

Daily Walk for the week of June 3, 2019

“The Great Mystery of Faith: The Living Word”

Written by Vernon Mukhlall

Mon June 3 The Glory Of The Lord

“And he raised up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” Exodus 40:33-34. Upon the specific instructions from God, Moses built and set up the Tabernacle which was to be God’s dwelling place on earth. Then the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. This demonstrated the presence of the Lord among the Israelites. This was really significant and awe-inspiring to the Israelites for they knew for sure that God was with them in their journey to the promised land. In the coming of Jesus Christ, God’s glory is now manifested not in a tent but in his Son. The gospel of John records that, “The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14). Jesus is, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23). He’s also, “the exact representation of God’s nature because He is God Himself.” (Hebrews 1:3). Because of our relationship with Jesus Christ, God is now present with us in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live our lives in a way pleasing to God. Prayer: Heavenly Father, I have seen your glory in your resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. Although I cannot look upon your face, help me to see you in all I encounter in my daily life – people and all your creation around me. Amen.

Tue June 4 God’s Masterpiece

“For you have formed my inward parts: you have covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise you; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are your works; and that my soul knows right well.” Psalm 139:13 – 14. The story is told of a man who bought a house with a big boulder in the front yard. He grew weary of this big and unattractive stone in the center of his lawn, so he decided to turn it into an object of art. He took his chisel and hammer and went to work, chipping away at the huge boulder until it became a beautiful breath-taking stone elephant. The neighbor passing by asked, “How did you ever carve such a marvelous likeness of an elephant?” The home-owner answered, “I just chipped away everything that did not look like an elephant.” Just like the home-owner chipping away everything that does not look like an elephant, so our God is chipping away everything thing

that does not make us into the likeness of Christ. We are God’s work in progress and He wants to make us His masterpiece for His Kingdom. Let us allow God’s Spirit who abides in us to chip away anything that does not look like love, mercy, humility, empathy, and compassion. Ask the Holy Spirit to chip away hatred, prejudice, envy, or anything that disfigures the image that God wants us to have as His children. Prayer: God of love and mercy I humbly ask that you chip away anything that is ungodly in my life and make me into your masterpiece. Amen.

Day of Pentecost

Written by Mary Anderson

Wednesday, June 5th God’s Wisdom in Creation

“Oh Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.” Psalm 104:24-25. God created and formed our world and every living thing in His wisdom. To investigate God’s creation through science is part of the life of faith. He made every living thing and when it was done, God declared it was good. It is easier for me to see the good in cats and dogs and other “usual” pets rather than in snakes or mice, squirrels or cockroaches although the cockroaches that scurry in and out of my garage and occasionally into the house are more endearing to me now than when I was a teenager and they ran across our clean kitchen counters every night in Hawaii. If in science we study any of these, we can marvel at how intricately God made them and how they balance out and each have a role in nature whether small or large. We can’t help but see God alive in our world as we look around us on land and in the sea. **Prayer:** Lord of every creature, you provide for your people out of the abundance of your wondrous and varied creation. Open your hand and fill us with good things, sending your Spirit on all that you have made. Amen

Thursday, June 6th God’s Glory Endures

“May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise to my God while I have being. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!” Psalm 104:31-33, 35b. We are blessed by God as seen in his creation as well as his sending his son, Jesus, to die for us so that we might be saved. He sent his Holy Spirit to guide us. Because of his goodness and sacrifice, we want to

praise him in all we do and say. One easy and uplifting way to do this for me is to sing loudly my praises with others in church while we worship our God. It is harder to sing our praises when we have suffered a loss and don't feel God's nearness. In these times, we may hear others singing more loudly or offering us quiet support, a listening ear. We know in our hearts God is always with us as long as we live on this earth until he brings us to his heavenly home. Continue to bless us, Lord, as we serve you. **Prayer:** Enduring God, we offer you thanks for the gift of eternal life we receive through your Spirit. Support us in our work, that we may do what is right and not grow weary. Amen

Friday, June 7th We Are Children of God

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may be glorified with him." Romans 8:14-17. In our baptism, we became children of God. We were adopted into God's family and received God's spirit. Any parent who has adopted a child made that child his/her own, loved them, taught and guided them. They became the father and/or mother in spirit if not of the flesh. God has given us his Son, Jesus, to be our savior and we are heirs of God's kingdom with Christ. What a privilege we have to be one with Christ, to be filled with his spirit and called to bear witness to his love and forgiveness to those who know him and especially to those who don't yet know him but long to be his child as well. **Prayer:** Holy God, through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son you offer eternal and abundant life to all. Strengthen us to serve as your children, sharing your spirit and the words you have given us to proclaim. Amen

Saturday, June 8th Filled with the Spirit

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." Acts 2:1-4. Pentecost (also called Festival of Harvest, see Leviticus 23:15-16) was the Jewish festival celebrated 50 days after Passover so many Jews were gathered in Jerusalem. This Pentecost was unlike any other. It is hard to

imagine how it felt when the sound of a strong wind (come from heaven) filled the room where they were sitting. And then divided tongues of fire appeared and one rested on each of them! What a surprise and I'm sure scary occurrence. As you would expect they all started talking at once but not in their own language but the Holy Spirit filled them so they spoke in another language as the Holy Spirit gave them the ability. The word "cacophony" comes to my mind and I also wonder how I'd feel if I wasn't one who was chosen to speak in a different language which may happen today. Would I feel left out, not loved as much by God? We know God loves us all but has chosen to give us different gifts. Let's remember that we are all filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit and should use the gifts we have been given in the way God wants for us. **Prayer:** Almighty and ever-living God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending the gift of your Holy Spirit. Look upon your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and heal the division of word and tongue, that with one voice and one song we may praise your name in joy and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Sunday, June 9th God Will Pour Out His Spirit

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy...Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:17-18, 21. Peter, one of the eleven there witnessing the speaking in tongues, gives his sermon to explain what was happening and begins by quoting the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32). Peter uses these verses to show how the outpouring of the Spirit is a sign of God's reign among them. God calls us to prophesy in the end times, to foretell the good news, sharing with others that God by his Spirit will call us all to his heavenly home. These words of Joel remind us that God will give the Holy Spirit to all people regardless of age, gender, or place in life. Everyone who believes will speak the good news about Jesus Christ. **Prayer:** God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen