

DAY 1—Monday, January 06, 2020

“RESTING”

“We set our hearts at rest in His Presence.” 1 John 3:19 NIV

“Rest. Rest. Rest in God’s love. The only work you are required to do now is to give your most intense attention to His still, small voice.” – Madame Jeanne Guyon

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 11:28-30

Rest is often seen as something to do after working hard. It can be seen as the opposite of work. Frankly, it can be seen as doing nothing. But, Biblical rest is much different. It’s the opposite of hurry, weariness, and worry. It’s freedom from trying to control our circumstances or other people.

Although lakeside cabins and seaside walks can be restful, rest is not limited to a place. It’s found in a Person—resting in our Father’s embrace.

Rest is not laziness or passivity. It is actively pursuing deeper trust in Jesus.

Rest is not something we earn. It’s a gift the Holy Spirit gives—ministering freedom and health to our souls.

True rest is enjoying agenda-free times of stillness before the Lord, simply enjoying His company. As Heidi Baker says, “More is accomplished by spending time in God’s presence than by doing anything else.”

REFLECTION:

1. How can you make “resting” a part of your daily life?
2. Take a look at your calendar. How can you schedule regular “Sabbath” moments in your monthly/yearly routines?
3. Take time now to simply rest in the Presence of the Lord.

DECLARATION: Resting in the Lord will be the atmosphere of my life—wherever I am and whatever I am doing!

Day 2—Tuesday, January 07, 2020

“OPENED EYES AND BURNING HEARTS”

“Vison is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.” – Jonathan Swift

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 24:13-35

Sometimes when things happen in a way that we do not expect or how we plan them, we can become discouraged and not see the big picture. On the road to Emmaus, the two travelers were upset after their hopes had seemingly been dashed that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Jesus met them on the road and explained the truth of the situation even though at first, He was not recognized.

Luke 24:30-33 30) When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31) Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, and He disappeared from their sight. 32) They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Jesus revealed Himself by explaining the scriptures to them in a way they could understand. They could see the truth of who He was when He broke bread and shared it with them.

Jesus is still talking to travelers on their Emmaus Road and revealing Himself. Ask Him to speak to you there as well.

REFLECTION:

1. Ask God to open your eyes to see Jesus in your difficult situation.
2. Take time to “break bread” with Him and have communion. Ask Him to open your eyes to Jesus and His purposes will be revealed to you.
3. Spend time daily in His Word. Ask God to make your heart burn for Him with the truth that is found there and then apply that truth to your situation through prayer and declaration.

DECLARATION: My eyes are open to see Jesus revealed in every situation I encounter! My heart burns with the truth of His Word!

Day 3—Wednesday, January 08, 2020

“TRUSTING GOD’S LOVE”

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us.” 1 John 3:16 NLT

“He is jealous for me. Loves like a hurricane, I am a tree. Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy. Oh, how He loves us!” – John Mark McMillan

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:38-39

When we go through a hard time or a difficult experience, it could leave us with a severed trust in God unknowingly. We might question God or ponder the following:

1. God did not have the power to stop what happened to me?
2. God is all-powerful, but He didn't care enough to intervene?
3. God is all-powerful and loves me greatly but allowed it to happen anyway. But why?

When we entertain these thoughts, what we're really doing is questioning and doubting God's character. When we question if He has the power to stop what happens to us, we're doubting His sovereignty. When we question if He cares enough about us to intervene, we're doubting His love. When we question why He allowed something to happen to us, we're doubting His wisdom.

Believing in the fact that, not only is He capable to carry out the best plan for us, He is wise enough to know when to bring it about. He desires to do it in our best interest because He absolutely loves, loves, loves us! This knowledge will expel all anxiety forever and trust in His character will increase.

REFLECTION:

1. Has there been portions of your life that have left you confused about one or more of the three questions above? Study scriptures related to that area.
2. Make a list of all the blessings (small and big) over the course of your life. They are a representation of God's love for you.
3. Be consciously in a 'God loves me' mindset. Think it often. Say it out loud through your day. Tell yourself, "I do not have to be anxious about anything at all no matter what, not this moment, not today, not any day in the future! All because God loves me and He's got my back!"

DECLARATION: He is GOD! He is GOOD! And He LOVES me!

Day 4—Thursday, January 09, 2020

“SURRENDER”

“...take up your cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23 NLT

“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.”— Frances Ridley Havergal

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:36-46

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of *Gethsemane* (means an olive press in Hebrew), He prayed – “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from Me; nevertheless, not My will but Yours be done.”

This is a depiction of *absolute surrender* and *dying to self*.

That is exactly what God wants us to do daily when He tells us to take up His cross. Every single day, we need to go to the Garden of Gethsemane and allow our flesh to be pressed in the olive press and die to our own desires and come to a point of surrender to God’s perfect will.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Jesus assured us that trials will come to His followers (John 16:33). Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.

When challenges, conflicts and situations are pressing against you, make it your Garden of Gethsemane moment and do what Jesus did – die to your ‘self’ and *surrender* to the Father’s will.

It sure isn’t easy, but Jesus showed us that it is doable!

REFLECTION:

Examine your heart and consider the following:

1. Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means losing your closest relationships, career, reputation, or even your life?
2. Are you willing to surrender your plans, hopes, dreams, and ideas to God so that His plan and purpose will ultimately prevail?
3. Are you willing to lay down your pride and impulsive emotions and overlook an offense in a Christ like manner?

DECLARATION: God’s way is always better than my way!

Day 5–Friday, January 10, 2020

“PROPHETIC PROCESSING”

“Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight.” 1 Timothy 1:18

“Process your prophetic words and put them into active service!” – Dan McCollam

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 29

With the new year upon us, it is always a great idea to find and re-read the personal prophetic words we have received. Prophetic encouragement that may have come to us, even years ago, can take on new meaning in the light of a new year.

While we never take it upon ourselves to make our prophecies come true, there is a level of engagement that God expects us to have concerning the words He has given to us.

1 Thessalonians 5: 19-22 describes how we are to interact with our personal prophetic words:

“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.”

According to this verse, we must “test” or “actively engage” with our prophecies. “Testing” looks like: “examining them”, “scrutinizing them”, or “judging them”. In addition, we are not to treat prophecies with contempt. We treat prophecies with contempt when: we hold them loosely, lose esteem for them, or reduce them to nothing.

So don’t just file your prophecies away! Actively engage with them in this new season, and your will receive fresh revelation to, as Paul says, “fight the good fight.”

REFLECTION:

Processing your personal prophetic words:

1. Type out and double-space each prophetic word you desire to process.
2. Circle any words that refer to who God says you are.
3. Underline any promises that God is making directly to you.
4. Make note of any conditions or requirements on your part.

Ex. “As you seek My face, I will pour out a greater anointing upon your life”.

5. Mark any words that indicate timing or seasons.
6. Make a list of any metaphors or biblical references for further research.
7. Note how many times a word, idea, or theme is repeated.

Repetition is a “clue” to major and minor themes within your prophetic words

8. Identify the major theme(s) in your prophetic word.
9. Align yourself with what God is saying through prayer, studying and declarations.

DECLARATION: I will war with my prophetic words until my circumstances bow to the promises of God! I will live and act as the person Heaven says that I am!

Day 6—Saturday, January 11, 2020

“TRUSTING”

“The more you put your trust in God, the closer you walk with Him.” – Anonymous

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 5:21-24

I am always drawn to the story of Enoch when I think about drawing closer to God. He is an obscure character in the Bible, but he had an unusual relationship with God. The writer of Genesis tells us that he walked with God for 365 years and then he was no more. Why... because God took him. Enoch walked so close to God that he stepped through the veil into the unseen realm of the supernatural. Enoch trusted God so much and was so faithful to God that God trusted Him. God walked him into the heavenly realm. The amazing part is this all happened before the Law was given, before the Temple was built and before the New Covenant was ratified by Jesus' death and resurrection.

The writer of Hebrews tells that we have uninhibited access to the Father without the need to be fearful of punishment. We can come to him, crawl up into his lap, look straight into his face, with a trust that He is good and faithful. James 4:8 exhorts us to draw close to God and He will draw close to you. Just like Enoch, we need to trust God and step out to be closer to God then He comes running to us. Because God is always looking for relationship with us, He will be faithful to come close even in our chaos and mess. We just need to reach out.

REFLECTION:

Ask God today:

1. Where do I need to trust you more in my life?
2. What is separating me from You?
3. How do You see me in the chaos and mess of life?
4. Where are leading me as I walk closer to you?

DECLARATION: Today, I will trust in You with all my heart and soul even in the chaos of life.

Day 7—Sunday, January 12, 2020

“WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?”

*“Moses answered “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, the Lord did not appear to you?”
Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “ a staff”, he replied.” Exodus 4:1-3*

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 3:4-5

God used a simple, common shepherd’s staff (a stick) to teach Moses that God uses ordinary things for extraordinary purposes. God used that staff to deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh, part the Red Sea, win a battle over the Amalekites, and to bring water from a rock.

Elisha was able to use the widow’s oil in 2 Kings 4 and a few jars to pay off her debts. The widow and her sons were able to live on what was left. David was able to slay Goliath with stones and a sling. Jesus was able to feed 5,000, (plus women and children) with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Jesus tells us in the parable of the talents that if we are faithful with few things; he will put us in charge of many things.

REFLECTION:

1. What are the ordinary things in your life God can use for extraordinary purposes?
2. What are the things God has put you in charge of?

DECLARATION: I recognize that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. When I give God whatever I have, my talent, my time, my treasure, God will multiply for His glory!

Day 8—Monday, January 13, 2020

“FRUIT FOR THOUGHT”

“He will be standing firm like a flourishing tree planted by God’s design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of his life. He is never dry, never fainting, every blessed, ever prosperous.” Psalm 1:3 TPT

“The abundance of fruit comes out of intimacy with the Lord.” – Heidi Baker

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 1

“Fruit” can be described as the product of fertilization and growth. Naturally a fruit-bearing plant cannot bear good fruit if it does not have good soil, firm roots, water, and sunlight. A plant lacking in any of these areas will not produce fruit.

Just like a plant in the natural, it is also true of our spirits. We are called by God to be “fruit producers” in all life seasons. Living connected to our Father ensures that the same life source that is in Jesus now flows through us! We need to continually seek His presence, His refreshing, His perspective, His heart, His passion and so much more!

The other amazing fact about fruit is that not only is fruit the product of growth, but fruit also has been giving the ability to reproduce. Every fruit is made with at least one seed. Every time we bear fruit in Jesus we also produce the ability to multiply His Kingdom!

REFLECTION:

1. What does intimacy with Jesus mean to you? And how are you staying connected to Him?
2. What fruit do you currently see in your life?
3. What fruit do you long to produce and what steps are you going to take to pursue them?

DECLARATION: I was made to stay connected to the Father, to bear fruit of His spirit, and then in turn to contribute to the multiplication of His Kingdom! I am called to bear fruit of His Kingdom!

Day 9—Tuesday, January 14, 2020

“YOU ARE RICH!”

“In Him you have been made extravagantly rich in every way. You have been endowed with a wealth of inspired utterance and the riches that come from your intimate knowledge of Him. For the reality of the truth of Christ is seen among you and strengthened through your experience of Him. So now you aren’t lacking any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the unveiling of the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One.” 1 Corinthians 1:5-7 TPT

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 1

I want to speak to those moments you feel you have nothing to give, when you feel overwhelmed or at a loss for what to do.

In this passage, the word used for “rich” describes wealth that is consistently growing to the point it is hard to determine how much you really possess. Who wouldn’t love that problem? Paul is speaking here of spiritual gifts. Think of it—we have an abundant wealth in Christ full of all the spiritual gifts we need for every situation and to minister to every person we meet. I recently didn’t know how to help someone looking for guidance. In the moment, I recalled this passage and chose to believe its truth. He gave me wisdom that I then spoke to their situation. It’s not about how we feel in the moment, but about believing He speaks truth. You lack nothing. You are RICH!

REFLECTION:

1. Where do you think, speak and live as someone who is “poor”? Repent for not living in your inheritance.
2. As you live today, keep this truth close and watch what Holy Spirit does.

DECLARATION: I am extravagantly rich in every way. I don’t lack any spiritual gift!

Day 10—Wednesday, January 15, 2020

“THE POWER IN SEARCHING FOR HIM”

“Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.” John 15:4 NASB

“I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” – Paul the Apostle

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 29:11-13

As I hear the testimonies of men and women experiencing mighty miracles of God – healings, salvations, deliverances, raising the dead, and all in great number – I am also seeing a common thread in their lives. They have sought hard and long after God, have pressed into His Word and Spirit, and have pressed into the ministry of their calling. The “future and hope” of verse 11 was laid before them, but it took their devotion and perseverance for Holy Spirit to develop and release them into their calling and destiny.

There was a time I was unemployed and a CCC member gave me a prophetic word - Jeremiah 29:11-13. Being newly out of work, I grabbed onto the 11th verse – the future and hope. Not until four years later did verses 12 and 13 impact my life. I believe those verses are a key to the release of the miracles mentioned above.

Jeremiah 29:11 is an often-quoted verse, but what does God have to say immediately after His promise of plans for your future and hope? The NASB says:

¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Yes, you will seek and find Him, but He states an important condition - **when your whole heart is set upon Him to search for Him**. We find Him in His Word, in private times of prayer and soaking (listening in His presence), in fellowship and study with believers, and in corporate worship. As we each press in and see our destiny in Christ fulfilled, together we will see His signs and wonders abound and the Great Commission fulfilled - in your life, at CCC, in the Harrisburg region, and wherever He leads.

Let's seek Him. He is worthy... and kingdom victories await us.

REFLECTION:

1. Where in my day can I set aside time to quietly listen to God?
2. How can I better set my heart to seek for Him? (Those who seek will find.)
3. Why not keep a journal of your conversations with God and the thoughts Holy Spirit brings to you?

DECLARATION: As I seek You God, I believe You will clearly speak to me regarding my future and my role in experiencing miracles in Your kingdom.

Day 11—Thursday, January 16, 2020

“SEEING WITH YOUR HEART BRAIN”

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in His holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” Ephesians 1:18-19a

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen- not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” – C.S. Lewis

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1

There is a whole new field of science called neurocardiology. In this science, research has shown that your heart is like a brain unto itself where it can learn, remember and sense all on its own and maybe even microseconds before our actual brain does. It then sends neuro-messages to the parts of our brain that regulate perception and emotion, as well as through our whole body. Our hearts can also sense and be affected by the electromagnetic waves of another person’s heart up to five feet away. Science now says we have a “heart-brain.”

The Bible doesn’t talk about our heart brain, but it does talk about our heart eyes. When we ask God to enlighten the eyes of the heart, we are asking for our entire being to be aware and affected by God. We are asking to learn, remember, and sense His heartbeat. When we allow that to happen, we become aware of who we are in Him, everything He has done for us, and the power we have through Him. These messages then affect how we perceive and see everything. When others are close by, they can “feel” our heartbeat with the truth of God which in turns affects them.

REFLECTION:

1. What are some ways you can be more aware of God’s constant presence throughout the day?
2. How can being in tune with your own heart, make you more in tune with God?
3. Take a moment to focus on God’s nearness and ask Him to reveal His heart to you.

DECLARATION: Let the eyes of my heart truly be opened not only for my sake but for the world around me as well!

Day 12–Friday, January 17, 2020

“CREATION NORMAL”

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:7-9

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 2:1-3:9

When reading Genesis 2 and 3, we almost always focus on the fall of man, but today we want to focus on before the fall. Let’s focus on “Creation Normal”, the relationship Adam and Eve had with God before the fall.

While in Eden, Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect environment, a garden that automatically produced all the food they needed. The four rivers that flowed from the garden watered all the ground. The animals lived along with them, being fed by the garden as well. The entire region was filled with resources; gold, bdellium, and onyx stone. They were provided with everything they needed to not only survive, but to thrive and accomplish their dreams.

Not only was their environment perfect, their relationship with God was as well. There was no hindrance between them and Him, they walked with Him, they talked with Him. They experienced no pain, no fear, no danger, no disappointment. Nothing stood in the way of their success.

Don’t you ever wonder what it was that God talked about with Adam and Eve? I imagine that He was describing His plans for the earth, the glory that He wanted to work through them. I can imagine that He asked them about their own vision, and let them tell Him all their dreams. I can imagine that God taught them so many things about creation; from galaxies to molecules.

Now, through Jesus, we stand restored to the relationship that was available to Adam and Eve. We get to accomplish those things that were derailed with the fall, we get to walk in “Creation Normal”. Since that’s the case, what can we accomplish? We have unrestricted access to God, we have been given back the authority to rule the earth, no reason to fear. What should we do with that?

If we are in relationship with God as “Creation Normal”, let’s go after God’s vision, far beyond anything that Adam and Eve ever got to do. To subdue the earth (which actually means bringing the Kingdom of God to earth and into our environment so that those around us experience it!) still needs to be completed. Each of us has a piece of that mandate. I am positive that all we need do is ask, and God will fill our hearts with His vision for our lives.

REFLECTION:

1. If you were Adam or Eve what would God talk to you about?
2. When you are faced with a dilemma, do you think to seek God first?
3. How are you partnering with God to accomplish His purposes in your life?

DECLARATION: Today, I choose to live according to God’s vision for my life.

Day 13—Saturday, January 18, 2020

“HELD IN HIS GOODNESS”

“You’re a good, good Father. It’s who you are...And I’m loved by you.” – Chris Tomlin

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:28

God *IS* good. Everything about Him is good. He is only capable of goodness. In the middle of life’s trials or even just on a bad day, we need to remind ourselves that God *IS* good.

As we seek to draw nearer to our Father, we can choose to declare and believe in His goodness. It is impossible to fully receive the love from Father until we can trust that He is good. From the very beginning in the garden, the enemy convinced Adam and Eve to question God’s goodness. Does He really have our best interest in mind? No matter what, we can decide to stand on the truth that He does. Despite what our human eye may see or the lie the enemy may try to convince us to believe, God *IS* good.

It would look ridiculous to hold an infant in our arms and try to explain to them the process that brought them into this world and really expect them to understand any of it. Their understanding is extremely limited, yet they know as they are gently rocked back and forth the eyes staring into theirs are good. They know they are loved and cared for. As we attempt to understand things that are beyond our comprehension, our Father wants to simply cradle us in His arms and say, “You don’t understand all that’s going on around you, but I do. Trust Me. Trust My love. I am a Good Father.”

REFLECTION:

1. Is there something in your life in which you’ve questioned God’s goodness? Confess this to God and receive His forgiveness. How can being in tune with your own heart, make you more in tune with God?
2. Close your eyes. Feel the Father’s tender embrace around you. Allow Him to rock you back and forth as His child. Listen to what truth He wants to whisper to you today.
3. Start a new habit. Anytime something difficult happens in our world or in your personal life, declare that God *IS* good. Reject the lies, cling to the truth.

DECLARATION: God *IS* good, all the time! All the time, God *IS* good!

Day 14—Sunday, January 19, 2020

“FAITHFUL IN LITTLE”

“You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Matthew 25:21 NASB

“Our lives do not make sense today unless we understand the relationship of our struggle in this age to what we will do in the age to come.” – Mike Bickle

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 16:10-13

We've entered into this world with nothing, and we will leave this world with nothing. After decades of labor of our time on earth, and all of the things we've accumulated along the way, we cannot take a single one of them into the next life except for the qualities forged in our spirit. The virtues that we've allowed God to grow in us to make us more like Jesus. We will take with us our love for God, our love for others, and the result of our faithfulness to what God had entrusted to us throughout our lifetime. Rewards await us as Jesus will judge and celebrate our lives! In those moments before His throne, there will be no greater return on any investment in our lives than being found faithful to the things that were entrusted to us!

REFLECTION:

1. Consider the things that God has entrusted to you. For example: your family and friends, your vocation/labor, your finances, and the responsibilities that you've been entrusted with by others.
2. Think about even the smallest acts of kindness and love you've extended to others today. Opening a door for someone. Giving a smile to a stranger. Remember what can seem insignificant to us, is greatly important to our Lord! (Matthew 10:42, Mark 9:41)

DECLARATION: I choose today to be faithful in everything God has entrusted to me in every area of my life!

Day 15—Monday, January 20, 2020

“DISTRACTIONS”

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3 NIV

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 7:21-23

There is great competition for our focus. The increased communication in our society makes it challenging to maintain our focus on what the Holy Spirit wants to say to us. We have the Holy Spirit, and therefore are fully equipped to meet this challenge, if we take the time to seek Him.

Because we are raised with Christ, we have a different operating system than we did prior to being born again. Setting our hearts can also be understood as our “affections” and “motivations”. Our sinful nature pulls our focus away from *things above* even after we are born again. Distractions are not limited to sin. Even “good things” can distract us from focusing on *things above*. When we repent of our sinful lifestyle, the demonic forces assigned to destroy us become limited with their resources and are reduced to work through “non-sinful” things. For example, too much time or focus devoted to any good thing can become a snare. The Scripture charges us not to allow the enemy to outwit us and to be aware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11). Keeping our focus on *things above* vs. *earthly things* is only possible by the help of the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what distractions prevent you from listening to His Voice.
2. Talk to some trusted Christian peers and ask them to help you do “inventory” on your time to identify opportunities for change.
3. Spend more time reading and meditating on the Scripture.
4. Remember: “My eyes will be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.” Psalm 101:6 (NIV)

DECLARATION: I will set my mind on things above and not on earthly things!

Day 16—Tuesday, January 21, 2020

“HE ANSWERS”

“I said to de Lord, I’m going to hold steady on to You , and I know you will see me through..” – Harriet Tubman (slave, conductor in the Underground Railroad, abolitionist)

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:3

Few things bring peace like knowing the Lord has heard you, and has an answer to your prayers. The answer may not always be what you want at the time, but knowing that He answers, brings peace that God has everything in His hand.

When David was desperate and defeated, it says in Psalms 34:6 that David cried out to the Lord and He heard him and brought His miracle-deliverance when he needed it most.

The Lord wants us to speak with Him about everything....our hopes, desires, needs, dreams, failures and successes. The Lord desires to speak with us all the time. I Thessalonians 5:17 states, “...pray without ceasing”.

REFLECTION:

1. Do you speak with the Lord about everything or just when you are desperate or want something?
2. What will it take for me to have a conversation with the Lord that never ceases?

DECLARATION: May God’s will and my desires be an inseparable way of life.

Day 17–Wednesday, January 22, 2020

“WHERE IS HE?”

“To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement.” – St. Augustine

SCRIPTURE READING: Song of Solomon 3:1-4

It was December 1994, almost a year into the wonderful Toronto Blessing – one of the greatest Outpourings of Holy Spirit in the 20th Century, and my second trip to the cold city, and church on fire. So many people were being touched by the Lord in this time, and lives were being transformed.

In this particular season of my life, I was consumed with a huge desire of heart, and it had become somewhat of an obsession. I knew Jesus was calling me to a deeper place with Him, and was jealous for my heart. I felt another trip to Toronto was the perfect place to reconnect. I wanted to encounter Him in this holy place. Worship was amazing, the testimonies faith-building, but I couldn't wait for the part where I got to fall out on the floor, soak in His Presence, and be found by Him. The time finally came, late into the evening, and I “went down”. All around me, well over a thousand people laughed, cried, or shook, clearly being touched by Holy Spirit. However, there I lay, and I felt nothing – absolutely nothing. My heart sank. I was disappointed and hurt. I had come all that way to have an encounter and where was He? Clearly He was in that place, but my heart felt empty.

Then, I heard His sweet voice. He lovingly brought to mind a passage in the Song of Solomon where the Shulamite hadn't been ready to “come away with Him,” and later on she found “her heart now ached for her Beloved,” but, “He was nowhere to be found”. He instructed me, like in the passage, to rise up and search for Him, and seek Him with all my heart until I found Him. I went home and began to worship and seek His face daily, going after Him with my whole heart. By the end of December, I was able to truly say, that if I never received the lesser thing that my heart yearned for, He was enough!! He was my First Love.

Clearly He never leaves us. However, He is so jealous of our hearts, that He will sometimes withdraw enough of His Presence to make us hungry – hungry enough to go after Him! Moves of God are wonderful, and I'm so thankful for how God has touched me in corporate settings. However, nothing can replace that one on one, sweet intimacy with Jesus, where He goes after our heart, and we go after His...in the Secret Place.

REFLECTION:

1. Is there something in your life that has become more all consuming than God, something that consumes your thoughts and emotions, and has hindered your heart connection with Him?
2. Have you ever been in a large worship gathering and God felt far away?
3. Is your quiet time with Him a list of prayer requests and Bible reading, or are you able to heart connect with Him and hear His voice and receive revelation of His love?
4. How do you best heart connect with Him in the Secret Place?

DECLARATION: The pursuit of God's heart will be my highest aim and greatest joy!

Devotional contributor: Sharon Spirk

Day 18—Thursday, January 23, 2020

“A WATCHED POT NEVER BOILS”

“I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.” Psalm 130:5-6

SCRIPTURE READING: Habakkuk 2:3b

“A watched pot never boils.” attributed to Poor Richard, pseudonym for Ben Franklin. The proverbial expression meaning time seems to go more slowly when you are waiting for something to happen.

Sometimes when we are waiting for something to happen, we become anxious and are tempted to lose hope, but does a watched pot really never boil? It may seem like it is taking an eternity, but it will eventually boil.

You may be tempted to walk away and get distracted from your mission of boiling water. How boring it is to just sit and watch a pot. Isn't there something else that could be done while the waiting is taking place? But if you walk away, you run the risk of forgetting the pot. It could boil over or boil completely away causing a fire hazard. It is better to wait and rest knowing that in the end it will happen.

It is the same with the Lord. Put Your hope in Him. His promises are true. He will fulfill His Word for You. Wait for Him as the watchman waits for the morning.

REFLECTION:

1. What word of the Lord are you waiting for that you have not seen fulfilled yet?
2. How can you stay focused on that word without walking away and becoming distracted or losing hope?

DECLARATION: I wait for You, Lord, like the watchmen wait for the morning. I stay in hope knowing You will come and Your word for me will be fulfilled!

Day 19–Friday, January 24, 2020

“TUNNEL VISION”

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet...” Psalm 119:105 AMPC

*“Beloved, you will **never** waste time in God’s Word” – Beth Moore*

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 4:12

“Tunnel vision” is described as a negative condition where a person can only see what is in front of them, specifically being narrow minded or unable to have a broad spectrum of thoughts.

However, God’s Word teaches us to have “tunnel vision” because it helps us to see just enough to walk the righteous path while having a single-minded focus on Him to guide our choices and decisions.

Notice that scripture tells us that His Word is a “lamp” to our feet. The ancient lamp was small and flat with an oil-fed wick giving just enough light to see a short distance ahead. A contemporary analogy is using headlights while driving a car, such that it shows us just enough light for the immediate vicinity and not the distant path far ahead.

One step at a time is all we need because as we continue to trust Him. His Word will shed sufficient light giving us direction for each step of the journey.

REFLECTION:

1. How can you prioritize your time to go deeper in God’s Word?
2. Think of an area you are currently struggling with and look up scriptures related to that area. Continuously meditate on the message of the scripture through your day.
3. Re-write scripture into a personalized prayer from your heart to God. (‘Praying God’s Word’ by Beth Moore is a helpful resource).
4. As you dwell on the Word, ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom in helping you apply it to your everyday life.

DECLARATION: I believe God’s Word has the power to set me free and be my guide. His Word is my sufficiency!

Day 20—Saturday, January 25, 2020

“THANK-FULL”

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

“If God inhabits our praise, who inhabits our complaining?” – Bill Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Being “thankful” is an amazing way to live. In fact, it is God’s will for us to live gratefully. The word, “thankful,” means to be so filled with gratitude—we overflow with contagious praise.

The root of the biblical word for “thankful” is “eucharist.” It’s a word often used to describe sharing in the Lord’s Supper, or Holy Communion. It means “to fully come under the influence of another.” Filled with the powerful effects of all the battles Jesus won on the Cross (i.e., overcoming sin, shame, depression, sickness, even conquering the devil)—we can’t help but be filled with thanks!

David said, “We enter His gates with thanksgiving.” (Psalm 100:4). Thankfulness brings us into our Father’s world—enabling us to see life from His perspective.

REFLECTION:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of some of the amazing benefits He has brought into your life (Psalm 103).
2. Let the thanks He fills you with overflow, expressing your gratitude to your Father in your own unique ways.
3. Take some “praise breaks” throughout your day (Psalm 119:164).

DECLARATION: I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise will continually be in my mouth. I am a grateful child of my Father. By His grace, I will joyfully influence the environment wherever I go!