

Devotions - April 20-26, 2008
by, Diane Gendron
Bethany Lutheran, Norway

Sunday, April 20

Enjoy! This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

When you wake up in the morning you are receiving a gift from God. He has made this day for you to enjoy to the fullest. He wants us to rejoice in singing praises of thankfulness not negativness. To be glad in it means that no matter what the day may bring, I will do and be the very best that I can. It is because of God that I have this day before me.

Dear God : Thank you for each new day that you give to me. For each new breath that I take. Help me to be thankful and find good in each day even when it seems like my day is so bleak. May I rejoice for the love you have for me.

Monday, April 21

The Lord will hear when I call unto him.

Psalm4:3

The Lord has chosen everyone who is faithful to be his very own, and he answers my prayer. In order for prayers to be answered I need to call out to God, to let him know my needs, hurts, blessings and of those around me. I need to trust the Lord knowing that my prayers will be answered in his time. I will sleep soundly because the Lord will keep me safe. God is always just a prayer away.

Dear Lord: May I take time to call out to you each day. I know that you wait to hear from me, for I am a child of yours. I take comfort in knowing that you are just a prayer away in whatever form the prayer may be in. Thank-you for loving me. Amen

Tuesday, April 22

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
The courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

When I graduated from high school this was the class motto. It has stuck with me throughout the years. Many times I have had to repeat them to myself over and over almost like a prayer. These words are carried over in my home and my work place. They are a constant reminder to me that only with the help of God am I able to accept the changes in my life, and there has been plenty. With the death of a spouse, I have learned that it is not I in control but God himself. With him I can have the courage to change things that I am able and not to ask why.

Dear Lord: I have survived many changes in my life, some good, some not so good, but you never left my side even when I may have felt like you did. Thanks for the peace I get from these words and knowing that you are my strength. Amen

Wednesday, April 23

Faith: All things are possible if you believe.

There is a plaque with these words hanging in my home. It was a Christmas gift from a co-worker. In my Christian walk these words are important to me. What is faith? The dictionary says: "confidence or trust in a person or thing, teachings of religion." When we believe by trusting God, all things are possible. Faith is not something you touch, it is in our hearts, we feel it. We learn it from our Christian experiences with believing that God is watching over us.

Dear God: Where would we be without faith. I will continue to have faith in you, to believe that all things are possible. To pray and give you thanks. Amen

Thursday, April 24

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,
in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.*

Proverbs3:5-6

With all of our heart we are to trust the Lord, not depending on our own judgement. We are to let him lead us always. For he will clear the road for us to follow. God wants us to remember his teachings and instructions, then obey them completely. By doing this, we will live a long and prosperous life. We need to respect the Lord and not think that we are wise enough. Sometimes we tend to stray off the road that God has made for us. We want to do it ourselves, but he knows best.

Dear God: Thank you for clearing the path for me and others. Help us to put our trust in you with our hearts not our minds. Please forgive us when we fail, redirect us and love us unconditionally. Amen

Friday, April 25

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you.
Jeremiah 29:11-12*

Karen Kingsbury a Christian author put this verse in each of her books from the Sunrise Series that I have been reading lately. It is like this verse has been speaking to me. I've come to know that God has my life all planned out for me. The things that have happened in my life weren't to harm me but to strengthen me. I've become stronger in my faith walk with God. I learned that I just need to sit back and enjoy the ride, God is in control. I just need to listen and let him take over the wheel of life. I will continue to go to him with my prayers then try to listen for his answers.

*Dear God: Help me to stay focused on the fact that my life has already been planned out by you. That with you, I can have a future full of hope and love. Give me the strength to let you be in full control and for me to stop trying to take it from you. Thanks for your gift of grace.
Amen*

Saturday, April 26

Bloom where you are planted!

What does this mean? We all come from different walks of life but we all have one thing in common – the fact that we are all children of God. Maybe you are just starting your faith journey, maybe you have been on the walk your whole life, either way the seeds start to sow. We are to go spread the good news of Christ to others in our environment. Stay focused on being the person God wants you to be. Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ!

Lord: Thank you for loving me unconditionally. May I continue to grow in my faith walk with you. May the seeds be planted around me to help bring others on the faith walk so they may come to know you like I do. You are indeed an awesome God! Amen