



Devotional Guide for September 11-17, 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 11TH "Hear my prayer"

Scripture: Psalm 17:1-7 NIV

In this psalm that is known as a petition, King David boldly calls on God to vindicate him. He affirms his own righteousness (vv. 1-5) and calls on God to shelter him from his enemies. As King David prays, he affirms that his life is like an open book; God can examine it, and no guile will be found. David rejoiced that the Lord was his refuge and inheritance in this life and in the next. He believed that God would hear and answer his prayers for justice and protection, and David was certain that as he lived righteously before the Lord, he would be blessed and victorious. Indeed, God delights in helping and blessing His people; our job is simply to receive.

*Question: When was the last time you spoke **with** (not **to**) God? Do you understand the difference?*

Tuesday, September 12TH "Joined together constantly in prayer"

Scripture: Acts 1:12-14 NIV

After Jesus had resurrected and ascended into heaven, the disciples immediately returned to "the room where they were staying" (v.13), which most scholars believe was the place where the Last Supper had taken place. Luke, who wrote the book of ACTS, states that "they all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His (Jesus) brothers" (v.14). This group most likely included the wives of the apostles, for Luke shows special concern for the women who followed Jesus. It also includes Jesus' four brothers, who had not believed at first that their brother, Jesus, was the Messiah during His earthly ministry. They now believe, because they had seen the risen Christ. Notice their main purpose mentioned in v.14: "They all joined together constantly in prayer."

Question: Do you ever pray together with others?

Wednesday, September 13TH "Faithful in prayer"

Scripture: Romans 12:9-13 NIV

The apostle Paul shares with the church in Rome the purpose of their ministry, to be a living example of love in action. Love is not merely a directionless emotion, but a moral orientation toward the Kingdom

values of our Almighty God. Followers of Jesus are to honor others above themselves, as well as stirring up a "spiritual fervor" (v.11). From verse 12, Paul gives three commands that are interrelated: focusing on the certain hope for glory that we have in Christ enables us to handle affliction with patience, and the power prayer taps into this distinctly countercultural mindset. To love God and also to love others in an active way simply flies in the face of our current culture.

Question: As you read verses 9-13, are there any of those 'love actions' that you struggle with?

Thursday, September 14TH "Teach us to pray"

Scripture: Luke 11:1-10 NIV

In Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer, the disciples approach Jesus with a question. But take note: they did not ask Jesus, "Lord, teach us HOW to pray" but rather more emphatically "teach us to pray." This passage follows Jesus' teaching and overall focus on the coming Kingdom of God. Although Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer is slightly abbreviated compared to Matthew's version, both gospels emphasize the centrality of the Kingdom in the present age. After teaching this prayer, Jesus uses a parable which urges His disciples to boldly pray for God to provide the Holy Spirit. We are called to ask (in order to receive), to seek (in order to find), and to knock (for the door to be opened).

Question: How do you go before the Lord to ask, seek, and to knock for the things you need to have and to know for your faith journey?

Friday, September 15TH "Chosen what is better"

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 NIV

Back in August, as part of our "Forever Changed—the Women Who Met Jesus" worship series, we explored the sisters Martha and Mary. Just before this scene in the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, Jesus had been asked, "Who is my neighbor?" while discussing the greatest commandment with a teacher of the law (Luke 10:25-37). While the parable of the Good Samaritan answered that question and deals with how to "love your neighbor as yourself" (v.27), this discourse with Jesus and Martha focuses on "love the Lord your God." Martha is divided among various concerns in this life, but Mary focuses on Jesus and His teaching.

Question: Are you able to set aside everyday concerns to spend time in prayer with God each and every day?

Next Sunday, September 17, 2023

8:30 and 10:45 am (Livestream @10:45 am)

Luke 11:1-10 NIV and **Luke 10:38-42** NIV

Pastor Kevin's message:

"That's the Power of Prayer"

Theme: "BASIC TRAINING: EQUIPPED(2)ENGAGE!"

