



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 9/8-9/2018

“Faith to Hope”

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Family Activity: Did you know that there are different ways that we can show and receive love? Sometimes people refer to these as “love languages.” As a family, talk about which of these you like to receive and which you like to show to others. Then, spend some time talking about how God shows love towards us and how we can show love to God.

Words of Affirmation

Quality Time

Receiving Gifts

Acts of Service*

Physical Touch

*Faith in Action is coming up Saturday, September 15th! Find out more:

<http://plattewoodschurch.org/event/faithinaction/>

Monday, 9/10/18

“Words of Affirmation”

Psalm 34:1-3

*I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.*

- There is an old phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” It would certainly be nice if the latter part were true. Not only can the words we hear influence our thinking, so can the words we say. Research from a Stanford University study has shown that complaining rewires our brain and can even be bad for our health. Thankfully there is a solution to that, which is positivity. What we say and how we say it matters. What words of praise to the Lord do you have today?
- When are natural times in your day that you can use Words of Affirmation to God and to others around you? Who in your life needs to hear about the amazing things God has done?

Prayer: Holy God, we bless you today and every day. Give us the words to praise you in the midst of every situation, whether it is a time of trial or a time of abundant joy. Illumine our path so that we can be aware of those who need to be affirmed and those who are ready to hear about you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Tuesday, 9/11/18

“Quality Time”

Psalm 27:4

*One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.*

- One of the memories that I treasure from my childhood is the time that we spent traveling in the car. I loved this time because we didn’t have extra distractions and we could just enjoy each other’s company. I don’t think it is a coincidence that much of my quality prayer time is also when I am in my car alone with God. What time or place gives you quality time with God?
- Dwelling with God isn’t about a location, it is about a frame of mind. What allows you to “dwell in the house of the Lord”?

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for coming to dwell among us. Show us our opportunities to be fully in your presence. Even in the middle of our busyness, grant us the ability to see you. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, Amen.

Wednesday, 9/12/18

“Receiving Gifts”

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

- How does this passage from 2 Corinthians inform or confirm your thoughts on giving gifts? Does this influence how you plan to give gifts to God and others in the future?
- Given this scripture passage, what would change about the way you receive gifts from others? How about from God?

Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for your generosity and abundance. Open our eyes so that we may experience all of the gifts, big and small, that you have provided to us. As you have been generous to us, help us to be generous to others. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Thursday, 9/13/18

“Acts of Service”

Joshua 24:15(b)

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

- How do you feel that your household serves the Lord? What is one way this scripture challenges you?
- I have often found that when I serve others, it can feel like I receive more from that experience than what I gave. When is a time that you served that you have felt that you have also received a gift?

Prayer: Holy and Gracious God, we thank you for this day. Give us the strength to always choose to serve you, and help us to remain steadfast in our commitment to you. Reveal to us how we can love you and our neighbors through service. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Friday, 9/14/18
“Physical Touch”

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

- Often when we think of being “touched by God” we are thinking of this in a figurative sense. Throughout the Gospels though, we see how often people come to Jesus to be healed or blessed through the act of Jesus laying hands on them. Have you experienced a time that someone “laid hands” on you for healing or blessing? How does this type of expression impact your faith?
- Take a minute to insert your own name into this scripture and read through it again. How does that influence your understanding of God?

Prayer: God, we thank you for always welcoming us with loving arms. We ask for your hand of healing and blessing to be upon us today. Help us today to be the hands and feet of Jesus, the body of Christ, in our world. In the name of Jesus Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray, Amen.

***This week’s devotions were written by
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