

## ***Week of June 10, 2007***

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### **Monday**

Luke 18:1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.

Two words of wisdom are to be pondered today. First, Christians *are* normal, ordinary, when it comes to facing discouragement. Jesus was preparing the disciples for this reality. Even they would face the discouraging times. Second, the answer to discouraging times is found in the *practice of prayer*. In prayer God reminds us of His faithfulness and love. In prayer we gain power to face and even change our circumstances. Do not lose heart; you are beloved of God. Instead practice the persistence of prayer. Experience His presence!

### **Tuesday**

Luke 18:8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Does God love you? Is He faithful to you? He has already answered that question on the cross. There He showed His great love and there He was faithful in His work for you. Don't ask again, 'Does God love me' or 'Is God working out my situation'. The new question, the real question, is 'Will you be faithful?' Will you be faithful when you cannot see the end of God's plan? Will you be faithful when faithfulness is neither comfortable nor easy? Will you be faithful to God no matter the cost or the call? Tell Him today of your commitment.

### **Wednesday**

Mark 8:33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; or you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Oh, how we would change God's ways if we could. We would change them at the cost of our own destruction and to Satan's advantage. This was Peter's trouble. He had Jesus' best in mind (or so he thought). He was merely correcting Jesus' misplaced vision (or so he thought). But in fact Peter would have destroyed us all and himself with us. God's plan was not clear to Peter, but it was necessary for him. And so it is with each of us. God's plan may not make sense to us now. It may not be clear to us now. Still, it is important to us, needful for us, and gracious to us. Trust Him! Walk in *His* plan.

### **Thursday**

Psa. 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Wow! Is this not grand! God offers all good things to His people. He withholds nothing and grants everything. The condition of receiving is an upright walk. Walk with the Lord and see the blessings of His grace. Make a commitment before Him today to be faithful in all things. Are there areas of rebellion in your life, relationships, plans, or stewardship? God seeks to bless you but you must walk according to His plan.

### **Friday**

Rom. 8:31-38 If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that (nothing) shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.