

# Community of Grace

## Daily Walk for the week of August 3, 2020

### Psalm 85:10....Abundance

Written by Vernon Mukhlall

#### Mon Aug 3 Waiting On God Patiently

"I will wait for the Lord.....I will put my trust in Him." Isaiah 8: 17 The COVID-19 pandemic is ravaging lots of places in the world creating havoc with people's lives. People are struggling for food, loved ones are getting sick, many are dying, people's lives have been turned upside down. Many are getting despondent not seeing any end to this crisis. Many people may be asking the question : "Where are you God? Why do you allow this to happen? How much longer should we wait for your relief?" Isaiah says , " I will wait for the Lord .....I will put my trust in him". Patiently waiting is the most difficult test that we must face - waiting for this pandemic to pass, to go back to work, to put food on the table, to get back to normal life again. To have patience is to have the power to endure without complaint something difficult. To wait patiently on God to act is to give Him our problems( Matt 11:28), live in His peace which passes all understanding, and trusting Him to do what is best for us. God is always with us and will act in our best interest, in His time and in His way. Prayer: Almighty God, you are the God of patience. Help me to be patient trusting you to act in my best interest. Amen.

#### Tue Aug 4 Free Food For Life

"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and you who have no money; come buy and eat; yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfies not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat

that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in richness." Isaiah 55: 1 – 2. Food which supplies the body with nutrients is necessary for us. Different people have different kinds of food depending on their taste and their culture. All foods have a cost whether you purchase them or you grow them yourselves. Here God is extending an invitation to everyone to purchase without money, food that will nourish , not the body, but the soul. Thirst is a metaphor for desiring what satisfies our spirit. Water represents life and signifies the enjoyment of Salvation. Wine and milk are symbols of complete satisfaction. God's Salvation through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, cannot be bought, it is freely offered. But to nourish our souls we must eagerly receive it. We will starve spiritually without this food as surely as we will starve physically without our daily bread. Let us approach God and purchase without money, food that will satisfy our souls. Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the provider of food that satisfies both body and soul. Freely grant me the food that satisfies my soul so that I may continue to grow in the image of your Son, the Bread of Life. Amen.

### Psalm 85:10...Trust

Written by Vicar Jamie Witt

#### Wednesday, August 5, 2020

#### Trust, and Then Try

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." Proverbs 3:5. Our insights and viewpoints can be altered by what happens to us in life. If we have a bad experience, we tend to associate all similar experiences in negative terms. This can result in our minds being closed to new ideas and adventures. This verse reminds us

to consider something else ahead of our judgements: trust in God. When we are debating something whether it is a decision to be made or a second chance to give, we need to take it to the Lord in prayer and put our trust in God's guidance. Our insights are not completely invalid as this verse might make it sound. They are just not good navigators without the hand of God working with them. Let God know what your insights are and what you are feeling about a situation and then open yourself up to what God will contribute to the conversation. Allow God to move and guide you, even if it is out of your comfort zone. Trust, and then try. Prayer: "Lord God, I bring to you my apprehensions and concerns about what I'm facing. Please take my feelings and hold them, rework them and through Your wisdom guide me in the path to take knowing that You go with me. Amen."

**Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**Trust in the Journey**

**"Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other." Psalm 85:10.** We are struggling in our country today. We are trying to find our way to the place this psalm verse describes. What images come to mind when you consider this verse? How do we get there? Getting there is a journey. We do not undo centuries of hurt and injustice in a day. We can keep our minds on the destination, but in the meantime, we must invite God into the journey. We must take the time to look for where the Holy Spirit is already at work in our situation and then be open where the Spirit will guide us next. During this Pentecost season we are looking at God's Word and allowing the Spirit to show us how God is continuing to be ac-

tive now. This week we are looking at how in the midst of uncertainty and the need for change we can continue to trust in God to move in and through us so that we can work toward a world where righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Prayer: "God of steadfast love and peace, I ask for Your help and guidance for the world I live in. I ask You to work in the hearts of all people to bring forth a radical love of neighbor and a thirst for justice. Amen."

**Friday, August 7, 2020**

**Trust in Love**

**"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him." Romans 10:12.** We trust in the Word of God to teach and guide us. Trust in these words of Paul to the Romans. We are called to live in love with one another, not create divisions. When we sing, "Jesus loves me, this I know..." remember that He also loves the person sitting next to you, the person across the street, the person across town, the person across the world, the person that looks different from you, the person that worships different than you, the person you disagreed with on Facebook last week, and the list goes on and on. The same Lord is Lord of all and loves all the same. By the creative Spirit of God we were all shaped and made in God's image to occupy a place in God's creation. Trust in God's creativity and design and wonder at all the incredible differences we have. Differences that make our world interesting and beautiful. Let's celebrate all the diversity that God has created. Trust that yes, Jesus loves me, and you and him and her and them...the Bible tells me so. Prayer: "Loving God, help me to love like You do. When I want to put up walls or judge others let me turn to love in-

stead. May I love as I have been loved. Amen.”

**Saturday, August 8, 2020**

**Trust in the Silence**

“Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.” **1Kings 19:11b-13a**. Elijah was waiting for God as he was instructed that God would come. He expects God to come in a big way by a strong wind or an earthquake. What he finds is that God arrives in the silence. God is present in a still small voice that Elijah hears when he stops being distracted by all the noise. How often have we tried to hear God in the noise? Or how often have we prayed for a big sign from God about what we are supposed to do? It’s hard for us to slow down and just listen. I admit it’s a struggle for me. I have to be intentional about it. I have to claim that time and make it for only myself and God to occupy or it will get populated by something else. It is in that time of slowed down space that I can dwell with God and be attuned to hear that still small voice. If you make the time you can trust that God will share that space with you. Trust and find rest in that knowledge. Prayer: “My days run fast and I need to meet You in the stillness. In this quiet moment, Lord, I am here with You with open heart and ears. Let me hear what You would say to me today. Amen.”

**Sunday, August 9, 2020**

**Trust**

“But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’” **Matthew 14:26-27**. This image of Jesus walking out on the water is a favorite of mine and I’m sure the same holds true for a lot of you. Peter desperately wants to share this moment with Jesus and asks if he can join him on the water. Jesus, of course, welcomes him to come. Peter is walking steady on the clear water until he begins to overthink the reality of what he is doing and doubts, then the sinking begins. He reaches out to Jesus and is lifted. How many times do our lives mirror this situation? We look to Jesus and ask for guidance, then we step out onto the water in complete trust, then the voices of doubt creep into our minds and we start to sink. May we be like Peter and in that moment cry out to Jesus and fix our eyes on Him and be lifted. It is difficult to shut out the negative noise of the world and focus on Jesus. The faith that God has given us can sometimes feel small, but despite it’s size the amazing thing about it is its resilience. It is made of the most indestructible stuff on earth and in heaven. There are times it may feel like it shrinks in size, but never in strength. Trust in the faith you’ve been given, and it will be there, never gone and never broken. Prayer: “Lord God, I want to be strong in faith and trust but there are times I struggle and feel weak. May I remember Your love for me and trust in Your promises. I will reach for You and never sink. Amen.”