

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for November 30th to December 6th



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, November 30th (first Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 2:1-5 / Psalm 122 / Romans 13:11-14 /
Matthew 24:36-44 (*written by Denise*)

Isaiah 2:5 *O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!*

This verse could serve as a reminder that we belong and are being called upon by our LORD. We are defiantly being invited to act upon our trust, faith and love of the LORD. Most of us desire to align our lives with God each day and walk in the light rather than getting entangled in the earthly glitters that can distract us. O house of Jacob is the nation of Israel, the name of the covenant family of God of Israel. You might remember Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and his sons make up the 12 tribes of Israel. There are generations of us being called into this verse. It may be time for all of us to show up!

LORD, show us how to walk in your light as our ancestors did with faith and trust. Amen

Monday, December 1st (St. Andrew) Deuteronomy 30:11-14 / Psalm 19 or 19:1-6 / Romans 10:8b-18 /
Matthew 4:18-22 (*written by Denise*)

Deuteronomy 30:14 *No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.*

Lately I have been contemplating the difference between good ideas and God ideas. I have many good ideas, and they truly are good ideas, but are they God's ideas? Is the spirit leading me into some unknown territory, and I am responding with "I already have a plan, with a good idea today. Thank you though. "Usually my good ideas are planned, work with my schedule, and don't take me too far out of my comfort zone. God's ideas are usually uncomfortable; I do not feel adequate, most likely thinking someone else could do this idea much better than I can. God ideas can stretch me out of my comfort zone for sure and are not always very convenient. I am not God, and it may be time for my good ideas to lead me to the door of God's idea, and allow God to take the lead.

This prayer I discovered is inspired by the Serenity prayer: *Holy Spirit, grant me the humility to accept the doors you have closed to me, and the courage to walk through the doors you open, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen*

Tuesday, December 2nd Amos 3:1-11 / Psalm 5, 6 / 2 Peter 1:12-21 / Matthew 21:12-22 (*written by Denise*)

2 Peter 1:21 *...because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke for God.*

My first question is how do I know that the Holy Spirit is speaking to me or if it is another of the many voices from the committee in my head? The first thing that comes to me is that it is important that I have a relationship with God. It is important to practice going to God with all my questions, so I learn to hear that small, still voice. A tool that helps me when I get confused is a practice from the Oxford Group called "Two-way prayer." This practice involves active listening for God's guidance, as well as speaking to God, to enrich our relationship. I invite you to google "Two-way prayer" and see if it is a tool that might be beneficial to you in your growth.

Lord, thank you for tools to help us be moved by the Holy Spirit. Amen

Wednesday, December 3rd Amos 3:12-4:5 / Psalm 119:1-24 / 2 Peter 3:1-10 / Matthew 21:23-32 (*written by Denise*)

2 Peter 3:8 *But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.*

Time is an interesting concept. Time can be your worst enemy or your best friend. Our time and God's time is completely different. God's time is a function of his perfect, eternal timing. God is not bound by the ties of our limited linear time in which we exist. God is always calling us to trust and faith as he takes care of all the details of his perfect plan. God is patiently waiting for us all to be a part of his perfect plan. There are so many of our brothers and sisters in our neighborhoods, and around the world who are suffering, because they do not have a relationship with Jesus. Jesus was God's perfect plan in time to bring us into eternal life where Jesus reigns now. Because we are on this earth for such a short time it is imperative that we bring all those that suffer into the light. Each moment counts, each sheep we bring into the fold matters.

Holy Spirit come into each of us. Let your eternal spirit guide us and heal those who are suffering in this time we have on earth. Amen

Thursday, December 4th Amos 4:6-13 / Psalm 18:1-20 / 2 Peter 3:11-18 / Matthew 21:33-46 *(written by Denise)*

Amos 4:13 *For lo, the one who forms the mountains, creates the wind, reveals his thoughts to mortals, makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth - the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!*

What a beautiful scripture this is. God's sovereignty is universal truth always. He is our creator and has full authority over all things in the physical world, including the daily cycle of our mornings and nights. He has authority over the weather, nature, and unseen circumstances that may enter into our daily lives. We are to prepare each day to align our will with God's will for us. God knows our thoughts and if we have the correct attitude, are surrendered, and still enough, we will hear God's thoughts revealed to us. We intuitively know how to handle all situations in the moment when we align our will with God's will.

The LORD, the God of hosts is his name! Amen

Friday, December 5th Amos 5:1-17 / Psalm 16, 17 / Jude 1-16 / Matthew 22:1-14 *(written by Denise)*

Jude 1:9 *But when the archangel Michael contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses, he did not dare to bring a condemnation of slander against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."*

In today's scripture readings this one jumped out at me. There are so many gems that bring me peace and comfort as I read this over and over. There are many false prophets that will meet us on the path during our journey. This is a beautiful example that we are shown through the presence of Archangel Michael. Archangel Michael is one of God's most beloved angels, and he represents God's authority and power. We are shown in this scripture that Michael does not have God's authority and power but represents it. Therefore, he does not bring condemnation and slander against the devil but says "The Lord rebuke you." This is very humbling to me. Michael knows he does not have the power to judge wrongs others do. Why would I think I do?

LORD, thank you for Archangel Michael and his example of how we are to deal with false prophets. Amen

Saturday, December 6th Amos 5:18-27 / Psalm 20, 21:1-7(8-14) / Jude 17-25 / Matthew 22:15-22 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 20:7 *Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.*

At times the world we are living in is clamoring for us to get shinier objects, grow and build bigger houses to hoard more "stuff", and become rich. We are fed thoughts and ideas that challenge our physical and emotional security. We can become fearful if we do not have enough, and God forbid if we face a tragedy that will wipe out all our plans, our riches and securities. This does not mean that we shouldn't be responsible, but the point is we must be rich towards God not the world. Being rich towards God means we focus on helping others. We go where the suffering and vulnerable are. We see how precious this gift of life is. We experience a desire to be in relationship with God and our fellows. Our attitude is of gratitude and love. Being rich in God means we will never go bankrupt.

LORD, let us always keep our sights on you and your riches. Amen

