

## Devotion for Pentecost 16

### Psalm 116

**I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.**

Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

**The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by troubles and sorrow.**

Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, save me!”

**The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.**

The Lord protects the simple hearted; when I was in need He saved me.

**Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.**

For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

**I believed; therefore I said, “I am greatly afflicted.” And in my dismay I said, “All men are liars.”**

How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.**

O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains.

**I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the Lord—in your midst. O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

*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*

### James 2:1-26

***Faith expresses itself in action***

Why should we honour the poor?

How does Jesus honour the poor?

Why does a living faith express itself in good actions?

### Mark 9:1-29

***Jesus manifests His glory in transfiguration and healing***

What was the significance of Moses and Elijah with Jesus?

What did Jesus mean by saying this kind of spirit “*cannot be driven out by anything but prayer?*”

How does Jesus help our unbelief?

## FAITH WORKS

### “I WILL SHOW YOU MY FAITH BY MY WORKS”

Take a moment to think of the great things that have come out of faith. Thomas Edison believed he could make a non-combustible source of light that would safely illuminate people’s homes. People said it was impossible. He invented the light bulb! The Wright brothers believed it was possible to design and build a machine that would enable human flight. People said it would never happen. They built an airplane! People thought they were crazy, but they acted on their faith and proved them wrong.

Some people say faith is an escape from reality. And they are right, faith is the jumping off point to a new reality. In reality every great leap in technology has begun with an act of faith on the part of the inventors. How much faith did it take to send a man to the moon? Faith is the seed from which creativity and innovation flow. People who have faith see the positive in the negative. Faith empowers us to see the silver lining in the darkest cloud, and to see the possible in the impossible.

James speaks at length about faith. Specifically, how faith works great things in the hearts of believers and how faith works to bring blessings to others through the lives of believers. Faith works a change in our relationship with God. Faith changes us from foreigners and strangers and makes us children of God. Faith opens our hearts, so that God can pour His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Faith opens our eyes that we may see the love of God shining in the face of Jesus. Faith fills our hearts with compassion for our fellow human beings, so we see Jesus in each other!

James point is that faith works! Faith works a change in our relationship with God in Christ Jesus. Faith in Jesus works a change in our relationships with other people. All great works begin with faith. Even more so in the lives of believers. In Christ, faith works the most amazing things, trust in the love of God and love shared among our sisters and brothers.

**“BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS”** (Public Domain)

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

**PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, you displayed your divine glory to the disciples Peter, James and John in blazing light on the Mount of Transfiguration that they would believe you are the Son of God. You expressed the nature of your love, by blessing a man with faith and his son with healing. Bless us both to believe in you as the Son of God, our Saviour and to express our faith in you in love for others; seeking their health, healing and well- being, especially by praying for their faith in you as Saviour. In your 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**

**John 7:37-38**

*“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”*

**Bible Knowledge Quiz**

What was the name of the pool in Jerusalem where Jesus healed a disabled man?

From what unusual source did God provide water for Israel in the wilderness?

Where was the last place Jesus appeared to the disciples according to John?

**Answers to Last Week’s Quiz**

The tongue (James 3:7-8).

He fell asleep (Acts 20:7-12).

A thorn in his flesh (12:7).