

50 DAYS OF FAITH

DEVOTIONAL

BY

Pastor John DiGiamberardino

Fall 2009

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Brick, NJ

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, September 28, 2009

“According to your faith will it be done to you.”

Matthew 9:29

What is it you would like to see God do in your life? God wants to do much more than you can think or even imagine, but you have to let Him. Will you let Him build your faith today?

As you start these 50 Days of Faith, reflect on the faith you have right now. Those times of greatest faith in my life came when I was confronted with a big decision or problem. When I was eighteen and a close friend died unexpectedly, I turned to God for answers. Just like David, I had to step back and listen to the voice of God. I had to wait on the Lord. My mind was filled with questions but I thank the Lord that He was there to listen to me, talk to me, and build my faith in Him.

How much faith do you have? How much faith do you want to have? As you start today think about all the good things God has done for you. Think of five things that God has done and thank Him.

Prayer:

God, I thank You for _____, _____, _____,
_____, and _____. You have done wonderful things in my
life. Help me not to think on the negative things today but on Your goodness.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1

Take a minute today and look around you. What do you see? How many things around you can you grab onto? Reach out and touch something. You know it is there because you can see it, you can touch it; you feel it in your hands.

Now think for a minute about what you do not see. What is there that you depend upon that you cannot see? You cannot see the air around you, yet you rely upon it without even thinking about it. The average person breathes 20 times a minute without any conscious thought. The air is there even if we do not think about it. The same is true for God. We may not be able to see Him but that does not deny the fact that He exists.

Faith is being certain of what we do not see.

What are you going to do today? What will you let God be a part of? Take a deep breath and ask God to guide you through each step of your day.

Prayer:

God, as I go to _____ be with me. Go ahead of me. Help my faith in You to grow through all I do this day.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

Do you have faith? Do you truly believe that God exists? Are you expecting God’s best for your life?

When the Israelites first came to the Jordan River, twelve spies went in to see what the land looked like. When they returned, ten of them said the land was filled with giants. That brought fear within the people. But two of them, Joshua and Caleb, believed that God would go with them and help them defeat every foe.

Who do you listen to? Are you listening to God and clinging to His promises or are you listening to the negative messages of this world? Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Ask God to increase your faith today. Take a moment and remember one time when God went before you, when you clearly knew that God was with you. You knew He existed and He rewarded you for your faithfulness.

Prayer:

Remind me, Lord! Help me not to forget all Your benefits and blessings in my life. You have not left me or forsaken me. Help me cross those Jordan Rivers of my life today, knowing that You are with me.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, October 1, 2009

“This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118:24

Are you a “Good Morning, Lord” person or a “Good Lord, it’s Morning” person? What kind of day has it been so far for you? Are you getting enough sleep?

As you start today, turn off the TV and radio and take a few minutes to worship the Lord. Think of a hymn or chorus and sing it out loud or in your mind. Think about the words as you sing them. Recognize who God is and what He wants to do in your life today. Today is a wonderful day to live for the Lord. Rejoice and praise God all day today.

You may have some difficulties and there may be a lot to do. There may even be things that do not get done today. Don’t get discouraged. Look up and thank the Lord for what you can do and what does get accomplished.

Do not let the weather outside determine how you feel. Allow God to be the source of your strength and joy.

Prayer:

God, I thank You for this beautiful day, another day I have to live for You. Thanks for getting me up this morning. Guide me as I go through this day praising You.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Friday, October 2, 2009

“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”
Deuteronomy 33:27

One of my favorite hymns is taken from this promise that we can depend on God.

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman Music: Anthony J. Showalter

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, Leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms.
Leaning on Jesus, Leaning on Jesus,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Lean on God today. Let Him be your support.

Prayer:

God, I put my trust in You and lean completely on You. Thank You for the comfort that comes from knowing You are with me.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, October 3, 2009

“I’ll get you out of any trouble. I’ll give you the best care if you’ll only get to know and trust Me.”

Psalm 91:14

As we have thought about David and Goliath this week, I am reminded of the Rocky movie when he goes to Russia to fight. Rocky’s adversary is bigger than him, stronger than him, and has what seems to be the best training and machinery around him to make him better than Rocky.

When they begin the fight, Rocky says the Russian is a machine. It is only when he comes back to his corner to talk to his trainer that he realizes that this person he is fighting is just a man; he bleeds.

Sometimes in life we feel like we are up against insurmountable odds. We feel as if the world is against us.

God promises to get us out of any trouble. Sometimes He provides a way around it, like a detour. Other times we have to go through the bumpy, rocky road of life. In those times we need to remember that God is taking care of us and will get us through.

Prayer:

God, help me to remember that whatever happens today You are here with me. Help me to know You better and trust You more today.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, October 4, 2009

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together ... Instead, let us encourage one another...”

Hebrews 10:25

Who do you spend your time with? Who are your closest friends? We are told that we are to make sure that the major influencers in our life are believers.

Apparently, it is easy to get out of the habit of fellowshiping with one another. It is those closest to us that should be our greatest encouragers.

A few months ago I had to make a really important decision. I was able to call some of my friends and within four hours they met me and talked to me and encouraged me. I do not know what I would do without my friends.

Do not give up the habit of meeting with those people who lift you up to a higher level.

Do you have people in your life that are your encouragers? Are you an encourager to someone else? There are many things that we could give up. Do not give up that fellowship that adds purpose and meaning to your life.

Prayer:

God, help me to recognize the value of meeting with my friends. Help me to keep this habit of fellowship and help me to be an encourager to someone today.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, October 5, 2009

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

After Moses had died, the Lord spoke these words in today’s scripture to Joshua. Moses had been a great leader of the people. He brought them out of the bondage and slavery of Egypt and led them to the edge of the Jordan River. Now the mantle of responsibility and leadership had fallen onto Joshua.

I think it is amazing that God knows exactly when we need to be encouraged. He knows when the doubts are rising in our lives. In those moments God sends people to speak truth to us.

What is it that terrifies you? Joshua was terrified of taking this group of people into the Promised Land. God spoke encouraging words to him and he was then able to do the Lord’s will. Is there something God wants you to do that you have been avoiding?

God told Joshua to meditate on His word day and night. The Word of God is an encouragement to us. What new territory does God want you to enter into?

Prayer:

God, what do You want me to do today? What plan do You have for my life? Help me to do Your will in the midst of doubts knowing that You go with me.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:3-14

Paul was one who had a past. He had many things that he had done before he was a Christian that could have discouraged him if he focused on them. He had Christians arrested and even watched as Steven was killed.

But Paul learned how to get past the past. God wants us to focus on the present and future, not the past. You have been forgiven of your sins. Understand what that means. Now we are called to go forward not backward.

Paul urges us to live up to what we have already attained in Christ Jesus. We are to be fully confident in our salvation, yet at the same time we are to avoid the pride and complacency that could inhibit our continued growth in grace. Do you realize how much God still has for you in this life?

Are there some things in your past that you have not gotten past? Are there things that keep you from moving forward?

Prayer:

God, I want you to use me now and in the future. Help me get past my past. Help me forgive myself. Guide me today to not look behind me but to see what is in front of me.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

“God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us.”

Ephesians 3:20

Why are you here? What is your purpose for being? As a Christian you know that God has made you for a reason. God has a purpose for your life.

I am so glad God knows more than me. Think of how scared you would be if you were only 18 and God revealed to you all that He has planned for your future. You would not be able to handle it. As you look back on your life you can see that active hand of God. Allow what God has done in the past to motivate you and encourage you as you look to His future for you.

What does God have in store for your life? God is not finished with you yet. Would you allow God's power to work in you today? He wants to do more than you could ever ask or dream.

Take a few minutes this morning and dream a little bit. What has God made you to be? What are you becoming for God and why? How will God use you today?

Prayer:

God, I thank You for how You have guided my life so far. Allow me in this moment today to dream what You want me to dream and realize that with You all things are possible.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, October 8, 2009

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

How many times in your life have you trusted in your own judgment on something, just to discover that as time went by, you were wrong? How often we misjudge. God asks us to trust in Him. Sometimes that is scary because we do not know what is going to happen next.

When I think about it, I see how many times God was leading as I trusted Him. In 1988, I was teaching high school math in the public school in Kentucky. I was making pretty good money. I was able to begin paying off my college debts and had food on the table. As I felt the Lord leading me to be a pastor, I put my name in for a church. I thought if they offered me a good appointment I would take it. I remember praying and the Lord saying, “If I call you to do this ministry you have to trust me to provide for you.” When I was told that the church was a student charge that only paid \$10,000 I prayed, “God your are going to have to make up the difference, especially if I am supposed to go back to school.”

Where He guides, He provides. How long it took me to learn that truth and apply it to my life. There are still times now when I have to remember this verse.

Prayer:

God, forgive me for those times when I left You out of my decisions. Help me to talk to You about every area of my life and trust You. Guide my path today.

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Friday, October 9, 2009

“‘Have faith in God,’ Jesus answered. ‘I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”
Mark 11:22-24

Have you grown in faith this week? The Word tells us to have faith in God. If there is one thing that I will put my faith in, it is God. Who else is worthy? Who else is trustworthy? God is omnipotent, all-powerful.

Have you prayed sincerely that God would do something; you believed that it would happen and then it didn't? How did you deal with that? Did it make you mad at God?

When I was in Kentucky I set up a Christian concert. I spent a lot of time setting it up. When the day came it was a disaster. Only 50 people showed up and we needed 200 to break even. I got really mad at everyone who told me they would come and then didn't. I got mad at God! Why would God not be honored with this outreach for Christ?

I was embarrassed. The sponsoring group was now in debt for over \$2,000. I thought about taking out a personal loan to cover the loss. We have to realize that there will be times in our life when what we ask for will not be in God's will even if it makes sense to us.

Prayer:

God, I have faith in You! Help me to pray for Your will to be done. I understand that Your lessons are hard to learn. Teach me today. I want to be a person of greater faith.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, October 10, 2009

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

Take a moment this morning and reflect on this hymn.

“Blessed Assurance”

Text: Fanny Crosby Music: Phoebe P. Knapp

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Thank God today for the story of your salvation. Praise Him!

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for forgiving me of my sin. You saved me. Help me to tell my story today. Help me remain submissive to Your will for my life.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, October 11, 2009

“Where there is no vision the people perish, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

Proverbs 29:18

Vision is an interesting thing. What would our lives be if we could not see? What would you be doing today if you had to go through the day blind? Vision, the ability to see, is essential in the Christian life. You need to have a vision for your life and your family. What is it that God wants you to do with your life?

This verse speaks of prophetic vision. Without the preaching of a preferred future, everyone would go off and do their own thing. One translation says that, “the people cast off restraint.” What would life be without our submission to authority? The result would be spiritual and political chaos.

This chaos can only be thwarted when revelation from God gives direction and guidance in the way we should go.

God has given our church a vision for worship, discipleship, training workers, service and the lost. Pray today on how you will be led by God to be part of that vision.

Prayer:

God, let me trust You more. Help me to follow Your laws and those You place in authority over my life. Use me to bring about Your revelation among us. Help our church to follow the guidance of Your Holy Spirit.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, October 12, 2009

“Jesus said, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in Peace.’”

Luke 8:48

Jesus was on his way to see a young girl that everyone thought was dead. While on that journey, a large crowd crushed in around Him. Suddenly He felt power go out of Him. He turned and asked who touched Him.

There were so many people there, surely everyone was touching Him. But Jesus stopped and waited. A woman who had some kind of blood problem had touched the hem of His garment.

Knowing now that what she did could not go unnoticed she fell in fear at Jesus’ feet. She began to tell Jesus why she touched Him.

Do you need to come humbly to Jesus and tell Him who you are and what you have done? She made a beautiful confession to the Lord; and with that Jesus healed her. Faith prompts Jesus to respond to our need.

Jesus used a word that was not recorded anywhere else in scripture. He called her daughter. It is a word of personal relationship and love. I can remember an older gentleman in a previous church would often call people son or daughter. It shows true love for another.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for healing me of my sin. Help my faith to grow today. Help me to live today desiring to serve You and live in peace.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

“A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.”

Proverbs 14:15

Can we ever trust our own judgment? We can only trust it when it is shaped by a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our own sense of what is right or wrong, apart from God, is not always reliable.

That is why we have been given a guide that is perfectly reliable: God’s Word. From the words on the pages in the Bible we acquire wisdom to walk down the right path.

I am amazed at the number of commercials on TV today that talk about taking a pill to solve a weight problem, or a depression problem or any other number of physical problems someone may have. The infomercials are listened to like they are total truth. They include testimonies of people who have used that product and found it to work. You never see someone who tried the pills and got sicker, or fatter, or the product didn’t clean as they said it would.

Remember today that God’s Word is truth. Some things you hear today will not be the truth. Do not believe everything you hear. Think about what God wants you to do today.

What steps of faith does God want you to take today?

Prayer:

God, guide my steps today. Let me know your Word and do Your will. Thank You Lord for Your Holy Spirit’s guidance. Help me not to believe everything I hear.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13

This is by far one of my favorite, if not my favorite, verses in the Bible. I memorized it when I was very young in Vacation Bible School. I can't tell you the number of times it has come back to me just when I needed more faith – faith in God and faith in myself.

When I first started teaching in Kentucky I was 22 years old. In fact I grew a beard to look older than the students. I wanted to get their respect and avoid any problems. My first day, I can remember going off in the school, to a room by myself and praying.

“God help me. I cannot believe I am here. I cannot believe I am a teacher. After all my education, I have a job. Thank you Lord!” Then I remember crying out, “I can't do this!”

And in that moment this verse came to the front of my mind. I can do all things, not because of my training or anything else that I have done, but because of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for me.

Stop and think a minute about those times when this verse has come to your mind. Maybe it hasn't come to mind but if you memorize it, you will receive greater confidence and faith in yourself and God.

Prayer:

God, help me remember this verse and remind me when I need to remember it. It is not about me Lord. It is all about the strength Jesus gives to those who believe. Thank You!

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, October 15, 2009

“There is an appointed time for everything. There is a time for every event under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3.1

Why does God tell me to wait? Why does God say “not now”? In these verses, Solomon is telling us how God works. Can you think of times when God told you to wait? When God said “not yet”?

I know a lot of people think I should be married. I am not against marriage. I have not yet found the right person or as I joke, they have not found me. This past year I turned 46 and I began to reflect on my life. I thank the Lord that I have no regrets. God has guided me to many different places and opportunities.

I am content to stay single. I say that knowing that a day may come when God leads me to share my life intimately with another. I do not believe that a person is not complete without being married. Our culture has placed many inappropriate values on married life.

I trust the Lord that if I am supposed to be married I will be and if not, then I trust that His appointed time for me is to stay single.

In what areas do you need to trust God more? Have you lost patience when God has said wait?

Prayer:

Help me Lord, to trust You when things do not go as I want today. I know that Your timing is perfect and that You are in control. Help my faith in You grow today.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Friday, October 16, 2009

“This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men...”
I Timothy 4:10

“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

Text: Louisa M.R.Snead Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

*‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”*

*How I love to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me
‘Neath the healing, cleansing flood!*

*Yes, I’ve learned to trust in Jesus,
And from sin and self to cease,
Now from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest and joy and peace.*

*I’m so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior-Friend;
And I know that He is with me,
He’ll be with me to the end.*

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Put your whole trust in Jesus today. He is our hope. It is in Him that we find purpose and meaning in life.

Prayer: Lord, guide me as I go through this day. I need to trust You more. So often I depend upon myself. Help me remember Your promises.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, October 17, 2009

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

Romans

8:28

Do you believe this verse? Is God really working for your good?

There have been many times in my life when, in the midst of a difficult experience, I wondered what God was doing.

In the summer of 1983, I went on a mission trip to Jamaica. Another girl and I left from Philadelphia airport while the other 25 people flew out of Louisville. When we arrived in Jamaica we discovered that the rest of the team was laid over in Miami.

I will never forget that night. I was not in control of anything that was happening to me and I did not like it. I wanted to go home. I was scared and began to question why God would do this to me.

In the Ministry Class, we talk about our SHAPE: S– Spiritual Gifts; H– Heart; A– Abilities; P– Personality; E– Experiences. These five areas make up who we are and how God has shaped us for ministry.

God never wastes an experience. It may seem confusing at the time, but with time it all makes sense. God uses what happens in our life for a greater good.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me trust in You. Mold me into Your likeness. You have called me into a relationship with You and I believe You are guiding my life.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, October 18, 2009

“John the baptizer said, ‘I baptize you with water but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’” Mark 1:8

Baptism is one of the sacraments of the church. It is a symbol of what God has asked us to do, to remind us of what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. Being baptized does not save you! Only a personal faith in Christ can save you. Baptism is a sign pointing to salvation.

Soon we will be having a special baptism service.

Those to be baptized will give their testimony. It should be a wonderful service of praise and thanksgiving.

God wants to cleanse us. He wants to wash us clean; not simply on the outside, but on the inside.

Are there things that come into your mind that you wish didn't? God wants to wash our minds.

Do you need a cleansing? Ask God to clean you up, and wash you with pure water.

Prayer:

God, my mind is filled with thoughts that I know are not pleasing to You. Wash me not simply outwardly but inwardly. Wash me so I can be whiter than snow on the inside. I need You to take control of my thought life.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, October 19, 2009

“The Spirit Himself testified with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Romans 8:16

It was at Junior High Camp, 1975, at Delanco Camp. That was my first time to go to camp. I had just turned twelve years old. Gilbert Stillwagon was preaching that week. It was a Thursday night when I went up to the altar and asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins.

Do you remember when you accepted Jesus Christ into your heart and asked Him to forgive you of your sins?

I remember crying there at the altar. I wish I could remember more than that. But what I do remember are the days after I went to the altar. I returned home and threw myself completely into the church. I decided I wanted to go to youth group, morning worship, and Sunday School. I wanted to learn all I could. That year I decided to go through the membership class and join the church.

What I remember most is that God’s Spirit was with me. I had grown up going to Sunday School. I was familiar with all the Bible stories but it was not until I went to that altar that everything started to make sense.

If you have asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, you are a child of God. Let God’s Spirit testify to that reality in your heart.

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for forgiving me of my sins. I am Your child. Continue to teach me Your ways. Lead me today by Your Holy Spirit.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

“I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.”

2 Timothy 1:12

Are you ever ashamed of your relationship with Jesus Christ? Are you ever embarrassed to tell anyone you are saved?

God’s Word tells us that we should not be ashamed of telling others what Jesus has done in our lives. He has saved us and called us to a Holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of His purpose and grace.

Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought us eternal life.

Do you know whom you have believed and are you convinced that He is able? Jesus has taken care of all of your sins. He has made it possible for you to live forever.

Who are you going to witness to today? Who will you talk to today and tell about Jesus?

Prayer:

God, give me a person today to love. Lead me to talk to someone about You. Give me strength and boldness to proclaim Your name today to someone.

Thank You now for what You will do through me today. I am not ashamed of You.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

“So always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” I Corinthians 15:58

Do you give yourself fully to the work of the Lord? Have you ever done something for the Lord and wondered if it made any difference in His kingdom?

In 1992, while leading a hoagie sale at Friendship Church, I got a phone call from my district superintendent. He wanted me to move to Port Republic. I was not looking to move. I had served this church since 1988 while I was going to school. In 1991, when I was ordained a deacon, they decided to go to a full-time pastor and asked me to stay. I wanted to stay at least four more years to help establish some stability in the congregation.

There have been times as a pastor when I have looked back on my ministry at Friendship and wondered if I accomplished anything in my time there. I believe those thoughts are not of God but from Satan. Then this year at annual conference, one of the youth from that church, Michael Bill, got ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. He asked me to be one of the people to lay hands on him as he was ordained. God’s Word is true. As you seek to serve the Lord faithfully, your labor is not in vain.

Are you giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord?

Prayer:

Dear God, use me for Your good pleasure. Help me to not get discouraged when I do not see many results from my labor for You.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, October 22, 2009

“Everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.”
Luke 19:26

What has God given you? Everyone has some talent or ability that can be used to serve God and others. What is your ministry?

In the first church I served, I remember people saying they had no ability. They said they could do nothing for God. I want you to know that God wants to use you. He has gifted you with at least one spiritual gift. He has given you a heart for things you enjoy doing. God has given you certain abilities and a unique personality. When you combine that with your personal experiences, you discover who God made you to be for Him.

What spiritual gift have you been given? What do you enjoy doing? What abilities have you used successfully in the past? Are you outgoing or do you like to spend time alone? God can use everyone. What has happened in your life that gives you a unique background and insight into some area of ministry to others?

Prayer:

God, what do You want me to do for You? As I look at who I am, I know You want to use me. Help me discover my place in ministry for You. May I see clearly the calling You have placed on my life.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Friday, October 23, 2009

“Forget the former things: do not dwell in the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:18-19

Take a few moments and reflect on this hymn.

“Higher Ground”

Text: Johnson Oatman, Jr. Music: Charles H. Gabriel

*I’m pressing on the upward way,
New heights I’m gaining everyday;
Still praying as I’m onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

*My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.*

*I want to live above the world,
Though Satan’s darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.*

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith on heaven’s tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

Prayer:

Lord, lift me up. Give me more faith in You. Help me today to let You do a new thing through me. Lead me to take the higher road in my conversations and attitudes. Let Your Spirit flow through me to others today.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, October 24, 2009

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

What God starts, He finishes. What a comfort that is to know. God has provided for your eternal life with Him in heaven.

Now the problem comes. Why can't we go to heaven now? Why do we have to stay on the earth and go through these myriad of problems in our lives?

God started you on the path that you are now on. It is your path. You may not be able to see the finish or even see where the path is leading today but we must trust that God is with us.

Will you have a problem today? Probably! Will the problem be of such significance that it creates aggravation in your life? Very likely.

What are you to do when the problems seem to come in one wave after another? Stand firm and remember that God is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

What God started, He will finish. Our job is to not quit the race. We need to stay in the game. Stay on the battlefield. Stand on our watchtower.

Prayer:

God, help me today with the problems that are sure to come. I will remember You are with me and not give up. You are my God and I will stay with You through it all.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, October 25, 2009

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”

Psalm 127:1

In 1988, I was meeting with a small group of guys every Tuesday morning for prayer and support. It was during one of those mornings that I felt the Lord leading me to do something else than teach and be a youth director. I began to pray and asked those men to pray for me.

About once a week I would go to the area Christian book store. The owner and I got to be very close. I told her where I felt the Lord was leading me. She gave me this verse of Scripture. She did not say anything else but handed me this verse on a piece of paper.

When I got out to my car I looked up the verse. I carried that piece of paper around for a long time.

The ministry of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with us but everything to do with Him.

Do you ever find yourself trying to do the Lord’s work?

I think there are times when we try to do the work of the Holy Spirit. God, forgive us for those times when we think we can control You.

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for allowing me to be a part of Your master plan. Help me to not get in Your way today. Use me as You see fit.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, October 26, 2009

“Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me a renewed hope and cheer.”
Psalm 94:19 (LB)

Is something bothering you? Are you upset this morning about something that has happened recently?

David seemed to always find himself in turmoil. His life moved from one difficult situation to another. Managing our problems is what life is all about.

In this Psalm, David was praising God for His judgment over his enemies. Apparently David was questioning and reflecting on why God was not taking care of these enemies of David. At the end of this Psalm, David acknowledges God's control in all matters of life.

Do you ever wonder why God waits so long to bring judgment on others? Why does it seem that the wicked prosper?

David learned that God will take care of it. Like David, we need to learn patience in the midst of problems.

Prayer:

Lord, when doubts fill my mind today and I begin to question when You will do something, quiet me. When my heart is in turmoil, give me a peace and joy that You are in control.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” I John 5:13

John wrote for a specific purpose. In the gospel of John and in these epistles, John had one desire. That by sharing these stories, the reader might come to an understanding and belief that Jesus is the Son of God. He wanted people to know beyond any doubt that they had eternal life.

Knowing you have eternal life is all about faith in what God has done for you through His Son Jesus.

Can you honestly say that you know beyond any doubt that you have eternal life? Is there anything that could happen in your life that would make you begin to doubt that fact?

Be encouraged today. Praise God that He would care enough about you to send His Son to die for your sins and then send His Holy Spirit to give you a confidence and peace that eternal life is your reward.

Prayer:

God, I thank you for Your Word. It helps me have a greater faith in who You are and what You have done for me. I love You this morning and give You praise.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9

Have you ever felt like giving up? Just throwing in the towel and walking away? There have been many times when I would have walked away from being a pastor except for the fact that I am not here because people asked me to come but because God has called me.

I can recall some very intense meetings in previous churches where I have served. Emotions would run high and at times I would start to take things very personally. In those moments God would remind me not to give up.

Are you at peace in what you are doing? When you are in the center of God’s will, nothing will discourage you. When you are living out your calling, nothing will get you down.

Do you sometimes get tired from doing good? Do you feel like nobody notices what you do? God knows. God knows and that should be enough. God sees those seeds you are planting and in due time fruit will begin to be seen. You may see it, or you may not but this verse promises us that when we do good, in His timing a wonderful, bountiful harvest will come in.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me to not give up. Whatever difficulty comes today, help me to keep going. I know You are in control of everything.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, October 29, 2009

“Stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

Colossians 4:12

Do you know what God’s will is for your life? This verse tells us to stand firm in **all** of God’s will.

It is so easy to become complacent in our Christian walk. Why do we stop doing things that we know will help us grow in Him? We stop reading our Bibles, attending Sunday School, going to church, tithing, spending time with believers, and finally we stop praying.

We wonder how we got so far from God. Why don’t we feel like we once did? God has not moved, we have. We think everything is fine. His will is that He has all that we are. He wants our time, our talent, our trust, everything!

Stand firm today and grow in the Lord.

Prayer:

Dear God, forgive me for leaving You out of my life. I know I have an important part in our relationship. I want to be right in the center of Your will. Help me to become better acquainted with Your Word, the Bible. Help me to study it and memorize it. I will be faithful to You in my worship, my study, my ministry, my giving, and my witnessing to others.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Friday, October 30, 2009

“Jesus said, ‘You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand’”
John 13:7

Have you ever felt like nothing was making sense?

Jesus was washing the feet of the disciples. That was not the way Peter thought it should be done. Peter thought they should have been washing His feet. Jesus tried to explain to him, through this simple act of washing the disciple’s feet, that He came to serve not to be served.

Jesus, said, “Unless I wash you, you will have no part with me.” At that Peter replied, “Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and head as well.” Peter was beginning to understand but still did not fully comprehend all that Jesus was saying.

I wonder how the disciples must have felt as Jesus told them what He was going to do. They knew that going back to Jerusalem would definitely threaten His life and maybe their own as well.

How many times today, even with the Holy Spirit to guide us and enlighten us to truth, will we still have a difficult time understanding the mind and heart of God? His ways are so much higher and wiser than our own.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me to trust You more. Today, if something happens that causes me a struggle, remind me to stop and talk to You and ask for understanding from Your Holy Spirit.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, October 31, 2009

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race.
I have kept the faith.”* 2 Timothy 4:7

There is a wonderful hymn based on this verse.

“Fight the Good Fight”

Text: John S.B. Mansell Music: William Boyd

*Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.*

*Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.*

*Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life and Christ its love.*

*Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.*

We are in a battle that will not end until our race on this earth is over. Don’t give up. Keep the faith. Fight the fight.

Prayer:

God, help me to understand that I am here for a short time. Help me in these days to remain faithful to the end. I will fight and I will finish.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, November 1, 2009

“Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalm 47:4

Does God give us anything we desire? No. He does give us our desires when they are shaped by a delight in the Lord.

To receive this promise of God you must first meet the conditions. You need to love God above all else. When you love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength and love your neighbors as yourself, your desires will become His desires. Slowly you will want to conform your life to His will.

How do you delight yourself in the Lord? Have you done it recently? Maybe you have been distracted or preoccupied with many other good things. Take time right now this morning and delight yourself in the Lord.

Thank God for all He has given you. Praise Him for your family, your health, your job, and most importantly, your salvation.

Thank the Lord for the confirmation and assurance that your sins are forgiven.

Prayer:

I praise you Lord for all You have done in my life. Guide me today as I look around me and thank You for all You do. Thanks for giving me what I need.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, November 2, 2009

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38

Growing up I used to always get an allowance. I also used to get money for good grades. Beyond that my mom and dad always made sure I was able to have and do certain things. When I went away to college, I did not have a lot of money but I had more than others. People would come to me and ask me for money. That was no problem. As long as I had it, I would lend it to them. I was also a little bit tight. I would charge them interest. Also, I was a little bit rude. I would remind them that they owed me money at times. This was embarrassing to them.

I thank the Lord that He has humbled me. Living on my own and paying my own bills taught me a great deal. God showed me that money is a tool.

How do you view your money? What is important to you? They say you can tell what is important by looking at a person's checking register. What would it say about you?

Let God have control of your finances. The Word is true: give and it will be given unto you. I thank God that He has provided for all my needs.

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for giving so much to me. Eternal life had a price tag that I could never pay. Help me to learn to give. Help me to treat others as You would.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. Whatever I sow I will reap. If I sow sparingly, I will reap sparingly.

Are there times in your life when you just do not feel like giving? Are there times when you do not want to give? Has giving ever not made sense to you ?

Paul is talking not only about time and talent, but about money. What do you give? Why do you give? How do you give? Where do you give? When do you give? The Bible is clear that God calls us to bring the whole tithe to the storehouse. (Malachi 3:10)

I can remember when I was working in Kentucky. The treasurer of the church told me that the local church cannot do all it is supposed to do, for the Kingdom of God, when people divided up their tithe between the church and other organizations.

Ever since that time I have tithed to the local church. I believe that is the biblical model. God cannot do among us what He wants if we do not follow His Word.

Prayer:

Help me by Your grace to understand Your standards for my life. I want to be about the work of God in and through my local church. Help me to trust that You will take care of all my needs. Stretch my faith today.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

“My God will meet all your need according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

What are your needs? Not your wants but what do you really need? One of the basic needs we all have is to be loved and accepted. What a comfort to know that God loves us. Do you know there is nothing you can do to make God love you more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less? That is His unconditional, agape love.

He loves us and gives us all we need because of Jesus. Since Jesus was obedient to His Heavenly Father, He is now at the right of God. That is the place of authority.

How rich do you think Jesus is? Maybe a better thing to think about is how poor do you think Jesus is? Is anything impossible for God?

Just when you think you have tapped Jesus dry of all His love, He comes back with more.

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for those times when I ask You for things from a selfish heart. Help me to see how You are meeting my needs and give You the praise.

Father, I know you love me and I thank You for Your son Jesus and all He has done for me. You have met my greatest need. Praise the Lord!

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, November 5, 2009

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”

2 Corinthians 9:11

I feel I am rich just being able to be your pastor.

One of the things I tell other people about our church is that you folks are great givers. Anytime we have had a special offering you have given. Whenever a need is raised in our congregation you respond to meet that need.

There are two priorities we have as a church. That is where we spend the most money. It is the area of missions and youth. I thank God that you do not just think about yourself.

We may never know the lives that have been touched around the world and in our own community through your giving. This is what I call “Kingdom Vision.” It is the ability to see beyond ourselves and trust that God is the one that produces the fruit.

I believe many of you have already experienced the promise of this verse. You have been made rich in blessings from God. He has provided everything you need so you can give without fear. The Holy Spirit inspires you to give, and the wisdom to know how much to give.

Prayer:

Teach me to give with the right attitude. Do not let what others do affect what I do. Place your peace in my heart that I am doing Your will. Help me to trust You more to meet the needs of my heart. Thank You Lord!

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Friday, November 6, 2009

“We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.” Acts 15:11

In this verse we have the promise that salvation is a gift of grace from our Lord Jesus Christ that is available to everyone.

Aren't you glad today for the ruling of the Jerusalem Council in this passage?

Paul and Barnabas were telling the council the miraculous signs and wonders that God was doing among the Gentiles. Peter stood up at this point and told the council that Gentiles could be saved. This was a very radical statement for this young church. In fact, it caused Paul problems the rest of his ministry, as you read through Acts. What it means is that those who are not Jewish could be saved.

Have you ever taken your salvation for granted?

Sometimes we think that our salvation is based on something we have done. All we have done is accepted what Jesus has done for us. It is a gift that must be opened, experienced, and lived. The gift of grace. God giving us what we need.

Prayer:

God, I thank You for Your gift of grace in my life. Help me to appreciate that gift today. By grace I have been saved through faith. Thank You Lord!

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, November 7, 2009

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

Take a moment and reflect on this hymn of faith.

“Be Still, My Soul”

Text: Katharina von Schlegel Music: Jean Sibelius

*Be still, my soul! The Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still my soul! Thy best, Thy Heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul! Thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake:
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.*

*Be still my soul! The hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul! When change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

Prayer:

Lord, help me to slow down today and recognize that You are in control. Quiet my heart and help me trust You more. Whatever comes my way today, You are with me. You are faithful.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, November 8, 2009

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

Do you worry a lot? Jesus commanded us not to worry. He said not to worry about what you will eat, what you will wear, or your body.

If there is a worrier in the Bible it is Job. He thought, “Things are going so well I had better make sure. Just in case my children have sinned I will offer a sacrifice for them to God.” Job gave Satan a foothold in his life. Job was playing the “what if” game. What if they disobey? What if they do this or that?

There is only one way to break the worry habit and that is to give God control of every area of your life. We need to let God have the keys to every room in our homes and hearts.

Is God first in your life? Have you given Him free movement in your life? Does He go where you go and do what you do?

God promises to take care of you. Believe today that He is taking care of you. Trust God for those things that are beyond your control.

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for taking care of me. I realize You love me. Help me to seek You today. Help me say the right things and do the things that are pleasing to You.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Monday, November 9, 2009

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise – “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Galatians

6:1-3

I find it interesting that when I was very young it was easy to obey my parents. When I was told to come for supper or take out the trash or clean my room, I did it without complaining. As I got older, in high school, the less I listened to my mom and dad. I would complain and even argue.

When I was in college, something seemed to happen. My father, who I thought did not understand me or what I was dealing with, suddenly got smarter. I found myself going to him for advice and support in different decisions I was making. Now I love and respect him even more. I realize all that he gave me and did for me.

Is it possible the same pattern happens with our Heavenly Father? When we are young in our relationship with the Lord it is easy to do whatever we are asked. As we grow in Christ, we start depending on ourselves and seeing things done our way.

I praise the Lord for the time I had with my earthly father. It has helped me understand the love that God has for us and how He wants what is best for us.

Prayer:

Lord, help me today to listen and obey Your voice.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

“Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with men is possible with God’”

Luke 18:27

Have you ever felt like things were out of your control? Things may appear to be out of your control but they are never out of God’s control.

The secret here is not to focus on what you can’t do but on what God can do. That is why we call it a miracle when the impossible happens.

A miracle is when God gives life to something that was dead or when He creates something out of nothing. Anything is possible if you have faith.

What seems to be impossible in your life right now? What miracle do you need in your life?

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

God is a God of the impossible.

Prayer:

God, You know I am struggling with _____ in my life. Help me to put my trust in You. Help me to depend upon You and let Your will be done in this situation. I love You Lord with all my heart.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

“Walk in all the ways that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days.” Deuteronomy 5:33

Do you want to live forever? So many people today try to live forever. Forever for them is on this earth. I thank the Lord that we are going to live forever with Him in heaven.

Do you want to live forever? You will if you have confessed your sins to Jesus and asked Him to forgive you of your sins. That is the promise of God’s Word.

This verse from the Old Testament has to do with living right on the earth. If we live the way God has asked us we have the promise that we will have a good life.

The challenge to us is to walk in His ways. Are you walking in the ways of God? Are you living as God has commanded you?

No one likes to be told what to do because we are selfish, self-centered people. Jesus came to take care of our sin. He was selfless and told us how we ought to live. We are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

How are you doing?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to love someone today with Your love. I want to walk in Your ways. I want to do Your will. Guide me!

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, November 12, 2009

“While we were children our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God’s holy best.” Hebrews 12:10

Can you remember a time when you disagreed with your parents and only later did you see that they knew what was best?

I remember how sure I was that I was supposed to go away to college after high school. I really felt it was what God wanted me to do. When I told my father, he said I was going to go to the county college. I got really upset with him. In fact, I got mad. As I went through that first year of college, worked at K-Mart selling appliances, and continued my involvement in my home church, I began to realize that staying home was what God wanted. Sometimes what I think God wants and what God really wants do not always coincide.

If my earthly father wants the best for me, how much does our Heavenly Father want the best for us?

Trust God today. Whatever you have to do, whatever you have to go through, He is with you.

Prayer:

God, help me to trust You more. I know Lord that in all that happens today You want to train me in Your holy ways. Make me Your servant and lead me where I should go and show me what I should do.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Friday, November 13, 2009

“Taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.”

Psalm 34:8-10

What did you want to be when you grew up? We all had great imaginations when we were younger of what we were going to do with our lives. Do you remember what you said you would be? How differently would you answer that question today?

When I was young I wanted to be a teacher. From my earliest memories that was that I wanted to be. When I went to college, I first majored in computers, then I change to music, then math, then education.

What did you want to be? What does God want you to be?

Sometimes we do not do anything great for God because we feel we do not have the right tools or training. What would we be moved to do if we feared God more? Do you really fear God? If you do, how would today be different than yesterday?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I take refuge in You this morning. I need to know what You want me to do today. Who do I need to talk to? Who do I need to see? Use me as You see fit. Thank You for guiding and providing for my life.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Saturday, November 14, 2009

“Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

I John 5:4

Take a moment and reflect on your faith through these past eight weeks. What has God shown you? What have you learned? What are you going to do now?

“Faith Is the Victory”

Text: John H. Yates Musci: Ira D. Sankey

*Encamped along the hills of light, ye Christian soldiers rise,
And press the battle ere the night shall veil the glowing skies.
Against the foe in vales below let all our strength be hurled;
Faith is the victory, we know, that overcomes the world.*

*His banner over us is love, our sword the Word of God;
We tread the road the saints above with shouts of triumph trod.
By faith they like a whirlwind's breath, swept on o'er every field.
The faith by which they conquered death is still our shining shield.*

*To him who overcomes the foe, white raiment shall be given;
Before the angels he shall know His name confessed in heaven.
Then onward from the hills of light, our hearts with love aflame
We'll vanquish all the hosts of night, in Jesus' conquering name.*

*Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory!
O glorious victory, that overcomes the world.*

Life is a battle. Praise God for the victory that has been won.

Prayer:

Thank You Lord, for all I have learned. Continue to shape me and increase my faith in You.

50 DAYS OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, November 15, 2009

“With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
Galatians 5:6

Have you grown in faith over these last eight weeks? Please write down what God has done in your life and let me know. Tell someone else how you have grown.

Truly, the only thing that counts in this life is faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. That one expression of love has reached into this sinful world and provided a way out for everyone.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you have been adopted into His family. You are now a child of God.

When I was growing up, my father used to always joke with me and tell me that I was adopted. I thought he was only joking but he kept telling me that over the years. I remember one time, he got me really upset. My mom knew I was frustrated and she told him to stop.

Now as I look in a mirror it is hard for me to even imagine that I am adopted. I can see my mom and my dad in me. When you look in the mirror, what do you see? The Bible says that we should see Jesus. What do other people see?

Now is the time to express our faith through love as we reach out to others around us.

Prayer:

God, I thank You for these last eight weeks. My faith has really been stretched. Continue to use me for Your greater glory.