

(For Monday, January 2, 2017) **Do your actions reinforce your faith?**

*"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."* (Ps. 34:1 – ESV)

A key concept in our Bible demonstrates how the Christian faith is to be practiced in a manner which is integral. The word "body" as used by both Jesus and Paul sometimes refers to the entire human person. Elsewhere in Scripture, "body" describes the inter-dependent community of believers. This should lead to an understanding that our physical actions, our emotions, and our Spiritual dimension are all connected. Seemingly insignificant activities, such as the regularity with which we order our homes, or the simple courtesy with which we treat others can have a profound effect on how we think, and ultimately influence just how fulfilling our Spiritual life is. In Psalm 34, David has come to an understanding of just how important it is to be continually praising God. The person who adopts this life-style will inevitably find his faith strengthened, and her soul dwelling in a state of humble joy.

Are there simple things you can adopt in your daily routine so that your faith in God is reinforced?

(For Tuesday, January 3, 2017) **Are you celebrating? Well, you should be!**

*"And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it [Jacob's ladder]!"* (Gen. 28:12 - ESV)

Jacob's ladder is fascinating, particularly against the backdrop of the Tower of Babel. In their arrogant attempt to raise themselves up to the level of gods, the residents of Babel demonstrate the fallen-ness of prideful humanity. But in Jacob's dream, God builds his own "stairway to heaven" and sends his Angelic messengers to connect His heavenly glory to his children on earth. We pray that the Lord's will shall be done on earth, even as it is done in heaven. That's the real object of salvation, that God's heavenly reign exist not only in the here-after, but that his glorious Kingdom will visit his much-loved children here on earth in our very present. Jesus said "I came that [you] might have life and have it abundantly." (Jn. 10:10) And surely, if we are a people of abundant life, then our lives should manifest this joyous abundance.

How are you celebrating the joyous glory of The Lord in your own daily life?

(For Wednesday, January 4, 2017) **Are you asking God for enough in life?**

*"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."* (Jn.13:14 – ESV)

This verse is surely one of the most astounding promises that Jesus makes in all of Scripture. As long as we are focused on glorifying God, there is absolutely nothing that he won't do for his children. In some respects, this verse is actually a fulfillment of part of Solomon's prayer. You may remember that when the Temple in Jerusalem was consecrated, Solomon prayed that even foreigners who came to the Temple and prayed in earnest would have their prayers answered, so that all the peoples of the earth might know and fear The Lord. (See 1Ki.8:41-43) Apparently, there is nothing that God won't do for us, so that we might grow in our faith and reverence of Our Lord. That's His promise to us, and God ALWAYS keeps His word.

Have you asked God for all the blessings that He longs to give you, so that you might come to know him better? If not, isn't it high time you did?

(For Thursday, January 5, 2017) **Are you taking the time to abide in God?**

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”* (Jn.15:9 – ESV)

The verb “abide” isn’t used much nowadays. We’re more likely to say something like “stay.” But that sounds more like a command you would give Fido, or a few nights at the Holiday Inn. Instead of “abide” we could use the word “live.” But that’s still kind of temporary. If you ask someone where they are living, the question denotes an apartment rented for a year or two during our progress up the career ladder, with all the moving around this modern life entails. No, sadly, the frenetic world in which we live doesn’t lend itself to the patient, peace-filled state of “abiding” – remaining quietly and permanently in a state of restful contemplation. Yet, apparently, that is exactly the state that Christ wants for his people, if we are to know the full blessing of His presence.

When was the last time that you carved out some space in your own life to regularly sit at the feet of The Savior and simply abide in His love?

(For Friday, January 6, 2017 – **The Epiphany**) **What kind of light are you dwelling in?**

*“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”* (Rev. 21:22 – NIV)

I often tell people that the God who loved us enough to die for us on the Cross isn’t going to play mind games with you. Sure, there are times when it seems as though God’s ways are confounding and mysterious to our human minds. But usually, that’s because The Father is trying to teach us something, or shine more of His light into our lives, to make us more powerful, faithful, and joyous children of His. The righteous will always walk by God’s light, and no darkness can ever quench that. But in order for us to truly dwell in this light, we need to recognize and commit to the Lordship of Jesus in our lives. Only when we can earnestly profess that “Our God reigns” (See Is.52:7) can we truly dwell in the full radiance of Jesus.

Are you able to see things clearly, by dwelling in the Lordship of Christ?