

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF AUGUST 1, 2022

Faith in Action: Trust the Promises

Written by John Cundey

Monday August 8th

Luke 12: 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. When reading or hearing this verse, it is easy to gravitate towards the negative end of one's spectrum and dwell on all the material and all-consuming moments in your daily life that can take you away from God. We have busy lives and we all fall short by uplifting worldly treasures over spiritual ones. But through grace we are given the faith in Christ that our hearts will not always be hardened towards these treasures of the world. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Prayer: Lord God, continue to work within my heart so that my treasure will align with your will. Grant me strength in faith to be in this world but not of this world. Amen.

Tuesday August 9th

Luke 12:35 Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Being ready for anything takes on a whole new meaning after reading through this verse. Jesus is telling his friends that you need to not only be attentive by being dressed, but also ready to take action and get moving by having our lamps lit. But when will we get moving, what does the right time look like? The outside world places stress on all of us to second guess God's will that can cause many people to stop listening. Having faith in God that He would not cause us to worry about taking action or not taking action but will stand by us regardless helps build the confidence to continue lighting our lamps and being dressed for action. Prayer: Gracious Lord, you

showed us how to stay vigilant by giving us the faith to live our lives in the best manner possible. Strengthen our resolve as we look towards you for action within this world as we do your work with our hands. Amen

Faith in Action: Keep Running the Race!

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

"That slave who knew what his master wanted but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." (Luke 12:47-48) Remember always that you are a beloved child of God. We have been given the promise of salvation through grace for the forgiveness of our sins and we should act like it! Let your actions be a reflection of your faith, not as some requirement to be saved but as a blessing to others through your hands because you are saved. It's a subtle but important difference. As Christians we are called to be conduits of the Holy Spirit and to carry Christ's message of hope to everyone in the world, and carry it we shall! While we are deserving of the beatings for our sins, it is through the amazing gift of grace that we are saved from our sins and from the power of death because of Christ Jesus! Prayer. "Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. We know that we are undeserving of forgiveness and leniency and thank you for that perfect gift.

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Amen.”

Thursday, August 11, 2022

“God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:1-4) Remember always that God is the one true judge. His perfect judgment is often misunderstood and inconceivable to our minds as humans. But we are not to be judges, we are to be helpers. We are called not to point out the faults in one another or criticize harshly but to help each other, brothers and sisters in Christ, to fight against evil and sin. We should be delivering justice instead of judgment. The energy we use to lash out and speak ill of others is energy we could be using to save someone from a wicked situation fraught with sin. The Holy Spirit is calling you; calling you to be the hands for God in this world and to help bring justice to God’s people. Help someone who can not help themselves. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the understanding you give us in empathy of other people. We pray to replace our sinful judgements of others with mercy and a helping hand. Amen.”

Friday, August 12, 2022

“For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. Do not, therefore, abandon that boldness of

yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what was promised.” (Hebrews 10:34-36) In our lives we have so much stuff. Just stuff. Stuff that holds no real meaning, like a child with their toys. Sometimes when tragedy strikes, sinful jealousy, or other materialistic thoughts, we have a tendency to furrow our brows and be angry over stuff that is lost; also like a child. Instead of being angry and sad, we should remember that things here are temporary. The time that we spend on this earth, the stuff that we accumulate, is nothing in comparison to the hope and reward that is promised to us and we will receive after. When we turn the other cheek, focus on the eternal, we act more like Jesus than we would ever naturally be. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the one true gift that we have received; the gift of justification through Christ. We pray to focus on that one true gift over the distractions of life, the temporary joys and sadnesses, so that we may be better equipped to follow your word in the time to come. Amen.”

Saturday, August 13, 2022

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There he is!’—do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look! He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as

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far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:23-27) It is completely normal to be fascinated by charismatic pastors. And while it is completely normal, it does come with its own problems! Many people want to control God, to try to be His herald into our world. They find interesting ways and trickery to tell you that this thing or that thing is what will bring about the Lord. This is not new, people have been trying to gain fame, riches, and loyalty off of lies about the Lord since His death on the cross. But you will not need to listen to false prophets who try to lead you astray because when Christ Jesus appears to this world it will be an exciting time. A time that does not need introduction. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for your one and only son Christ Jesus. We pray for understanding and patience as we await His return in this world. Amen.”

Sunday, August 14, 2022

“He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” (Luke 12:54-56) Have you ever had that feeling that you should have seen that coming? Whatever “that” is, of course, is dependent on the things in your life that you should not be surprised of. Just as we can be observant and understanding of the natural world around us, God has also given us understanding and

clues through the Holy Spirit about our faith and relationship with Him. We would be wise to prayerfully reflect on the events in our lives and to see when the Holy Spirit is calling us to action. Daily devotionals, bible studies, worship, evening prayer, and all other prayerful activities are opportunities for us to prepare our hearts and minds for the sensations of the Holy Spirit and we should listen closely! Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the constant gift of the Holy Spirit, a messenger from you through us, that helps guide us along our faith journey. We pray for understanding of that relationship and the comfort to seek out and appreciate the messages that are being sent. Amen.”