

## **DEVOTIONAL READINGS AND PRAYERS**

**November 1-30, 2009**

### **Sunday, November 1 - ALL SAINTS DAY**

Read Revelation 7:1-14, giving thanks for the wonder of God's salvation, that He could and would include all people groups in His family.

Read Psalm 24:1-10, praising God for His supreme Lordship, and that He has made a way through Jesus for us to stand pure and holy in the Father's Presence.

Read 1 John 3:1-3, thanking the Father that His love draws us into the reality of sonship in the image of Jesus.

Read Matthew 5:1-12, considering the definitions of "blessing" that Jesus gives in the Kingdom of God. Seek the realities of these blessings today, and wait upon the Holy Spirit for the grace to live in this way.

### **Monday, November 2**

Read Romans 11:29-36, seeing that God gives His gifts freely and permanently to His people. Let God's dealings with Israel cause you to soberly reflect on your responses to Him, and choose to humbly serve and obey Him today.

Read Psalm 69:29-36, and understand that worshipping God in times of difficulty and pain is a pleasing sacrifice to Him, a statement of faith that our confidence is in Him regardless of our circumstances. He is faithful and true, and we believe it no matter what!

Read Luke 14:12-14, seeing the kind of thing God values - the sharing of blessing with those who cannot afford it. Let this aspect of God's nature be demonstrated in your life today.

### **Tuesday, November 3**

Read Romans 12:1-16, asking the Holy Spirit to increase your understanding and commitment to the corporate life of the Body of Christ. Set your will to obey the things in which the Word gives clear instruction.

Read Psalm 131:1-3, seeing the place of child-like rest that comes to those who trust in the Lord.

Read Luke 14:15-24, and sense the importance of responding to the Lord's invitations to His banquet. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize any excuses that would hinder your full participation in the Lord's feasts.

### **Wednesday, November 4**

Read Romans 13:8-10, seeing that the Scriptures instruct us in how to desire the best for one another even as we do for ourselves.

Read Psalm 112:1-9, giving thanks that the instructions of the Lord for loving others also result in happiness for the one who obeys.

Read Luke 14:25-33, once again considering the cost of following Jesus with all your heart and will. Soberly make this commitment again for the next stage of growth in your life.

### **Thursday, November 5**

Read Romans 14:7-12, thanking God that you can rest in His ability to judge all people. This reality frees you to love and serve others without restraint, simply inviting them into His Presence.

Read Psalm 27:1-14, and allow the desire for the Presence of the Lord to grow in your heart as you contemplate His beauty.

Read Luke 15:1-10, and reflect on the joy of the Father's heart at finding that which was lost. Ask that your heart may expand to know His love for those who do not yet know Him.

### **Friday, November 6**

Read Romans 15:14-21, giving thanks for the things God has accomplished in your life. Do not allow condemnation from the enemy to rob you of the joy that is yours because of your obedience to the Lord.

Read Psalm 98:1-4, giving thanks that the Lord Himself has assumed the responsibility for making His ways known to the world. All we must do is cooperate with Him in His work.

Read Luke 15:11-32, and allow the Father's love for His sons to fill your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you enter the Father's joy as you walk with Him.

### **Saturday, November 7**

Read Romans 16:3-9,22-27, and give thanks for the faithful people that God has used in your life over the years.

Read Psalm 145:1-13, giving thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness to all peoples, and especially to you.

Read Luke 16:9-15, seeing that God gives even worldly goods for the purpose of building relationships and as a training ground for stewardship over true riches. Give thanks for your resources and for the people with whom God has surrounded you.

### **Sunday, November 8**

Read 1 Kings 17:8-16, seeing how God had prepared the person who was to meet the needs of Elijah, so that she would have faith to obey. Give thanks that God always extends grace when He invites us to obedience, that we might have the power to do His will.

Read Psalm 146:1-10, rejoicing in the knowledge of God's full provision for your life. Let your soul come to rest in His goodness and power.

Read Hebrews 9:24-28, giving your heart to praise Jesus that He has fully paid the debt of your sin, that you may eagerly await His coming.

Read Mark 12:38-44, considering how Jesus looks at the attitudes of our hearts in our acts of worship. Set your heart toward Him, that your pleasure may be found in His Presence.

### **Monday, November 9**

Read the following from the Book of Wisdom 1:1-7, listening for the voice of the Lord concerning the motivations of your heart:

**Love justice, you who judge the earth; think of the Lord in goodness,  
and seek Him in integrity of heart;  
Because He is found by those who test Him not,  
and He manifests Himself to those who do not disbelieve Him.  
For perverse counsels separate a man from God,  
and His power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy;  
Because into a soul that plots evil wisdom enters not, nor dwells she in a body under debt of sin.  
For the Holy Spirit of discipline flees deceit and withdraws from senseless counsels;  
And when injustice occurs it is rebuked.  
For wisdom is a kindly spirit, yet she acquits not the blasphemer of his guilty lips;  
Because God is the witness of his inmost self  
and the sure observer of his heart and the listener to his tongue.  
For the Spirit of the Lord fills the world, is all-embracing, and knows what man says.**

Read Psalm 139:1-10, considering the wonder, power, and safety of God's Presence throughout His creation.

Read Luke 17:1-6, asking the Lord to show you the connection between obedience and mountain-moving faith.

### **Tuesday, November 10**

Read the following from Wisdom 2:23-3:9, giving thanks for the care and the protection that come from God to His people:

**For God formed man to be imperishable; the image of His own nature He made him.  
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world,  
and they who are in his possession experience it.  
But the souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
Their passing away was thought an affliction, and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself.  
As gold in the furnace, He proved them, and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself.  
In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever.  
Those who trust in Him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with Him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.**

Read Psalm 34:1-2,15-18, giving thanks for the nearness of the Lord to those who are in difficulty.

Read Luke 17:7-10, considering your responsibility to serve the Lord in humility and patience, trusting Him to care for your needs.

### **Wednesday, November 11**

Read the following from the Book of Wisdom 6:2-11, and consider the scrutiny that comes to those in authority:

**Hear, therefore, kings, and understand; learn, you magistrates of the earth's expanse!  
Hearken, you who are in power over the multitude and lord it over throngs of peoples!  
Because authority was given you by the Lord and sovereignty by the Most High,  
Who shall probe your works and scrutinize your counsels!  
Because, though you were ministers of His kingdom,  
you judged not rightly, and did not keep the law,  
nor walk according to the will of God,  
Terribly and swiftly shall He come against you, because judgment is stern for the exalted -  
For the lowly may be pardoned out of mercy but the mighty shall be mightily put to the test.  
For the Lord of all shows no partiality, nor does He fear greatness,  
Because He Himself made the great as well as the small, and He provides for all alike;  
But for those in power a rigorous scrutiny impends.  
To you, therefore, O princes, are my words addressed  
that you may learn wisdom and that you may not sin.  
For those who keep the holy precepts hallowed shall be found holy,  
and those learned in them will have ready a response.  
Desire therefore my words; long for them and you shall be instructed.**

Read Psalm 82:3-7, and consider the place the poor hold in God's heart, and the accountability that comes to those in power.

Read Luke 17:11-19, giving thanks that faith is the way to wholeness before God, regardless of other circumstances.

#### **Thursday, November 12**

Read the following from the Book of Wisdom 7:22-8:1, and consider the nature of wisdom:

**In Wisdom is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstrained, certain,  
Not baneful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly, firm secure, tranquil,  
All-powerful, all-seeing, and pervading all spirits, though they be intelligent, pure, and very subtle.  
For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion,  
and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity.  
For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty;  
therefore nought that is sullied enters into her.  
For she is the refulgence of eternal light,  
the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of His goodness.  
And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself perduring;  
And passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets.  
For there is nought God loves, be it not one who dwells with Wisdom.  
For she is fairer than the sun, and surpasses every constellation of the stars.  
Compared to light she takes precedence;  
for that, indeed, night supplants, but wickedness prevails not over Wisdom.  
Indeed, she reaches from end to end mightily and governs all things well.**

Read Psalm 119:89-96, acknowledging and giving thanks for the wisdom that fills His word.

Read Luke 17:20-25, considering the nature of the Kingdom of God, that it is already in our midst, and that it involves suffering and rejection by the present age.

#### **Friday, November 13**

Read the following from the Book of Wisdom 13:1-9, seeing the necessity of perceiving God behind His wonderful creation:

**For all men were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God,  
and who from the good things seen  
did not succeed in knowing Him Who is, and from studying the works did not discern the artisan:  
But either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water,  
or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world, they considered gods.  
Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods,  
let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these;  
for the original Source of beauty fashioned them.  
Or if they were struck by their might and energy,  
let them from these things realize how much more powerful is He Who made them.  
For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original Author, by analogy, is seen.  
But yet, for these the blame is less;  
For they indeed have gone astray perhaps, though they seek God and wish to find Him.  
For they search busily among His works, but are distracted by what they see,  
because the things seen are fair.  
But again, not even these are pardonable.  
For if they so far succeeded in knowledge that they could speculate about the world,  
how did they not more quickly find its Lord?**

Read Psalm 19:1-4, understanding that the beauty of the creation sings the praises of the Lord Who is the Maker of it all.

Read Luke 17: 26-37, allowing the reality of the Day of the Lord to remind you to constantly be prepared for His coming.

### **Saturday, November 14**

Read the following from the Book of Wisdom 18:14-16, 19:6-9, sensing the wonder and power of the Day of the Lord's deliverance:

**For when peaceful stillness compassed everything  
and the night in its swift course was half spent,  
Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal throne bounded,  
a fierce warrior, into the doomed land,  
Bearing the sharp sword of Your inexorable decree.  
And as He alighted, He filled every place with death;  
He still reached to heaven, while He stood upon the earth.  
For all its creation, in its several kinds, was being made over anew, serving its natural laws,  
that Your children might be preserved unharmed.  
The cloud overshadowed their camp; and out of what had before been water,  
dry land was seen emerging:  
Out of the Red Sea an unimpeded road, and a grassy plain out of the might flood.  
Over this crossed the whole nation sheltered by Your hand,  
after they beheld stupendous wonders.  
For they ranged about like horses, and bounded about like lambs,  
praising You, O Lord! their deliverer.**

Read Psalm 105:1-4,36-45, giving thanks that God is the Deliverer. Call out to Him concerning the places in which you need His delivering power.

Read Luke 18:1-8, receiving what the Lord says about persistence in prayer. Notice that in this passage, persistence equals faith, and that in God's timing, His help comes quickly.

### **Sunday, November 15**

Read Daniel 12:1-3, understanding that the days in which we live may well be those spoken of in this passage. Draw near to the Lord, and seek His wisdom, that you might shine like stars in the midst of darkness.

Read Psalm 16:1-11, seeing that the intent of God's heart is a mutual delight between Himself and His people. Set your affections upon Him today, that His delight may be yours.

Read Hebrews 10:11-18, giving thanks that because of what Jesus has done, His Word may be established within you, that you might walk in obedience of heart.

Read Mark 13:24-32, understanding that the times of which Jesus spoke may well be upon us. Draw near to Him, that your heart may be filled with His Presence and joy as you wait for His coming.

### **Monday, November 16**

Read the following from Psalm 119, giving thanks for the firm place the Word of God gives to us in times of spiritual warfare:

**Give me life, O Lord, and I will do Your commands.  
Indignation seizes me because of the wicked who forsake Your law.  
Though the snares of the wicked are twined about me, Your law I have not forgotten.  
Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may keep Your precepts.  
I am attacked by malicious persecutors who are far from Your law.  
Far from sinners is salvation, because they seek not Your statutes.  
I beheld the apostates with loathing, because they kept not to Your promise.  
Give me life, O Lord, and I will do Your commands.**

Read Luke 18:35-43, and see the connection between faith and a persistent, insistent appeal to the Lord for mercy. Call out to Him in this way concerning the areas of life in which you need God to move.

### **Tuesday, November 17**

Read Psalm 3:1-8, recognizing that God Himself is your Shield today, and allowing Him to come and lift up your head to face life with hope.

Read Luke 19:1-10, seeing the impact of salvation on the entire life of Zacchaeus. Examine your life, and bring into line the things that have not yet been submitted to the Lord. Then ask for His strength to enable you to live His life.

### **Wednesday, November 18**

Read Psalm 17:1-15, receiving the comfort that comes to those whose ways are directed and protected by the Lord. Give thanks that through Jesus Christ you are blameless before the searching eye of the Father.

Read Luke 19:11-28, understanding again that God is very serious about collecting on what He has entrusted to you. Commit yourself again to faithfulness in the small things God has given into your hands.

### **Thursday, November 19**

Read Psalm 50:1-15, giving thanks for the awesome nature and character of God, Who though He has no need for us, still loves us and welcomes us into His Presence.

Read Luke 19:41-44, asking the Lord's forgiveness for the times we have failed to recognize His Presence. Call upon Him to once again reveal Himself to His Church, that we might see Him and follow His ways.

### **Friday, November 20**

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20, worshipping the Lord for His majesty, and realizing that we owe everything to His mercy and grace. Give Him thanks!

Read Luke 19:45-48, and meditate on Jesus' meaning when He said that His House, made up of His people, was to be about prayer. Spend time waiting upon Him for His direction in prayer.

### **Saturday, November 21**

Read Psalm 9:1-20, giving thanks for God's care for His people, for the poor, and for His dealings with those who oppose Him. Commit unto the Lord the times in which we live, and pray this Psalm back to Him.

Read Luke 20:27-40, and recognize that some of our questions have answers that we cannot even understand. Rejoice that God understands, and that He is the God of the living. Give thanks that in Jesus Christ we are the children of the resurrection!

### **Sunday, November 22 CHRIST THE KING**

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-3, and let the Holy Spirit show you the picture of reign of Christ in the establishing of David's Kingdom. Pray for the coming of the rule of Christ in your life today.

Read Psalm 122:1-5, giving thanks for the reality of worshipping with the people of God. Give thanks to His Name for His rule and reign in the church.

Read Colossians 1:12-20, giving thanks that you have been included in His Kingdom of light. Meditate on the majesty of Jesus, Who established His rule by His own sacrifice, purchasing mankind for the Father.

Read Luke 23:35-43, understanding that Jesus' Kingdom was established on the cross, that by His death and resurrection He received the Kingdom given into His hands by His Father.

### **Monday, November 23**

Read Daniel 1:1-20, and understand that the Lord gives favor to those who seek to please Him above all other considerations. Ask for His direction on how this reality can be applied to your situation.

Read Psalm 146:1-10, giving thanks that the God we serve is the Lord over all creation, all governments, and all life. Worship Him and set your will to obey Him today.

Read Luke 21:1-4, understanding that true worship demands that we bring everything we are to Him. Give thanks that He gives us everything He is in return.

### **Tuesday, November 24**

Read Daniel 2:31-45, giving thanks that our God knows the future, and that the governments of this world are in His hands.

Read Psalm 145:1-13, and worship the Lord Who is God over all the affairs of men.

Read Luke 21:5-11, knowing that we are not to be disturbed by the signs of the end, but rather are to trust our Father Who knows and controls all the times and seasons.

### **Wednesday, November 25**

Read Daniel 5:1-28, praying that the government of our nation will acknowledge that God is King over all. Thank the Lord for His sovereign power.

Read Psalm 19:1-14, giving thanks for the sovereignty of God over all His creation.

Read Luke 21:12-19, asking the Lord for the endurance and faith to stand in any evil times that may come to His Church.

### **Thursday, November 26**

Read Daniel 6:1-28, praising our God as One Who upholds the righteous man even before the governments of the nations. Set your will to obey Him today.

Read Psalm 144:1-10, giving thanks to God for moving heaven and earth to honor His upright servants.

Read Luke 21:20-28, and call unto the Lord for His coming, and for the deliverance of those who fear Him.

### **Friday, November 27**

Read Daniel 7:1-14, giving thanks and honor to Him that Jesus, the Ancient of Days, has been found worthy to rule the nations.

Read Psalm 99:1-9, and praise the Lord for His righteous and holy reign over the earth.

Read Luke 21:29-33, giving thanks that the Word of God shall have no end, and that His Kingdom is near at hand.

### **Saturday, November 28**

Read Daniel 7:15-27, understanding that ultimate victory comes to those who serve the Lord, and who endure to the end. Pray for His strength to sustain His Church in these last days.

Read Psalm 110:1-7, praising God for His power and strength to give rulership to His Son in the midst of His enemies.

Read Luke 21:34-36, asking the Lord for a sober mind to discern the times, that we might be prepared for His coming.

### **Sunday, November 29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Read Isaiah 63:16-64:8, considering that the coming of Jesus was the beginning of the fulfillment of this powerful prophetic prayer. Give thanks that the Lord is faithful to honor His own Word.

Read Psalm 80: 1-19, joining your heart in this prayer for deliverance from evil by the hand of God's Righteous Son. Give thanks that this prayer is answered in the Man Christ Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, giving thanks for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that God has given to you as part of His Body, that you might be strengthened by them as you await His coming.

Read Mark 13:33-37, letting your heart respond to the call to watch with the Lord for His coming, that when He appears, you may be fully prepared.

### **Monday, November 30 FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

Read Isaiah 2:1-5, giving thanks for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you the ways of God, that His paths may become clear to you.

Read Psalm 122:1-9, and pray for the peace of the people of God, allowing a deep longing for His earthly reign to motivate your prayers as we await His Kingdom.

Read Matthew 8:5-13, giving thanks for the healing power of the Kingdom of God. Pray for the soon return of Jesus our Lord to establish His Kingdom.