

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of August 24, 2020

Psalm 85:10...Gifts

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Monday August 24th Gift of Discipleship

“When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you get to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ John 1: 47-49. One gift of discipleship is the reality that Jesus knows us from the moment of our creation. We were all created by God with intent for the world around us. Discipleship is about our growing in understanding of what God intends for the world through our individual gifts. Jesus knew Nathanael before they even met, and that he would have a role to play as a disciple. When Jesus shares this with Nathanael it affirms the faith that the Holy Spirit had already given him. Remember today the gifts God has given to you and use this day to grow in your understanding of them. Prayer: “Open my eye, great Redeemer, to the gifts you have called me to use in my world this day. Amen.”

Tuesday August 25th Gift of Knowledge

“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?’ For from him and

through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 33-36. St. Paul recognizes the vastness of God’s judgment and knowledge of creation and each of us. We are small in relation to “depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God.” Equally vast is the grace of God and the steadfast love that God has for each of us. Paul’s vast vision of greatness enables us to place our faith in what God will do for each of us, in love and mercy, over what we could accomplish on our own. The gift of Knowing God’s greatness helps us to let go of our mistakes and trust in the renewing work of God within and around us. Prayer: “How great you are, O God, in love, knowledge, and mercy for me this and every day. Amen.”

Psalm 85:10...Harmony

Written by Kerri Lawton

Daily devotion for August 26, 2020

Jeremiah 15:18-19: “Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore this says the Lord: If you turn back I will take you back and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.” Jeremiah had suffered persecution for his strong faith. He wants the joy he felt when first called by God; drinking the words of God like waters from a brook, was exuberant! But now, dealing with the evil of the world, he cries to God

for retribution. God's answer was to turn back and see the precious things in life, worth being joyful for. I am reminded of a dear friend, "Jake", whose body is crippled from M. S. She has been suffering for years, experiencing decline every year. She had become an alcoholic to deal with the pain. But years ago, she turned to God and enjoys the "precious" things in life, so many we may take for granted. She has harmonized her life of suffering into the loving hands of God to fulfill her days. In my eyes, she has become a "mouth" of God, not always with words but by just being herself, a precious child of God. Prayer: Dear Lord, as we live our life's of worry and sorrow, we must be reminded to turn your way. May we stand before you in harmony with the world, seeking peace, even if only in our own hearts. Amen

Daily devotion for August 27, 2020

Jeremiah 15:19-20: "It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord." The Lord's purpose is to convince Jeremiah of his own worth. We often doubt ourselves with so much uncertainty we face. The Lord is offering the strength gained by knowing of God's presence. Once one realizes that with God by their side, they can stand as a "wall of bronze." He sees that Jeremiah should set himself as an example of strength, for people to see the

harmony of life, with God by his side. Let ourselves strive for strength in faith by, harmoniously, standing with the Lord and be a good example to all. Prayer: Heavenly Father, we have faith in you, and with that faith, we stand strong. Save us and deliver us daily, in your mercy. Amen

Daily devotion for August 28, 2020

Psalm 26:1-3 "Vindicate me, oh Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, oh Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you." This is a plea for justice and righteousness. David pleads for the Lord's recognition of his faithfulness. There are often times that all I can do is trust in the Lord. A situation that is out of my hands and, with the help of the Lord, I can deal with its outcome. Perhaps God is testing my "heart and mind" as to how I deal with the situation. We look for justification and must trust that God is in control. His steadfast love is forever before me, offering harmonious love and support. His righteousness is worth the love we give and share. Prayer: Dear Lord, may we walk in faithfulness to you, unwavering through the test of time. We trust in you and give you things. Amen

Daily devotion for August 29, 2020

Psalm 26:6-8: "I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, oh Lord, singing aloud a song of Thanksgiving, and telling all your wonderful deeds. Oh Lord I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides." In my

thoughts I hear this as a song of joy and purity. We strive for innocence to cope with a troubled world. As if through a child's eyes, experiencing innocence and the joy of a less complicated life. Certainly washing hands are encouraged to help fight the virus, but to wash hands in innocence would be a spiritual cleansing. This psalm encourages us to sing of Thanksgiving. This we must do to keep our spirits enlightened and thankful. Now normally we visualize the "house in which you dwell" as the place we come together, in joyous praises: the churches of our choice. The Lord has helped us realize he dwells in our world, as the wind blows, where he is needed. He abides in a world wherever he is sought. He abides in our hearts and in the hearts of others, as we harmoniously sing songs of Thanksgiving. Prayer: Oh Lord, you inspire us, through your words, to give praise. We sing in harmony whether gathered as one, or in our own sanctuaries, expressing love and thanksgiving for the goodness that we see. We give thanks for your wondrous deeds. Amen

Daily devotion for August 30, 2020

Romans 12: 9-13: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, extend hospitality to strangers." These verses are titled "Marks of a true Christian" "in my

Community of Grace Bible. He begins "let love be genuine" and each line there after are genuinely written with love. It expresses good mutual affection and honoring each other. Hospitality to strangers and contributing to the needy, is simply serving the Lord. Time and again I am seeing the goodness of people being tested these days. Strangers seem to be more aware of themselves, how they approach others. Showing honor, or showing respect is an important beginning point to listening and understanding. "Hold fast to what is good" and "rejoice in hope" are just examples of how harmoniously these words of inspiration are spoken and felt deeply in our soul. We must be zealous in our quest to meet the "Marks of a true Christian." Prayer: Heavenly Father, we know we must persevere in prayer, bringing us closer to you. Your strength is our strength as we hold fast to what is good. Amen