

**Devotions – October 1-7, 2017**

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**Sunday, October 1, 2017**

Text: Romans 10:9-13 ESV

**“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”**

While thinking of a scripture reading, I immediately thought of one of, if not *the* most faithful person I’ve ever known. That person is my grandmother, Glenda. Even in her worst times, during the many health struggles she faced, her faith never disappeared. It only strengthened. For example, it meant the world to her to have us pray with and for her in her hospital room. She knew the good news of Jesus Christ--that those who believe in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. It was so inspiring to me and my family.

Witnessing her love of Christ has encouraged me to strengthen my faith through prayer, scripture reading, and Bible study.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, please help us quench our thirst for faith every single day by teaching us your way. Guide us to do the most good in the world and help those in need. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*



**Monday, October 2, 2017**

Text: Proverbs 19:21:

**Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.**

I truly believe that God has a plan for each and every one of us. Since a young age, I have been fortunate enough to know where He wants me. Sometimes, however, we may not realize what that plan is (at least right away). He created us in His own image, so that we may find success, and follow our passion, whatever that may be.

We are all alive and on this planet for a reason, so be sure to make the most of it. Follow your passion. Make the world a better place, day by day. And most importantly, spread the good news

of Jesus Christ and do His will.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, guide us to follow our passions. Walk with us through the journey of life, and protect us along the way. Only with your guidance and blessings can we truly be successful. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

Text: 1Timothy 2:1-2

**“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”**

In today's extremely polarized political climate, it is important that our leaders lean on their faith in Jesus Christ. He will bless them and give them the wisdom necessary to lead the people. We need to follow the teachings of Jesus and love our neighbors as ourselves.

I was scrolling on Facebook one day and saw the quote, “No matter who is president, Jesus is still king.” That still rings true today, and it will forever. Whether you agree or disagree with the leaders in power -- you can always take comfort in knowing that He is in command.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, please give our leaders the guidance they need to lead our nation and world in these uncertain times. Have them lean on you and follow your principles of love, respect, and humbleness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

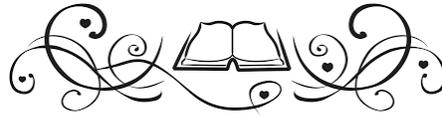
Text: Psalm 142:5

**“I cry to you, Lord, for help. ‘You are my refuge,’ I say. ‘You are all I have in the land of the living.’”**

This verse serves as a reminder to turn to the Lord our God for help not only when you are struggling with something, but also to turn to him when times are good. Thank the Lord when you have a good day. Thank the Lord and pray for guidance when you have a bad day. Either way, the Lord makes every day and every breath you take possible, so always remember to thank and praise Him. Through Him all things were created!

I can't help but think of Middle Eastern Christians when I read this verse. No matter what they are going through—famine, abuse, or even genocide—they never abandon their faith in Jesus Christ. This is inspiring to me and should serve as a model to all of Christianity.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, please remind me to turn to you when times get tough. Lord, we know that through you all things are made. Thank you for everything that You have blessed me with, and continue to bless me with until You call us home. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**Thursday, October 5, 2017**

Text: Mark 16:15

**He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”**

Jesus isn't asking us to do this. He is *commanding* us to preach the gospel, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ around all parts of this planet. And, if you look at the numbers, Christianity is spreading rapidly in many parts of the world. For example, 100 years ago, less than 10% of the people in Africa were of the Christian faith. Today, that number exceeds 40%. Similar trends can also be seen in Asia.

We, as people of faith, should always be sharing the Word with our friends, families, and strangers. Our job is not done until every person has been told about the forgiveness found in Jesus. What a wonderful thing to share with others—eternal life with our Father in Heaven.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, assist me every day to spread the word of Jesus Christ with others. That is what You call all of us to do. Empower us and enlighten us to be surrogates of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**Friday, October 6, 2017**

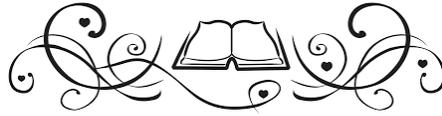
Text: 1 Peter 5:7

**“Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”**

I was attending a church service in Big Rapids while visiting my girlfriend and the sermon that the pastor gave really struck me. Essentially, the pastor said, “Quit trying to do everything alone. You cannot do anything alone. Jesus helps you and allows you to do all things.” It struck me because all too often, I find myself having this mindset. I refuse help and fail to realize that Jesus is what makes everything I do possible.

Whether it is getting that new job, finishing a big project, or getting over an illness—thank Jesus. You did not do it alone. He was with you all along the way.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for helping me to accomplish things in life. Even though I sometimes fail to realize it, I know you help me every day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**Saturday, October 7, 2017**

Text: Matthew 7:1-5

**“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”**

This command is one of the hardest, yet most important to follow. I catch myself judging others all too often. Our society is based on judgment. Watch a half-hour of cable news or an episode of The Kardashian’s. It is everywhere, and I think it reflects negatively on our society. Jesus commands us not to judge others, and to have empathy. We never know the situation that the person is in. Let’s respect and love all as Jesus has commanded us to do.

Let us pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with love and teach us to not judge. Guide society and pop culture to do the same. Guide all lost people home to you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

