

October Devotions

Fellow Heirs

“Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation.” (Ephesians 3:2-3 NIV) (Paul speaking to Gentiles)

Paul explains the mystery that was hidden to past generations. “This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise of Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 3:6 NIV) In other words, non-Jewish people (Gentiles) can share in the promises God originally made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Paul uses a beautiful metaphor to explain the mystery. Gentiles were like branches of a wild olive tree grafted into the natural olive tree which represents Israel and the Jewish people. Some of the natural branches (representing the Jewish people) were broken off (due to their unbelief concerning Christ, as their messiah.) So, the gentiles were grafted into the natural olive tree and became a part of the root and share all the promises of God. “And this is God’s plan: both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 3:6 NLT) So therefore, the mystery is explained, “If you belong to Christ then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29

Prayer: My Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with a heart of love, I thank you Heavenly Father, that I am Abraham’s seed and fellow heir of your kingdom. Amen

Note: Ephesians 3:6 has intentionally been used in 2 different translations.

Yes and Amen: Resting in the Finished Work of Christ

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” — 2 Corinthians 1:20

There is something powerful about knowing that God’s promises are not dependent on our circumstances. They are not “yes” when life is easy and “maybe” when trouble comes. **In Christ, every promise finds its Yes and Amen.**

The finished work of Jesus gives us a foundation that cannot be shaken. At the cross, Jesus declared, **“It is finished.”** He accomplished what we could never accomplish through our own strength. Sin was dealt with. The price was paid. The way to the Father was opened. Because of Christ, we can approach God with confidence, knowing that we are loved, accepted, forgiven, and held by His grace.

Fear, however, tries to make us forget what God has already said. Fear asks, *“What if God doesn't come through?”* Faith answers, *“God has already proven that He is faithful.”*

Fear looks at the size of the storm. Faith looks at the faithfulness of Jesus.

Fear is often a struggle to trust God—His character, His power, His promises, and His faithfulness. But God does not condemn us when we struggle. He lovingly calls us back to truth.

So when fear comes, don't build your confidence on what you feel. **Build it on what Christ has finished.** You are not fighting to convince God to love you. You are not striving to make His promises true. You are learning to live from what Jesus has already accomplished.

Today, breathe deeply and remember: **Jesus is enough. His grace is sufficient. His promises are secure. His presence is with you.**

Prayer

Father, I choose to trust You. When fear speaks louder than faith, remind me of Your faithfulness. Help me see my circumstances through the finished work of Christ rather than allowing my circumstances to define Your character. Teach me to rest in what Jesus has already accomplished. Guard my heart with Your peace and strengthen my faith to believe Your promises. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Declaration

I belong to Christ. I am not abandoned. I am not alone.

I do not have to live controlled by fear.

God is faithful to His Word. His promises are Yes and Amen in Christ.

Jesus has finished the work.

I will trust Him, rest in Him, and walk in His peace.

What God has promised, He is faithful to fulfill.

Today, I choose faith over fear, peace over anxiety, and trust over doubt.

Jesus is my confidence, my peace, and my hope.

Amen.

God's Loving Mercy Never Fails

When our will is weak, when our minds are clouded, or when our conscience is burdened by guilt, remember this: **God's loving mercy never fails.**

When friends or family let us down, when we feel alone because no one seems to understand us, or when we grow weary of doing what is right while others seem to enjoy doing what we know is wrong, remember this: **God's loving mercy never fails.**

When we cannot see the way forward, when we struggle to hear God's voice, or even when we wrestle with doubts about our faith, remember this: **God's loving mercy never fails.**

2 Timothy 2:13 reminds us that even if we are faithless, God remains faithful, because He cannot deny who He is.

This truth should encourage us to confess our sins, turn away from them, and run to God rather than hide from Him in shame and become trapped by them. When we come to Him in genuine repentance and ask for His forgiveness, He graciously extends His mercy to us. **Proverbs 28:13**

Remember that the Lord sees every heart and understands every plan and thought. Nothing is hidden from Him. **1 Chronicles 28:9**

True repentance is essential. When God forgives us, He judges our sin, yet He lovingly shows mercy to us as sinners. We belong to Him, and we can come before Him with confidence, knowing that He offers us a clean slate, a renewed heart, and the hope of a transformed life.

Prayer: God, thank You for Your unfailing love and mercy. In a world filled with heaviness and distraction, it is easy to become caught up in fear, gossip, pride, and the many temptations that pull us away from You.

Thank You that when I come before You with a truly repentant heart, You forgive me and show me Your mercy. Your Word promises that when I draw near to You, You draw near to me.

Create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Help me to think, speak, and act more like Jesus each day. Strengthen me to walk in obedience, trust in Your faithfulness, and rest in the assurance of Your grace. Thank You that Your loving mercy never fails.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

What's in Your Heart Will Come Out

Scriptures: Matthew 12:34, Luke 6:45, Proverbs 4:23

Our words reveal what is happening inside of us. We can carefully choose what we say, but eventually, what is stored in our hearts will find its way into our conversations, attitudes, and actions.

Jesus says in **Matthew 12:34**, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” In **Luke 6:45**, He teaches that a good person brings good things out of the good stored within, while an evil heart produces evil things. Our words are not simply random—they often reveal what we have been allowing to take root in our hearts.

That is why **Proverbs 4:23** tells us, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

The heart is the source. The mouth is often the evidence.

If our hearts are filled with bitterness, eventually bitterness will come out. If we constantly hold onto anger, fear, jealousy, or unforgiveness, those things will eventually affect the way we speak and treat others. But when we fill our hearts with God's Word, prayer, gratitude, love, and truth, those things begin to overflow into our words and our lives.

Guarding your heart doesn't mean pretending negative emotions don't exist. It means bringing them to God instead of allowing them to control you. When you are hurt, give it to God. When you are angry, ask Him to search your heart. When you are tempted to speak harshly, pause and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your response.

Before asking, “**What should I say?**”, we should sometimes ask, “**What is happening in my heart?**”

God wants more than just clean words coming from our mouths. He wants to transform the place those words come from.

Today, ask God to examine your heart. Remove anything that does not belong there and replace it with His love, peace, wisdom, and truth. As your heart changes, your words will begin to change too.

Prayer

Father, help me to guard my heart because I know that what I allow into my heart will eventually come out through my words and actions. Search me and reveal anything in me that does not honor You. Remove bitterness, anger, fear, jealousy, and unforgiveness, and fill me with Your love, peace, wisdom, and truth. Help my words bring life, encouragement, and grace to the people around me. Let what comes out of my mouth reflect what You are doing inside of me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Reflection

What have my words recently revealed about the condition of my heart, and what do I need to surrender to God today?

By Grace

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He Loved us even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved.) (Ephesians 2:4-5)

God is so merciful and forgiving. His grace is His unmerited favor towards us. What is grace? There are so many ways to describe grace. How can grace be understood in simple terms? Let's say your child or someone close to you, breaks something that you treasure. What would your reaction be? Would it be anger or would it be grace, giving mercy and forgiveness. When God deals with us, He chooses mercy and forgiveness. That is His grace (unmerited favor) being poured out upon us. "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy." (Psalm 103:8) When we were in our sin, before we knew God... "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." (Romans 5:8) Because of God's grace He sent His son Jesus to die for the punishment we should have received. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." (Ephesians 1:7) By grace not by our own strength are we saved. There is nothing we must do to earn our salvation. It is bought by the blood of Jesus. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

Prayer: I thank you Lord for your grace. According to your word in 2 Peter 3:18. Help me to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever." Amen

Steps To Making Wise Decisions

How often do we make a snap decision or say something hurtful based solely on our emotions? And how often do we regret the outcome resulting from that action or those words when we've had time to reflect?

Through intentional prayer and preparation, we can discover ways to navigate the decision-making process that help us prevent the mistakes we make when we're in an emotionally charged state of mind.

In Psalm 37:3-5; 7-8, David shares valuable insights that teach us what steps to take so we can make wise decisions when facing difficult situations.

Trust in the Lord and do good. God sees the whole picture; we don't. So, we need to do what's right according to Scripture no matter what others are doing.

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. When we go to God first and keep our eyes on Jesus and follow His example in our decision-making, He will reward us.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him. He knows what we need far better than we know what we need! It's important for us to know the difference between our wants and our needs.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him. This is a tough one in our fast-paced, instant-everything world. As we settle our minds and become quiet before the Lord, He will give us the perspective we need to make good decisions.

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. David is referring to sinful anger, not God-oriented righteous anger. He is encouraging us not to compare and become envious that "they" have what we want. Anger will never lead us to the outcome we desire.

Prayer: Father God, teach me to trust in You as I seek answers, so my decisions are based on Your Word rather than what others are saying or doing. You know my needs far better than I do, and sometimes my wants mistakenly feel like needs. So, as I settle my mind, position my heart, and become quiet before You, give me Your perspective so I don't resort to anger or make a decision that is not pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, Amen

Treasured Possession

"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3)

The Lord has blessed all peoples of the earth through the covenant He made with Abraham. He said to Abraham, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:18) The bible tells us why God chose Israel to be His chosen people. This is important because through the nation of Israel, God's Son, Jesus was born. This is what God said about Israel: "The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples, but because the Lord loves you, and because he would keep the oath which He had sworn to your fathers... (Deuteronomy 7:7-8a))

We bless Israel for many reasons but most of all because Jesus was born from Jewish descent. Also, we bless Israel for the Bible. Who did God choose to write the bible? Jewish men of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. God has chosen Israel to be his "treasured possession." This is so beautiful from The Living Translation, "For you are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be His own special treasure." (Deuteronomy 7:6) As a believer we can bless God's people with our love for them. We can pray for Jerusalem as it instructs us in Psalm 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."

On October 7, 2023, Israel woke up to the tragic attack by Hamas, the enemy of Israel. Over 1,200 innocent people lost their lives, by horrendous, unspeakable acts of violence. On the anniversary of October 7th, let us remember the pain and suffering of the families who lost loved ones, their homes and their way of life. These are God's chosen people. Let us, the church, pour out our prayers for Israel and all who suffered loss that day.

Prayer: Lord, first I pray for the peace of Jerusalem. I pray also for the healing of both body, soul and spirit for your people who grieve from the tragedy of October 7, 2023. Bless your people with the love of Jesus Christ. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen

The Struggle with Sin

In **Romans 7**, Paul shares three important lessons he learned through his struggle with sinful desires: 1. Knowing God's laws does not automatically make it easier to obey them (**v. 9**); 2. Self-determination and personal effort cannot transform the human heart (**v. 15**); 3. Becoming a Christian does not eliminate all sin and temptation from a person's life (**vv. 22-25**).

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, salvation happens in a moment. You are forgiven, redeemed, and made right with God. However, becoming more like Jesus is a lifelong journey. God continually works in us by teaching us to depend on Him each day.

The Bible makes it clear that no one is innocent and no one deserves salvation. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard. Because of this, we must rely completely on what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Salvation is not something we can earn by doing our best. It is a gift of God's grace.

Paul honestly described his own struggle in **Romans 7:15**: "I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate." These words are more than the confession of a desperate man. They reflect the experience of countless believers who desire to please God yet find themselves battling the pull of their sinful nature. The Christian life isn't about trying harder in our own strength. It is about learning to surrender to God.

The path to victory is found in **Galatians 5:16**: "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."

We should never underestimate the power of sin, nor should we try to overcome it on our own. Lasting victory comes through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us. As we walk closely with God, depend on His strength, and obey His leading, He enables us to resist temptation and grow in spiritual maturity.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. None of us are worthy for we have all sinned and fallen short of Your glory.

We are incapable of saving ourselves, and our flesh is too weak to overcome sin on its own. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to guide us and strengthen us. Help us not to rely on our own abilities but to depend completely on You. When we are tempted, remind us to turn to You for strength and direction.

Transform our hearts, renew our minds, and help us become more like Jesus in how we think, speak, and live. Thank You for Your grace and Your faithfulness to continue the work You have begun in us. In Jesus' name, Amen

What Are You Aligning With?

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” — Proverbs 23:7

What we continually think about can become a seed in our hearts. When we meditate on something, we give it attention; when we continually speak it, we give it agreement. What we allow to take root within us will eventually influence our words, attitudes, choices, and direction.

That is why Scripture says, **“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” — Proverbs 4:23**

Jesus said, **“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” — Matthew 12:34.** What fills the heart eventually comes out of the mouth. Our words can reveal what we have been agreeing with internally.

This is both an **encouragement and a warning**: be intentional about what you allow to occupy your mind and settle into your heart. The enemy would love for us to meditate on fear, defeat, rejection, offense, and hopelessness until those thoughts become strongholds. But God calls us to renew our minds with His truth.

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about such things.” — Philippians 4:8

And **Proverbs 18:21** reminds us that “death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

So pause and ask yourself:

What am I feeding?

What am I agreeing with?

What am I speaking?

What am I aligning with—life or death, truth or deception, God or the enemy?

You don't have to agree with every thought that enters your mind. **Take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ** (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Choose God's truth. Speak His Word. Guard your heart. Renew your mind.

What you continually feed will grow. So feed your spirit with the truth of God, and let your life come into alignment with His Word.

How Do You See Yourself?

Do you think of yourself as a sinner, a saint, or perhaps somewhere in between?

As believers, it is important that we understand our true identity in Christ. Being a Christian is not simply about being forgiven and going to heaven. It is about being made spiritually alive and having Christ's Spirit dwell within us. It is about who we are because of our relationship with Him.

When you place your faith in Christ, you become a child of God. You are Christ's friend. You are united with the Lord and His Spirit indwells you. You have been bought with a price and belong to God. You are called a saint, and so much more.

Being a saint refers to your position in Christ, not necessarily your maturity in Him. While we all face struggles, temptations, and moments of failure, these things do not define our identity. Our old flesh patterns are not who we truly are.

By God's calling, we are saints and fellow heirs with Christ. Scripture says, "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (**Romans 8:16-17**).

Yet many Christians struggle because they have a false perception of who they really are. They view themselves primarily as sinners hoping to make it into heaven one day, while feeling trapped by recurring sinful patterns. But God wants us to see ourselves the way He sees us.

To live like a child of God, you must believe that you are a child of God. He desires for us to know Him intimately and grow closer to Him each day. Through Jesus, God has fully revealed Himself and made known the glorious truth of Christ living within us. This is not just a doctrine to understand. It is a reality to embrace, believe, and live from every day.

Prayer: Abba Father, You call me a saint, Your child, and Your heir. I am Yours, and You are mine. As I let this truth wash over me, I am humbled by Your amazing grace and love. Thank You for offering me the free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Teach me to walk in the freedom, confidence, and purpose that come from belonging to You. May the reality of Christ living in me shape the way I think, speak, and live. Thank You that my identity is not based on my performance, but on Your finished work and unfailing love. In Jesus' name, Amen

Going Deeper With the Father Through the Storm

Storms have a way of revealing what we truly believe about God. When the wind is calm, trusting Him can feel easy. But when the waves rise, the boat begins to fill, and the way forward becomes unclear, faith is tested at a deeper level.

Sometimes God does not immediately remove the storm because He is doing something **within us while we are in it**.

James 1:2–4 says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” The trial is not necessarily evidence that God has abandoned you. It can become a place where your faith develops muscles it could not have developed in comfort.

Think about Peter in Matthew 14. Jesus sent the disciples into the boat, and later a storm came. Jesus came walking on the water, but He did not immediately make the waves disappear. Instead, He called Peter to step out of the boat.

Peter discovered something important: **the storm did not have to stop for him to experience Jesus**.

When you are in the middle of your storm, keep your head above the water by staying close to the Father. Pray even when you do not feel like praying. Worship when your circumstances give you no reason to sing. Stay in Scripture when your emotions are screaming something different. Surround yourself with people who remind you of God's character.

You do not have to understand everything to trust Him.

Isaiah 43:2 reminds us, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Notice that God says **when**, not **if**. There will be waters. There will be fire. There will be moments that stretch us.

But there is also a promise: **He will be with us**.

Do not waste your storm by only asking, “When will this end?” Ask, “Father, what are You teaching me here? How are You drawing me closer? What needs to grow in me?”

The goal is not merely to survive the storm.

It is to **know the Father more deeply because you walked through it with Him**.

Prayer Points

1. **Father, teach me to trust You in the middle of uncertainty. Help me keep my eyes on You rather than becoming consumed by the waves around me.**
2. **Lord, use this season to produce perseverance, maturity, and deeper faith in me. Help me recognize Your presence even when I cannot yet see Your purpose.**

Walking on Water: Trusting the Father Beyond What Is Familiar

There comes a moment in every believer's journey when Jesus calls us beyond what feels safe.

Peter was in a boat when Jesus said, "Come." The remarkable thing is that Peter had to leave something familiar before he could experience something supernatural.

Matthew 14:29 says, "Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus."

Peter did not walk on water because he suddenly became fearless. He walked because **Jesus was there**.

That is what faith looks like. Faith is not the absence of fear; it is choosing to trust the Father's presence more than you trust the storm.

But then Peter looked at the wind. Matthew 14:30 says that when he saw the wind, he became afraid and began to sink. His circumstances captured his attention, and what he had been able to do by faith suddenly became impossible through human strength.

Yet even while sinking, Peter knew where to turn: **"Lord, save me!"**

Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand. There is grace even when your faith feels weak.

Perhaps you are in a season where God is asking you to step beyond your comfort zone. Maybe you cannot see the whole path. Maybe you only have enough light for the next step. Take it.

You do not need faith for the entire journey today. You need faith for **the next step**.

The storm may teach you perseverance. The waves may teach you dependence. The waiting may teach you patience. The uncertainty may teach you surrender. The challenge may expose places where you have been depending on yourself instead of the Father.

Romans 5:3–5 reminds us that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. So don't despise the process.

Let the Father immerse you in His presence while you are surrounded by circumstances you cannot control. Learn to breathe prayer in the middle of pressure. Learn to worship before the breakthrough. Learn to trust before you understand.

Walking on water is ultimately not about becoming strong enough to control the waves.

It is about becoming secure enough in **the Father** that you can keep moving toward Jesus while the waves are still moving beneath your feet.

Keep your eyes on Him. Take the next step. And when you begin to sink, reach for His hand. He is still there.

Prayer Points

1. **Father, give me courage to step out of the boat when You call me. Help me trust Your voice more than I trust my circumstances.**
2. **Jesus, keep my eyes fixed on You when the waves rise. When I become afraid or begin to sink, remind me that Your hand is always within reach.**