

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for September 6th to September 12th



*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, September 6th Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149 OR Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40 / Romans 13:8-14 / Matthew 18:15-20 (*written by Denise*)

Roman 13:10 *Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Today I was contemplating about when I die will I take anything from this life with me? I sat with that question for a very long time. I am made in God's image. He is the original. I believe I will see him in all his Glory. He knows me as an image of him, and God is love, so I am pure love, just as we all are. That love will be with me as it was with me when I was born into this world. All the love that was shared with me, and the love I gave to others are a part of me. I will leave behind all the anger, resentments, shame, guilt, insecurities, etc. It reminded me how important forgiveness is, because by forgiving we will experience more love while we live on this earth. That love goes with us.

LORD, you are love! Since we know you, please cleanse our hearts of anything that is not of you. While we are on this earth guide us with love to help others that are suffering. Amen

Monday, September 7th (Labor Day) Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 38:27-32a / Psalm 107:1-9 or 90:1-2, 16-17 / 1 Corinthians 3:10-14 / Matthew 6:19-24 (*written by Denise*)

Matthew 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

It is ironic that we come into this world in complete vulnerability, naked as a jay bird, screaming our head off. What a journey we go through to be born. In our later years we work hard so we can collect things. We get a job, buy a car, get in relationships, buy a house and fill the house up with treasures. As the years pass we begin letting go of jobs. We let go of relationships that do not serve our higher good. We have garage sales to get rid of some of our stuff as it takes too much energy to manage it all. Hopefully by the time we have reached this point we have accepted Jesus as our savior. Letting go of the worldly treasures doesn't seem as important as following Jesus. We want to bring others to the Gospel as we know now, He is the greatest treasure. We will leave this world, but we will take with us the love of Christ. Hallelujah!

Jesus, thank you for nurturing us and guiding us to see that you are the greatest show on earth! Amen

Tuesday, September 8th Job 29:1-20 / Psalm 45 / Acts 14:1-18 / John 10:31-42 (*written by Denise*)

Acts 14:9 *He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him; saw that he had faith to be healed.*

This verse reminds me of John 5:6. When Jesus saw a paralyzed man and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be healed?" We might say to ourselves, what a silly question, of course I want to be healed. Sit with that for a while and be really honest. I know when I was in my addiction, on one level I wanted to be healed, but I was very afraid. I was going to have to change who I hung out with. I might have to change routines or change my job. In order to be healed I would need to change my behavior and live with spiritual principles. I would need to be responsible to nurture my relationship with God. I would no longer have an excuse to hide behind. It is a very powerful question. When I was truly ready and I turned my life over to God, I was indeed healed of a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.

LORD, help me see blind spots in my life where I may be asking for healing, but am afraid. May my faith be in you. All things are possible with you! Amen

Wednesday, September 9th Job 29:1; 30:1-2, 16-31 / Psalm 119:49-72 / Acts 14:19-28 / John 11:1-16

(written by Denise)

Psalm 119:66 *Teach me knowledge and good judgement, for I trust your commands.*

I am like a sponge; I want to learn more and more every day. I wake up and most mornings I sit with God in fellowship. We have a loving relationship. I read scripture, and a few other devotionals. I listen to a Lectio app as I walk. Bible study and church are important for me to participate in. The more I show up the more I learn. The more I practice what I learn the more Grace I walk in. I cannot imagine living my life without God. One of the greatest things that has happened is I am able to see the good in my life. I have had good in my life before but was never aware of it like I am today.

All Glory goes to you LORD! Continue to teach us as we participate and practice in and with you. Amen

Thursday, September 10th Job 29:1; 31:1-23 / Psalm 50 / Acts 15:1-11 / John 11:17-29 *(written by Denise)*

Job 31:14 *What will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to accounts?*

Good questions. How are we living our lives today? Do we live each day thinking I will do better tomorrow? What if tomorrow never comes? I am so grateful for the freedom I have found. I have freedom from the power of sin because of our Lord Jesus Christ. I no longer live with the burden to try and prove myself before God. Through Jesus I have been set free, and I am no longer trying to earn God's love, I already have it. Therefore, I can use this freedom to serve others, instead of turning this freedom into selfish agendas, and plans.

Jesus, thank you for coming and living with us. By following you we have freedom from the power that sin and death had over us. Because of you we are loved. Amen

Friday, September 11th Job 29:1; 31:24-40 / Psalm 40, 54 / Acts 15:12-21 / John 11:30-44 *(written by Denise)*

Acts 15:12 *The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.*

This reminds me of when we are listening to a sermon, and it is exactly what we need to hear. The whole room is quiet in anticipation of the next word. Being a Christian is not easy. Jesus never said follow me and we will tip toe through the tulips. It takes commitment, willingness and an open heart to surrender our will to God's will so he can form our character, teach us to love each other, listen to that small voice inside of us. There is a lot of unraveling that has to take place in order for a transformation of spirit and mind to take place. What can we all listen to today that may bring us closer to God?

Lord, teach us to listen for your voice in the quiet stillness. There are many voices that compete for our attention, please let yours stand out. Amen

Saturday, September 12th Job 38:1-17 / Psalm 55 / Acts 15:22-35 / John 11:45-54 *(written by Denise)*

John 11:48 *"If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come take away both our temple and our nation."*

Do you see the fear in this verse. The Pharisees appear to be very afraid of Jesus. Are you ever afraid of Jesus? I sure am. I get attached to my comforts, my family, my way of life, my agenda. If I am in self and relying on self to maintain and manage my life and the people around me, Jesus may ask me to let go of all of this so that I may follow him. Jesus did this often in the Bible. The one thing I see in the Bible is when Jesus asks us to follow him, God's power is what we will now rely on not our own. So, am I really afraid of Jesus, or am I afraid of letting go of my own self will trying to manage and hold everything together?

Jesus, help us see the truth about who you are, and how we can best serve you. Amen

