

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for November 8th to November 14th

Whispers of the Spirit is a shared ministry of
Deacon Carolyn Quinnell and Ruth Wallace.
This week's meditations are written by Deacon Carolyn.

Sunday, November 8th Wisdom 6:12-20 / Psalm 70 /
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / Matthew 25:1-13

Wisdom: 6:17 *The beginning of wisdom * is the true desire to receive teaching.*

The little boy wanted to play tennis so his Nana and Grandpa took him to the courts with borrowed rackets and balls. She tried to explain how to hold the racket and hit the ball, but he was too distracted to really listen. After a couple of hours of chasing a lot of balls and some success at hitting the ball, they left the courts hot and sweaty. The first words to his mother? "Mom, I played tennis!" Baby steps. We don't learn to walk unless we take baby steps first. How often do we want to become pros at something simply by wishing it? The same is true of our walk with Jesus. How might He be asking you to practice walking with Him this day?

Holy Spirit, help us to get out of our own way when we pray and listen to your tugs at our hearts. Amen.

Monday, November 9th Joel 1:1-13 / Psalm 80 /
Revelation 18:15-24 / Luke 14:12-24

Psalm 80:3 *Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

Restore us to when? Or maybe what? Perhaps a world without a virus that has killed too many people? Perhaps we would like to be restored to a time when our finances were better, or our friendships were stronger. Maybe a widow or widower would like to have their beloved with them once again. There's always the possibility of the "if only..." How often do we stop and realize that our Lord is

shining his light upon us right now – at this very minute. He is offering his hand to you to help you along where ever you are. It's up to you to reach out and let yourself be led by him.

Father God, help me to see the hand you are offering me. Amen.

Tuesday, November 10th Joel 1:15 – 2:11 / Psalm 78:1-39 / Revelation 19:1-10 / Luke 14:25-35

Psalm 78:2 *I will open my mouth in a parable; * I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.*

When I was a new parent looking for books for my children, I came across a series called the Berenstain Bears. Created by Stan and Jan Berenstain, these books always seemed to have a positive life lesson I wanted my kids to know. According to their website, over 350 books have been produced since the first, *The Big Honey Hunt*, in 1962. I suppose we humans have been creating stories for generations to pass along life lessons and ancient mysteries. While some are better than others at telling a good tale, we all have a witness of something good or positive in our lives. Will you pass that on today?

Open my lips or Lord and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Amen.

Wednesday, November 11th (Veterans Day) Joel 2:12-19 / Psalm 119:97-120 / Revelation 19:11-21 / Luke 15:1-10

Luke 15:10 *Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

Make no mistake about it, there is a spiritual warfare going on for our souls. So when we read about the joy in heaven over the each sinner who repents, we understand that's one more for the "good guys" and a loss for evil. I picture a giant scoreboard in heaven keeping track. The thing is, the final outcome has already been determined. Jesus is the victor over death. Alleluia! As we contemplate the confrontation on the spiritual level this day, let us also contemplate the service of all who have served in our armed forces. While not all who have served have seen combat on a

battlefield or at sea, too many have. Today we thank them all for their service and pray for peace to overtake our world.

Holy Spirit, may your peace settle among us both here and abroad. Amen.

Thursday, November 12th Joel 2:21-27 / Psalm 23, 27 /
James 1:1-15 / Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Luke 15:11-12 *Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them."*

One of the disadvantages of reading a familiar parable is you immediately think, "Oh, I know that one." But have you considered the economic reality that if you own the entire Ponderosa you can potentially earn a lot of money. If you only own half the Ponderosa, your income suddenly drops. Some markets are no longer available to you. The younger son basically did a double slap in the face to his father. First he wanted his share of the inheritance, then he turned around and sold the property portion he received. The son might as well have said to his father, "You're nothing to me. I consider you dead." All of this makes the forgiveness by the father that much more incredible. That same forgiveness is available to you and me. Every day of the week. Praise the Lord!

Father, forgive me for I have sinned. Amen.

Friday, November 13th Joel 2:28 - 3:8 / Psalm 88 / James 1:16-27 /
Luke 16:1-9

James 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.*

There is a line in the song, "They'll Know We Are Christians," that goes, "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love." No doubt you've heard the expression, "Actions speak louder than words." The writer of James is picking up on the same theme here. If you say you are a Christian but don't act like one, are you telling the truth?

There are arguments against what is known as works righteousness as well as those for the totally free grace God flows upon us. While I believe in that totally free grace, I also know that if I love the Lord I will want to give back in some way. I want to follow where he leads.

Lord, show me what direction to turn my feet in. Amen.

Saturday, November 14th Joel 3:9-17 / Psalm 87, 90 /
James 2:1-13 / Luke 16:10-18

Psalm 90:12 *So teach us to number our days* that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*

We began our week by looking at a passage from the book of Wisdom, “*The beginning of wisdom * is the true desire to receive teaching*” and today we have another from a different source. Verse 4 from today’s psalm reads, “*For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past * and like a watch in the night.*” In other words, our stay is comparatively short. What we do, or don’t do, with our days can have eternal consequences. We never know when the smile we give to the stranger is exactly what they need at that moment to lift their spirits; nor do we know who will eat the can of vegetables we give to the food pantry. Will we take this day to learn some new tidbit of wisdom God wants to share with us?

Lord, open my heart and mind to your word. Amen.

