42; 18:21, 22
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:7-9

We have all experienced periodic rejection of Jesus' principles when they have become too hard. Recently a public speaker said, “Jesus told us to turn the other cheek when we are slapped, but after the second slap, he didn't tell us what to do. I say knock the stuffing out of them!”

Peter was troubled with the same reaction. “How many times, Lord!”

Jesus said, “Seventy times seven” and this is the number for infinity.

Those words are just as hard to swallow today as they were then. The Christian faith is acceptable until it cuts across individual pride. And then suddenly it becomes too illogical, too difficult. Too many of us ride along on the platitudes but when Christ throws the real challenge down, we turn and run, dropping our crosses and good intentions as we go.

Of course there is satisfaction in giving vent to our anger. It is human – and for the moment we feel vindicated and within our rights.

But after the explosion – when the heaviness of failure settles in . . . we realize it wasn't worth it, after all. The gap between us and God, the realization that we are no better than those we stood against, none of this amounts to much when the relationship with our Lord has been broken.

Prayer: Father, help me to learn that endurance does produce character and that I can do anything for you with your help. Teach me the difference between anger for you and resentment on my own behalf. AMEN

SATURDAY

“THE CHRISTIAN WHEEL”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 18:18-20
Ephesians 4:1-7

Life is a wheel with many spokes. The hub is Christ; each spoke is a decision to be made regarding anything, large or small. The rim binding this wheel is your life as it makes contact with the world. Your wheel is just one upon which the Kingdom rides and it is lubricated and made to run smoothly by daily application of prayer and the Holy Spirit.

Any decision not centered in our Lord, can weaken the wheel, throwing the whole vehicle off-course.

We may or may not accept Christ as the center of life, but God has so designed the human wheel to work. Only those lives, those “wheels” which are firmly anchored in him will continue to go without bending or buckling.

Christ's Kingdom is run on the wheels of your life and mine, and the speed and certainty with which it moves ahead depends directly on the sturdiness of our lives as they go over devious pitfalls and rocky places.

The next time you face a decision, remember that each decision you will make strengthens the wheel of life – or weakens it. Try to make your life a well-rounded, sturdy instrument to which God can trust a portion of his Kingdom.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, so often I forget that the strength of a motor is made up of the precision of its most insignificant parts. Help me to live my life so that even the seemingly unimportant things add to the power and strength of my life for you. AMEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025

“REAFFIRMATION OF OUR TASK.”

SCRIPTURE:

John 1:24-34
Acts 9:1-19

Jesus did not suddenly become The Christ at His baptism: He was born The Christ. Baptism merely sealed His commission, was evidence of the fact that He recognized and accepted God's will for Him; it was the voluntary act of commitment, the commencement of His ministry.

And today, there is a divine plan for each man and woman born, but that plan is not set in motion until we voluntarily give our lives over to the work of God's Spirit in us.

We call it different things, this offering of ourselves to Him – conversion, second birth, born of the spirit; it simply means we have finally *recognized* our specific importance in the divine plan, and that we are willing to take our part in it. Only as we make the conscious step, can God make us an integral part.

Baptism is the commissioning of a person into full-time Christian living. A nurse studies for a certain number of years to be a nurse – but until she has received her pin, and is commissioned, she does not actually begin her work with authority.

And until we are commissioned, we cannot begin our appointed work with authority. Anything less is unlicensed and not recognized by God as Kingdom work. Baptism is his hand upon us.

Prayer: Lord, help me to carry with pride and gratitude this trust you have placed in me. Give me grace and wisdom, patience and love to perform it well. AMEN

TUESDAY

“WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?”

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 18:15-18

(Kingdom Parables – Matthew 13:17-51)

From the time we are children, we Christians should be taught to recognize the presence of those two kingdoms of which Christ often speaks:

“The kingdoms of this world” – the visible, materialistic level which everyone recognizes because everyday life is geared to it . . . books, TV commercials, movies, business, the arts are all teasers of our physical senses, designed to satisfy the Self.

Then there is that invisible Kingdom of Heaven which is geared to the soul or spirit of men . . . which tugs at our deepest feelings, our need to find God, our conscience, our remorse and our job. The Kingdom of Heaven – to which our inner life belongs; where man truly “lives” or dies; the part ruled by our Lord.

Even a child can understand this. A child is familiar with the things that are unseen but felt and children can sense God and the undercurrent of his presence often more readily than adults. They still trust.

And Jesus tells us that unless we “turn and become like children,” we can never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. He is speaking here not of ignorance but of trust. *Turn* from having to know it all – to trusting God in what he says. The Kingdom of Heaven is that area where we move constantly in the presence and awareness of God and of his Son, our Lord.

Prayer: Father, the spiritual things are difficult to see only when I refuse to trust your Word. Give me faith, I pray, to believe and follow. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

CHRISTMAS EVE

The story of Christmas as told in the Bible:

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7

Matthew 1:18-2:12

Luke 1:26-55, 2:1-20

“He came to his own, and His own received him not. But to those who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives power to become children of God – who are born, not of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God.”

John 1:11-14

“This is life eternal: that they know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent.”

John 17:3

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we bow in awe and amazement at Your love and faithfulness to us. We thank Thee for knowing so long ago how much we would need a Savior. We thank Thee for giving a promise to those in darkness that you would send a light – a Son, so pure and powerful, so full of love and compassion that no man, woman, or child, putting out their hands to Him, would be turned away. We thank Thee for Mary’s trust, for the selflessness and humility of Joseph as he stepped aside so that You, as Almighty God, could bring to the world your only Son, our Lord. God, let Christ move in our midst this day; please let us feel Him living – as He Promised He would come to those who believe. We lift up our hearts to Thee this day in gratitude, amazement, and joy for the gift of Your love. AMEN

THURSDAY

CHRISTMAS DAY

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:12-14 Luke 1:26-31

When you read the Christmas story, don’t be afraid to believe it. It really happened. There really were angels coming down in a bright light, and the shepherds really saw them. There really were wise men who followed that strange light from distant countries to bring gifts to the infant King.

Today, of all times in history, we should have no trouble believing! So many breathtaking things have occurred in our century. And yet, when it comes to things which God has done for us, we draw back, actually doubting our own Creator.

What joy we lose when that happens. If we cannot believe in the wonder of Christ’s birth, we are left with just another holiday. If we don’t accept it as God’s gift to us, then all we experience is the frantic search for gifts for people we sometimes hardly know.

Then when Christmas Eve comes with its quiet expectation, we experience intense loneliness and abandonment instead of the reassurance of God’s very special presence. When Christmas morning dawns, unless we are blessed with family, there is no one with whom to share the energy and love we want to give.

So believe! God kept his promise. He did send his Son, and the Kingdom of God has begun on earth. It will grow within us and around us, and we will never again be alone, if we can come to him as the wise men and shepherds did so long ago.

Prayer: O God, forgive me when I pull back from believing in the things you have given us. Help me to accept your omnipotence your love, and this beautiful, beautiful gift of your Son. AMEN