

FRIDAY

*"PRIDE GOES BEFORE A FALL"*

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 49:15, 16; II Timothy 3:1-7

It is strange how many things we value today which seem to be in direct conflict with the qualities Jesus valued. In fact, we flatly seem to contradict much of what he said.

He condemns pride in man, plays down Self; today, we elevate Self, encourage pride and self-esteem. Why?

Pride is the bodyguard of the ego. When it is shattered, the ego bleeds. And today we look at the ego as the life-substance of healthy personalities: a man today is "emotionally ill or mentally maladjusted". Not spiritually empty, void or crippled. And so we must at all cost preserve the pride and dignity of man.

Why then does Christ not view the ego as the principle portion? i.e. the motivating or determining force in life?

Because to him, as Son of God and Co-Creator, the heart or Spirit issues the true life of a man - the spirit, that portion made in the image of God. And it is that soul or spirit, as it comes under the power of God or rejects it, which makes or breaks a man - not his ego which is at his own disposal.

As an oven without a pilot light, so are our lives without the light of God: no matter how many "matches" we strike, we cannot keep our lives alight, motivated, warm. We go through life looking for one thing or another but nothing lasts. Christ tried to tell us that.

*Prayer: God, you have made my soul so that it can respond to you, can motivate me through life, can keep me alive, inside and out - and I know so little about it! Please make me more aware of this lovely instrument. AMEN*

SATURDAY

*"WHO IS THE REAL GOD?"*

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1:26-31

John 14:8, 9; John 17:1-5, 25, 26

Did you ever hear Christ say, "Nature and I are one"? No, he said, "I and the Father are one."

Where do we get the impression that when he prayed, he merely "communed with nature"? There is always, in his prayers, the undeniable personalness of God.

Yet how often we say that "When we worship nature" we worship God. This is like saying that we love the meal our mothers cook as much as we love her.

God made nature; his laws, his handiwork. The evidence of him is in nature, but God himself is the Creator, not the created. Animals are his creation and instinct enables them to live according to his laws, but animals are not "made in his image."

Jesus told his disciples, "He who has seen me, has seen the Father." He did not point to the sea, which he had the power to calm, and say "When you have seen the sea, you have seen God."

God is a spirit, personality, essence of life, capable of communication with us since he made man in his own image. But this refers to the soul or spirit which is like God and unlike anything else ... that which literally communes with and longs for, relates to God. No other being is made in that image.

Until you can believe this, you will not believe in prayer; until you believe he is capable of love, you will not accept what his Son did. Until you believe he is omnipotent and at the same time holds the life of each man in his hand, you will never really place yourself in his hands.

*Prayer: Lord, you made me for yourself to commune with and have fellowship with you. Please let me not forget! AMEN*

# Daily Family Devotions

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

*"DESPONDENCY"*

SCRIPTURE:

Job 3:1-10; 20-26

John 1:1-4; I John 1:5-10

"He is so wrapped up in his own misery I can't get through to him!"

"She is so overwhelmed with self-pity that I can't seem to reach her."

Despondency is a swamp - and while we frequently fall into it accidentally, we can only escape by a voluntary effort.

Despondency can become a way of living if we permit it. Like animals shut away in the dark so long that they flinch from sunlight - so often we humans become so accustomed to the dimness of despair or self-pity that we resent someone who tries to open the door to the sunlight of hope and faith: it literally hurts and we feel naked and vulnerable and alien to a world we once moved in so casually.

Think of darkness and light as they are contrasted in the Bible (Ephesians 6:10-18). Satan's realm is always linked with darkness - it is the climate of hell: doubt, suspicion, guilt, anger.

Christ is continually linked with light; in fact, he IS light. When he comes into a life, the climate actually changes. Joy, hope, anticipation, certainty.

Dr. Harry Rimmer compares the light of the Son of God on our spirit with the sun on our physical beings: warmth, growth, color, illumination, light, life. Without it, none of this is possible.

Since these cannot be ours without him, why can't we simply stop resisting? There is nothing else we need do. As we switch on a light and the darkness goes, so we open our hearts and he is there.

*Prayer: Father, light every portion of my life so that there is no hidden or festering part. AMEN*

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## TUESDAY

### "WHEN HE HEALS THE HURT"

SCRIPTURE:  
Lamentations 3:19-33

"We are in the hands of a higher Physician than this world knows. One who cannot mistreat our case, or prescribe wrongly for us. The great cure to be wrought in us is the cure of self-will, that we may learn self-resignation; and all God's various dealings with us have this one end in view.

"And what happiness it is to attain this to the perfect knowledge that we are in the hands of a compassionate Father, who cares for our every want, and supplies it, too, only in the way his unerring wisdom *knows* to be best, but which our short-sightedness rebels against because we do not see *how* it should be so.

"To attain this alone can bring peace, for then we shall be content with health or sickness, weakness or strength, knowing that as we are, so God sees best for us."

R. Suckling

*Prayer: God, teach us that trusting ourselves to you does not mean resignation to life or lethargy toward that which we are called to do - but rather as a ship gives itself to the wind and seas, so may we give ourselves to you until you become the very element in which we live and move and have our being. AMEN*

## WEDNESDAY

### "TO FIND YOURSELF, TO LOSE YOURSELF?"

SCRIPTURE:  
Psalm 40  
Luke 9:23-26

A disillusioned young man left home and college to "find himself." After a number of years, he returned, weary but with a purpose and direction he had not had before. He told how he had joined an archeological team who were looking for grave-sites of an ancient city.

"One day," he said, "after digging for weeks, I finally came upon a deep pit filled with bones and relics. I should have been excited, but suddenly I felt letdown. I had been digging for hours a day and all I had to show for it was blisters and a pit of bones.

"And then I realized the same thing had been happening to my life. For years I had been digging back in time, down inside to find myself and all I ever came up with was bones of my past life, relics of old failures and still familiar weaknesses - the dead-end with no vistas out ahead of me!"

"It was then that I remembered the words from Sunday School, 'He who loses his life for my sake will find it, and he who finds his life shall lose it.' "

"Now I think of life as something I leave behind me as I go - lose it, really, to time. I go forward, letting it drop from me, reaching out to tomorrow and God. Everything else in nature is permitted to die and be forgotten; leaves, flowers, carcasses gently transformed into the rich humus from which new life springs. So the life in terms of hours that I leave behind each day forms the stuff from which others find that to build their lives perhaps."

*Prayer: God, we are so busy today finding ourselves that we have no time for finding you. Only as we find you can we find ourselves as you see us, and thus as we really are. Teach me this, Father. AMEN*

## THURSDAY

### "YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM"

SCRIPTURE:  
Proverbs 3:5-10

"That life is most holy in which there is least of petition and desire, and most of waiting upon God; that in which petition most often passes into thanksgiving"

"Divine wisdom has given us prayer - not as a means to obtain the good things of earth, but as a means whereby we learn to do without them; not as a means whereby we escape evil, but as a means whereby we become strong to meet it."

F.W. Robertson

"Think" and "thank" are radically the same word, and he who fails to thank God for his good gifts fails to think duly of God as their Giver."

H.C. Trumbull

*Prayer: God, we are such a people of desire - of feeling so much is due us, of being so resentful when everything does not fall to our hand and prosper as we command it. How often we measure your love by our own failures and say, Where is God? When we should measure your love by the times we have been saved from our own weaknesses and others spared grief at our hands. Father, make us aware that all good things come from you and that truly you owe us nothing but rather we owe you all. AMEN*

*Psalm 139*