

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK WEEK OF JULY 4, 2022

Partners in Ministry: Are Sent

Written by Kerri Lawton

**Monday, July 4, 2022**

Galatians 6:7-10: "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially to those of the family of faith." In this verse, Paul is reminding them that receiving God's grace does not eliminate the continued sinful choices we make. To believe this would mock God, making light of Jesus's sacrifices. If you bring life to the Spirit within, you can enjoy the bountiful harvest of blessings. The "crops" we produce in good faith will "reap eternal life from the Spirit." Like any good farmer we must continue to plant seeds along the way. We'll care for them as they grow and mature, for we know our survival could depend on their survival. We must never give up on doing what is right. Those who plant the fruit of the Spirit, through Christ, will harvest from the Spirit. Share the joy of harvest time, working as a "family of faith" for the good of all. Prayer: Merciful God, let us not grow weary in doing what is right. We pray that you strengthen our souls and guide our spirits. Amen

**Tuesday, July 5, 2022**

Luke 10:3-6: "Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the mist of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you." I may be going out to right field with this one, but I am re-

minded of my early years while in a mistake of a marriage. I certainly wasn't sent by the Lord, but I have to say I worked very hard to stay true to my faith, while living far from home and barely getting by. We found ourselves homeless for a spell, finding space with friends. I am relaying this because I was very observant of how each received us. Some were there to accept what we could offer and made us feel welcome, while others were only helping us to benefit themselves, pulling us even further down. We were in the mist of wolves and, I believe through my faith, we reestablished ourselves knowing who to trust. The Lord touches us in many ways, especially when we bring peace and goodwill to the household. Be that person one can trust and establish good will through good deeds and actions. Prayer: Dear Lord, your peace and mercy are freely offered to anyone willing to share in peace. Keep our hearts and minds open, for the laborers are few. We go out as one, spreading the good news. Amen

Partners in Ministry: Show Mercy

Written by Trudy Hanson

Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>

**Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe. Deuteronomy 30:11-14** Life is FULL of those moments when you have to make a quick reaction to something and you ask yourself, what would God have me do? I'm sure a few of these moments you can relate to: You go out to dinner/lunch with someone

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and all they do is check their phone. You go out to a play or movie and the person next to you is wearing way too much perfume. You get on the bus or a plane and someone puts their bag on the seat next to them so you can't sit there. You meet with a friend to catch up and they talk nonstop about themselves. When a person parks over the line in the parking lot so you can't park there. Talking in movies, putting back a grocery item in the wrong place (maybe even in your cart when you aren't looking). Those times you are sitting in traffic and someone comes flying up the shoulder of the road to get to the front. When you are in the fast lane on the highway and the car in front is going 30 mph....I could go on and on with things that irritate us. In our verses today we are being told we don't have to ask, what would God have me do? Because we already know. We don't have to google to find the answer, because we already know. We don't have to call a friend, because we already know. **No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.** God's word is in our mouth and on our hearts to observe always. We already know what God would have us do. Prayer: Dear God, we are often impatient and irritated by small things. Help me to remember that your word and your commands are always in my heart and on my lips. Amen

Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

**To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Psalms 25:1** A couple years ago I was diagnosed with cancer. It came totally out of the blue with no warning. I remember the moment I was told. I was on the phone with my doctor and she told me I had cancer. When I got off the phone I told Tim. I can still remember the look on his face. It said it all, the shock, sorrow and the fear of what is going to happen, I saw all this on his face and felt responsible for all his fear and sorrow. And in

that moment I made the decision not to tell anyone else. I didn't want to be responsible for hurting anyone else. And so my journey into treatment began. Tim took the brunt of how hard it was and the many times I just broke down. Then someone told me, you don't have to go through this alone. God is always with you and he has given all of us a village. People that are there for you, to pray for you, to support you, and to help you through whatever is to come. They are waiting for you to invite them in....and so I did... immediately I felt the prayers and the love and support of so many. The cards of prayers and concern came at the times I needed them the most. It was an amazing feeling to know so many people cared and prayed for me. It was the village that God sent for me that got me through a difficult time and I will never forget that feeling. Our verse today tells us, we don't have to be alone. We just have to lift our Soul to the Lord and invite the village God has provided for us in. Prayer: To you O Lord I lift up my soul and give thanks. Amen  
Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Psalms 25:4-5** I'm sure we all have had those moments in life when you raise your hands and say, God, Help Me! One of the first times for me was when my children were young. Tim was gone a lot and I was left to deal with the creative ways my son and daughter could challenge my wits. There was the time I heard a popping noise from my son's bedroom. When I went in he was doing target practice with his bb gun (the target was taped to the window). By the time I stopped screaming to stop we found the bb's had gone through the first pane of the double pane glass but not the second one so they all lay at the bottom between the glass never to

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be retrieved but always a reminder during his grounding. Then there was the time that I got a call at work from my amazing children that had just gotten home from school. They were playing baseball in the backyard and broke our big picture window. I ran home to find a hole the size of the baseball in the window. But also found a big dent in the wall across the room in the Livingroom inside. How did this happen? It was explained that one was practicing their fast pitch to the other that was standing in front of the window. Supposedly it was the batters fault because they didn't hit the ball. This is just 2 incidents of the many, many things that happened on my watch throughout the years. I would go to bed at night asking God to give me patience, to give me strength and to give me guidance that I do and say the right things. These verses are for all of us going through difficult times. When we are asking for guidance and for forgiveness this psalm is telling us that God will guide us and love us. He will never stop caring for those who seek him. We can be confident that God will forgive us and teach us his path because he is our God and salvation. Dear Lord, thank you for your love and guidance. We give thanks that you are always near.

Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>

**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world,**

**so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. Colossians 1: 1-8** In these verses Paul is writing to those faithful in Christ. He is inviting us to lead lives worthy of the Lord and fully pleasing to him. It doesn't mean we are doing it to earn Christ's love or prove something to him because he already loves us. We are opening our hearts and our good works because we want to do it for him. Community of Grace has so many opportunities to respond to his love by our good works, sharing our gifts and praying for those that need them. I am very humbled to be part of Community of Grace Prayer Team. It gives me the opportunity to pray for those that need our prayers, for those that are concerned and those that just need to be lifted and surrounded in prayer. This team has committed themselves in this ministry and are dedicated to lifting those that call on us. Someone once asked me, how should our prayers reveal our walk with Christ? Honestly, I'm not sure. All I can say is what I feel in my heart and what I feel is important for the person I am praying for. And of course that they be pleasing to God. I always begin my prayers with words of thankfulness. We all have so much that God has given us. He is always there for us when we call, he is lifting us when we fall and opening his loving arms when we don't feel we deserve it. He gave everything for us and giving thanks for the sacrifices he endured and the love he has for me is my way of recognizing it and expressing how thankful I am. My prayers are always intentional, they are specific, and they are for the person I pray for. As I lift my prayers I want God to know that they need him and that they are struggling and ask

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for his loving arms to surround them. My Journey through prayer has brought me closer to God and I give thanks every day. Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for surrounding us in your love. Because you first loved us and forgive us. Help us to respond by loving you and gladly acting according to your commands. Amen

Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>

**For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light? He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9-14** These verse just jumped out at me when I got them because it was at the same time that we had (10) new members join our church! Covid has been hard on so many of us. The isolation, the masks, the lack of human contact and not being able to attend church services with our congregation. But we continued in our faith, we continued our prayers and we continued to join and participate as much as we could. We continued to welcome those that were called to visit us. It was different, but we continued our classes and meetings on Zoom. We had so many people that used their talents to spread the word and make others feel welcome to join us. And as Covid subsided we began in person services even though they

weren't the same we saw the faces we loved. Visitors came and felt the love that we have for each other and for our faith and they felt welcome. God gave us a challenge with COVID. As always he asked us to welcome others, to show our faith and express our love for God. Our new members heard God call them to us and we are so grateful for their presence and thank God they are here. Prayer: We heard your call and we felt the strength and creativity that you have given us to spread your word and show others our love for you. Thank you for all your blessings on us. Amen