

Archived Devotionals

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1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Someone has said, "The measure of a man is not how great his faith is, but how great his love is." When we go through an experience in life that may not be too pleasant, it can either harden us or increase our love so that we feel for others who may be experiencing what we have.

The story is told of a Belgian Catholic priest named Joseph Damien DeVeuster who in 1873 was sent to minister to lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. He arrived on the island in high spirits, hoping to build a friendship with each of the lepers. He built a chapel, began worship services, and poured his heart out to the lepers, but all seemed futile for no one responded to his ministry.

Finally, after 12 years of struggling, Damien decided to leave. As he stood on the dock waiting to board the ship, he looked down at his hands and noticed some mysterious white spots on them. Feeling some numbness, he knew immediately what was happening – he had contracted leprosy!

He returned to the leper colony and to his work. Word quickly spread and within hours, hundreds gathered outside his hut, fully identifying with his plight. The following Sunday, when he arrived at the chapel it was full! He began to minister from the empathy of love rather than the distance of theology and ideas, and his ministry became enormously successful.

Those who receive your love today will be much more receptive to hearing about your faith tomorrow. After all that is what Jesus did, He became one with us, demonstrating the love of God as well as telling us about Him.

Our Prayer:

Dear Father,

We thank You today that Jesus came to this earth and became man so that He might enter fully into our experience and be one with us. He took our curse upon Himself on the cross and showed us for eternity that You are a God who loves. We thank You for that love. We ask today that You will forgive our sins. Help us to love as You have loved.

In the experiences that we face today, may we show Your love to others. Sometimes these experiences are difficult to handle, but we ask for Your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to be victorious. Help us to turn the things that are not so great into stepping stones to helping others who may be experiencing the same things. May we show compassion and empathy with them.

Please be with this dear reader. We ask that you will give them comfort if they mourn, be their friend if they are lonely, give them encouragement if they are feeling down, help their pain - whether it is physical pain or the pain of emotional hurts or abuse. Shed your love into their hearts today. Bring them peace if they are confused or stressed over financial worries, or decisions that they must make. Give them strength today to deal with the temptations that come to them and help them to have victory by Your grace. Be to them, a companion, a friend and a guide and uphold them by Your Spirit.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

May God's love fill your life today.

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John 15:11 "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Happiness is basically a choice which is not dependent on circumstances or situations. Each of us is responsible for our own happiness. Happiness can be enhanced by what occurs around us but we are more likely to be happy if we center our activities on others, instead of on ourselves.

Dr Archibald Hart makes the following affirmations. These would be good for us to consider daily.

- "Just for today, I will set my affections on things above, not on things on the earth.
- Just for today, I will not worry about what will happen tomorrow, but will trust that God will go before me into the unknown.
- Just for today, I will endure anything that hurts or depresses me because I believe God controls what happens to me.
- Just for today, I will not dwell on my misfortunes. I will replace my negative thoughts with happy hopeful thoughts.
- Just for today, I will choose to do some things I do not like doing, and I will do them cheerfully and with a happy spirit.
- Just for today, I will make a conscious effort to love those who don't show love to me and be kind to those who do not appreciate me.
- Just for today, I will be patient with those who irritate me and long suffering toward those who are selfish and inconsiderate.
- Just for today, I will forgive all those who hurt me - even forgiving myself.
- Just for today, I will choose to be happy!"

We can ask God to give us the grace we need just for today to accomplish these goals.

Our Prayer:

Dear Father,

We want to thank You that we do not have to live our whole life at once but that we only have to face things day by day and moment by moment.

You have told us not to worry about tomorrow, but to just live today in Your strength and power. We ask for forgiveness for when we have run head of You, when we have fretted and stewed over things that we did not need to. Forgive us for our unkind words, thoughts or deeds towards others. Forgive us for our lack of trust and faith in You.

Today we pray that You will extend to us the mercy we need to cover our sinfulness and the grace that we need in order to have the strength and the power to meet those difficult circumstances and the temptations which we may face. May we realize that our dependence on You is a moment by moment relationship. Give us love, patience, kindness, forbearance, joy and peace in every circumstance.

Be with this dear reader. Minister to their particular need and circumstance and may they know that they can rest in the assurance of Your presence with them for this day. May they make the commitment to rest in You today and leave their concerns in Your loving and capable hands. May they experience today the complete joy which You want to give to us and the abiding peace which will calm any troubled anxieties. May they find happiness today in every activity they are engaged in as they pass on Your love to those they meet.

We look forward to the time when we will see You face to face and thank You for the power of Your indwelling Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May God give you strength and grace to face this day and the happiness to know that He is with you.

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Before Jesus was crucified, he told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after him: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:16–18

The Holy Spirit Empowers

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 NKJV

Have you ever received really bad news, and yet you somehow sensed an unbelievable peace and knew everything was going to be okay? That was the Holy Spirit working in your life. When you don't have enough faith on your own, the Holy Spirit gives you the faith you need to make it through. He empowers you and gives you peace. You just have to be open to receive His help.

The only way you can receive His help is by spending time in prayer. Prayer alone prepares you to hear the Holy Spirit and receive His gifts. The more time you spend in prayer, the more clearly you are able to hear His voice and the less often you mistake it for your own.

The Holy Spirit continually intervenes miraculously in our lives, but we often think it's mere coincidence. The reality is the Holy Spirit not only wants to do miracles in your life, He also wants to do miracles through your life. Nothing is too hard for the Holy Spirit. He wants to empower you on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, and His gifts are for every believer — including you! Are you open to receive His gifts and His help today?

Robert Morris

ACTIVATION

- Seek the Lord every day, listen for His voice and be transformed by His Holy Spirit.
- When you have a decision to make, take the time to ask God for His will in the situation.
- When you're praying, don't do all the talking. Be still, and allow the Holy Spirit to talk to you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to direct and redirect your prayer life so that you are constantly in relationship with Him.
- The Holy Spirit wants to give you faith to believe for certain things that you've been praying for.
- Receive that faith today! Don't doubt and don't talk yourself out of it!

FURTHER STUDY

Romans 8:26-27; Galatians 4:6; James 5:13-18; John 14:12; John 16:7; Psalm 55:16-17; Jeremiah 29:12-13; Psalm 51:1-3

Our Prayer:

Dear Father,

We want to thank You that You offer us Your strength and power to face each day. We praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and strengthen our faith. Descend on us today and may Your presence go before us and may our minds be open to Your direction and guidance. May Your will be done in our lives today.

Today we pray that You will extend to us the mercy we need to cover our sinfulness and the grace that we need in order to have the strength and the power to meet those difficult circumstances and the temptations which we may face. May we realize that our dependence on You is a moment by moment relationship. Give us love, patience, kindness, forbearance, joy and peace in every circumstance.

Be with this dear reader. May they give thanks to the Lord in all things! To Him be the honour and glory always. May the Lord cover your day with His love and blessings, guide you in all decisions, and give you the needed wisdom to glorify Him. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May you hear the voice of God in your life today and be transformed by His Holy Spirit as you walk in relationship with the God of the universe!

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Promises to Ponder

<i>You Say... God Says... </i>		
<u>You Say</u>	<u>God Says</u>	<u>Bible Verses</u>
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
It's impossible	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Romans 8:1
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Romans 8:28
I'm not smart enough	I will give you wisdom.	1 Corinthians 1:30
I'm not able.	I am able.	2 Corinthians 9:8
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	2 Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Philippians 4:13
I can't manage.	I will supply all your needs.	Philippians 4:19
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	2 Timothy 1:7
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Hebrews 13:5

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C.S. Lewis was a writer of many books on Christianity. He made the following statement,

"Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

That is a good thought to remember. There are times when we feel very close to God and filled with awe and praise at His love for us. There are other times when we feel distant and cut off from God and sometimes doubt His providence.

However, we need to understand that God's love is not based on our moods. God's love is constant and everlasting. Even in those times when we feel the distance it is not God who has changed but it is us. It is at those times when we need to pray even though we may not feel like it. When we do that, His love can break through the clouds of doubt and send us peace again so that we can rejoice in the sunshine of His presence.

Our Prayer:

Dear Father,

Thank You for Your everlasting love. There are times in our lives when we feel cut off from You or circumstances press in on us and we feel alone. Help us not to go by our feelings but to look above the clouds and see the sunshine of Your love, the rainbows of Your promises and trust in You.

Thank You for Jesus and the precious gift of salvation which He offers to us. May we take it each day as a treasured gift and give back to You our praise and adoration and our obedience to Your will.

Father, we ask that you will be with this dear reader. Help them not to be discouraged by the way they may be feeling but may they sense the peace that comes from You stealing into their hearts and calming the troubled areas of their lives. Give them the assurance of Your constant love and the relief that comes with forgiveness from sin. We are sorry for our sins and come to You in repentance. Give this dear friend strength if they are weak or ill. Give them wisdom if they have choices and decisions to make. Comfort them if they sorrow and be a friend to them if they are lonely.

Lord, if they are struggling with financial pressures or work problems, meet those needs and help them to place their trust in You for You will never fail us nor forsake us. Thank You for the blessings You do give to us.

Help us to be a blessing to someone else today in Jesus' name, Amen.

Remember today that you are loved by God for He says in

Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

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