



First Things First

Daily Devotionals

Devotional Guide for September 4-10, 2023

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

Monday, September 4TH "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord"

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-3

In military's basic training, all of the recruits are taught very quickly just who is in charge. When we consider our lives as followers (or 'recruits') of Jesus, we also need to know who is in charge... and that would be Almighty God. In this passage, the prophet Isaiah spoke of a vision that revealed the Lord. The heavenly hosts surrounding the throne were saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty!" (v.3) In the Hebrew language, triple repetition expresses and emphasizes the superlative: absolutely holy!

Question: What do you imagine when you consider the holiness of God?

Tuesday, September 5TH "Be holy because I am holy"

Scripture: I Peter 1:13-16

Because Christians have been given new birth into a new life, we must change the way we think and live to reflect the character of our divine Lord. The apostle Peter exhorts his readers to set their minds on the grace that is yet to come, and to live holy lives. Peter quotes from Leviticus when the Lord challenges us to "be holy because I am holy" (v.16). This is a way of saying that children of God should bear a family likeness to the character of their Heavenly Father. The call to holiness means that Christians will set themselves apart from the customs and values of their unbelieving society, to live by the character and teachings of Jesus.

Question: What do you specifically do to attempt to live a holy life?

Wednesday, September 6TH "Father, hallowed be Your name"

Scripture: Luke 11:1-4

This is Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer that He taught His disciples. At that time, someone's name represented their standing and their reputation. As Israel's disobedience had profaned the name of God, God will sanctify His own name at the end of time (see Ezekiel 36:22-23). This clause, directed towards our God, is therefore also a call to believers to be faithful to God in our lives.

Question: What do you believe "hallowed be Your name" means?

Thursday, Sept. 7TH "Then you will know that I am the Lord"

Scripture: Exodus 6:4-9 NIV

As part of God's promise to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God reminds Moses and the Israelites of His covenant commitment to their ancestors. It is the holy, holy, holy Lord who will bring their freedom. The time had come for the Lord to fulfill His covenant promises, and thus Moses must assure the Israelites that emancipation from Egyptian bondage was imminent, that the Lord was about to formalize His special relationship with them. The oft-repeated phrase in the Old Testament ("I will be your God" in v.7) articulates the essence of God's covenant relationship with His people.

Question: How do you know the Lord through His holiness in your life?

Friday, September 8TH "Hallowed be Your name!"

Scripture: Matthew 6:7-10

To begin teaching the disciples (and all of us) how to pray, Jesus lays down the divine holy nature of His Heavenly Father: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your name" (v.9). The name 'Father' reflects the Aramaic word 'Abba,' translated best but not quite 'Daddy.' This shows a unique intimacy we have with God as our Heavenly Father; then it is balanced with proper reverence: "hallowed be Your name" (v.9). Our worship must recognize the hallowed nature of the Lord we love and serve, and not be hollow and meaningless—simply 'going through the motions' of worship.

Question: When you pray the Lord's Prayer, do you simply rattle it off like the Pledge of Allegiance—reciting the words without fully realizing their meaning... or do you intentionally pray the words that Jesus taught us to pray together?



Rally Day Sunday
September 10, 2023
8:30 and 10:45 am

(Livestream @10:45 am)

Exodus 6:4-9 NIV and Matthew 6:7-10 NIV

Pastor Kevin's message:

"Is Your Worship Hallowed or Hollow?"

Worship theme: "BASIC TRAINING: EQUIPPED(2)ENGAGE!"



Sunday School



Youth 180



"Is Your Worship Hallowed or Hollow?"