

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 5

Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O Lord, you have brought up my life from Sheol,

you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy.

"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

2 Corinthians 8:1-24

The Gentile Churches Collect a gift for the Jewish Churches

Why is it important to help fellow Christians with material gifts?

What is the motivation for Christians to give gifts to others?

How does Jesus enrich us?

Mark 5:21-43

Jesus heals a woman and raises a young girl

Why is this woman an example of great faith?

What does Jairus's fear say about the nature of our faith?

Why does God value faith so highly?

"FAITH and FEAR"

A woman came to Jesus, trembling with fear. She had an affliction, a discharge of blood that she had suffered with for twelve years. It was risky for her to be in a crowd. Her condition made her ritually unclean and would have made anyone who came into contact with her unclean, including Jesus. She came because He was her last hope. Despite medical attention that had left her poor, her condition hadn't improved. She stretched out her hand and thought, "If I just touch His garments." Her fear was strong, but her faith was stronger. She touched His clothes and instantly she felt she was healed.

Jesus was walking with a man whose daughter was deathly ill. He hoped Jesus could help, if he could just get Him to her in time. But as they walked Jesus was delayed by a woman who touched His garment. As He blessed her, a man came and gave him the message he dreaded, "Your daughter is dead." His hope evaporated, but Jesus said, "Do not fear, only believe." Imagine how he struggled with fear every step on the way home. Imagine how his heart sank when he saw his daughter dead. He remembered Jesus' words to believe and then beyond all human hope, Jesus called his daughter back to life.

Jesus calls to have faith and He empowers us to believe. Yet, in this life we respond to Jesus with a mixture of faith and fear. Faith is not having fear. Faith is trusting Jesus despite our fears. Neither the woman with the bleeding of the synagogue ruler had a fearless faith. Both struggled with fear and doubt as we all do. Jesus did not turn them away. He drew them closer to Himself through His words. Faith is clinging to Jesus despite our fears. Faith is coming to Jesus with our fears. Faith is casting our fears before Him, knowing He has power to help and that He cares for us. "*Your faith has made you well, go in peace.*"

“MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE”

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (Public Domain)

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour Divine!

Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away, Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May Thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart, My zeal inspire;

As Thou has died for me, Oh, may my love to thee, Pure, warm and changeless be, A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray, from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold sullen stream, shall over me roll;

Blest Saviour, then in love, fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, you have called us to yourself through the gospel, drawn us to you by the power of your Holy Spirit and given us faith to believe. Bless our faith. Give it strength through the nourishment of the gospel in the word and in the sacraments. Give us faith in the face of every fear to believe your promises and to reach out to you for help and healing in time. Bless us until faith passes in sight in eternal life. In your Name. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

1 Peter 5:6-7

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

Where was the prophet Ezekiel when God first came to him in visions?

Where was John the Baptist when the word of the Lord came to him?

Where was John the evangelist when the Lord came to him with the vision of Revelation?

Answers to last week's Quiz

Boaz (Ruth 4:13-17)

The Song of Solomon aka The Song of Songs (1:1).

The marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).