

**Devotions – March 6-12, 2016**  
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**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

Text: I Samuel 16:7

**“The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”**

As people we do look at others on the outside. Sometimes we think things to ourselves - bad things regarding their appearance, cleanliness, age, etc. – that aren't very nice. I know we shouldn't and we know we shouldn't but we do it anyway unfortunately. After all, we are not perfect. We are humans. There is only One who is perfect.

Let us pray: *Lord, please help us to not look upon others in a negative light. Everyone is facing some sort of personal battle and we don't need to add to that. Please help all of us to turn to you and guide us to better thoughts, and to be non-judgmental. Amen.*



**Monday, March 7, 2016**

Text: Philippians 4:6

**“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything: tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers.”**

I am a worrier. I admit it. I try not to be, but it doesn't always work. I have read this verse in the Bible many times. I worry about finances, loved ones, whether my husband is feeling well, or well enough to eat, whether people I know are happy, if the bathroom is clean, if the car is dirty, etc. etc. I worry about everything. A lot of this, of course, is needless worrying. I know it, but I just can't seem to help it. I suffer from anxiety also, so I think this has a lot to do with it. One thing I do know is that if I give my cares to God, I don't have to worry; he will take care of it. So at least all we need to do is pray. Praying feels better than worrying after all.

Let us pray: *Lord, I am going to give all of my cares and worries to you. I know that you will take care of my needs for the day. I just ask for strength to take it one day at a time. Amen.*



**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

Text: Philippians 4:13

**“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. I have always felt strengthened, empowered after I read this. I even have a refrigerator magnet that has this verse on it. I need His strength daily, I know we all do. A few months ago my husband was diagnosed with cancer. I like to think that I am a pretty strong woman. This diagnosis really shook me to my core, as well as his. I found myself praying and bargaining with the Lord. After seeing him go through treatments for weeks, I prayed and thanked the Lord for his strength. There is no way we could have gotten through this without Him.

Let us pray: *Father, we thank you for your strength. We thank you for all of the blessings you have bestowed on us. Thank you for your love. We all need your love and your strength daily. Amen.*



**Wednesday, March 9, 2016**

Text: Psalm 146:8

**“The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.”**

I have always been afraid of being blind. I remember thinking about this even when I was a kid. I do have an issue with my eyes where I am actually legally blind in one eye. So if something were to happen to my “good” eye, then I would have that problem. I am involved with the Lions/Lioness Clubs in my area. I feel passionate about this cause most probably because of this issue, I don’t know. I work with the District on the Leader Dogs for the Blind. I know that there may come a time when I may be in need of one, you just never know. I love to work with the LDFB because it really changes a person’s life when they are able to get a Leader Dog and have their independence back. The clients are so very happy and so grateful. It just gives such a great feeling; it is very emotional. Of course, we can all be blind in other ways also, even if we are not physically blind.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, we ask you to open our eyes both spiritually and physically so that we may see you more clearly. Help those who are physically blind so that they may be given the tools to continue an independent life if they are able. In your name we pray, Amen.*



**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

Text: John 3:16

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”**

This has to be one of the more well known and loved verses in the Bible. Some who are not even well versed in the Bible certainly know what John 3:16 is. It is amazing. If you believe in God you will have eternal life! That is so fantastic! Jesus died on the cross so that our sins may be forgiven. Forgiveness is such a wonderful thing. It certainly is like a dead weight being taken off of you. What a great feeling. And to know that when we lose someone here on Earth, we will see them again in everlasting life is really something to look forward to. I know we grieve here, but we will be so happy to be able to see our loved ones again in eternal life. I know I will. There are many I have not seen in such a long time I can't wait to see them again, especially my mother and father.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for the forgiveness of our sins and for life everlasting. We love you and thank you for this and the many things that you do for all of us. In your name we pray, Amen.*



**Friday, March 11, 2016**

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5a

**“Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?”**

Lent is traditionally a time of self-examination, a time for looking at how we're living our lives in relation to God and to others. It's always good for us to ask ourselves, how can I walk more closely with God, in obedience to God's will? Today, may we take time to give thanks and praise for God's loving mercy shown through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray: *We thank you, Lord, for you suffered death so that we might have life. Give us eyes to see how we may follow you more closely, and hearts to do your will. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**Saturday, March 12, 2016**

Text: Psalm 47:6-7

**“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.”**

There's a wonderful hymn composed by Robert Lowry (Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal #763) whose refrain proclaims:

“No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?”

Every life is filled with good times and bad, joy and sorrow. Our responsibility is to choose how we will respond to each of these situations. God has promised to walk with us always, and asks only that we trust Him to guide us through. He doesn't promise that there won't be difficulties along the way, just that He will be at our side helping us meet the challenge. What joy can fill our hearts knowing that the King of heaven and earth is walking with us!

Let us pray: *As our lives flow on, filled with both good things and bad, may praise for your loving kindness be always on our lips. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

