

MONDAY 1.20.25- Matthew 1:20-21

In the preceding verses, the Holy Spirit performs a physical anomaly, that is he makes a girl pregnant who has known no man and with seed that is only half human. The coming child is the Christ, Ruler of the Universe himself. The husband is a just and good man, who loves his wife. Determining her unfaithful, being pregnant and not by him, he considers a proper manner to end his marriage, but without hurting her publicly. But the Spirit of God is never far from any of our circumstances. An angel of the Lord appears in a dream to the husband. Not many of us have met angels. Scripture tells us some have, but usually unawares. The husband hears and follows his directions to the letter. His ability to follow God in his heart must be a ministry of that same Spirit who made Mary pregnant. Joseph's heart was wicked and selfish and prideful, the same as ours is. His ability to act in a righteous way and follow the Lord's leading is by the power of the Spirit, the same as for you and me. Even in this Christmas story, He was thinking of you and me.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 1.21.25 - Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

We don't pray nearly as often or fervently as we should, because we don't recognize how weak we really are. If we did, we'd constantly be in prayer. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as our "helper" and we often need help as we pray. In the original Greek language, groanings that cannot be uttered" means "indescribable, wordless groans." Notice in the same passage all creation groans "as in the pains of childbirth" (Romans 8:22), and believers "groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies" (verse 23). The Holy Spirit searches the human heart and intercedes to speak on our behalf

according to the will of God (v. 27). We have access to the Father through Christ, by the Holy Spirit. The entire Trinity is involved in our prayer life. Isn't it wonderful to know that the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 1.22.25 - John 16:16-33

Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy" (John 16:20). The center of joy for a Christian is Christ. The joy is Christ's joy. It is simply the life of the Lord Jesus Christ being lived out by a believer. Christian joy is letting Christ live His life out through you so that what He is, you become. There are other kinds of joy found in other places in the world, but there is no place where you can find Christian joy except in Christ. He is the source of that joy. One follower of Jesus expressed it in these words: "Joy is the flag that is flown over the castle of your heart when the King is in residence." Are you experiencing joy today? Is Jesus at home in your life?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 1.23.25-Nehemiah 8:10

Nehemiah 8:10, ¹⁰Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

In today's scripture we see three things. First, that there is nothing wrong with enjoying the blessings the Lord has provided. If these blessings are from the Lord, He has provided

them for us to enjoy. Second, these blessings have been given to us so that we can share them with others. Act's 20:35 reminds us of the words of Jesus "it is better to give than to receive". To truly enjoy the Lord's blessings, we must be willing to share them with those less fortunate. Thirdly, true joy comes not from the blessings themselves, but from the Lord who provided the blessing. I pray that you will enjoy the blessings of the Lord today, that you will share those blessings with those who are less fortunate, and that you will realize that the real joy comes not from the blessing themselves, but from the one who has proved them.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 1.24.25 - Psalm 16:8-11

"David was a man after God's own Heart" (Acts 13:22), and the responses to the trials of his life revealed his deep, absolute trust in the Lord. Where many view David as the shepherd boy who slew the mighty Goliath or as the hero-king of Israel, the fact is that much of Davids life was spent on the run - first from vicious beasts, then from King Saul, and even from his own son , who wanted to kill him. He spent a lot of time in the literal barren wilderness, far from the trappings of royal splendor. Yet he never lost his love, faith, and trust in the Lord and always maintained his spiritual joy. His words in Psalm 16 show his faith: "I keep my eyes always on the Lord... Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices... You will fill me with joy in your presence..." (vs. 8,9,11). When we have trials, we must fix our eyes on Jesus; then we too can have the joy of the Lord, no matter what our circumstances.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **WINTER QUARTER** - began December 1st
- LOCATION: B8-10 - Gene Steinruck - began Dec.1st.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - Exodus and Leviticus
remind us that imperfect people can depend on a perfect God to lead them through whatever wilderness they face.
- LOCATION: B11 - Shawn Devlin - begins Jan. 19th
THE HEART OF WORSHIP - Learn how Scripture tells us God is the One we are to worship, and it shows us the ways we are to engage in worship, so we are drawn into a deeper walk with Him.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

WINTER E2 SMALL GROUPS

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS: Join us for 11 weeks of food, fellowship, and Bible Study! Titled End Times & Spiritual Warfare. Began January 15th; meal at 6:00pm and Study begins at 7:00pm.

REVELATION - WOMENS STUDY: Join us for a 10-week Women's Bible Study following Jen Wilkin's book, "Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom". In this study you will become confident, assured, and inspired by the teachings in Revelation. Thursday Mornings at 9:00am in room B8-B10 Starting February 20th.

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 16:5-15 The Work of the Spirit

Jesus mentioned the Holy Spirit earlier in John chapters 14 and 15. He referred to the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete. That word means someone "called alongside to help." That is what the Holy Spirit does. He lives in and among believers to help them. John chapter 16 gives the main job description of the Holy Spirit. It is a two-fold ministry.

1. Ministry to Unbelievers (16:5-11)
 - Reveal the W _____ G _____

Regarding ...

- _____ (v 9 cf. John 3:18)
- _____ (v 10)
- _____ (11 cf. Hebrews 2:14)

Application:

- For unbelievers, trust in Jesus for eternal life (John 3:16)
- For believers, trust the Holy Spirit to work in your witness (1 Peter 3:15)

2. Ministry to Believers (16:12-15)

- Reveal G _____ W _____

These words are addressed specifically to the Apostles. It is a promise to the Apostles that the Holy Spirit will guide them into the truth about Jesus. Their writings became our New Testament (cf. John 14:26, 2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16).

Application:

Live in the wonderful truths of God's Word—especially in the truth that God loves you.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



January 20 – January 27

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from January 19th, "The Work of the Spirit", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on January 26th, "From Sorrow To Joy", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12