

Daily Family Devotions

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

FRIDAY

“THE STILL, SMALL ‘VOICE’ ”

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Kings 19:11, 12

The Bible says that God “spoke” to certain of his people – Moses, Elijah, Abraham, Samuel . . . Does that mean his voice was actually audible, that one could hear it with the ear?

Some of the deepest experiences we have are the most difficult to describe or put into words. Of course God spoke to Samuel – but being a Spirit, he probably spoke to Samuel as The Spirit – but it was strong enough to awaken him three times.

For us, perhaps God’s voice could be described as the strange urging or pressure, a heaviness or restlessness which makes us suddenly stop as we become acutely aware that God is communicating with us. Perhaps you have been awakened in the night, your entire being alert, awake. You have felt a deep urgency to pray – and you pray until a peace comes. This is real – just as the spirit within us is real.

And just as we can sharpen our physical senses to a high degree, so we can sharpen our spiritual sense so we can hear God’s voice. Practice listening for him . . . let your spirit move as he wills it to. We are never too young to know it.

Prayer: God, I know that you still do speak to your people today, but somehow it seems harder to hear you; there are so many people to listen to. Help me to seek out your “still” voice in my heart and to obey it quickly AMEN.

SATURDAY

“THE BREATH OF THE SOUL”

Scripture: Psalm 28:6-9

There are many kinds of breathing. When we sleep, our breath is even and effortless. When we run, our breathing is labored and deep. Whatever we do – our breathing adjusts itself according to the body’s need.

Prayer should be like this.

There are times when your life is moving along easily; prayer then, too, is easy, free, almost effortless. You are hardly aware of it – but it’s working.

There are times when something terrible happens – and suddenly your prayers are deep and labored, your entire being strains with the effort. There are times when you are preparing for a critical event – and your praying becomes intense, quick, heightened. Then there are times of rest when you are simply quiet with God . . . “breathing” is easy – it is praise and thanksgiving – and refreshment.

Prayer should be so much a part of our living that when we go to bed at night, we feel as though we have been beside God all day. This is what he desires . . . being so close to us that he is “nearer than breathing, closer than hands or feet.”

Prayer: God, give me a healthy spirit. Fill it with the breath of your own Spirit, Lord, until your strength is as deep as my need. AMEN

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

“VOICE OF THE INNER MAN”

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-5; Isaiah 66:13

We all go through life, filling our various roles as teacher, supervisor, father, mother, child, friend, doing our best to meet the requirements of those roles – as we should.

But each of us feels the need, sometimes, to be a child, to throw aside our pride, and run into God’s arms; to cry because we are discouraged; to admit our defeats; to confess our sins – just for a while to be our own inner man.

This is prayer: the luxury of being ourselves – the only times, really, we can be completely and unashamedly – unreservedly all we are, the best or the worst.

For there is nothing God does not already know. He knows our inmost thoughts, our dreams, our sins, our potentials or our weaknesses. And because of this, he has the unique ability to deal with the actual, *real* person, in the actual, real situation. And once we know this, we run more quickly to him – for only in this rare and beautiful relationship, can we see things – life, ourselves, others – in true perspective.

How long since you have run to him? How long since you have known this luxury of being yourself? Prayer is the greatest relationship man can have. Use your right to it today.

Prayer: God, forgive me for turning away from you. Make me realize that because you already know me fully, there is no need for me to hide from you. I ask your presence with me now. AMEN

TUESDAY

“GOD’S WALKIE-TALKIE”

Scripture: Isaiah 42:16; John 14:3-6

A man was lost in a dangerous swamp. All around him was quicksand. He was afraid to move. Then a guide, who knew the area well, was taken up in a helicopter. When the machine was above the man, a “walkie-talkie” was dropped to him.

The guide said, “Listen to what I say, and I’ll guide you from here.” The man listened, and step by step, he was led to safety.

This is prayer. Jesus Christ is our guide, prayer our “walkie-talkie.” As long as we are in contact with him, He can lead us through the swamps of temptation and difficult decisions safely – until we reach God’s firm land.

Are you in constant touch with God? Or is prayer something you use only when you have already fallen into an impossible situation?

Prayer is so much more than a rescue tool. It is a compass, a life-line, a light, and God-with-us. God meant it to be an essential part of our everyday life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive me when I have strayed into dangerous or treacherous places because I have not listened to you. I know that you are always ready to help when I call, but Father, grant that I may want to know your will before I walk, and follow the path you have chosen for me, I pray. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“GOOD SEED – OR BAD?”

Scripture: Romans 8:28; Luke 11:11-13

Prayer is a seed – planted in the soil of belief, nourished by trust – and strengthened by the Son of God.

Many people cannot pray, because they do not believe. They cannot pray because they do not know or trust the God to Whom they would pray; they never really plant their seed. They toss it on top of the ground and challenge God to a miracle.

And the seed never germinates.

Or sometimes we plant a seed with care – but it is not a good seed. God knows it will grow into something we should not have, something that might poison our life, or cause us injury.

God blesses nothing which could ever harm us – and many times he has arrested the germination of a prayer we have “planted,” knowing its fruit might harm or destroy us.

We plant our seeds of desire, of ambition, of many things. It is God’s mercy and discerning wisdom which allows some to die, others to flourish in profusion.

He is faithful and just. He is love. Why don’t we trust him more?

Prayer: O God, forgive me for forgetting your love for me . . . forgive me when I do not accept your wisdom and mercy in choosing for me that which will most benefit my life, and my service to you. Grant me the kind of unfailing trust your Son, Jesus Christ, had in your wisdom, I pray. AMEN

THURSDAY

“PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING”

Scripture: Ephesians 6:18; Acts 6:4

Most people underestimate the importance of prayer; they regard it as an emergency measure . . . something to fall back on when everything else has failed. This is not the original purpose of prayer; it was never intended to operate on a “spasmodic” basis.

For prayer is to the soul what our breathing is to the body. Too much oxygen after the body has been deprived of it can lead to dizziness and light-headedness.

Some people’s prayer life is like this. They go along sluggishly for a time, then suddenly decide to go on a “prayer binge.” This sudden in-filling of the Spirit sends them into a “spiritual high.” For a while they are on top of the world; they love everyone; life is fine and they have energy to burn. Then gradually they sink down again into lethargy. They become listless, morose, discouraged; things become increasingly worse until they go on another of their “prayer binges.”

This is neither spiritually healthy nor is it Christian. Prayer, to the Christian must be like breathing: deep, daily, constant and in accordance with the day’s need. As our bodily exercise increases need for more oxygen, so spiritual trials produce the need for deeper and more consistent prayer.

How is your spiritual breathing?

Prayer: God, I thank you for the wonderful privilege of prayer. Dear Lord, let me use it to nourish the life of my soul, I pray. AMEN