

Friday

DEFEATING ACCUSATION AND CONDEMNATION

Our weaknesses are no surprise to God. God strengthens us in areas where we have grown and encourages us in the areas where we still need to grow. God reassures us that His grace is sufficient to meet all our needs, and His power is sufficient to support us when we acknowledge our weakness.

Where the evil one says, "Failure," God says, "You are growing more and more like Jesus." How comforting and reassuring it is to know that God is aware that on our journey we will make mistakes as part of our growing and maturing.

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness ... we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us ... the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:26-28 NLT)

We need to let go of negative words from others or from our own self-criticism. God speaks the truth to us in love and He challenges us to do the same when we speak to others, or to ourselves. When we confess our sin and shortcomings to God and turn away from sin, God sees us through the blood of Jesus, which purifies us from all the wrongs we have done. God's word is trustworthy, and He will never accuse or condemn us for past sins which have been washed in the blood of Jesus.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1 NIV)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am glad that my weakness is no surprise to You. Thank You that I am free from all accusation and condemnation as I grow in my new life with You. Amen

Weekend

FILLED WITH WONDER

The Christmas season is one that is filled with wonder. It's not just about the excitement we see in the eyes of children as they see lights and presents and think about Santa Claus. It is about allowing our hearts and minds to be opened to the wonder of what actually occurred that first Christmas when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:18-20 NIV)

It is amazing that the God who created the heavens and the earth cared so much about mankind that He sent His Son into the world to be born as a vulnerable baby and to experience life on earth. The birth of any baby fills us with awe and wonder but the birth of Jesus was even more amazing because of who Jesus is, and the glory He set aside to come into this world and, by His sinless life, pay the penalty of sin for all mankind.

Too often we get jaded and disappointed by situations that don't turn out the way we want them to. Perhaps it's time to allow the great things that God has done to fill us with wonder and amazement. This God is beyond our wildest imagination and stands ready to gift us with His power and presence this Christmas season. Our part is to simply turn our will and life over to God's care and then watch in wonder and amazement at what He does on our behalf. ***Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us.*** (Psalm 40:5a NIV)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Fill my heart with Your love so I can be open to the wonder of journeying together with You as You reveal Your amazing plan for my life. Amen

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LIFE WITH GOD IN RECOVERY DAILY MEDITATIONS



Week 50

Monday

THE EFFECTS OF OUR CHOICES

The choices we make affect not only our own life but the lives of our loved ones as well. When we do not seek God or acknowledge that He exists, then we are choosing to rebel against Him. If we are not loving God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves, then we are choosing to disobey God, and this will have a negative impact on all our relationships. Unkind actions, and the gaps created by our failing to reach out with care and blessing, will affect everyone in our family and circle of friends.

The Bible reminds us: ***Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster ... love the Lord your God and keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you ... But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed.*** (Deuteronomy 30:15-18a NLT)

It would seem like easy choices – life over death; prosperity over disaster; blessings over curses. Unfortunately, many of us choose to follow our own ways and desires. Why? Getting our own way seems like the most convenient and pleasant path. Fortunately, God's unfailing love and forgiveness are available to us even when we have made unwise choices. When we surrender to Him, we are strengthened and made strong to overcome any weaknesses that may still exist within us.

Prayer: Loving God, I ask for forgiveness for my rebellious ways. Strengthen my resolve to obey You in all I say and do. My desire is to love You with all my heart, soul, and mind. Amen

NEW PERSON – NEW RULES – NEW ACTIONS

Step-9 requires that we make direct amends to the people we have harmed, except when to do so would further harm them or others. Making a list of those we harmed was not easy for us and becoming willing to make amends seems even harder. God was likely not on our radar when we did the things that harmed others but by our offense against them, we also offended God.

God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness. (Acts 3:26 ESV)

The new person we have become acts with different rules than the old person we once were. That’s because we gave our will and life over to the care of God. The offences we committed against God have been acquitted and God declares us from all our sin.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18 ESV)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, just as we came to God and asked His forgiveness, we now need to go to those we have harmed and ask for their forgiveness. The work that God has done in us and the new nature we have received will help us do those things that God desires for us to do. We have been given a Power greater than ourselves, the Holy Spirit, and He will strengthen us to do those things we need to do so that we may be reconciled with others.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Jesus who paid the price for my sin and reconciled me to You. Please give me the will and desire to make direct amends to those I have harmed and where possible seek reconciliation. Amen

CITIZENS IN A NEW KINGDOM

Your kingdom will never end, and you will rule forever. The Lord can be trusted in all that he says. He is loyal in all that he does. The Lord lifts up people who have fallen. He helps those who are in trouble. All living things look to you for their food, and you give them their food at the right time. You open your hands and give every living thing all that it needs. Everything the Lord does is good. (Psalm 145:13-17 ERV)

The kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom in which we, who have given our will and lives over to the care of God, are citizens. Through Jesus we have been reconciled to our Heavenly Father. While we are here on earth we are to be God’s representatives of Christ’s heavenly kingdom. God wants to work in us and through us to help us become the persons He created us to be, and also to be a blessing to others. That means allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us in the ways of God. It also means getting rid of the self-centered desires of our fleshly nature.

The above Psalm lists the human need for things like food, shelter, comfort, and protection, and states that God will provide these at just the right time. God truly is a faithful loving God who is near to those who call on Him for help. Jesus, God’s only begotten son, humbled Himself and came to earth as a man. Jesus said that those who have seen Him have seen His Father.

In the Bible, we read about the life of Jesus and can only imagine what joy awaits us when we finally reach our heavenly home. The Bible tells us it has not entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him. Do we have a passport issued by the kingdom of Heaven? In our life in recovery today, are we experiencing the joy and satisfaction of serving the king of kings and Lord of lords?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for loving me enough to send Jesus into the world to restore my relationship with You. I am blessed to know that, as Your beloved child, I have the deposit of the Holy Spirit living in me, guaranteeing what is to come. Amen

HOPE FOR WHAT CONCERNS ME TODAY

Troubles come, sometimes one on top of another. Pressure builds. Sadness deepens. We ask, “Where is God in the middle of my troubles?” As we move towards the Christmas celebration of Jesus coming into this world of darkness and the chaos of life on this planet, let’s really celebrate that He came to bring peace and hope to those who put their trust in Him.

This is GOD’s Message, the God who made earth, made it livable and lasting, known everywhere as GOD: ‘Call to me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.’ (Jeremiah 33:2-3 MSG)

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your right hand and will save me. The Lord will enemies, And Your right hand will save me. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands. (Psalm 138:7-8 NKJV)

Those of us who have chosen to give our will and our life over to God’s care now believe that there is a solution to every problem in life because God is with us. In every situation we do the things we know to be right, then prayerfully wait in God’s care and protection until our problems are resolved. We can keep looking to God and His amazing power to fulfill His good purposes in everything that concerns us.

Prayer: Gracious God, I choose to stand with You and trust You to show me the way forward in every situation that concerns me. Thank You for Your care and guidance. Amen