

July Devotions

America Celebrates 250 Years!

“From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.” **(Acts 17:26)**

By the destiny of God’s hand America was born. On July 4, 1776, after a hard-fought war, Colonial America declared independence from British rule. They had come to America seeking freedom of religion. We know, thanks to the framers of our constitution, that religious freedom is protected. We have the freedom to worship the God of our salvation. We are truly a blessed nation. We live in a land where freedom is granted to every person. Our rights come from God and not government. We truly look to our Creator for His divine guidance and using America as a beacon of light to other nations. Jesus is coming soon. We have an open door in America to preach the gospel and follow the command of Jesus, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” **(Matthew 28:19)** As we celebrate July 4th with family cook-outs and fireworks let us give glory and honor to the Lord for this land we love, America. God has blessed America in many ways, but may we remember we are blessed to be a blessing to others and to Israel, the land of the Bible. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Happy 4th of July, America!

Prayer: Thank you, Father for America and the purposes and principles you have established for this great nation. Help all those who know Christ Jesus to be the light shining brightly in the darkness. Help us to boldly tell others our story of how Jesus saved us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Romans 6: A Child of God Lives a New Life

Key Scripture: Romans 6:4 — "Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

When we become children of God, our identity changes completely. Romans 6 teaches that through faith in Jesus, our old sinful nature was crucified with Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin; we are sons and daughters who have been made alive in Him.

Many believers struggle because they continue to define themselves by their past failures, wounds, or sinful habits. Paul reminds us that our old self has died with Christ. While temptation may still come, sin is no longer our master. As children of God, we have been given a new nature and a new way of living.

This doesn't mean perfection overnight. It means we now have the power to choose righteousness because the Holy Spirit lives within us. We can present ourselves to God as instruments of His goodness and grace.

Just as a child resembles their parent, God's children are called to reflect His character. Our new life becomes evidence that we belong to Him.

Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 — "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
- Galatians 2:20 — "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- 1 Peter 2:9 — "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Prayer Points

1. Father, help me embrace my new identity in Christ and walk free from the power of sin.
2. Teach me to live each day as Your child, reflecting Your character and love to others.

Romans 7: A Child of God Learns Dependence

Key Scripture: Romans 7:24-25 — "Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Romans 7 reveals a struggle every believer understands. Even after receiving a new identity in Christ, we often find ourselves battling old habits, wrong desires, and fleshly tendencies.

Paul describes the frustration of wanting to do what is right yet finding another force at work within him. This chapter is not meant to discourage us but to teach us dependence. Children of God were never designed to overcome sin through self-effort alone.

The Christian life is not about trying harder; it is about trusting deeper. The more we recognize our weakness, the more we discover Christ's strength. God allows us to see our limitations so we will rely on His grace rather than our own ability.

A mature child of God learns that victory comes through surrender. Instead of striving to earn God's approval, we live from the approval already given through Christ. His grace empowers what our willpower cannot accomplish.

Supporting Scriptures

- John 15:5 — "Apart from Me you can do nothing."
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 — "My grace is sufficient for you."
- Philippians 2:13 — "For it is God who works in you to will and to act."

Prayer Points

1. Father, help me stop relying on my own strength and teach me to depend fully on Your grace.
2. Show me areas where I am striving instead of surrendering, and lead me into deeper trust in You.

Romans 8: A Child of God Walks in the Spirit

Key Scripture: Romans 8:14-15 — “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8 is one of the greatest declarations of what it means to be a child of God. After showing us freedom from sin in Romans 6 and dependence on grace in Romans 7, Paul now reveals the victorious life available through the Holy Spirit.

Children of God are no longer condemned. Through Christ, we have been adopted into God's family. We are not servants trying to earn acceptance; we are sons and daughters who can confidently cry, "Abba, Father."

The Holy Spirit helps us live according to God's ways, comforts us in suffering, intercedes when we do not know how to pray, and assures us of our inheritance in Christ. Even when circumstances are difficult, God is working all things together for our good and His purposes.

Romans 8 reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love. No failure, hardship, opposition, or fear can remove us from the Father's embrace. Secure in His love, we are free to live boldly, confidently, and victoriously.

Supporting Scriptures

- Galatians 4:6-7 — “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”
- Ephesians 1:5 — "He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ."
- 1 John 3:1 — "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

Prayer Points

1. Father, help me hear the voice of Your Spirit and walk confidently as Your beloved child.
2. Let the revelation of Your love remove fear, insecurity, and doubt, so I may live in the freedom of sonship.

His Strength

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” **(Philippians 1:6)**

God is our Heavenly Father. Just like our earthly father, He must teach His children. I am reminded of how easy it is to fall into the trap of trying to “fix” ourselves. We struggle, we try and yet in our own strength we fail at changing ourselves. God’s word convicts us that some of our ways do not line up with God’s ways. We want to please our Heavenly Father. We start out thinking it will be easy to change. Then in our determination we find ourselves failing time and time again. That old man of sin has a grip on some areas of our life. Here is what Paul said about this “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.” **(Romans 7:18-19)** So true. There is even more to say about this in Chapter 7 of Romans. So, what are we to do? Recognize the fact that we cannot change ourselves. Our part is not to work and work to change ourselves but to submit ourselves to God and let him change us by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Let God have the reigns of our life, so His purpose for each of us can be fulfilled. In 2 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul is talking about the thorn in the flesh and that Paul asked three times for the Lord to take it away. “But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.” **(2 Corinthians 12:9)**

Prayer: Father, thank you for showing me that I can’t change myself. Only you can change my sin nature by your strength. If I want to change old habits, I must rely on “HIS STRENGTH.” In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Part 1: Knowing Who You Are — The Gift of Sonship/ Daughtership

Key Scripture: Romans 8:15 — *"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"*

One of the greatest revelations a believer can receive is the understanding that salvation is not merely forgiveness of sins—it is adoption into God's family. Through Christ, we have been welcomed into a relationship with the Father as beloved sons and daughters.

Many believers know they are saved but still live as spiritual orphans. They strive for acceptance, battle insecurity, and measure their worth by their performance. Yet the Father never intended His children to live this way. Through Jesus, we have been given a new identity. We are chosen, accepted, loved, forgiven, and empowered by God.

Our identity is no longer rooted in our past, our failures, our achievements, or the opinions of others. It is rooted in what Christ accomplished on the cross. When Jesus died and rose again, He made a way for us to become children of God and heirs of His promises.

Sonship means we belong. We have access to the Father, confidence in His love, and security in His care. We are not trying to earn His affection; we are learning to live from it.

Promises of Sonship/Daughtership

- **John 1:12** — We have the right to become children of God.
- **1 John 3:1** — We are called children of God because of the Father's great love.
- **Galatians 4:6-7** — We are no longer slaves but heirs through God.
- **Ephesians 1:5** — We have been adopted according to His good pleasure.

When we know who we are, fear begins to lose its grip and confidence in God begins to grow.

Part 2: Living From Your Identity — Walking in Victory

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:6 — *"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."*

Identity is not merely something we believe—it is something we live from. Because Jesus died, rose again, and now sits at the right hand of the Father, we share in His victory. We are not fighting for victory; we are fighting from victory.

Christ's resurrection defeated sin, death, and the powers of darkness. His ascension established His authority above every rule, power, and dominion. As children of God united with Christ, we are seated with Him in that place of spiritual authority.

This does not mean life is free from challenges, but it does mean we face every challenge from a position of victory. We do not have to live under the weight of condemnation because Christ has removed it. We do not have to be ruled by fear because we belong to the Father. We do not have to remain bound by shame because we have been made righteous in Christ.

Because Jesus reigns, His children can walk in confidence, peace, authority, and hope.

Through Christ We Have Victory Over:

- **Condemnation** – Romans 8:1
- **Fear and Anxiety** – 2 Timothy 1:7
- **Shame and Guilt** – Hebrews 10:22
- **Sin's Dominion** – Romans 6:14
- **The Power of Darkness** – Colossians 1:13
- **Death Itself** – 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

Promises of Our Position in Christ

- **Colossians 3:3** — Our life is hidden with Christ in God.
- **Ephesians 1:18-23** — Christ rules over every power and authority.
- **Romans 8:37** — We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- **Hebrews 4:16** — We can boldly approach the throne of grace.
- **Romans 8:38-39** — Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

The more we understand our identity as sons and daughters, the more we learn to live from the victory Christ has already secured.

Prayer Points

1. Revelation of Sonship

Father, deepen my understanding of who I am in Christ. Let every orphan mindset, insecurity, fear, and striving be replaced with the truth that I am Your beloved child. Help me live from Your acceptance rather than trying to earn it.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:17-18

2. Walking in Christ's Victory

Jesus, teach me to live from the victory You secured through Your death, resurrection, and exaltation. Help me overcome fear, condemnation, and every lie of the enemy by standing firmly in my identity and authority as a child of God.

Scripture: Romans 8:37; Ephesians 2:6

Declaration: *Because I am a child of God, I am accepted by the Father, redeemed by the Son, empowered by the Holy Spirit, seated with Christ in heavenly places, and equipped to walk in victory every day.*

The Lion's Den

“He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.” **(Psalm 147:3)**

Life has so many twists and turns that the road we travel can suddenly turn down a dark alley full of heartbreak and pain. To travel that road without Christ invites more pain and sorrow and for many, without any relief. But to those who know Christ as Lord and Savior, we have the assurance that we are not alone even in our darkest hour. We have this promise from God's word. “When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned: neither shall the flame scorch you. **(Isaiah 43:2)** Trust in God. “The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; and He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” **(Deuteronomy 31:8)** Amen! Hallelujah! God has sent the believer the Holy Spirit to indwell us and comfort us in our time of trial. Do you remember the story of Daniel in the lions' den? Daniel defied the King's order to worship a false god and was thrown into a den of lions for doing that. God was with him, and He shut the mouths of the lions and Daniel was unharmed. Then, the next morning King Darius found that Daniel was alive and so the King issued the following “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.” **(Daniel 6:26-27 NIV)**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I want to give you the praise for always being there for me no matter what I am going through. Your word says “Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” **(1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT)** Help me to do your will even when it is hard. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Draw Near and Listen

Key Scripture: James 4:8 — *"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."*

Many of us approach prayer primarily as a conversation where we speak and God listens. While sharing our hearts with the Father is important, intimate prayer is also learning to be still enough to hear His heart toward us. Relationship grows through both speaking and listening.

Throughout Scripture, we see God inviting His people into deeper fellowship. He walked with Adam in the garden, spoke with Moses as a friend, and called young Samuel by name. God's desire has always been relationship, not merely religious activity.

Intimacy with God develops when we intentionally create space to be with Him. In a world filled with noise, distractions, and constant demands, listening prayer requires us to slow down. It is not about striving to hear a dramatic word from heaven; it is about positioning our hearts to recognize the gentle voice of the Shepherd who is already speaking.

Jesus said, *"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me"* (John 10:27). Notice that hearing His voice is a natural part of being His sheep. As we spend time in His presence, reading Scripture, worshiping, and quietly waiting before Him, we become more familiar with His voice and His ways.

Listening prayer is not about gaining information; it is about deepening relationship. The Father delights in revealing His love, wisdom, comfort, and encouragement to His children.

Personal Reflection

How often do I leave space in prayer simply to listen? Do I view prayer as a task to complete or an invitation to enjoy the presence of God? What distractions might the Lord be inviting me to set aside so I can hear Him more clearly?

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalms 46:10** — "Be still, and know that I am God."
- **John 10:27** — "My sheep hear My voice."
- **Jeremiah 29:13** — "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Abide in His Presence

Key Scripture: John 15:4 — *"Abide in Me, and I in you."*

Intimacy with God is not built through occasional encounters but through continual abiding. Prayer is more than presenting requests; it is learning to live aware of His presence throughout the day.

When we spend time with someone we love, we begin to recognize their voice, understand their heart, and anticipate their responses. The same is true with God. The more time we spend with Him, the more naturally we recognize His leading, His comfort, and His gentle corrections.

Listening prayer is often less about hearing audible words and more about becoming sensitive to the impressions, scriptures, reminders, and convictions the Holy Spirit brings to our hearts. As we grow in intimacy, we discover that God is speaking far more often than we realize.

Jesus frequently withdrew to lonely places to pray. If the Son of God prioritized time alone with the Father, how much more do we need those moments? Intimacy grows when we intentionally choose His presence over distraction and communion over busyness.

The beautiful reality is that God is not hiding from us. He desires fellowship even more than we desire it. Every time we turn our hearts toward Him, we are responding to an invitation He has already extended.

The goal of intimate prayer is not simply to hear God's voice better but to know His heart more deeply. As we abide in His presence, we are transformed by His love, strengthened by His peace, and shaped into His likeness.

Personal Reflection

What would change in my relationship with God if I viewed prayer as being with Him rather than doing something for Him? How can I create regular moments throughout my day to pause, listen, and enjoy His presence?

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalms 27:8** — "My heart says of You, 'Seek His face!' Your face, Lord, I will seek."
- **Exodus 33:11** — "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend."
- **John 15:5** — "If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Prayer Points

1. A Heart That Seeks His Presence

Father, awaken in me a deeper hunger for Your presence. Teach me to quiet my heart, remove distractions, and prioritize time with You. Draw me into a place of friendship and intimacy where I delight in simply being with You.

Psalms 42:1-2 “As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. ²I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?”

2. Ears to Hear and a Heart to Respond

Holy Spirit, help me recognize Your voice and discern Your leading. Give me a listening heart that responds with faith, obedience, and trust. Let my prayer life become a place of ongoing conversation and communion with You.

Isaiah 30:21 “Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.”

~ We as children of the Living God can come before His Throne anytime of any day ~

~ Drink deeply of His Living Water through Scripture, Prayer and Sitting in His Presence ~

“Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.” — 1 Samuel 3:10.