

***GOD CAUSED US TO BE BORN AGAIN*****PSALM 16: 1-11 // 1 PETER 1:1-12****MONDAY 4/17/23**

PSALM 16:1-2 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord,  
 “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

1 PETER 1:1-12 / 1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

**REFLECTION** Do you know what is so incredibly amazing about being “born from above” by the Spirit of God? The Creator of the world knew our name before we were born in the flesh. However, we do not know God because of the dark cloud of sin and deception that keeps us away from Him. In other words because he must move towards us to reveal the real truth about life. One way to describe “being born anew by the Spirit” is found in the movie The Wizard of Oz. When Toto pulls back the curtain to reveal the Wizard we see he is a fraud, and nothing but smoke and mirrors. He has no real power. The sanctification of the Spirit reveals God’s true power and it transforms our hearts minds and souls to accept His love for us. This means we are made righteous again and brought back into a new marvelous relationship with the One true God. We no longer walk in darkness but now live our lives basking in the eternal light of Jesus Christ. As a result of Easter morning, the grace and peace of God is multiplied in all of us.

**PRAYER: Thank you for opening my eyes and entering my heart. Without you I am nothing. I see through your eyes now. In Jesus Name, Amen**

**TUESDAY 4/18/23**

PSALM 16:3-4 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

1 PETER 1:1-12/ 3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**REFLECTION** Peter is reminding Christians everywhere, by God’s grace and mercy we are “born from above by the Spirit”. This gives us a living hope for a future life with Christ. Each of us who are the chosen people of God are hidden, and cannot be known without the special revelation of the Spirit. The truth is every one of God’s children is made sure of their own election by the testimony of the Holy Spirit which opens our eyes and heart to God’s love for us. Therefore all who are admitted by faith into the church are counted as holy chosen children of God. This is what we mean to be raised with Christ? The metaphor of a “imperishable seed” is used to understand our faith is secure for us in heaven. This “imperishable seed” is guarded by God through faith that has been revealed in Christ. It is in God’s hands and beyond the reach of danger. For, were it not held in God’s hand, it might be exposed to endless dangers. When we are regenerated by the Spirit of God we gain eternal life.

**PRAYER: Lord Jesus thank you for planting the imperishable seed of faith in my heart. I praise your name for regenerating my soul. In Jesus Name, Amen**

### WEDNESDAY 4/19/23

PSALM 16 5-6 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. 6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

1 PETER 1:1-12/6-7 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION** The authenticity of our faith is our most important possession. To care for it and to grow it into a deep faith we are constantly tested in some manner. While we live in this world, even though our inheritance is reserved in heaven, the ways of the world creep in on us. We might even ask what good is our salvation which is laid up in heaven, when we are so tossed in the turbulent

sea of life. When we are exposed to life's dangers, we ought to look heavenwards knowing we are safe under the Guardian of our faith. When the world exposes us to its' dangers, we are to be reminded of our ultimate safety under our holy Guardian. We might always be anxious if we forget to be reliant on the aid of the Lord. For now our life is hidden in Christ. It will remain hidden until Christ appears from heaven. The whole course of our life leads to the destruction of the external person. All these things we suffer are the prelude of life and our death. Let's cast our eyes on our Guardian if we desire for our afflictions to be soothed.

**PRAYER: I want to go deeper with you Lord, use me. I pray I will not let outside experiences of the world sway me. I will look up not out. In Jesus Name, Amen**

---

### THURSDAY 4/20/23

PSALM 16 7-8 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

1 PETER 1:1-12/ 8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**REFLECTION** Faith is defined as an assent of the mind to the truth of a proposition, for which there is not complete evidence. In other words, a total trust in God as the source and power of our faith. Wednesday's devotion stresses the truth that Jesus is the Guardian of our faith. We love Christ because He first loved us. In science and history we see a person, and we see the test results but faith is not to be measured by sight. When the life of Christians is in a turbulent sea we would fail, if it were not for our happiness depending on hope. Faith has a way of penetrating into the invisible kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit's works through the hearing of the Word. It exposes us to the invisible world, as it is said in Hebrews 11:1-4 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings.

**PRAYER: Lord may I be strong in my faith and believe in the unseen. I long to be an example of blind faith in you. With God, all things are possible. In Jesus Name, Amen**

## FRIDAY 4/21/23

PSALM 16 9-10 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

1 PETER 1:1-12/10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

**REFLECTION** I have been teaching about God's grace for as many years as I have been preaching. I have often used a term by Paul Zahl, (Grace In Practice) who writes about grace. "He calls it, God's "one way love". The salvation of the world depends totally on God's love first coming to us. We do not ask for it, nor do we seek it. Our sinful nature has totally cut us off from having a relationship with God. God's goodness shines complete in knowing and accepting Christ Jesus. This love was from the beginning of the world and it came to us from the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Our hearts are moved by the Spirit who opens up the Word of God.

**PRAYER: Lord may I learn by your example and show love first, and not wait to be loved. Thank you Holy Spirit for living in me and guiding me where I need to show this love freely. In Jesus Name, Amen**

---

## SATURDAY 4/22/23

PSALM 16 11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1 PETER 1:1-12/ 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

**REFLECTION** St. Peter writes about the work of the Holy Spirit because he has encountered the power of the Holy Spirit several times in his life. Once, on the mount with Jesus, God's voice spoke to Peter saying, "This is my Son". (Transfiguration) An experience like that changed him forever. That is one reason his eye witness of Jesus resurrection is so profound. So when he writes 1 Peter 1:12 "the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look". He understand the power of preaching comes from the Spirit. He now shows there is a difference between the Old Testament prophetic doctrine and the New Testament gospel. The righteousness of God is now revealed in the gospel through Jesus Christ. This "good news" is now being openly proclaimed throughout the whole world. The Spirit guides the preaching of the gospel avoiding any idea it comes from mere mortals. The gospel is a hidden treasure we have in our possession.

**PRAYER: Lord God of heaven and earth, help me to listen to the Holy Spirit as I read and study your precious Word. In Jesus Name, Amen**



PSALM 16: 1-11 // 1 PETER 1:1-12