

Good News Daily

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Sunday, May 23

John 14:21-19 *“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* (v.26)

Today is the birthday of the Christian church, Pentecost! Fifty days after Easter the disciples are gathered in the temple when they hear a sound like a rushing, mighty wind. Then tongues of fire appear over their heads and they begin to speak in languages not their own—and visitors to Jerusalem hear them tell the good news about Jesus in their native languages. Peter preaches a mighty sermon reminding them of Joel’s and David’s words and 3,000 new believers confess Jesus as their Lord—the work of the Holy Spirit!

Jesus gives us his same Holy Spirit today to work faith in our hearts and help us become more like Jesus in our daily life as we allow him to work in our hearts and share our faith with our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth, and help us share the gospel with his power.

Isaiah 11:1-9; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

Monday, May 24

Psalm 25 *Turn to me and be gracious to me for I am lonely and afflicted.* (v.16)

As I am writing these devotions my retirement community has been on lockdown for almost six months. It has been a lonely time of having meals brought to the door, not being able to hug my family or have them visit me, not having our usual group activities, not being able to go to church or take Holy Communion (but thankfully being able to watch our church on my computer). It has been a time of lots of prayer and phone calls. I regularly claim Psalm 23:4, “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.”

One of the other readings for today is 2 Corinthians 1:1-11: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our affliction” (vv.3-4). So true, these times make us depend on our faith to carry us through when all else fails. I pray for a vaccine to be developed quickly and that the pandemic will draw us closer to God rather than drive us from Him.

Deuteronomy 4:9-14; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Luke 14:25-35

Tuesday May 25

Deuteronomy 4:15-24 *“So watch yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you...”* (v.23)

When things are going well for us, we often begin thinking that God’s blessings are the reward for our own smart brains, good choices, and hard efforts, rather than because of His goodness and tender mercy. We need to practice the attitude of gratitude each day and recognize God’s blessings, kindness, and answers to our prayers. Remember our covenant with the Lord!

As we continue to pray for help with all the big and little concerns of our life, we need to add another petition: Please give me one thing more, a grateful heart.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thank You, Lord!

Psalms 26, 28; 2 Corinthians 1:12-22; Luke 15:1-10

Wednesday, May 26

2 Corinthians 1:23—2:17 *But thanks be to God, who always lead us in his triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of him in every place. For we are the fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved...* (vv.14-15)

What a beautiful image—the fragrance of Christ—a sweet aroma! I love to smell roses, carnations, lilacs, and other fragrant flowers. So I am delighted by the apostle Paul telling the Corinthian Christians (and us) to be the sweet aroma of Christ that will draw many others to faith in him. Our life can be either a foul order of sin and unbelief or a sweet fragrance that makes our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers want to know more about the faith that is in us.

Please make me a sweet aroma that draws others to you, Lord Jesus.

Deuteronomy 4:25-31; Psalm 38; Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Thursday, May 27

Psalm 37:1-18 *Trust in the LORD and do good... Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in him and he will do it.* (vv.3-5)

The psalmist, David, is reminding us of our security in the Lord. He states that evildoers will wither quickly like grass. Even though they seem to succeed and prosper, they will reap the evil that they sow.

What a great comfort it is to know that our Heavenly Father has the ultimate control of the universe, and that He will give us the desires of our hearts which, for believers, is to be with Him forever.

Jesus paid the price of our salvation on the cross of Calvary. All we have to do is accept God's gracious gift with gratitude and obey His word and walk in His ways. And His Holy Spirit helps us do this.

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for me; help me to live for you.

Deuteronomy 4:32-40; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18; Luke 16:1-9

Friday, May 28

Psalm 31 *Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD!* (v.24)

When we feel weak and weary from all the problems we read about in the newspaper and hear on newscasts, we need to remind ourselves of this verse. God is in control; we do not need to be fearful.

I confess that many days I am praying over and over again, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" as I try to be an informed citizen. There is so much hate and fear in our country as I write this, plus stress about Covid-19. One of my Christian friends asked the other day, "Do you think these are the end-times of the book of Revelation?"

Our hope in the Lord is the only thing we can depend on. And because of it, we can indeed be strong and take courage

Dear Lord, please forgive our sins and heal our country.

Deuteronomy 5:1-22; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Luke 16:10-18

Saturday, May 29

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:10 *We walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage.* (vv.7-8a)

In these days of so many national problems: health, racial, and economic concerns, we can easily be filled with fear and worry. We need to remind ourselves that Jesus says he will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5) and, despite us living in a broken world, he is in ultimate control. We can indeed walk by faith and not by sight and be of good courage. Hebrews 13:6 also assures us, "the Lord is my Helper I will not be afraid."

A spiritual discipline I use every day is to "put on" the whole armor of God: "the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:13ff). It is our protection and our defense.

Please help us be strong in you, Lord Jesus, and wait patiently for you.

Deuteronomy 5:22-33; Psalms 30, 32; Luke 16:19-31

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