

Saturday

Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice

He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. (1 John 2:2 NLT)

We have sinned and separated ourselves from God's plan for our life (Romans 3:23; 6:23). We have no way to pay that debt back. The only payment to be made is that something must die. When Jesus died on the cross, His death paid that debt. He is the only human to have lived a perfect life. His death atoned – paid for – our sins. He did that not only for you, but for everyone in the world. To receive that payment to your account, you must accept Jesus' gift. Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 14:6). If you have accepted Jesus' gift, thank Him for it today. Also ask Him to help you be able to explain His gift to others.

Sunday

Jesus At The Door To Heaven

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (Revelation 3:20 NIV)

Jesus is inviting people to join Him in heaven. His sacrifice on the cross paid the price for our sins. His resurrection demonstrated His power to resurrect us. Hallelujah! Accepting Jesus' invitation to heaven changes our eternity as well as how we live today. Praise and worship God for the forgiveness and resurrection we receive through Jesus. Tell someone else about Jesus and His gift.

A ONE WEEK DEVOTIONAL WEEK OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2017

This devotional was created to coincide with the message heard this past Sunday at Summit Trace Church. It is meant for people who are pressed for time to do a daily devotional. Each daily reading is intentionally short, so that you can read it, think about, and pray in five minutes.

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Monday

Courage To Share

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV)

Confidence is the seed of courage. As we face the fear of rejection or failure in sharing our faith, let our courage come from God. He will never leave you or forsake you. Confidence in God is the seed of our courage in sharing our faith. You can grow that seed by praying, practicing telling your testimony, and studying how salvation works. Then when God presents you with an opportunity, your confidence in God and your preparation will provide you with courage. Pray for courage from God today. Ask Him to be with you in your preparation and the moments you share your faith.

Tuesday

Ask For Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5 NIV)

For some of us, we fear sharing our faith because we do not think we will have answers for people with questions. The response to that is found in the verse above. God has offered to provide you with wisdom if you ask for it - so ask for it. You have a part to play by increasing your knowledge and love for people. Wisdom will then guide you how to best use and apply your knowledge and love. Pray and ask God for wisdom in sharing your faith.

Wednesday

Characteristics Of Wisdom

The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (James 3:17 NIV)

Read through the list above describing wisdom from heaven. Sometimes it is helpful to say things in the negative to better understand the meaning and impacts. If the list above were written from the negative, it might say that heavenly wisdom is not dirty, argumentative, careless, disobedient, judgmental, destructive, biased, nor deceitful. Wrestle with wisdom and your definition of it. Talk to God about wisdom. Hear His heart on what heavenly wisdom does and does not look like.

Thursday

God Loves Us

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. (1 John 4:16 NIV)

God loves us. It is surprising how many people go through their lives without realizing that. Even those who do know that go through seasons where we forget about God's love for us, and/or we do not believe it. Today just be quiet for a moment and reflect on God's dear love for you and everyone you know. Talk to God about His love for you and everyone you know – even those who appear unlovable to you. The more in touch you are with God's love, the more readily you will be able to tell others about it.

Friday

Stark Truth

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8 NIV)

Admitting that we have messed up is hard for people. Many of us value truth and being correct and we will fight for it. That can be a valuable asset if you are a lawyer. However, it can get in the way of our relationship with God. The truth is that our sin separates us from the God who loves us, and we are all guilty. Yuck. It is not a pleasant truth, but it is truth, nonetheless. Accept it. Embrace it. Understand it well enough that you could share it with someone else. Remember to do it with gentleness and respect. Ask God for the wisdom to be able to share that with people you know.