



Daily Devotion

Wilsonville Baptist Church
Steve Thomas, Pastor

Wilsonville Baptist Church
2018 Church Renewal

Day 9—14

Day 9—Matt Jones

"The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:19-24 NASB)

Am I a person known primarily for where I worship? Am I known more for being a Baptist? A WBC member? Or, for my positions on conversation topics related to faith?

Geographical positions, philosophical positions, church memberships, doctrinal and political stances; all of these may be important, but am I first and foremost known as a worshiper of Christ, worshipping Him in truth? It's a great question and a humbling one.

It's easy to get excited about even good things related to faith, like those mentioned above. However, I need to remember that these aren't the *object* of my worship. They shouldn't be the primary testimony of my daily life.

God, make me a true worshiper and allow that to be the primary testimony of my life. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 14—Chuck Webb

Seek the Lord Continually

Each of us has things we cannot live without and things that we have that we do not care if they get lost. There are items that I have found while cleaning in drawers or closets that I didn't even remember I still had. However, I once lost my cell phone. I had no idea if I had lost it while teaching, while at home, while at church, or while at any other place. I was lost without my phone. After two days, I found it at church.

As Christians, God wants us to react to our relationship with Him as I reacted to losing my phone. These words from Paul help us with our priorities, *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."* (Colossians 3:1-2, NIV)

Are you lost or empty without an awareness of God's presence? When you feel lost or empty, do you strive to make the time for God in prayer and Bible study? Do you feel lost if you miss worship at church and fellowship with other Christians? Or do you go days without reading God's Word, not talking to God, or weeks not going to church? Did you do anything about it? If God took away the privilege of prayer or reading His Word, would you really miss it?

The question is: Do we care about Christ and our relationship with Him so much that when we are not in His Word or not talking to Him, we feel emptiness and seek time for Christ?

"Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." (Psalms 105:3b-4, NIV)

Day 13—Steve Thomas**Psalm 103:1-5**

God is good. He is good in everything about Him. A pastor said to a woman one day, “Ain’t God good?” Her immediate reply was, “He can’t help it.” God is always at work for your good, even when we don’t see it. By faith, we know that God is always good. There is never a time He is not.

God provides, protects, heals, forgives, loves, redeems, and the list goes on and on and on. When we begin to think of the blessings God has given us, we cannot list them all. He never lets us down. He knows better than we do what is best for us and how to work in our lives. He has worked in the past, the present, and will continue in the future. God has always been good and will always be good.

Many times in life, we begin to focus on the bad things that are happening rather than the goodness of God. Times seem desperate and we don’t see how we are going to make it. Many times we have put ourselves in a situation that God did not intend for us to be in and we wonder why God is not doing something. We struggle with health and finances and other things and wonder, where is God?

He is present and He is at work. He is working to renew your spirit so you can soar like an eagle. God knows what to do, when to do it, and how to get it done. We can trust Him. Too many times our faith is weak and we try to help God and get out of His will. God knows better than you do what is best for your life.

When God renews our lives, we find strength like we were young again. We are not depending on our strength, but God’s. He wants you to feel His blessings on you and to remember He is good all the time. You can trust Him.

Dear Jesus, please renew me in your love and power. Show me where I am trying to live without you and do things my own way. Forgive me for being selfish and prideful. Help me to soar in a way that brings honor and glory to you in every area of my life. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 10—Steve Thomas**II Timothy 1:6-10**

Paul was a mentor for Timothy. He loved Timothy and longed to see him live a life pleasing to Jesus. He encourages Timothy in I Timothy 4:12 to not get discouraged because he is young, but to be a man of God. Now he tells him to stir up the gift of God within him. There were many reasons to be afraid, but Paul reminds Him that God does not give us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and a sound mind. God has a job for Timothy and in verse 9, he lets him know that God gives us what we need when He gives us a job to do.

We need to stir up the gift God has given us, or your Bible might say, “fan the flame.” This causes the fire to burn brightly once again. We need to be renewed in our walk with Jesus. Sometimes we don’t serve well because we are afraid. Most of us do not want to admit that, but we are afraid to do what God wants us to do. We are afraid we will fail. We are afraid someone will not like it. We are afraid someone will laugh at us. And sometimes, we are afraid to succeed.

God has given the spirit of power, and love, and a sound mind. God is not the one causing the fear to do His will. He has given us what we need to move boldly forward. He has given us life through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through His Spirit in our lives we can go with all the power in need, in the greatest love that will ever be, firm in knowing we are serving Jesus in the ways He leads in.

Sometimes Christians become apathetic in our walk with Jesus. We have allowed the fear to overcome and instead of moving forward in the power of Jesus, we are blind to the world around us and many times, just do not seem to care at all. Jesus gave everything for us. We need to stir up what God has placed in us and become renewed in His love and power. Do not live a life that says you are ashamed of Jesus. Live boldly and share His love.

Day 11—Chuck Webb

Concentration

I find it hard to concentrate when I pray. I get easily distracted. I start thinking of things I need to do. One thing that helps me concentrate on God is singing a song in my heart or quoting Scripture.

I might sing, "Father, I adore you. I lay my life before you. How I love you. Spirit, I adore you. I lay my life before you. How I love you. Jesus, I adore you. I lay my life before you. How I love you." Or "I Love you Lord and I lift my voice, to worship you O my soul rejoice..."

Or I might quote Proverbs 3:5-6. "*Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.*"

The song or Scripture can get my mind on track. The words remind me that God is awesome, mighty, merciful, and gracious through His Son Jesus, and that He gave the Holy Spirit to guide me.

We all need to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We need to work on talking with Him and not getting distracted by the world and its craziness. As I learned last week in Bible study, prayer shows that we are dependent upon God. When we do not pray, we are depending on ourselves. That is a scary thing.

Day 12—Frank Martin

The Warmth of God's Love

"Then, when that happens, we are able to hold our heads high no matter what happens and know that all is well, for we know how dearly God loves us, and we feel the warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." (Romans 5:5, TLB)

The recent cold snap we had here in Alabama reminded me of a precious memory of my childhood. My grandfather, Woodrow Wilson Farmer, was a farmer in Southern Illinois just outside the home of Superman, Metropolis, Illinois. My family would often spend our Christmas holiday with my grandparents. They lived in an old drafty farm house. My brother and I would sleep in the bedroom upstairs under several layers of blankets. When it was time to get up, we would rush down to the kitchen to stand on the large floor vent next to the oven to feel the warmth of the blowing air from the furnace. There were a few shoving matches over that warm vent.

Today's scripture reminds us of the warmth of God's love for us shown through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The warmth of God's love draws us, because it provides comfort in an often cold and barren world. However, we do not always seek that love, because we wonder how could God love someone like us? I have counseled several people throughout my life that feel that they are not good enough for the warmth of God's love.

But you see, that is the point. The scripture reminds us that God has shown his love towards us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). While we were enemies to God he still sent his Son to die for us. There is nothing we can do or not do to receive God's love.

Know today, from God's word, God loves you! Seek the warmth of his love today.

Dear God, help us seek and receive the warmth of your love today. Allow your sacrifice on the cross to daily remind us of that love. So much so, that we will never doubt that love for us. In Jesus name, Amen.