

After The Sorrow Comes The Joy

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL - SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 2, 2021

Acts 1:7-16

MONDAY - September 27, 2021

John 14:25-26 “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

REFLECTION: Each day Jesus encourages us to stay focused on what is true about our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit’s anointing changes our minds about God, and teaches us to accept God’s love.

Acts 1:7-9 He (Jesus) said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

REFLECTION: Jesus got up, out of a grave, and stunned the world! His followers woke up to the amazing power of God’s glory. The book of Acts is the story about God using people to make all things new. Jesus met his followers on the hillside outside of Jerusalem and spoke his last words. “You will be my witnesses to these things and go and announce there is new life after death. Tell others what you have seen and experienced.” As we read Acts we will see the practical, explosive, unbelievable, amazing stories of a new family of God changing the world from one person to another.

PRAYER TIME: *Lord God, it is amazing to me that you are still creating all things new. Thank you for giving me new life now, and assuring me of my new eternal life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

TUESDAY - September 28, 2021

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.”

REFLECTION: The word peace, in Greek, means prosperity. When people departed they wished for each other to have prosperity. Here, Jesus offers us peace, and this is of great value. Christ’s peace means we are to prosper in our relationship with God. We find true peace when we are in communion with our creator.

Acts 1:10-11 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

REFLECTION: Let us learn not to look for Christ in heaven, or on earth, but seek Him in our faith. Read **Ephesians 1:20-23**. The angel is saying, all you have learned from Jesus, now go and do. **Ephesians 4:15-16** *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. They found safety with each other and continued to meet daily.*

PRAYER TIME: *Thank you Father, for this new life. Help me to embrace your love and your presence in my daily life. Although I do not see you with my eyes I know you in my heart. Move my mind more and more to accept your truth. Thank you for the power of your Spirit that teaches me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

WEDNESDAY - September 29, 2021

John 17:1-3 Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give



eternal life to everyone you have given him. This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent - Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven with honor and affection for God. Just who is Jesus praying for? You and me. He is praying for the supernatural event of His resurrection to change the world. He has atoned for all our sins and has reconciled us to God. Therefore the Spirit bears witness to this event and decrees the eternal purpose of true life in Christ. Christ is restoring all of creation back to perfection.

Acts 1:12-13 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

REFLECTION: The human nature of the disciples is the same as you and me. When the anxiety of being a Christian gets high we turn and run and hide. Before Jesus was betrayed all the disciples deserted him and fled. They ran away in fear. Read Matthew 26:55-58. This time when Jesus disappeared in the cloud they stayed together and became a faith community. These men and women found strength in each other. They simply could not ignore the truth of Jesus' resurrection and ascension. They could do nothing else but become witnesses to God's miracles.

PRAYER TIME: *Lord Jesus, help me to find strength as I worship on Sunday morning. Give me new insights to my new resurrected life and what it means to live freely before God. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

THURSDAY - September 30, 2021

John 17:20-21 "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you."

REFLECTION: When we accept the grace of God we accept Christ's faithful protection of eternal life. He is our safe harbor when our lives are in danger of becoming a shipwreck.

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

REFLECTION: As the disciples waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit they did not deprive their wives and family members of this great goodness that was to come. Now the women gathered with the men with no fear of danger. Their minds become sharp with a desire to give new life to others.

PRAYER TIME: *Lord Jesus, I desire to do the works of your hands. Give me confidence and courage as I invite people to a new life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

FRIDAY - October 1, 2021

John 17:15-16 I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

REFLECTION: Jesus prays for us in the midst of real danger. The danger is in spreading the Gospel. Jesus makes provisions for us and He promises that the grace of the Father is all we need. He does not wish us to be sluggish but he delivers us from evil.

Acts 1:15-16 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus."

REFLECTION: The story of what happened to Judas is very frightening. Read Acts 15:6-11. This is Peter's first sermon. He quotes scripture about the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER TIME: *Say the Lord's Prayer*

SATURDAY - October 2, 2021

Psalms 71:17-18 God, you have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim your wondrous works. Even while I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me, while I proclaim your power to another generation, your strength to all who are to come.

REFLECTION: This prayer is declaring that we are subject to God's goodness. King David knows from his youth that nothing is better in life than to lean exclusively upon God. As we mature in faith, we ask God not to forget us, but give us power to speak the truth of the Gospel. God will be with us now and forever.

PRAYER TIME: *O God, you have given me such abundant proof of your goodness. Please stretch out your hand to help me to embrace the power you have given me to witness to the truth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*