

DEVOTION FOR THE SEVENTH TUESDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 119:9-16

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments.

I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 14:1-45 *Israel abandons faith*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11:1-40 *Holding our faith in tribulation*

“WHAT GOD VALUES MOST!”

What is most important to God? Obedience? Certainly God wants obedience. When King Saul grew impatient as Samuel was slow to arrive, he took it upon himself to offer a sacrifice. When Samuel arrived he chastised him saying, “*You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God.*” Love? God definitely wants us to love Him. Jesus asked Peter three times, “*Do you love me?*” God wants us to love Him and be obedient to His commands, but first and foremost God wants us to have faith in Him. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “*Do you believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*” The author of Hebrews goes so far as to say, “*And without faith it is impossible to please Him.*”

Why is faith so important to God? Abraham is referred to as ‘the father of faith.’ He is the one to whom God first gave the promise of blessing, which would be fulfilled in the coming of Jesus and the blessings of forgiveness and eternal salvation in Him. God didn’t make it easy for Abraham to believe. He delayed the promise of a son for years. He waited until Abraham had no reasonable hope of it being fulfilled, as both he and Sarah were decades past their child bearing years. Then when the promise was kept, the Lord seemed about to take it away. In spite of everything, Abraham believed the Lord and the Lord counted it to him as righteousness.

Faith is our expression of love for God. Faith is our expression of trust that the Lord will keep His promises, despite the circumstances of our lives. Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God, from which obedience flows. Faith takes God’s word and believes His promises. St. John wrote, “*These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, that believing you may have life in His name.*” God wants us to take His word to heart and believe with our hearts. When we believe His word, we receive His promises!

“FAITH & TRUTH & LIFE BESTOWING” (Text Public Domain)

Faith and truth and life bestowing, open now the scriptures Lord.

Seed to life eternal sowing, scattered on the wind abroad.

Let not hearts, your word receiving, like a barren field be found.

Choked with thorns and unbelieving, shallow earth or stony ground.

May the Spirit’s power unceasing, bring to life the hidden grain.

Daily in our hearts increasing, bearing fruit that shall remain.

So on scripture, song and story; Saviour may your voice be heard.

Till our eyes behold your glory, give us ears to hear your word.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in faith. We thank you for the witness of the believers whose faith is remembered in Scripture; Abel, Noah, Abraham and so many others. We thank you for the witness of those who shared their faith with us during their earthly pilgrimage; parents, grandparents, Sunday School Teachers and others who taught us the way of salvation. Most of all we thank you for the Holy Spirit, who through the words of Scripture and the witness of others, has blessed us with faith to believe your promises in Christ Jesus. Help us witness the faith to others. Bring us with all believers to the fulfillment of faith, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus. In His Name. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 10:39

“But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.”