



SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

DAILY DEVOTIONS

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

APRIL 26 – May 2, 2020

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Sunday, April 26, 2020

Guided by God

“If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways, how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes! Psalm 81:13-14

One of the hardest aspects of the Christian life is to learn to submit to God in everything. We want to sometimes ask God for His wisdom, but it is hard for us to grasp. When it comes to making decisions, we only ask God after we have tried it our way.

In God we must trust. Our lives must be one that we obey the commandments of God. Jesus said, “whoever loses his life will preserve it” (Luke 17:33) Our happiness is richer when we listen to God.

Prayer: Dear God, help us not to pursue our own interests but help us to desire your will for our lives. Teach us, show us, Guide us. Thank you for your guidance every day and in every way. AMEN.

Song. I give myself away

I give myself away

So You can use me

I give myself away

I give myself away

So You can use me (I Give myself away, William McDowell)

Monday, April 27, 2020

UNLEASHING HOPE

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5

Hope is a manifestation of love that places our confidence in our Lord. It is the expectation that we have more and better things to come. We have the confidence that God is holding and molding us in all that we go through. Hope is not just our forward outlook to be in Christ forever, but hope produces our joy in abundant life today.

Tough circumstances are no match for the kind of inner strength fueled by hope. It's the difference between a situation destroying your future and a situation galvanizing your potential. Build your hope in God. Hope liberates. Hope motivates. Hope initiates. Hope activates.

Prayer: Lord, help us to remember that you have re4deemed us, will bless us, and will take care of us. We know that you are loving and creating your purpose in us. Help us to not lean on our own feeble ways and thinking but to HOPE in you. Help me to direct others to hope in you. AMEN.

Song: I'm Looking for a miracle, I expect the impossible, I feel the intangible & I see the invisible. The Sky is the limit, To what I can have, Just believe and receive it, God will perform it today (I'm Looking for a miracle, The Clark Sisters)

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

THE GRACE OF GOD

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10

The way we continually talk about our own inability is an insult to our Creator. To complain over our incompetence is to accuse God falsely of having overlooked us. Get into the habit of examining from God's perspective.

Grace is the unearned gift that God bestows upon His children. God has extended His grace so that we might be saved. Though we deserved destruction. Though we still fall short. It is God's grace that helps us relate to God and blesses us with the riches of heaven. God's grace brings peace in troublesome times. God's grace brings us good things every day. It is because of God's grace that we can testify today. Everything we are is because of God. If God were to withhold His power for one brief instant from us, if God were to hold in check the breath of life for one moment, our physical existence would shrivel into nothing. Take a deep breath and Thank God for grace. Take a deep breath and know that God is in control, God's grace is helping to reveal the purpose and plan of who you are and will become.

Prayer: Lord, All that I have or am has been given to me by Your almighty hands. Forgive me when I tend to boast about my own accomplishments—for I am nothing without Your grace and love. Thank you for your grace. AMEN.

Song: Where would I be, If not for your grace
Carrying in me, In every season (GRACE, Israel and New Breed)

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:18-20

Off in the distance, Andrew and Peter saw the silhouette of a man walking along the shore as they went about their routine, mending and throwing their nets. When the man got close, they gave Him a friendly nod, expecting Him to pass by. Instead, He said, "Follow me, I will make you fishers of people." Andrew and Peter dropped their nets, went with Jesus and changed the world.

The most critical words are that Christ says, "I will make you!". Andrew and Peter were not immediately changed but living and trusting in Jesus their lives were being changed. Jesus was remaking them as he taught them, trained them, loved them, served them and walked with them. Ultimately the value of their purpose when He dies for them. We too need to not only drop our nets and follow Jesus but to wait with Him in prayer as He remakes us. Maybe this is the moment that Christ is providing that you might grow in Him.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I will listen to your invitation to follow and to fish for people. Let me be a living testimony for your glory. As I wait with You, I will hold on to Your promise to remake me for your purpose. AMEN.

Song: He changed, my life complete, and now I sit I sit at his feet. To do what must be done I'll work and work, until he comes
A wonderful change has come over me (Changed, Walter Hawkins)

Thursday, April 30, 2020

RIGHT ON TIME

*I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and
heard my cry. Psalm 40:1*

Patience is one of the hardest virtues for us to understand. We pray to an omnipotent God. We know God is able to help us at any moment. We know that God has the power to change our circumstances, but Lord why the delay?

Nowhere in the Bible does God promise us instant answers to our prayers. God promises though to answer our prayers. Yes we have needs but know that God's delays are not necessarily His denial. God is never late, but always right on time. Trust God that He is doing a necessary work of us and someone else. Maybe God is trying to tell us something. Trust the process. It's a part of God's plan.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be patience. In times that you delay my plans let your plan prevail. Help me to know in walk in your way. Let me walk and wait in faith and expectancy. Thank you that you know what is best for me. Your timing is always perfect. AMEN.

Song: Can't nobody do me like Jesus,
Can't nobody do me like the Lord.
Can't nobody do me like Jesus,
Can't nobody do me like the Lord (Can't Nobody do me
Like Jesus, Andrae Crouch)

Friday, May 1, 2020

RESET AND READY

Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:3

God has a purpose in our heartaches. Many are now using computers to complete various tasks daily. Companies are offering work at home options and internet is becoming more readily available. I often think about times when I am working on the computer and for some reason something is not working properly. We can try this and that and one of the last results is to press reset. Pressing Reset seems easy to do but it comes with risks.

Well, our loving God has pressed the reset button in our lives to prepare us to serve Him. When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances, don't let it surprise you but remember that God is inviting us to ask Him for wisdom.

Prayer: Dear God, help me to understand that though I am engulfed in trials and tribulations but you are with me. Thank you that you are capable to handle and meet all my needs. Prepare me for the journey ahead that I might be prepared for greater usefulness. AMEN.

Song: I trust in God wherever I may be,
Upon the land, or on the rolling sea,
For come what may, from day to day,
My heav'nly Father watches over me. (William C. Martin)

Saturday, May 2, 2020

REFOCUS

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:28-29

Jesus had sent the disciples ahead, but they got caught in a storm and struggled for six hours without making any progress toward the other side of the lake. They see Jesus walking on the water but only Peter is willing to get out the boat.

Today, storms are raging: financial storms, relationship storms, faith storms, emotional storms, personal storms, storms from our past, storms from our families and so on. We need to be like Peter and understand that Jesus is the only one who can’t drown in a storm.

Even Peter took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink in the water before Jesus reached out a hand and restored his faith. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Jesus is the only truly safe companion in a storm and even when we feel ourselves sinking, Jesus will reach out His hand to us.

Prayer: Gracious God, Help me to get out of my boat and walk to You. Let me not rest in my situations but help me to follow you. There is a purpose in all of this. If I sink, save me, and let’s keep walking together in the storm. AMEN.

Song: I want Jesus to walk with me, I want Jesus to walk with me, All along my pilgrim journey, I want Jesus to walk with me In my trial, Lord, walk with me, In my trials, Lord, walk with me When the shades of life are falling, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me