

June Devotions

Goodness and Mercy

“For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations.”

(Psalm 100:5)

Let the words of this psalm sink deep into your soul. As you read each word slowly, you begin to grasp how the Lord himself has manifested these words in your own life. He is good, and His mercy is new every morning and His word is true. Take the time to ponder each word and let His word become as living water to refresh your soul. Your soul thirsts and longs for the presence of the Lord. Open your heart and pour out your love to the Lord for the goodness and mercy He has shown you. He is always there for you. His word says, “Nevertheless I am continually with you. You hold me by my right hand.” **(Psalm 73:23)** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” **(Hebrews 13:8)** Find your quiet place and seek His presence and pour out your love and adoration to Jesus, who was nailed to a cross for you.

Prayer: Father in Heaven, my heart is over-flowing with gratitude for the goodness and mercy you have shown to me. There is no one like you. I give you all the glory and honor that you alone deserve. Thank you that Jesus went to the cross for my sins. Amen

Lamentations 3:23, Psalm 42:1

New Perspective: Forgiveness

“Be more curious and less furious.” — Pastor Dan Steffan

In Matthew 18:23–35, Jesus tells the story of a servant who was forgiven a massive, unpayable debt by his master—only to turn around and harshly demand repayment from someone who owed him far less. The tragedy wasn’t just the lack of compassion; it was his failure to let mercy shape his perspective.

Forgiveness starts with seeing clearly: not just what someone did to us, but what Christ has done for us. When we fix our eyes on the mercy we've received, it reframes our response to those who offend or hurt us.

Pastor Dan’s words ring true here: *“Be more curious and less furious.”* What if, instead of focusing on the offense, we asked, *“What might be happening in them that’s causing this?”* This shift doesn't excuse sin, but it positions us to respond from compassion instead of bitterness.

As we forgive, we can also pray for **root behaviors** and **spiritual strongholds** to be broken. Many people act out of pain, fear, or generational patterns. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that *“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,”* and 2 Corinthians 10:4 says we have *“divine power to demolish strongholds.”* Use your authority in Christ not just to let go—but to speak freedom over them.

And then—dare to bless them. Romans 12:14 says, *“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”* This is Kingdom living: when you choose to bless instead of curse, you mirror the heart of your Father.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, give me the grace to be curious, not furious. Help me see the deeper need behind the offense. Break every stronghold operating in their life, and let healing begin in me too. I declare blessing over them—in their mind, heart, and future. May Your mercy flow through me today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Grace

Have you ever been angry at someone who did you wrong and you wanted them to pay for their offense? I think we've all felt that way. But God tells us that vengeance is His and He will take care of the situation. **Deuteronomy 32:35**

God shows both mercy and grace but they aren't the same. Mercy withholds a *punishment we deserve* while grace gives us a *blessing we don't deserve*!

In mercy, God chose to cancel our sin debt by sacrificing His perfect and sinless Son in our place. But He goes even further than mercy and extends grace to His enemies. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

When we accept Christ's free gift of salvation and place our faith in His sacrifice, He offers us forgiveness, reconciliation, abundant life, eternal treasure, His Holy Spirit, and a place in heaven with Him.

We all have fallen short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23** And we are all equally sinful before God. But, in Christ, we are made righteous. We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

The best way to let go of the anger and desire for retribution when someone does you wrong is to start praying for the person who betrayed you. When you are able to forgive, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. **Matthew 6:14**

Grace is God giving the greatest treasure to the least deserving – which is every one of us – not just those who have hurt us.

Prayer Points:

- Start praying for everyone who has hurt you. Ask God to help you extend grace and forgiveness to them.
- Thank God for His mercy by not punishing you for your sins as you deserve and for His grace by blessing you in ways you don't deserve.
- Trust God to take care of any hurtful situation; it is His to avenge.

Sweet Fragrance

“How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” **(Psalm 84:1-2 NIV)**

Are you seeking the Lord? God is not distant. You can enter into his presence through the gates of praise. He is worthy to receive all praise. “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness. The power and the glory, and the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all.” **(1 Chronicles 29:11)**

The Father is looking for true worshipers, not those who just go through the motions but those with a surrendered heart. Those who worship in spirit and truth. (from: **John 4:23**) Your worship is a sweet fragrance to the Lord. He delights in your praise. He inhabits your praise. “For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” **(2 Corinthians 2:15)** Bring your sweet offering of praise to the Lord and worship at his footstool. “Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.” **(Psalm 95:1)**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Oh let me be a sweet fragrance. You alone are worthy of praise. I want to offer you praise each day for Jesus and the cross. Amen

Psalm 100:4, Psalm 22:3, Psalm 99:5

Filled and Refilled

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.” —Ephesians 5:18

Paul gives us a powerful invitation: to live a life constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. The original language of this verse implies ongoing action—*“Be continually filled.”* This isn’t a one-time experience, but a daily pursuit.

Many believers stop at salvation, thinking the ultimate goal is simply making it to heaven. But God has *so much more* in mind. He desires a living, dynamic relationship with you—one where the Holy Spirit continually empowers, refreshes, and equips you.

Jesus Himself said in **John 14:12**, *“Anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works...”* Through the Holy Spirit, we have access to everything Jesus walked in: healing, deliverance, bold preaching, and supernatural love. The early church cried out for more, and God responded with power. **Acts 4:31** says, *“After this prayer... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”*

That same power is available today.

When we earnestly seek the filling of the Holy Spirit, we begin to see lives transformed—starting with our own. Hearts are healed. Boldness replaces fear. Atmospheres shift. The gifts of the Spirit flow. And the name of Jesus is lifted high.

Ask yourself today: What would my life look like if I were continually filled and refilled by the Spirit of God?

Prayer Points:

- Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today. I don’t want to live on yesterday’s encounter—pour out more of Your presence in my life.
- Lord, help me walk in the power and purpose You’ve given me. Let my life reflect the boldness and love of Jesus every day.

Keep Asking

When you were young, did you ever hear your parent or an authority figure say, “If you ask one more time, you’re going into time out?”

That was a common theme when as I grew up, and because I was raised that way, I brought that same mindset into my Christian life. When I prayed for God to show me His will in a certain situation, if He didn’t provide an immediate answer, I wouldn’t ask again for fear of punishment, and that led to many poor decisions.

Imagine my surprise and delight when I learned that Jesus teaches us to keep asking! “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.” **Matthew 7:7**

And Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” **Ephesians 1:17**

When Paul prayed for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, he didn’t ask just once. It was a continual and constant prayer that demonstrated a daily discipline. It teaches us to humbly admit our dependence on God every day and to continually seek His will.

Notice that Paul didn’t just ask God to give the Ephesians wisdom and revelation. He asked for God to give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. And we should also pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so our every thought, word, and deed is infused with the wisdom of God as He continues to reveal Himself to us.

Prayer Points:

- Ask God to give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation daily as you continually seek His will.
- Thank God for His guidance and His promises.
- Pray continually. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

Find Rest

“For He satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness.” **(Psalm 107:9)**

Have you tasted of the goodness of the Lord or are you still feeling empty and searching for something to satisfy your hunger? The things of this earthly world will never satisfy the deepest longing of your soul. Only Jesus can fill the void and guide you to find rest. Your longing will be satisfied when you “taste and see that the Lord is good...” **(Psalm 34:8)** Maybe you sense God is calling you to a deeper place in Him.. His word says: “Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. **(Isaiah 55:6)** The prophet Isaiah proclaimed “Ho! Everyone who thirsts come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat, yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” **(Isaiah 55:1)** He is calling you to the spiritual table of the Lord. Time to give up that never ending search for “fame and fortune.” It becomes an exhausting exercise, like “chasing the wind” as King Solomon said. **(Ecclesiastes 1:14)** Jesus is inviting you to come to Him “all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest.” Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” **(Matthew 11:28-29 NLT)**

Prayer: Father, thank you for opening my spiritual eyes to see that the things of this world can never satisfy the soul. Help me to grow spiritually as you fill my “longing soul.” In Jesus name, Amen.

Doing Our Part

Have you ever shared the Gospel with someone only to have them completely reject the Good News? They demanded “proof” and wouldn’t accept any Scriptures you shared with them as truth. Often times, such rejection can cause us to doubt our ability to evangelize so we become less inclined to fulfill the great commission. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Rather than become discouraged, we need to remind ourselves that the mind of the unbeliever has been blinded by the enemy so they can’t even see the light that displays the glory of Christ. **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Paul tells us that the mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God. **Romans 8:7** In fact, everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **John 3:19-20**

There is so much proof for the truthfulness of the Bible yet if we’re trying to convince someone of that truth who has sinful blindness, our efforts are futile. **Romans 1:21; Ephesians 4:18**

So what do we do? The answer is found in Jesus. He came to earth to bring us to God. **1 Peter 3:18** It is only through Christ that we can be saved from our sin and receive a true desire to do God’s will. The Holy Spirit, who indwells us when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, works in us to open our eyes so we can see the truthfulness of the Bible.

God is the One who opens the eyes of the blind to see the truth of Christ, and He accomplishes this by sending people like us out into the world to share the gospel message. **Acts 26:18** So when we do our part, God does the rest.

Prayer Points:

- Ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you those who need to hear the Good News.
- Pray for the courage to do your part in sharing the Gospel message as Jesus commissioned us to do.
- Thank God for doing the rest by opening the eyes of the blind to see the truth of Christ.

Welcome Challenging Times

At first glance, the title may trouble your spirit. You may be thinking, *“Why would I ever welcome challenges?”* But it’s often in our hardest moments that we encounter the love, grace, and power of Jesus in new and refreshing ways.

In the wilderness seasons, we grow the most. When things feel dry, uncertain, or overwhelming, God shows up with strength and purpose. He reminds us that nothing is too difficult for Him. As we walk this path, we can wait in expectation to see His mighty power at work.

In these trying times, seek His face. Hold tightly to His powerful hand. Stay in close, intimate communication with Him. Let your thoughts and words be seasoned with trust and thankfulness. Rest in His peace, knowing He promises perfect peace to those who trust Him and keep their minds fixed on Him **(Isaiah 26:3)**.

Set your mind on the victory you have in Christ. See this challenge not as a setback, but as a setup for a testimony—another opportunity to declare His glory. Every trial is a chance to strengthen your faith and grow your spiritual muscles. With every step, you are becoming a bolder, brighter witness of His light in the world.

Challenges are often the soil in which our greatest victories grow.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds...” —
James 1:2

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” —**John 8:12**

Prayer Points:

- Lord, help me to see challenges as opportunities to grow and experience Your power and love in deeper ways.
- Strengthen my faith, God, and let Your peace guard my heart and mind as I trust in You.