

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 5, 2023

SUNDAY

Scripture: *“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”* Luke 5:16

Devotional: Why is time alone with God so important? Why can't just going to church, a community group, or a Bible study be enough? Those of us who have grown up in church or have been going to church for many years have been told that time spent alone with God is vital to our relationship with him. Many of us, however, were never given a reason why. And in order for us to consistently and effectively engage in this crucial practice, we must understand why it is so important.

Here's what we learn from Scripture about having time alone with God. Scripture makes it abundantly clear that Jesus spent time alone with his heavenly Father. Luke 5:16 states, *“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”* Mark 1:35 states, *“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”* Often in Scripture, Jesus withdrew from the crowd to pray. So the first reason to spend time alone with God is because Jesus did. If Jesus needed time alone with his heavenly Father, we can all be sure we need it even more. Jesus walked in God's presence constantly. Jesus constantly responded to God's will for his life. He is our perfect example. And even still, he needed time alone with God.

We also see from Jesus' example that time alone with God empowers us to carry out God's purpose for our life. It was after withdrawing into the wilderness in Luke 4 that he began performing miracles. Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane filled with grief and sorrow, asking God for a way other than his own death to achieve salvation for his people. After spending time alone with God, he came out of the garden empowered to endure the worst atrocity in history. Spending time alone with God empowers us to live a life filled with a knowledge of God's purposes and the ability to faithfully see them through.

Lastly, Jesus is clear in Matthew 6:5-6 how we are to pray. Scripture says, *“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”* God rewards time spent alone with him in prayer. It's by praying in

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secret that we clearly and tangibly encounter God's love for us. It's by spending time engaging in conversation with the Spirit that we learn what his voice sounds like. It's by asking God questions that we discover his will. And it's by spending time alone with him that our lives become centered around his nearness and goodness.

All of the money in the world cannot buy the rewards God longs to give you. All the favor of men will not satisfy your insatiable desire to be fully known and fully loved. Receive right now the best gift you could be offered, one-on-one communion with your heavenly Father.

Guided Prayer:

1. Wherever you are, find a place to get alone and pray. Seek out a place that you can find solitude that will be uninterrupted.

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16

"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed." Mark 1:35

2. Read and pray through this Scripture. May God give you a revelation of his provision and love for you as you pray Jesus's model prayer.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Matthew 6:9-13

3. Engage in conversation with God. Ask him how he feels about you. Come before him with anything that is weighing you down and lay your burdens at his feet. Rest in the peace that comes from his presence.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

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March 6, 2023

MONDAY

Scripture: *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”* Matthew 7:13-14

Devotional: There is a life available to us as believers that few find—a life free from burden, fear, boredom, and emptiness. The problem is that the road to life requires a complete sacrifice of ourselves. The road to purpose, passion, joy and freedom requires that we die to ourselves every hour of every day. Jesus made the way to freedom open and clear for us. Scripture serves as the perfect practical handbook to walk that narrow road. And the Holy Spirit serves as the perfect guide and friend along the way. We have everything we need available to us; however, most of us lack a willingness to sacrifice fully so that the seeds of our surrender lead to the fruition of an abundant life.

Jesus charges us to lose our lives in order to gain life with God. In Matthew 10:39 he says, *“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”* The only way for you to truly find abundant life in God is to surrender your life for his sake. In fact, all of creation testifies to this truth. Think for a second of those trying to find their lives on their own instead of in God. Humans have an insatiable lust for affection, purpose, security, and love. No matter how loved a person is by society, it’s never enough. No matter how much money a person makes, they could always make a little more. No matter how driven a person is, there is always more they could be doing. We are lost without God.

Seeing these people makes me evaluate my own life and search for areas I haven't surrendered to God yet. Thinking about their insatiable lust for more makes me look for my own. I *need* my life to have purpose. I *need* to be loved, to have freedom, and to feel satisfied. I experience satisfaction only inasmuch as I have surrendered my life to God. God will not fill what is closed off to him. He does not force his will upon us. Rather, he waits patiently, quietly beckoning us to lose our lives so that he can lavish on us a life greater and more filled with his goodness than we could have ever imagined.

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Our Father longs for us to be loved completely. He longs for us to be completely secure by trusting him. He longs for us to be fully satisfied. Will you answer his beckoning today? Will you choose to trust him? He is so faithful—more faithful than you will ever fully know. You cannot count all the ways in which he desires to love you. The immense depth of his love is bottomless. But will you spend your life trying to search it out? Proverbs 25:2 says *“It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.”* Will you search out the depths of God’s love today? Will you make as much room in your heart as possible for him to come dwell? Will you lose your life today so that you may find it in him? The road is narrow. It will take work. It will take sacrifice. It will take everything. But you will gain immeasurably more in return.

Listen to the Spirit today as you enter into guided prayer and respond in whatever ways he leads you.

Guided Prayer:

1. Take a minute to quiet your heart and mind. Open your hands as a sign of being ready to receive anything God would show you.

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

2. Ask the Lord to show you anything in your life that isn't in his will. Pay attention to anything that comes up in your mind. It could be a person, place, thing, habit, recurring thought, etc.

3. Surrender anything in your life that isn't God's will for you. Confess any sin that's holding you back from the fullness of life available to you in Jesus. Ask God for wisdom on how to let go of anything that stands between a deep and intimate relationship with Him. Ask him for grace and help to mend any relationships that he desires to heal. Surrender the entirety of your heart that you would be fully his today.

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7

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March 7, 2023

TUESDAY

Scripture: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional: You were created to enjoy God. The Westminster shorter catechism says, “Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” David wrote in Psalm 16:11, *“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* We were designed to seek enjoyment in God. We were made to delight ourselves in his goodness, his provision, the wonders of his creation, and the simplicity of his unconditional love.

So important—so powerful—is finding enjoyment in God that it has the power to set us free from sin. You see, when we don't seek enjoyment in God we will naturally seek it in the world. We can't live our lives apart from pleasure. We aren't created to live without happiness, love, passion, and joy.

Most of us have been indoctrinated to the idea that we sin because we aren't controlled enough. We believe that if we could just get rid of a need for pleasure or enjoyment, we'd be free. Self-control is absolutely crucial in experiencing freedom from sin, but we will never be able to rid ourselves of our immense need to enjoy life. We will never stop seeking pleasure because we were made to be satisfied in the riches of God's love.

Until you establish a daily rhythm of enjoying God, you will never experience true freedom from sin. Until your longing to be fully known and fully loved is satisfied in the wealth of God's affection for you, you will never stop seeking it elsewhere. Until you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are cared for, thought about, loved, and wanted by your Creator, you will never stop trying to satisfy those needs in others.

Psalm 34:8 says, *“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”* Take time today to taste and see that your heavenly Father is truly good. Allow him to fill you with a revelation of his love. Rest in his presence. And as you enjoy God, allow him to draw you deeper in toward his heart and away from the cares and pursuits of the world.

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Guided Prayer:

1. Reflect on your need for joy and pleasure. Look at your own life and acknowledge your need for passion, purpose, happiness, peace and joy.

2. In what ways are you seeking fulfillment in the world? What sin in your life is the result of not being fully satisfied in God? Who or what are you turning to for fulfillment instead of God?

3. Take time to let God to satisfy your longings. Open your heart to God and let him reveal the depths of his love. Let his love for you begin to draw you near.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” James 4:8

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!” Psalm 34:8

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says, *“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”* Through the Holy Spirit, you can know how God feels about you. You have access to a limitless wealth of affection and unconditional love. God has unimaginable things prepared for you simply because he loves you. May you find total fulfillment today in the goodness and love of your heavenly Father.

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March 8, 2023

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: *“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God, a sweet fragrance.”* Ephesians 5:2
AMP

Devotional: Think about the death of Jesus for a moment. Picture how horrific the scene would have been to witness in person. Now try and imagine witnessing it from the Father’s perspective. Think about how he saw, heard, felt, knew, and wept over everything that happened to Jesus. Think about how he felt placing the sin of the world, the sin of you and me, on the shoulders of his perfect and undeserving Son.

I ask you to imagine all of that for one reason—to gain perspective on the unfathomable love of God as expressed in Ephesians 5:2. Scripture says, *“walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God, a sweet fragrance.”* When I read that verse initially I skipped over a life changing phrase: *“a sweet fragrance.”* With all the Father witnessed that day, with all the suffering Jesus faithfully endured, God still considers Jesus’ death *“a sweet fragrance.”* How is that possible? How could anyone consider the death of Jesus a sweet fragrance, let alone the Father?

Such is the incredible depth of God’s love for us that he would count the atrocities committed against his Son as a sweet fragrance. Such is the enormity of God’s desire for restored relationship with us that he would look upon the death of his Son with favorable remembrance.

I don’t think we as God’s children understand the joy our Father feels when we spend time with him. I don’t think we understand the depth of his love that he would pay the highest price simply to have unhindered relationship with us again. While meditating on this Scripture I realized I had never once thought about how tirelessly God has been working since Adam and Eve sinned simply to be able to enjoy his people again—to walk with them as he once had.

The death of Jesus was a turning point in the scope of eternity. His sacrifice meant a change from all of humanity opposing God to the crown of his creation returning to his fold. When God placed the sin of humanity on Christ’s shoulders he was able to take the position of the father in the story

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of the prodigal son, running out to meet us as we are—his children finally able to return home to him for good.

God so longed for communion with you that he paid the ultimate price. He counts you worthy of the death of his Son. Let that truth shape your identity. Let God's love be the foundation for your perspective, thoughts, emotions and actions today. May your heart be stirred to live in light of God's unconditional love. May you be rooted in the unshakable nature of your heavenly Father. And may you live today in the eternal embrace of God, knowing that you are wholly and forever his beloved.

Guided Prayer:

1. Meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus. Allow Scripture to form a foundation of unconditional love for your heart.

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.” 1 Peter 3:18

“He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.” Hebrews 9:12

2. Meditate on who you are as a child of God. Form your identity around the truth of Scripture.

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9-10

3. Ask God to reveal the depth of his love for you. Rest in the reality of his nearness. Let him fill your heart with his love to overflowing.

“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19

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March 9, 2023

THURSDAY

Scripture: *“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”* Zephaniah 3:17

Devotional: Hardly a verse in all of Scripture sums up the heart of God for his people better than Zephaniah 3:17. As we walk through this passage today I pray your life would be transformed by the reality of God’s nearness and the depth of his love for you. Scripture says,

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

“*God is in our midst*”—take a moment to consider that fact. God is not far off; in fact, he is with you right now. If you are a Christian, his Spirit dwells within you, fellowshiping with your spirit. Psalm 139:7 says, *“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”* God’s presence is with you right now. He is in your midst.

He is *“a mighty one who will save.”* As a believer you have been saved not of your own accord, but by the humble, loving sacrifice of Jesus. If you have confessed your faith in Christ, you are his forever and nothing can take away your salvation. Rejoice in him today; the Almighty God has come for you, and you now have nothing to fear. Salvation is yours in him; you are a child of God.

“He will rejoice over you with gladness.” To rejoice over you means to rejoice in who you are. Do you believe that God rejoices in who you are? The world is in the business of convincing you that you’re nothing to rejoice about. Your enemy constantly points out things you do wrong, attempting to convince you that you aren’t lovable—that you are worthless. But the Bible says that God will rejoice over you with gladness. God believes that you are worth the death of his Son, and there is nothing you can do to change his mind. He rejoices over you today.

“He will quiet you with his love.” How often do you allow God to do this? How often do you take time to let him quiet your life with his love? This is his promise, but like any other gift it has to be received. His desire is to bring a quiet peace to the stress and worry of your world. You have God’s peace

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available to you any time you are willing to surrender your heart and be filled with his presence.

“He will exult over you with loud singing.” To exult over you means to show or feel elation or jubilation, as the result of a success. Do you know that God sees you as a success? The story of Scripture is God creating mankind for the purpose of having communion and fellowship with us. He lost that perfect communion when mankind chose sin over him, and he has been working to restore it ever since. With the death of Jesus, the curse is broken, our sin is paid for, and we are now able to walk in restored relationship with God. God now has what he has longed for all this time—you. He exults over you because there is nothing between you and him. To God simply having relationship with you makes you a success already.

As a believer you can live out of the great victory God has achieved in you. You get to meet with God face to face. God is present with you today, desiring to do all that Zephaniah 3:17 promises. Allow God to come and fulfill his promises in your life as you enter into guided prayer.

Guided Prayer:

- 1. Receive God's presence by meditating on this truth: God is in your midst.**
- 2. Receive the quiet heart that his love brings as you meditate on Scripture.**
- 3. Allow the truth of Scripture to go deeper into your heart.**

Your Father rejoices over you with gladness. He exults over you with loud singing. You are a success in his eyes.

When the cares of the world come and crowd out the peace of God's presence, turn your attention toward him and receive what he has already promised to give you. Memorizing a verse like Zephaniah 3:17 will help you consistently experience the promises of God. Meditating on it throughout your day is the best gift you could give yourself today. Make some time to memorize Zephaniah 3:17 that it might become more than words on a page and produce transforming, transcendent peace and joy.

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March 10, 2023

FRIDAY

Scripture: *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”* 1 John 3:1

Devotional: As a follower of Jesus you have been brought into the family of God. Take a moment to let that truth sink in. Think about what it means to have God, the Creator of the universe, the embodiment of Perfect Love, as your Father. So often we lose sight of the fact that God is our Father and view him through perspectives not aligned with Scripture. We view God through lenses the world and unfortunate experiences have given us rather than a revelation of him as a good Father given to us by the revolutionary teaching of Jesus.

In Matthew 7:9-11 Jesus teaches us, *“Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”* You have a Father who loves to give you good gifts. So often we think of God as a harsh disciplinarian who never lets his kids enjoy life. We assume he will say no to anything that gives us pleasure as if he only wanted us to go to church more, pray more, or give more time and money. But that’s not the heart of your Father. Your God is the author of joy, pleasure, happiness, and good gifts. He longs for your life to be filled with the perfect gifts he has planned for you every day. John 10:10 says, *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* As your perfect Shepherd, God will faithfully guide you to and supply you with all you need to live marked by fullness of life.

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus displays the heart of the Father when he says, *“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”* As our Father, God longs for us as his children to simply be with him. He longs for us to know his love and embrace—to let it be the foundation of everything we do. More than God desires any task of you, he longs for your heart. So great was his desire for just the opportunity of relationship with you that Jesus displayed the fullness of God’s unconditional love by willingly laying down his life for you. There is no room in Scripture to view God as anything but perfectly loving and good. View God as the good Father he is, and run to him with open arms and an open heart that you might find fullness of life in his eternal embrace.

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Take time in guided prayer to allow God's presence to overcome misconceptions you might have about him. Often if we've been in church for long enough we stop at a theological understanding of God the Father and don't allow time and space for him to heal our hearts and transform our lives. Don't let that happen today! You have a good Father who loves and longs to simply meet with you. Spend time with him today getting lost in the sweetness of restored relationship.

Guided Prayer:

1. Receive God's presence as you meditate on Scripture.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1

2. Ask God how he feels about you. Listen and quiet your soul to receive a revelation of his heart.

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." Augustine

3. Where do you need to apply God's character to your life? In what ways are you living as if God was a taskmaster rather than a good Father? In what ways are you seeking to provide for yourself rather than working to receive provision God has already promised?

In every trial and circumstance you face today, God has a plan to lead you perfectly. He is not a God who sits back and watches as we try to figure life out. He wants to get involved in all that you do, just as a perfect father wants to help his children succeed and live with joy. Ask God what he thinks about what you're doing. If you run into a problem today, ask for the Spirit's guidance. Doing your day with God is the absolute best way to live. He knows everything and has a perfect plan for you! Take time today to listen to God and trust his leading.

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March 11, 2023

SATURDAY

Scripture: *“I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”* John 17:26

Devotional: John 17 is an incredibly significant passage of Scripture for Christians today. Jesus prayed perfectly in accordance with the will of the Father, in submission to him during his time on earth. Therefore, everything Jesus prayed, God will accomplish. Part of the beauty of their oneness is shared desires. In John 17:26, Jesus prays to the Father, *“I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”* Imagine that! Jesus says we can have the same love in us with which God the Father loved Jesus. Think of the magnitude of love the Father has for his Son, and now think about God having that same magnitude of love for you! You are his beloved, his prized possession. Your heavenly Father gave up his own Son to have a personal relationship with you, to be able to pour his vast love out on you.

The Bible describes David as a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). He was a man who delighted in God's love and experienced the joy of his presence throughout various seasons of life. In Psalm 16:5-11 David wrote, *“The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* When I read David’s words I can't help but desire his joy and security. I am filled with a desire to know that kind of love in my own life. Psalm 16 makes me desire to have God as *“my chosen portion,”* and I wholeheartedly want to experience *“pleasures forevermore.”* What about you?

Allow your desires be stirred to experience for yourself the immeasurable love with which God has loved Jesus. Know that it’s not only your desire to experience love, but the desire of your heavenly Father as well (John 17:26).

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In what areas of your life do you need to “*set the Lord always before*” you? What areas do you need him to be “*at [your] right hand?*” In the Lord, there truly are “*pleasures forevermore.*”

Take time today to simply delight in your God, and allow his presence to flood the dry, weary places of your heart. You are his chosen portion, the apple of his eye. God gave up his only Son for the chance to meet with you right now. Simply open up your heart and delight in the love of your heavenly Father.

Guided Prayer:

1. Meditate on John 17:26. Allow Scripture to give you a better revelation of the depth of God’s love for you.

“That the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” John 17:26

2. Where do you need to delight in the love of God today? Where is your life not marked by the fullness of joy David described in Psalm 16?

“In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11

3. Now simply delight in the love of God for you, the very same love that he has for his Son, Jesus Christ.

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

Every day is a battle to root yourself in the love of God. But it is a battle worth fighting. It's a battle waged within the depths of your soul—the fight between what God and the world says matters. When you make more space for God to fill by ridding yourself of the ways of the world, his heart and mind will become your own. What matters to him will begin to matter to you. Keeping his love in perspective will become as natural as breathing. The fullness of relationship with him is meant to be our source, portion, strength and desire. Give way to his loving kindness today, and let the cares of the world go in light of his goodness and grace.

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March 12, 2023

SUNDAY

Scripture: *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* Psalm 147:3

Devotional: One of my favorite chapters in all of Scripture is Psalm 147. It’s a psalm laden with the wondrous works of God, rich with imagery and powerful in stirring our affections for God. In it we learn that God *“determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names,”* and that he *“covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.”*

The verse that I want to emphasize for us today, however, is verse 3: *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* Jesus was a perfect example of God’s heart to do this very thing. All throughout his ministry Jesus healed those around him physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Scripture gives us insight into characters such as Mary Magdalene, who was delivered of demon possession and brought into close friendship with Christ himself. Jesus healed her spiritually, emotionally, and physically by delivering her from oppression and being her friend. Then there’s Paul. Before Jesus revealed himself to Paul, he was Saul, a man committed to destroying the very movement of Christianity that he would later give his life to build. He was a driven, successful, and prideful man. He was a religious zealot of great discipline, but a man far away from the heart of God. However, after meeting Jesus and being healed of his former ways, he was able to confidently say he counted all things *“as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”*

God has the same heart for you he had for Mary and Paul. He knows the wounds that people, circumstances, and sin have caused in your life. He knows what you struggle with, the habits and addictions that hold you back from living the abundant life he has planned for you. And he has both a desire and plan to heal those wounds. God desires to heal your heart right now. You don’t have to wait to encounter the power of God. God wants you to live a life receptive to all the love and blessing he longs to give you.

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Let the stories of Mary and Paul fill you with a longing to encounter more of God. Allow what God has done in others' lives to stir up a yearning to be healed by God yourself. Wait on the Lord, open your heart to him, and let him do what he has promised to do in you. He's promised his healing, transformation, and abundant life. All that's left is for you to receive the gift of healing he longs to give as you follow the leading of the Holy Spirit today.

Take time to press into the heart of God to heal you today as you enter into a time of guided prayer.

Guided Prayer:

1. Meditate on God's desire to heal any broken places in your life as revealed in Scripture.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

2. Tell God of the places in your heart that are broken. Your wounds could go back to your childhood or just yesterday. Either way, God desires to heal anything that's holding you back from fullness of life in him.

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise." Jeremiah 17:14

3. Take action where God is leading you. Sometimes healing comes through forgiveness, a conversation, or taking some extra time to pray and be with God. Ask him how he feels about any wounds from your past, any broken relationships, or any recurring sin in your life. Journal what he says.

Healing is often a process, but know that God desires to lead you through every step of the way. If he puts it on your heart to forgive someone or to have a hard conversation, know that it's best for you. While it may be hard today, your life will be better because of it. Even if the person that hurt you has passed away, you can still forgive that person. As these issues begin to come up, take time to be in God's presence and allow him to heal the broken places in your life. God has healing and transformation in store for you, and that life is available to you right now.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 13, 2023

MONDAY

Scripture: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9

Devotional: As much as God hates sin because of its destructive effects on us and others, he hates even more that something could come between our relationship with him. Because he desired a relationship with us, God sent his Son to pay the price for our restoration. And it’s because of his continued love for us that he forgives us the very moment we repent of our sin. There’s no price to pay. There’s no time we have to spend outside of his perfect love. Jesus paid the price for every sin you and I will ever commit.

Think for a moment about your normal routine after you sin. What process do you usually go through before you feel restored to God? How long do you wait to repent? How much time do you usually let pass before you feel you can open your heart to God and enjoy him? It’s true that the consequences of sin can linger even after we ask forgiveness, but an obstacle in our relationship with God is not one of them. Jesus paid the highest price, his own life, so that nothing could ever come between us and God again. The Bible says in Romans 8:33-39,

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The depth of God’s unconditional love for you drives him to forgive you. Psalm 103:12 says, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”* After you confess your sin to him, he chooses to remember it no more. If you feel reminded of a transgression, it is not the voice of the Spirit. You have an enemy who lies constantly to form barriers between you and God. Because the enemy can no longer keep you from heaven, he will work tirelessly to wreck your relationship with God here on the earth. The moment you confess your sin to God is the moment there is nothing between you. Allow nothing to hinder your relationship

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

with your heavenly Father. Renew your mind to the truth of what God says about your sin. God's heart is to forgive you now and forever. His heart is to lead you into perfect relationship with him every day, all day. Say yes to God's leading today, and rid yourself of the condemnation of past sins he has already forgotten.

Guided Prayer:

1. Let the peace of God which surpasses all understanding fill your room right now.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

2. Now ask God to reveal any sin in your life, and take some time for confession. Again remember that God's heart is not to condemn, but to heal. Write down your confession if it helps you focus or remember.

3. Receive his forgiveness for your sin. An incredibly important part of confession is receiving forgiveness. Choose not to punish yourself any longer. Choose not to veil your heart before God because of shame. Align your heart with the truth that he chooses not to remember your sin after you confess.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Restoration with God so often hinges upon our choices. Will you choose to condemn yourself? Will you choose to listen to the voice of your enemy who reminds you of past transgressions? Or will you choose to trust God at his word and receive total restoration with the Father? The choice you make will profoundly impact your quality of life. You were made for unhindered relationship with God. Anything that gets in the way of you and him needs to be removed as quickly as possible. Receive his forgiveness today. Whenever you are reminded of past sin, align your heart with God's word through the renewing of your mind. Live in restored relationship with your heavenly Father today.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 14, 2023

TUESDAY

Scripture: *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”* Romans 8:26-27

Devotional: At salvation you were given the gift of God himself, the Spirit of Christ, dwelling within you. Ephesians 1:13-14 says, *“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”* And with the indwelling of the Spirit, friendship with God has been made available to greater depths than you can imagine. He longs to spend time with you like a friend. He longs for you to know how he feels, what he thinks is best and your heavenly Father’s heart for you.

Scripture teaches us a lot about the character of the Spirit. Acts 13:2 teaches us that the Spirit speaks: *“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”* In Ephesians 4:30 we learn that the Spirit feels emotions like grief: *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* Romans 8:26-27 teaches us that the Spirit is our Helper and prays for us: *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”* Friendship with the Spirit is one of God’s greatest gifts to us. He speaks to us, is emotionally invested in our lives, helps us in our weakness and prays for us when we don’t have the words.

So great is God’s love for you that he sent his Spirit to dwell with you. So great is his desire for continued relationship with you that, in his grace, he has given you himself as a constant companion. Another important characteristic of the Spirit, however, is that he will not force relationship on you. He speaks when you listen, he gives you revelation as you open your mind to receive it, and he leads you as you ask for his guidance. The Spirit is full of incredible power but also incredible meekness and humility. He is

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both powerful and respectful. If you ask for a deeper friendship with the Holy Spirit, you will find he is the best friend you have ever known.

Take time as you enter into guided prayer to get to know the Holy Spirit like a friend. In his book *The Pursuit of God* A.W. Tozer writes, "Religion, so far as it is genuine, is in essence the response of created personalities to the creating personality, God." The Holy Spirit has a personality. He has likes and dislikes. He feels, thinks, enjoys, likes, suffers, and desires. May your time in prayer be filled with new levels of friendship with the Spirit of God dwelling within you.

Guided Prayer:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal his nearness to you. Take time to acknowledge his presence.

"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13-14

2. Give thanks to the Spirit for who he is. Thank him for his presence in your life. Thank him for his desire to speak to you, lead you, help you and pray for you.

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27

3. Now ask the Spirit how he's currently feeling. Ask him his perspective on anything in your life or the world around you. Listen and pay attention to any inclination you feel brought to mind. Journal what he says.

Friendship with the Spirit is like any other friendship in that it develops over time. Like a new friend, you must get to know his character and personality. Spend time just talking with him, listening to him and allowing him to work in your heart and life. He is an incredible gift given to you. He is your gateway to experiencing the things of God. Walk in relationship with him, follow his guidance, and make a new best friend in the Holy Spirit.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 15, 2023

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: *“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”* Jeremiah 33:3

Devotional: For too much of my Christian life I believed God didn't like to talk. My experience led me to think that God only spoke a few times in history and only to people like Moses, David or Paul, but never to a person like me. Then one day God spoke to me. I asked him a question out of desperation and he spoke. The Creator of the universe broke through the walls of my misconceptions and spoke to my heart in a voice so clear it couldn't be mistaken.

After God spoke to me so clearly, I began to take time to listen. And in making space for God to speak, my life began to be transformed by consistent, internal conversation with my heavenly Father. You see, Scripture makes it clear that God loves to talk with his children. John 8:47 says, *“Whoever is of God hears the words of God.”* Jeremiah 33:3 says, *“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”* Isaiah 55:3 says, *“Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.”* Psalm 32:8 says, *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”* The list of Scriptures goes on and on. In story after story the people of God hear God and know his will. The Bible is clear that God speaks to all of us as his children in a way we can understand through any and every means possible.

God speaks through all sorts of avenues. Most assuredly, he speaks to us through his Word. The Bible is one of our greatest gifts as Christians. It is the very word of God, *“living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). God also speaks directly to us through his Holy Spirit. John 16:13 says, *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”* And Scripture reveals how God speaks through his creation. Romans 1:20 says that God's *“invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”*

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

God loves to speak. He isn't silent. He isn't distant. He longs for you to live with the knowledge of his love and perfect will. The question isn't whether God speaks. The question is, will you listen? Will you choose to submit yourself to him—to receive and obey what he would tell you? The first time God spoke directly to me he asked me to do something incredibly difficult. It didn't make total sense. But I knew he spoke. And in submission I obeyed his command and my life has been different ever since.

Listen to God today. Quiet your soul and receive the gift of conversation with your heavenly Father. God has placed his Spirit within you—closer to you than you can fully comprehend. You are unified with God. Ask the Spirit to reveal to you God's word today. Ask God to make you aware of any and every avenue he desires to speak through. Then listen with an obedient, receptive heart to all the wonderful things he longs to tell you.

Guided Prayer:

1. Take time to quiet your soul. Confess anything that you feel is in the way of your relationship with God. Hand over to him anything that's troubling your mind. Receive his peace, and wait patiently for him to speak.

"Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live." Isaiah 55:3

2. Listen. Ask the Spirit how God feels about you. Ask him for his will and direction. Pay attention to any thoughts, inclinations or changes in your emotions that come from the Holy Spirit. Allow God to speak in any way he wants.

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Jeremiah 33:3

3. Now thank God for speaking. Worship him because he isn't distant. Let the truth of his nearness transform your perspective and emotions today.

Listen to God throughout your day. Engage with him in consistent conversation. Practice listening to him in all circumstances. Ask for his help and understanding in anything that troubles you. The rest of this week we'll be practicing hearing God through different ways he chooses to speak. May this week lead you into a deeper and more satisfying relationship with your heavenly Father as you engage with him in continual conversation.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 16, 2023

THURSDAY

Scripture: *“Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”* Deuteronomy 8:3

Devotional: Deuteronomy 8:3 teaches us that, *“Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”* The word of the Lord when planted in good soil produces abundant, life-giving fruit (Matthew 13:20-22). We have in Scripture a feast that satisfies the deepest places of our hearts no food or drink could ever satiate.

When you open your Bible, you are literally opening the words of God. Scripture is God’s voice available for you in every moment, situation, and predicament you face. You can know God desires to speak to you because you have in your possession his voice through the Bible. God desires to reveal to you his will because he has given you his Spirit to *“guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come”* (John 16:13).

When you read Scripture with the help of your teacher, the Holy Spirit, the Bible is no longer just a book written thousands of years ago but a source of life-giving revelation. Read the Bible prayerfully, paying attention to any words, phrases, or ideas that stand out to you. Allow God to apply Scripture directly to your life through his Spirit. And as you read, submit yourself to God’s word with a continual “yes” in your heart. Choose to be a doer of the word that you might be blessed in everything you do (James 1:22-25).

God’s word is only as impactful as you are willing to be obedient. The power of Scripture becomes evident as you daily submit yourself to it. So today as you read God’s word, ask the Spirit to highlight phrases and ideas, submit yourself in obedience to what Scripture says, and be a doer of the word. God is ready to speak to you. He is prepared to sow the seed of his voice wherever it’s welcome. Open your heart to the word of God, and allow it to produce the fruit of joy, peace, and purpose in your life.

Guided Prayer:

1. Ask the Spirit what you should read today. Pay attention to anything you feel like reading or pick from John 17 or Proverbs 3. Meditate on any phrases, words, or ideas that stand out to you.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

“Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 8:3

2. Submit yourself to the word of God. Allow Scripture to be the foundation for all your thoughts, emotions, and perspectives. Allow God’s word to influence and transform any parts of your life that don’t align with it.

3. Now commit yourself to follow through with any action that God’s word requires. Ask God what he would have you do with what he’s shown you. Choose to be a doer of the word.

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” James 1:22-25

If you aren’t in the habit of reading God’s word daily, look for a Bible reading plan or book of the Bible you can read consistently. We were made to feast on the life-giving words of Scripture. God’s word can’t produce abundant fruit in your life if you aren’t consuming it. May your day be transformed as you seek to live in faithful obedience to the word of God.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 17, 2023

FRIDAY

Scripture: *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”* John 16:13

Devotional: God desires to speak directly to you. As a good Father, he longs to engage with you in continual conversation. So great was his longing for communication that he’s given you the gift of the Holy Spirit. You now have access to the heart of God through the Spirit. You can know his will, hear his voice, and live with the knowledge of his love.

John 16:13 says, *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”* If you are a Christian, the *“Spirit of truth”* has come. He dwells within you. He longs to tell you how God feels about you. He longs to guide you to the Father’s perfect, hopeful, and pleasing plans (Jeremiah 29:11). His voice is perfect, full of love, and always truthful. He will never guide you into something that isn’t best for you. He will never speak hate or condemnation to you. As John 16:13 promises, he will declare to you what he hears the Father say.

Let the truth that God desires to have real, life-transforming conversations with you sink into your heart for a minute. Think about what it means for your own life to have communication with God. Your Creator longs to help you with your decisions, relationships, work, finances, and identity. God himself wants to talk with you about your life—to fully know you and be known by you.

Just as any good parent loves talking with their children, your heavenly Father loves talking to you, his child. You see, God speaking to you is so little about your ability to hear his voice and so much more about his desire for you to know him. His voice in your life is just another product of grace, God’s unmerited favor for those who believe. Like any conversation, you will only hear him when you are listening. And just like any good conversation, God longs to hear from you as well.

Hebrews 11:6 says, *“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he*

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rewards those who seek him.” Have faith that God longs to speak to you. Draw near to him in the assurance that he is already filled with love for you. The Holy Spirit longs to have a communicative relationship with you. Let the weight of conversation with God rest on his shoulders, trust in his word and his character, and listen to whatever he would speak to you today.

As you enter into guided prayer, take time to quiet your heart and listen to the voice of the Spirit.

Guided Prayer:

1. Take a moment to quiet your mind and soul. Receive God’s presence and meditate on the important truth that the Spirit speaks.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13

2. Now listen to God. If you have a situation, question or anything you want to ask him, now is the time! God longs for you to tell him what you want help with. If you just want to know how he feels about you, ask him! Again, the weight of God speaking is on him. Trust him and his timing. God does desire to speak to you.

3. Write down whatever God tells you. Rest in the goodness of what he’s spoken.

Communicating with God is similar to engaging in conversation with a close friend. I don’t go to my friend and ask them to tell me anything so I know they are real. Rather, I seek to know them as a person and conversation takes place as a result. Seek to know God as deeply as possible. Trust that he is real and that he speaks. Talk with him because you simply want to know him. And rest in the fact that you will have conversation with your loving heavenly Father throughout eternity. May your day be marked by life-giving conversation with the Holy Spirit.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 18, 2023

SATURDAY

Scripture: *“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”* Romans 1:20

Devotional: Nature has an ability to bring me peace in a way nothing else does. Sure, I get annoyed by bugs or tired from hiking. But seeing the beauty, creativity, and complexity of what God has made has had a profound effect on my spiritual life. Have you ever just spent some time in God’s creation? Maybe it was hiking, lying on the beach, swimming in an ocean or a lake, fishing, gazing over the Grand Canyon, driving through the mountains, watching a thunderstorm or just playing in the rain. Take a minute to reflect on that time and what you felt. Looking back, do think you might have felt God’s presence? Did the awe and wonder of nature’s splendor bring you peace, or even lead you to thoughts about God?

The more I’ve come to know God the more there has grown in me an adoration and appreciation for his creation. Romans 1:20 states that God’s *“invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”* Nature is meant to declare to us the *“invisible attributes”* of God. And Scripture is clear that God is at work in his creation—maintaining and facilitating all that happens in the world. Psalm 147:8-9, 15-18 tells us,

He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry... He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

When you see animals eating, you are witnessing God’s provision in the earth and can, as a result, know that he will provide for you. When you see snow fall, ice form, and springtime come to melt away the cold you can know that God is at work around you and in your life. To miss out on all creation speaks to us is to miss an important part of God’s voice. You see, while God does an incredible job taking care of a world wrought with the

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

effects of sin, he promises to take care of you even more. Jesus commands us in Matthew 6:26-30,

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Jesus teaches us to look upon creation and listen as it declares to us the nature of God. In fact, he commands us to do so. You can look at the grass of the field and know of God's unwavering faithfulness for you. You can look at the birds and never wonder if you will get your next meal. Nature declares to us that God has and will provide for us all of our days. Nature tells us not to worry because God is both powerful and near. Nature tells us that God is creative, practical, brilliant, loving, and full of mystery and wonder. Nature tells us that God speaks.

God created the cosmos so that you might have another mysterious yet clear way of hearing his voice. Whether you live in the city or country, look upon God's creation and listen for his voice. Ask him what he wants you to know as you see all the wonders of his hands. Let the beauty and mystery of all of God's creation fill you with a deeper longing to know your heavenly Father. Listen to God today and allow your heart to be stirred as you discover his unwavering desire to speak to you through his creation.

Guided Prayer:

- 1. Take some time to go out in God's creation.**
- 2. Now ask God what he wants to tell you through his creation.** Let him speak in whatever way he desires.
- 3. Meditate on the truth he reveals to your heart and take some time to rest in his presence.**

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

March 19, 2023

SUNDAY

Scripture: *“I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.”* Psalm 119:15

Devotional: The spiritual discipline of meditation does for the heart of a Christian what nutrients and good soil do for the seed of a plant. Through meditation the seed of God’s word takes root and produces life-giving, abundant fruit. Richard Foster in his book *Celebration of Discipline* wrote, “The purpose of meditation is to enable us to hear God more clearly. Meditation is listening, sensing, heeding the life and light of Christ. This comes right to the heart of our faith. The life that pleases God is not a set of religious duties; it is to hear His voice and obey His word. Meditation opens the door to this way of living.”

The Christian practice of meditation is, at its core, ruminating on the word of God. Meditation creates space for the Spirit to speak directly to our hearts and apply God’s word to our lives. When we ruminate on a passage of Scripture like Lamentations 3:22, *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end,”* we give God space to reveal all the ways in which his mercy and steadfast love are available to us. Meditation creates a pathway for Scripture to go past our minds and affect change within our hearts.

Another powerful aspect of Christian meditation is mulling over the character of God. Sometimes when I feel hopeless, I will take a few passages of Scripture about the hope God provides and meditate on them. And in the process of meditating on God’s perfect character my thoughts, perspectives, and emotions come in line with the unchanging nature of my heavenly Father. Meditating on who God is powerfully affects the way we view the world. It’s for this reason Psalm 1:1-3 declares,

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

SEASON OF PREPARATION DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Take time to meditate on Scripture today. Make space to listen to God and apply the seed of his word. Ruminates on his unchanging, perfect character. May your day be filled with abundant life as you bear the fruit of meditation.

Guided Prayer:

1. Choose a verse or aspect of God's character to meditate on.
2. Make space to hear from God as you meditate on his word or character. Allow the Spirit to apply God's word to your life as you meditate. Allow God's character to lay a foundation for your emotions.

"I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways." Psalm 119:15

3. Now take note of how the verse or phrase seems to have made an impact in the way you think, feel, or desire to act. Rejoice in the power of God's word to transform lives and hearts.

Meditation should be a daily practice for Christians. God's word was never meant to just be understood but to be alive and active in his children. Scripture is meant to direct us into becoming more like Jesus both internally and externally in our actions. Meditating is one of the best tools God has given us in taking the Bible from words on a page to a living and active lifestyle. May engaging in meditation transform your spiritual life into one filled with joy, power and fruit of the Spirit.