

# ***The Family Together – Week 8***

## ***Daily Devotions For The Family***



### **Sunday**

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Read together (Acts 1:1, 14, 22-24, 33, 36)

#### The Beginning of Proclamation

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them, 'Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, this Man, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified.'" (Acts 1:1, 14, 22-24, 33, 36)

Pray together: Thank you Father for Jesus of Nazarene.

### **Monday**

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Read together Revelation 6:9-11

Hymn for the day: "God Will Take Care of You"

#### Wonders Never Cease

"How long, O Lord?" was the wondering of the persecuted saints. Wasn't God aware of what was happening to His people? They were being arrested, convicted, and banished from the synagogues and cities. There were beaten, shot through with arrows, and tortured. Some were enclosed in sacks full of scorpions and poisonous snakes. Others were covered with fresh animal skins and thrown to wild dogs. Still others were nailed to a cross. Nero was known to have burned them at the stake to provide light during his nightly garden parties. They must have thought, "God is no where." Revelation was written to assure the, "God is now here." He has not lost control but still reigns from His mighty throne. Even when the opposition possesses

some authority, they are never more powerful than He who spoke them into existence. There will be times when you ponder, "where is God?" When the wicked prosper and righteous suffer, when a baby dies or a teen is taken in the prime of life, when it seems the scales of justice are weighed against us. In all that appears unfair about life, remember that the Lord is still on His throne. He has not abandoned His children but is patiently working a plan whereby everything will be made beautiful in His time. He is now here. We haven't heard the last of these souls under the altar. At the end of the book, they come to life and reign with Christ (20:4). Such is the hope for all who put their trust in Him. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Give me strength today to have trust in you, Father; no matter how difficult life can be.

## Tuesday

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Read together Ephesians 6:5-9

Hymn for the day: "Take My Life, And Let It Be"

### Somebody Is Watching

This reading comes in the context which was begun in 5:21, "submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of the Lord." It has to do with people submitting themselves to their various roles. In this section Paul encourages servants and masters about their roles. In essence, he says: Serve even if nobody's looking. We don't perform our service just to be seen, but because we have agreed to it. Our agreement is with God. We agreed to serve Him, so we best do it. And not "just to be seen of men," either. Remember, God has an all-seeing eye. Proper service to men is tantamount to serving God. Verse six, again, please. We don't do it with mere eye-service, but "doing the will of God from the heart." That means when we serve, we are doing His will, not just the will of our employer. And we do it from the heart, with good conscience. Such service is necessary for the boss, too. "Do the same things to them," he says. Right is right, if you are the boss or the lowest man on the payroll. True is as true for the boss as for the employee. After all, they have a Master to whom they must give an account; and it isn't the board of directors, it's God almighty. Man is responsible to God for his actions, no matter his situation in life. Even when nobody's looking. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Make me a shining light in school or in my job today for Jesus Christ.

## Wednesday

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Read together Proverbs 11:23-28

Hymn for the day: "Do All In The Name Of The Lord"

### Practical Advice For Today

Wisdom demands adherence to truth; and truth runs through all areas of life. It takes truth to have a truly happy life, to maintain a sweet spirit, to entertain the highest hope. Wisdom and truth are connected so that what is true may be wisely used. "The desire of the righteous is only good" is saying that righteous people seek only good. "The expectation of the wicked is wrath" speaks to the destiny of one devoted to evil. Notice that both "desire" and "expectation" are cited.

Together, they form hope. The righteous person has the hope of good to come, the wicked may expect only wrath. Solomon says the person who distributes to those who have needs will be made full himself, while those who withhold from the needy will be cursed by the people on account of his stinginess. Those who put confidence in riches are apt to fall into a snare, for "riches make themselves wings" (Proverbs 23:5). On the other hand, the person who trusts in righteousness will be paid a dividend far above this world's riches. Finally, the wise man states who is really wise; wise above the wisest. Says he, "he that winneth souls is wise." It is a superior thing to win those to the Lord who might not have come otherwise. A wise man will not withhold from them that choicest of all blessings. Think about these things today: wisdom, riches, souls. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Make me wise today in the will of God.

## Thursday

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Read together Joel 2:28-32

Hymn for the day: "Jesus Is Calling"

### The Promise Fulfilled

This passage is special because it was the theme taken by Peter on the day of Pentecost when the first gospel sermon was preached. It was a prediction that was to come true on this special day, a day when the kingdom of God came with power. It is a microcosm of God's plan of salvation. First, it predicts God's outpouring of the Spirit through the apostles. This outpouring is certainly seen in the miracles at

Pentecost (cf. Acts 1:2-4). The apostles spoke in tongues they had not learned. When the people were astonished at that, Peter assured them saying, "this is that..." and he quotes Joel 2:28. Second, it was not just the signs that bore testimony to the outpouring of the Spirit. The apostles "began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4) so that all present heard "in our own languages the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11). Third, the fulfillment of the promise in Joel 2 is wonderful beyond our dreams. "I will pour out of my spirit on all flesh," it stated. Peter said, "For the promise is unto you and your children, and to those who are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Those whom He calls are those who "call upon the name of the Lord" (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:39, Acts 22:16), be they Jew or Gentile. This is a wonderful promise, its assurance a hope to cherish today. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Help me to do all things in the name of Jesus today.

## Friday

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Read together Revelation 17:1-14

Hymn for the day: "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"

### Not So Little Lamb

The Lord goes to great lengths to describe the enemies of the Lamb. A sea beast who has ten horns, seven heads, the body of a leopard, the feet of a bear, the mouth of a lion (13:1-10). A land beast who speaks as a dragon and makes fire come down out of heaven (13:11-18). A great dragon who, with one swipe of his tail, swept away a third of the stars of heaven (12:3-4). And a woman on a scarlet beast, holding a golden cup full of her immoralities and abominations. Reminds me of some wise advice; "never get in a fight with ugly people, they have nothing to lose." Of course, these descriptions are figurative, but imagine what they figure! Power, authority, influence, experience. Who are we going to send to fight them, who will be able to withstand them, who will deliver us from their grasp? "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings" (vs. 14). You have your own battles to fight. Your own beasts, monsters, and giants. Some addiction, some anxiety, some temptation. All of us wage war against the devil and his devices. But he seems pretty small next to the Lamb of God. For He has already crushed the head of our enemy and sounded the victory with His blood. I want to be on His side. "Those who are with Him are

the called and chosen and faithful." Are you with the Lamb? Or are you with the dragon? - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Thank you Father for the victory in Jesus Christ.

## Saturday

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Read together Matthew 28:1-10

Hymn for the day: "Christ Arose"

He Is Risen!

We revere those "three little words:" I love you. Some say these are the most beautiful in any language. Not so. The three most beautiful words ever to fall from the lips of any being were stated by the angel on Christ's resurrection morning: "He is risen!" The significance of that statement is astounding and powerful. It speaks to our needs, states our hope; it powerfully expresses our expectations. If "He is risen" is so, then who He was is so. If "He is risen" is so, then what He said is so. If "He is risen" is so, then there is a heaven and a hell, a God and a devil, a good and a bad. If "He is risen" is so, our salvation is more than a mere dream, but a very possible reality. That means we can entertain the thought of the resurrection of the body with great anticipation and inexpressible joy. If "He is risen" is so, it behooves us to listen carefully to the words of that resurrected One when He said, "Not everyone that calleth Me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father" (Matthew 7:21). That's serious, folks. He indeed is risen. We can trust what He said, put our total confidence in His promises. Take those three little words with you today and let them ring in your heart several times as you go along. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Today I will think of the wonderful words, "He Is Risen."