

Saturday

Responding To Failure

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Luke 14:11 NIV)

As with any difficult situation, often the first response to failure is denial. “No I didn’t!” Ever heard your child say that after confronting them? We all deny, explain, defend, and take offense that we would be called out. By the way, this can all be an internal conversation, too. At the root of that response is pride. We would rather our efforts be exalted and not humbled. We need a way to grasp onto humility. One way might be to just acknowledge that you are work in progress, and that Jesus has more to do in you. As Christians, it should be Christ living in you, not so much you (Galatians 2:20). Next time someone calls you out on doing something wrong, just say, “Sorry, please forgive me. Jesus has more work to do.”

Sunday

Jesus, Full Of Grace And Truth

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NIV)

Jesus came from the Father in heaven full of grace and truth. Embrace His grace and truth. As we allow ourselves to be filled with His Spirit, we are also filled with His grace and truth. Ask God to fill you today. Praise and worship Jesus, the perfecter of our faith. He is worthy of your praise.

A ONE WEEK DEVOTIONAL WEEK OF 2 OCTOBER 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

Accepting Christ's Gift

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9 NIV)

Jesus died on the cross for your sins. He rose from the dead three days later to demonstrate that He indeed is the Son of God. He offers that forgiveness to you and to everyone who would accept it. Accepting the gift means that you recognize Jesus is your Lord and your Saviour (which means you recognize your need of a Saviour). There is an intellectual portion where you must understand the truths about your need and Jesus’ ability to save, but there is also a heart portion where you choose to believe. If you have never done so before, consider choosing to follow Christ today. If you have already done so, thank Jesus for your salvation.

Tuesday

The Desires Of Your Heart

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4 NIV)

It is exciting to think that God will give us the desires of our hearts. However, a closer look at the verse above notes that there is a preface. First, we must take delight in the LORD. The first step in receiving the desires of your heart, is to invite God into your heart. Truth is, our hearts need work. God is in the business of transforming people's hearts, but He won't do it unless you invite Him in. He will not push His way through our boundaries. If you want to be able to celebrate with God-sized celebrations, invite God into your heart and allow Him to do the work of transformation. Pray for your heart to change toward Him today.

Wednesday

The Power Of The Heart

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23 NIV)

We often judge people by their behavior. To be fair, it is the thing most easily observed. Looking a little deeper, though, behavior flows from thoughts, and thoughts flow from belief. Belief comes from the heart. The reality is that everything we think and do flows from our beliefs and values – which are in our heart. If there is a change in behavior to be made, we need to address the issue in the heart first. That is why God cares so much about your heart. Our hearts are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. His love and mercy melts our stony hearts. His grace and truth are a firm foundation on which to build our systems of values and belief. Pray today that you would invite God into your heart through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thursday

Prayer For Transformation

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10 NIV)

God does not force His way into our lives. He respects our boundaries and waits for us to invite Him in. God desires the transformation of your heart. He wants to remove the lies that have embedded themselves and replace them with truth. He wants to heal the hurt and bitterness that have festered too long in your heart and fill you with His grace. If you want your heart transformed by God's truth and grace, begin by praying for it. Invite God into your heart to do the work of transformation.

Friday

Our Weakness, God's Grace

He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV)

Taking constructive criticism is difficult. Nobody likes being told they are wrong or that they messed up. For those of us who struggle with insecurity, even well delivered constructive criticism can unravel us. What if we tried something different? What would happen if we began to see our weaknesses (and failures) as opportunities for God's grace to be enough? We cannot be perfect, so we may as well rely on God's power and grace. Think of something that you seem to repeatedly fail at. How do you feel about it? If it causes you stress and anxiety, ask God to show you His grace. Ask God to help you see how His power might become manifest in your weakness. (Note: we did not ask God to help us fix it.)