

# Nudges of the Spirit

## Meditations for December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>

*Nudges of the Spirit* is currently a ministry of Deacon Carolyn Quinnell and Denise Bersos.  
This week's selections have been written by Denise.

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** Jeremiah 33:14-16 / Psalm 25:1-9 /  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 / Luke 21:25-36 (*written by Denise*)

Psalm 25:9 *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*

The opposite of being humble is being prideful. Pride is a tricky character. Whenever I am upset about something it usually is my pride that is standing in the way insisting that I am right. Or, it will show up in that I need to be involved to set things straight as I know what is best, not just for me, but I know what is best for you too. Rather arrogant that pride can be. The other day, a friend told me something that had happened to someone, and I had an opinion immediately about how wrong that was. I was figuring out who I needed to go to, and express my opinion. Finally I paused and prayed, and realized I didn't have any facts. I have no idea the circumstances. I said a prayer for all involved, and let go of my pride.

*Dear God, may we humbly rely on you and your ways. Amen*

**Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** Isaiah 1:10-20 / Psalm 1, 2, 3 /  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 / Luke 20:1-8 (*written by Denise*)

1 Thessalonians 1:2 *We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.*

I really like to write letters to family and friends. There is something very personal and intimate about receiving a letter by "snail mail." It takes a while to gather my thoughts about the person I am writing to. I think about our encounters, and the love that we have shared over the years. Just thinking about them and what I am going to write is a form of prayer. I always thank God for my relationships. My relationships are fruitful because God is the main ingredient in all of them. After reading this verse I think this would be a good way to begin a letter. I

would enjoy receiving a letter that started out like this. Knowing that someone loves me so much that they thank God for me, and that they constantly mention me in their prayers. That's love!

*Father, I thank you for all that are reading these Nudges today. We are all praying for each other daily, as we read. Amen*

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** Isaiah 1:21-31 / Psalm 5, 6 /  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 / Luke 20:9-18 *(written by Denise)*

1 Thessalonians 2:12 *We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

There are many elders in our church that truly walk in a manner worthy of God. My experience is that they are always willing to teach and support those of us that need some direction and encouragement. I watch them closely and see how they interact with each other, as well as how they interact with new members that come into our congregation. They will answer questions and are quick to show us where things are that will help make any project we are doing go smoothly. They are a wealth of information and have served God in the church for years. I enjoy listening to their experiences, and their love for people that are no longer with us. They encourage me and I hope I can pass on their kindness and helpfulness to others.

*Dear Lord, thank you for the elders in our church that encourage us as Paul encouraged those in his time. Amen*

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 2:1-11 / Psalm 119:1-24 /  
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 / Luke 20:19-26 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 119:24 *Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.*

I am moved to tears when someone tells their story of how their life was not working for them, and then they surrendered to The Lord. It is like they have had a full personality change. They don't think or act like they used to. They make better choices for themselves and think of others. I learn so much from their stories. If I am having a difficult problem in my life, I find someone who has walked through this same

problem and listen to their testimony of how they got through to the other side. Their experience and tools give me hope. I take counsel in their experience.

*Lord, teach us to listen when others share how you came into their lives and turned their life into a blessing. Amen*

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 2:12-22 / Psalm 18:1-20 /  
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 / Luke 20:27-40 *(written by Denise)*

1Thessaionians 3:11 *“Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you.”*

Every morning before I get out of bed, I ask God to direct my thinking. I get up and make my bed as I sing the song “Here I am Lord.” Isaiah 6:8 says, “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said ‘Here am I! Send Me.’” My life is an open book today. I will gladly tell anyone who is willing to listen about Jesus, and the profound impact he has made on my life. During the day I get many opportunities to express my love and gratitude for a loving God that cares about us all. I want to share this good news with everyone, just as the Apostles wanted to share back in their day.

*Jesus, direct us in ways to share the good news about how you work in our lives. Amen*

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 3:8-15 / Psalm 16, 17 /  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 / Luke 20:41–21:4 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 16:11 *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Why do we worry? Why do we waste precious moments fretting about things we cannot control? Melissa Gilbert wrote a quote I think of often. “I believe that I am Loved beyond Measure by a Magnificent, Complex God who has given me power over nothing.” The other day a friend called and she was worrying and fretting, and knew she was being crazy. I told her that I knew what she could do to stop this foolishness. She thought I was going to give her some tool she has

never used before. I told her it is the hardest thing to do and the easiest thing to do. Come back to the moment. Be present in the moment and rely on God to make known your path. Joy is so important to me today. God gives us that joy if we stay close to him. Worry takes joy away.

*God, continue to be there with your love and promises when we surrender to the moment. Amen*

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 4:2-6 / Psalm 20, 21:1-7(8-14) /  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / Luke 21:5-19 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 21:13 *Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power.*

I have personally been reflecting on and studying Job 1:20 - 2:10. Reading this I am able to see the great suffering Job had in his life. He constantly turns to The LORD in praise and worship. Job was chosen to suffer because of his great faith. Satan could not even turn him from his love and faith in God. Job lost everything - everything and his first response was to worship God. That would most likely not be my response. By studying Job's example, we can see that we don't have to figure anything out before we praise God. When we worship God, it does not mean we have to like or approve of the circumstances that are happening. We must have a heart that longs to trust God and be obedient to accept, and bend into his will regardless of our feelings.

*Dear God, bend us into your will, and teach us to remember to praise you in the storm. Amen*

