

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

"ANGELS UNAWARE: OPPORTUNITIES"

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 13:1-3;

Isaiah 30:15-18

Opportunity comes in many sizes and shapes. It is not always something grand and obvious, nor does it always involve life-or-death decisions, such as vocation, marriage or school.

Some of the most strategic opportunities are those which come quietly, in unobtrusive ways, yet which open out into enormous areas that can change the course of our lives, leave us speechless with amazement.

Opportunity to the Christian is that which comes to him in *any* form — a person, a situation, a fresh circumstance, a new experience. We must greet every *hour* as opportunity: that is what time really is — the opportunity to *live* . . .

Think of friendships as opportunities to help, encourage, and learn.

Treasure "idle days" as opportunities to evaluate yourself, to listen to God, to "soak your soul" in prayer.

Utilize hectic days as the opportunity to test your spiritual poise "under fire", to test the presence of the Spirit within you.

Think of each moment of the day as an opportunity to serve your Lord in some way. This is opportunity at its most rewarding level.

Prayer: Dearest Father, help me to accept each thing that happens, each person I meet as an opportunity for me to express my love to you in a world that is so hungry for your presence and your love. AMEN

SATURDAY

"LOVE IS A WEAVER OF TATTERS"

SCRIPTURE:

I Corinthians 10:31-33;

Proverbs 15:17; 16:1-3

A devout Amish woman once said, "I seem to create so much of my life the way I fashion my rugs — from leftover remnants and tatters of whole days —"

How seldom we have days that are in "one piece." unmarred by intrusions and interruptions. We find ourselves having to take a sliver of time here to read a story to our child, a scrap of a moment there to make a call . . . another ragged piece of an hour to mow the lawn or hem a dress . . . a discarded handful of minutes to write a note.

Yet when we take them all, and dye them in the bright colors of our love, sew them together with the strong cord of devotion, and plait them faithfully through the weeks, what delightful beautiful things have been fashioned!

Never be defeated by a day which seems to be nothing but bits and tatters. Use each precious moment for needs as they come rather than waiting for "whole pieces of cloth", and whole uninterrupted days. They may never come.

Prayer: God, make me a good steward of the minutes and hours which you have given me. Make each moment of my life an offering to you and to those whom I love, in your name. AMEN

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024

"THE SECRET OF THE DOORS"

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:7-8a;

John 10:1-16

"I have set before you an open door which no one is able to shut."

Can anything be more inviting? An open door is the symbol of freedom, of opportunity, of new life . . . and what God opens or shuts, no man disturbs.

As a Christian, you've experienced both the frustration of closed doors, as well as the sudden thrill of an open door. God directs our paths through many, many doors in a lifetime; if we are to go, a door opens, sometimes in a seemingly blank wall, if we are not to go — a door which seemed wide and inviting, is suddenly closed, locked.

This sensitivity to "doors," is one of the most strategic qualities you can develop as a successful Christian. Once you learn to move only through doors that are opened for you — once you learn never to pry and dynamite doors the Lord has closed before you, you will know the swiftly moving perfectly directed life. You will experience the measured easy stride of the mature Christian — the keen awareness he has for an opening door, the great respect he has for closed ones. He never stands, frantic and clawing; he has learned to watch and wait and follow.

Prayer: God, make me one who walks only through doors which you have opened for me. Teach me to follow only those paths, which you have prepared for me. AMEN

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TUESDAY

"BE STILL, AND KNOW"

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 46;
Proverbs 3:5-8

"Never allow vain apprehensions to enter your heart. Each day will give you the knowledge of what you shall best do next. By now you have already passed over many a difficulty by the grace of God; the same grace will help you on all future occasions, and will deliver you from one difficulty after another."

One of the great enemies of opportunity is apprehension: shall I take the "open door" — or not? What lies ahead? How can I be *sure*?

Being sure (the opposite of apprehension) comes only through being still long enough to feel the "rightness" — the hand of God in the decision through prayer.

You are familiar with apprehension and you are familiar with assurance. If after prayer your apprehension has not been lifted, remain still. It is not time, it is not right yet.

But when, after prayer, you suddenly feel that inexpressible freedom or excitement, then the door is open and it is the breath of God which gives wings to your feet.

Apprehension is the nature of man, prayerful anticipation the nature of the Spirit. Apprehension drains and confuses. Prayerful listening guides and reassures.

Prayer: O God, as the airborne glider travels high on the currents and winds, so let my life be borne aloft by the movement of your divine Spirit. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

"NOTHING GIVEN TO GOD IS WASTE"

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 6:30-32;
I John 1:8-2:3;
Psalm 119:33-40

How many times, at the end of the day, have you looked back over those seemingly wasted hours, and felt regret and defeat and failure?

Yet even days like these may be of value if we can learn from them . . . hours and actions which have become a failure in our eyes, can be the very things which bring us to our knees in a closer relationship with God.

The disciples returned to Jesus to tell him what they had done and what they had failed to do. If we would do this each evening, what an effect it could have upon our lives! Many hidden motivations, goals and areas of selfishness would be revealed to us. We would see the heart of each failure as God sees it.

While reading over each day's page of life, with the consciousness that he is reading it with us, we could detect errors and defects; we could learn for future days, for wisdom always comes in retrospect when it is blessed by Christ.

So do not allow dead days and wasted hours to defeat you and pile up around you. Lay them on the altar, give them over to God. He will touch them with his love and they will be turned into the gold treasure of experience.

Prayer: Dear God, how I thank you for prayer, for the privilege of your forgiveness, for wisdom, for strength to go on; for love. Make me eager to come to you each evening and share this life of mine, whatever it may be for that day. AMEN

THURSDAY

"WE WALK BY FAITH. NOT BY SIGHT"

SCRIPTURE:

II Corinthians 4:15-18; 5:7;
Psalm 130 & 131

"You are troubled because you do not understand how God is dealing with you. Perhaps if you did, it would not answer his design so well. He is teaching you to trust him — further than you can see him"

"Faith puts her hand into God's and lets him lead her safely where he will."

"That only is faith — which makes us love God, do his will . . . trust his promises . . . see through a cloud and overcome the world . . . to stand in our day of trial and be comforted in all of our sorrow."

"Let nothing disturb thee in this foreign land, for thou has a city whose Creator is God, and our sojourning is but for a little while."

(from "Just for Today")

Prayer: O God, I ask you above all things to give me a faith that knows the depth of your love, the wideness of your power, the height of your desire for me, and the stability and strength of your presence. Teach me that to trust I need not see and to follow you I need only your hand. AMEN