



Treasuring God's Word



June 7-12, 2010

(This week's devotions include material from sermon of May 23 – "Change?")

- ▶ **Monday, June 7, 2010:** Pentecost is proof that God is interested in changing the lives of people for the better. People were changed on Pentecost. God is still changing how people think, act and speak. He wants to keep working on you. Read 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10. Pray: Thank you, Lord, for choosing me to be among Your people.
- ▶ **Tuesday, June 8, 2010:** Read Acts 2:41. Can you imagine what that line of people looked like? After seeing the change in God's people through the Holy Spirit and after hearing Peter's message of mercy and grace in Christ, 3000 people were changed as well. These people received the gift of salvation as God's free gift through faith in Christ. Read: Acts 4:8-12. Pray: Lord, You are the only way to salvation. Thank you for this free gift of grace.
- ▶ **Wednesday, June 9, 2010:** It is entirely appropriate to pray each day, "Lord, change me!" Yes, we are Christians...we also have a sinful human nature that we wrestle with each day. We still have so many places in our lives where we need to change, where we want to change and be the kind of disciple that our Lord wants us to be. Read: Ephesians 2:1-10. Pray: Holy Spirit, continue to change me and help me to do those works that extend the kingdom of God.
- ▶ **Thursday, June 10, 2010:** The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God. You don't necessarily see the Spirit when the Word is proclaimed or read. But when you appreciate Jesus' sacrificial love in a whole new way, the Spirit is working in you. Read: Romans 10:14-17. Pray: Lord, strengthen my faith so that I might hear Your Word and obey it.
- ▶ **Friday, June 11, 2010:** The Spirit works through Baptism. The Spirit doesn't hover over the baptismal font as He did at creation. But when water is combined with God's Word, the Holy Spirit works faith and creates in us the new life in Christ and gives us the desire to overcome temptation and sin. Read: Titus 3:4-7. Pray: Holy Spirit, help me to live each day in my baptismal grace.
- ▶ **Saturday, June 12, 2010:** The Spirit works through Communion. You leave the altar a changed person – you've received the assurance that your sins are really forgiven, your faith has been strengthened, and you are filled with a greater love for your Lord and Savior and for your Christian brothers and sisters. Read: Matthew 26:27-28. Pray: Holy Spirit, nourish my faith each time I come to receive the Lord's Supper.



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June 14-19, 2010

- ▶ **Monday, June 14, 2010:** It's right there in Revelation 22 – "Behold, I am coming quickly!" Those are Jesus' very own words. The apostle John's response is ours too – "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." Read: Matthew 24:36-44. Pray: Lord Jesus, even though we don't know the day, help us be ready for when You come again. Amen.
- ▶ **Tuesday, June 15, 2010:** Another reason we seek the Lord's return is that this world is not our home ... "Heaven is a wonderful place, full of glory and of grace. I just want to see my Savior's face, because heaven is a wonderful place." Read: Revelation 5:6-13. Pray: O Lord, keep me in this one true faith until that day that I join the heavenly choir that sings Your praise. Amen.
- ▶ **Wednesday, June 16, 2010:** Still, we have Jesus' promise – "Behold, I am coming soon!" In the meantime, the Lord makes this offer: "Come! Whoever is thirsty...let him take the free gift of the water of life." Read: John 4:7-30. Pray: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the living water that has given me the new birth of life and salvation. Amen.
- ▶ **Thursday, June 17, 2010:** This house of worship is a special place...here we can come together and rest. The Scriptures remind us that when we gather here for worship, Jesus is here in our midst. Read: Colossians 3:15-17. Pray: Gracious God, fill me with a greater desire to be in Your holy house of worship. In Christ Jesus. Amen.
- ▶ **Friday, June 18, 2010:** The Scriptures remind us that when we gather for worship, Jesus is in our midst. You confess your sins and He speaks His Word of forgiveness to you. He clothes you in the clothes of heaven, His robe of righteousness that allows you entry through the gates of heaven. Read: Psalm 26:2-8. Pray: I give You thanks, O Lord, for all the gifts You give me in worship. Amen.
- ▶ **Saturday, June 19, 2010:** These Sabbath-rest breaks are the best. We come together to worship and as we do, the Holy Spirit continues His work of enabling us to trust God, love one another and reach our community and world. This is the work God has given us to do until our Savior comes again. Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24. Pray: Help me, Lord Jesus, to watch for You while I wait and shine Your light before others, as I serve You. Amen.



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June 21-26, 2010

► Monday, June 21, 2010

Read Acts 3:1-10

Before His ascension into heaven, Jesus told His disciples that He would grant them power to perform miracles. In this week's reading, you'll learn the story of the first apostolic miracle. Peter was not a rich man but he made the crippled man rich. **Pray: O Holy Spirit, open my heart to see and believe the truth found in the Scriptures. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

► Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Read: Acts 3:11-16

Note what Peter says: FIRST, Jesus worked the miracle through the disciples; NEXT, Jesus is the true Son of God; THIRD, this miracle proves the divine Sonship of Jesus – He is the Messiah! **Pray: Dear Father, Jesus died for my sins. Through Him I have eternal life. I praise You for Your mercy and grace. In His name. Amen.**

► Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Read: Acts 3:17-26

Peter issues a call to repentance. To turn to God is to be converted – from spiritual death to life, from being lost to being found, from running away from God to running to God for forgiveness, life and salvation. **Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your free gifts of grace and love. Amen.**

► Thursday, June 24, 2010

Read: Acts 4:1-4

Look at the power of the Word of God to change lives! Now read Romans 1:16 and Romans 10:17. **Pray: O Lord, give me a growing hunger to know more of Your Holy Word. Amen.**

► Friday, June 25, 2010

Read: Acts 4:5-12

Verse 12 puts our salvation squarely on the shoulders of our Lord and Savior. There are no other options; Jesus is the only way to eternal life. **Pray: Lord Jesus, You live up to Your name. I praise You for Your salvation. Amen.**

► Saturday, June 26, 2010

Read: Acts 4:13-22

What faith! Such boldness! Read verse 20 again – speaking through the power of the Spirit, Peter makes it clear that the disciples will not be silenced. **Pray: O Holy Spirit, give me the boldness of the first disciples so that I would never shrink from testifying about the love and forgiveness of my Lord and Savior. In His name. Amen.**



Treasuring God's Word



June 28 - July 3, 2010

► Monday, June 28, 2010

Read: Acts 4:32-37

Today's reading gives us a good idea of what the church should look like – people living in unity, ready to share and serve, motivated by the love of Jesus. **Pray: Gracious God, through Word and Sacrament, work the same kind of spirit of unity and love among our congregation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

► Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Read: Acts 5:1-6

Ananias means “Jehovah is gracious.” Sapphira means “beautiful.” How interesting that both had wonderful names but neither answered as their names signified. Note also that the Holy Spirit is called God in verse 4. **Pray: Holy Spirit, teach me to never be so foolish that I might think that I can fool You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

► Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Read: Acts 5:7-11

Notice how Peter gives Sapphira a chance to tell the truth about the sale of the land. She chose to lie – just like her husband. “Great fear seized the whole church”...but an important lesson is learned – repent and turn to God in faith when caught in sin. God is gracious – He will forgive. **Pray: Hear me, O Lord, as I confess to You...**

► Thursday, July 1, 2010

Read: Acts 5:12-16

Verse 13 makes a very important point – only those who had truly turned from their sins and embraced Jesus as Lord became part of the new and growing church. Still, the church prospered. **Pray: Thank You, Lord, for the growth You have given our church. Amen.**

► Friday, July 2, 2010

Read: Acts 5:17-32

Jesus had made it clear to His disciples – if His opponents persecuted Him, they would persecute those who follow Him. But the disciples were not afraid – the Lord was with them. **Pray: Lord Jesus, help me stand firm when people mock or make fun of me because of my faith in You. Amen.**

► Saturday, July 3, 2010

Read: Acts 5:33-42

How frustrated the devil must have been – the apostles are flogged for no good reason and they rejoice anyway! Such is the power of the Gospel at work in the lives of those who love and trust Jesus for forgiveness and salvation. **Pray: Dear Lord, as I have the opportunity, help me to tell the good news that You are the Christ. Amen.**