

Day Eight – Monday the 16th

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21; John 14:16-23; and Colossians 1:19-27

The focus this week is not only God “with us” – but that He is actually “in us!” The riches of the glory of the mystery, is now made known - Christ **in us**, the hope of glory! Jesus promises that He will come and make our hearts His home (abode).

Jesus resides in us – in our hearts! So we should expect to experience Jesus **within us**, as well as “with us” or alongside of us. This reality (Christ in us) can only be realized and experienced through faith (Eph 3:17).

Meditate on the above passages, and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you with power, in your inner man (your heart), so that Jesus may dwell in your heart (through faith). Activate your faith to believe this reality in your heart and to really know (experience) His love, which surpasses knowledge. Ask Him to fill you with the fullness of Himself!

Pray the Apostle Paul’s prayer over your own heart and life (Eph 3:14-21). Pray it out loud, from the heart, in the first person. Invite Him to not just come and visit you; but to come and STAY – making your heart, His home! Sincerely invite Him... and He will come... This IS our hope of glory!

“Behold, I stand at the door & knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” Rev 3:20

Hear His voice, and open the door... He’ll come in... He’s already been knocking!

Day Nine – Tuesday the 17th

Read: Philippians 2:5-8; II Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 2:14-18; and John 1:14

We know our God is “with us” – to manifest His glory by doing those things which are impossible with man; but He also lives “in us” - in our day to day ordinary lives!

Think about the 3 years the disciples spent with Jesus, walking place to place, reclining at a table & dining together. The miracles & public ministry only account for a small portion of those three years. There was a lot of ordinary living – doing life on earth!

We need the church and fellowship with other believers, but most importantly we need an intimate, personal and ongoing relationship with Jesus! Consider that there are 168 hours in your week. Most believers spend on average about 2 to 4 hours “gathered in a church building” on any given week. While these hours “together” are important, we must understand that the other 164 hours of your week are important too.

Jesus intends to live "in us" the whole week! The religious spirit resists the notion that God does anything or has anything to do with us outside the religious setting of a worship service, Bible study, or prayer meeting. We must resist that religious spirit!

Ask the Spirit to help you understand and experience the reality of Jesus being "in you" everywhere and at anytime. Pray for an understanding and awareness to the truth that Jesus – as glorious as He is – also lived a very ordinary life and He understands this life on earth. Therefore your life with Him is not separated by what is considered secular or spiritual. He wants to live "in you" and "through you" - as you GO to your work and school, your marketplace and community. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain in fellowship (communion) with Him, after you leave your prayer closet, or the worship service. Don't leave Him at the church building, or in your prayer closet!

"Teach them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Day Ten – Wednesday the 18th

Read: John 10:22-30; Hebrews 3:7-19; and Luke 24:13-32

The Lord speaks & reveals Himself to us many times in ways we wouldn't expect, and we miss it because of hardness of heart & the dullness of spiritual senses. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we fail to recognize Him as we're going on our way. But He wants us to recognize Him! He wants us to recognize Him in our everyday life.

Most people who are disciples of religion – don't experience Jesus because they don't believe in anything supernatural – but our Lord and His kingdom are super-natural! In other words, His Spirit "comes upon" our natural! He can and will speak to us through nature, a song, through the encouragement of another person, through a sign, etc... And maybe we don't always catch it... but we realize later, IT WAS THE LORD!

Someone could speak a timely word to us in a very ordinary way; a word that is perfect for the moment, and we fail to recognize it as being from God. Prophetic words like these will come forth in church services, but they also come to us in our everyday life... if we're looking & listening for them. Remember, He is "with us" and "in us" always!

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear His voice. Ask Him to reveal any area of your life where the deceitfulness of sin may have hardened your heart, and repent. Ask for your spiritual senses to be made aware of Him in everything, so that you may hear His still small voice in your inner man. Practice living life with your spiritual senses fully engaged; your ears inclined toward Him, & your eyes open. Expect Him to reveal things & speak to you in everyday life; as well as when in prayer and when reading Scripture.

Day Eleven – Thursday the 19th

Read: Matthew 12:36; Hebrews 2:9-18; Hebrews 3:1; and Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus tasted death for everyone – in order to bring many sons to glory! He understands our human existence and experience – because He lived it! He was tempted in all things – as a man – and yet He did not sin! He was fully God and fully man; and He sympathizes with our weaknesses. He has paid the price for everyone who believes, and we can draw near to the throne of grace with all confidence. He is a “faithful” and “merciful” High Priest! He is consistently here for us and when we draw near to Him, we know that He’ll be merciful and give us grace to help.

It is important for us to remember that He is the High Priest of our confession. Therefore we must “hold fast” our confession. We must “say the same as” Him!

Ask the Spirit to help you examine your words – because your words are either bringing justification or condemnation into your life. Ask for and receive His mercy (forgiveness) for saying careless things, for cursing (instead of blessing), and for speaking words that don’t align with His words. Ask for the Grace to gain righteous control of your tongue. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to always know that when temptation comes, He is able and willing to come to our aid – for He is “IN US” always!

Day Twelve – Friday the 20th

Read: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6-11; and II Corinthians 5:16-21

Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to see the kingdom we must be “born again” (Jn 3). He didn’t say we needed to “try again” – but be “born again” - made new! In Christ, all things are new, and the old is passing away! We are a new creation – and we have a new identity, as His righteous ones, in Christ Jesus!

The Old Testament view of our hearts is that they are deceitful and wicked; but the New Covenant teaches that He has given us a new heart! He has purified our hearts! We can passionately live – from the heart – for Jesus! And if we will delight in Him, He will give us the very desires of our heart (Ps 37:4).

Receive this Good News today! Ask the Lord to cleanse you of any unrighteousness, and begin to give thanks for His saving Grace and the newness of life! Thank Him for not only saving you, but changing you and transforming you into a new creature! Begin to decree over your heart what the Word says about you; who you are, IN Christ!

Pray this prayer of repentance from Psalm 51:10-15: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise.**

Day Thirteen – Saturday the 21st

Read: Matthew 15:1-9; Romans 10:8-11; and Jeremiah 11:29-14

When we fail to live from our heart – we live without the awareness of Jesus in our life, because Jesus lives in our heart. So believing the Lord, drawing near to Him, and seeking Him – must be from the heart! Drawing near – is when we fully open our heart to Him – we become vulnerable to Him – we allow Jesus to be intimate in every place of our heart. Loving God fully begins with loving Him with ALL our heart!

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” and He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with ALL YOUR HEART, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:36-37

Draw near to Him today. Open your heart and invite Jesus to come into every place. Pray with sincerity and ask the Lord to help you find Him... search for Him today – for He promises that He will allow us to find Him!

‘You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord... Jeremiah 29:13-14

Day Fourteen – Sunday the 22nd

Read: Psalm 27:1-8; II Corinthians 3:12-18; and John 14:1-23

Jesus is no longer in the world (in the flesh) therefore the world can no longer see Him. But believers WILL see Him! By the presence and power of the Holy Spirit “in us” – He promises He will disclose (reveal) Himself to us! That we may KNOW Him – not just know about Him. The early church disciples spoke of having “revelations” of Jesus! They didn’t merely write and read books about Him, they experienced Him!

Let’s not doubt Him – He has promised to disclose Himself to us! Don’t limit how He chooses to reveal Himself to you. Would you like to see His eyes, His smile, His glory?

Then ask Him! Let Him be who He is with you. Take off the limits that your experience, religion, or theology has put on Him. If we'll COME TO Him –He will COME TO us!

His Spirit is saying to us in this hour, "Seek My face" and we must posture ourselves in prayer and fasting to respond to Him "Your face, O Lord, we shall seek!" Take time in prayer – especially throughout this fast – to ask the Lord and wait upon Him - to disclose Himself to you. Like Moses, pray, "O Lord, show me Your glory!"

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty (delightfulness) of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. - Psalm 27:4

Set your heart on making the ONE THING, the main thing in your life! This is a choice, we all must be willing to make in this busy life... and it must be our highest priority!

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would SEE the goodness of the Lord, in the land of the living. WAIT for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, WAIT for the Lord. - Psalm 27:13-14

Christ IN YOU – the hope of glory!