

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF AUGUST 1, 2022

Partners in Ministry: Trust in God

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Monday August 1st

God Builds the House

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.” Psalm 127 1-2. When you think about our call in the church it is about the work of God in, thru, and around us that matters. God is at work to spread the love of his kingdom all around the world. The things that we do and work for do not last in relation to what God has done for us and even thru us. No matter how long or hard we work, we know that the Spirit of God brings the growth and transformation our hearts long for. The Psalm writer is reminding us that God will be at work in our world. This work will build a spiritual house that will change everything. Prayer: “Open my eyes to your Holy Spirit’s work all around me this day. Amen.”

Tuesday August 2nd

Our Witness to Others

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving at the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.” Colossians 4: 2-6. These are Paul’s instruc-

tions to the early church in Colossae. He wants them reflecting on this question: “How is God opening a door for them to share with others what He has done for the world through Jesus Christ?” It is the calling of the Church to share with the world the gifts of love, grace, and mercy that come with Christ Jesus and the community we share. When we devote ourselves to these things, people will see Christ in that work. It is in our telling of Jesus’ story that they will see their place at the table and in community. Prayer: “God, give us words in your Holy Spirit’s action in our hearts, words, and lives that other may feel your love and welcome this day. Amen.”

Faith in Action: Trust the Promises

Written by John Cundey

Wednesday August 3rd

Genesis 15: 1-3 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." For many people, having protection throughout one's current life requires being blessed with either brute strength or amassed wealth. So when God comes to Abram stating that He will be Abram's shield, it is Abram that sees his present not needing protecting since he has lived a long life, but his future for he has no heir. So what use are rewards if you do not have the faith that those rewards will be used justly? Abram knew that by only having an offspring would his

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK

family continue to be blessed and rewarded. This can test one's faith for what good are all these blessings from God if there's no one who will carry on the family? Abram struggles with the same doubts we do; what does the future hold, what is the purpose of life, has enough been done for my family? God protects us even when we may not know the reason or what's in store for us. Prayer: Lord God, continue to bless and protect me even when I struggle to see the purpose. Guide me in the faith that your will be done even when I don't quite understand what it will be. Amen

Thursday August 4th

Genesis 15: 4-6 **4** *But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."* **5** *He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."* **6** *And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.* When was the last time you looked up at the night sky on a clear night? In our modern world, you'd be hard pressed to count 20 to 30 stars in the sky, unless you travel to the Rockies or the desert. But even that many is more than the current descendant number that Abram has: none. So Abram did what anyone who has money does, setup his estate to be handed down to a faithful servant. But God steps in again to set Abram right since Abram had the faith to put God first and he was blessed. But would this be different since he was of old age? How could he have an heir that would create descendants that out number the

stars? Abram demonstrates his faith in God by believing in this greater blessing. Prayer: God, allow me to demonstrate the same faith in you that Abram had. Continue to bless me even when I can not see how. Amen

Friday August 5th

Hebrews 11: 1-3 **1** *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* **2** *Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.* **3** *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.* Have you ever tried to explain to someone a time when something so fantastic happened that you end up just saying "you just had to be there!" When our ancestors were looking towards God for blessings, He provided them what was needed even when they could not see how, but understood that all things happened in faith. That faith allows us to move forward in life without fear of the unknown and the unseen. No one knows the future, but in faith one can live in a present that has been prepared by God for us. By walking in this faith, our journey becomes more purposeful and it's meaning clearer even when the things that make our world remain invisible. Prayer: Gracious Lord, give me the faith to continue walking towards the understanding that this world has been prepared for me by You and that just because I can not see it's true purpose doesn't mean I shouldn't have conviction. Amen

Saturday August 6th

Hebrews 11: 8-10 **8** *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a*

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK

place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. When we think of the word “inheritance,” one image that comes to mind is the passing of wealth from one generation to the next and that wealth is usually created by saving, cultivating, and utilizing God’s gifts. But what if you had no idea of said gift but instead were asked to move to a foreign place, living nomadically in tents, unsure of how long or for what reason. What would get you to keep moving forward? Faith sounds like an easy solution but what does faith look like when you don’t have an example? You look toward God and His creation for the architecture of faith, trusting that God has provided up until now and will continue laying the foundation to build eternal inheritance for not only me, but everyone who believes and has faith. Prayer: Almighty God, you’ve laid the foundation within me to continue having faith for my journey through this world. Strengthen me and instill the same patience as in Abraham so that my eternal inheritance is able to reflect your greatness. Amen

Sunday August 7th

Hebrews 11: 11-12 **11** By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old - and Sarah herself was barren - because he considered him faithful who has promised. **12** Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants

were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’ The writer of Hebrews has written about Abraham’s faith to show an example for us to follow. God calls each of us to be his hands in this world and as believers we answer that call with faith knowing God is with us along the way. In our world today, we become distracted and we lose our focus on God. God loves us and desires to be in relationship with us. Spend time with God this week; talk with him, read Scripture, serve at the church or in the community. Worship in community today and be open to what God is calling you to do. You may find yourself being called to do something new, something a little uncomfortable, something a little scary but remember God is with you and he will guide you to do his work. Prayer: Thank you God for walking beside me each day even when I lose focus that you are with me. Open my heart and mind to listen to your call and to walk with faith as Abraham did wherever your call takes me. Amen