

Daily Devotional, April 12, 2021 May Grace Abound

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” 1 John 1:5-7 (NIV)

The first epistle of John is full of imagery of light versus darkness. John compares God and the promise of hope with the light, while the darkness is that which causes us to stray from God’s love. John tells us that God is the light, and in God we will not find any darkness. This reminder is for us to realize that God’s deeds are out in the open, they can be seen by all, they are well known, and there is a warmth to knowing the love of God.

Each day we are moving further into spring. In our area of the world, we are seeing the light grow longer each day. With the growing spring and light, comes the beauty of a new creation springing up all around us, reminding us that God is bringing beauty into our world once again. Perhaps we are finding the time to notice a little more beauty this year than in others. Even though this season of quarantine has been filled with darkness, the darkness does not overcome the light. Light overcomes the darkness time and time again, and I believe that even the dark days of the COVID-19, coronavirus are dwindling.

I have seen that many of our restrictions have been lessened and our communities around us have begun to re-open. I am excited for this, but I still say that we should be cautious even with the lightening restraints. We want to ensure that this darkness does not get the upper hand again. We need to continue to care and show love for our neighbors by not putting them at risk. I believe that brighter and brighter days are coming. I am thankful for all who have worked so diligently to get us to where we are, and I hope and pray that once we are living into a new normal, with far less limitations, we can continue to show our love and support to those on the frontlines. We can do this by following the healthcare officials guidelines, and being thankful for each person who is a helper.

Expressing gratitude is the greatest way to share the light of God.

This past weekend, I had to make a trip to the local hardware store for a new fishing license and some needed items for a continuing project called “my yard.” After all, is spring improvement time. As I was shopping in the store, I noticed how everyone was still shopping at an appropriate distance from one another, and a clerk was checking people out, and reminding folks, to make sure they were keeping distance from other people in the store. As I moved to the front of the line, I was asked to wait and I appreciated their diligence. I said to the young guy getting me my new license, “not a bad way to spend 8 hours on a nice day like this.” He said, “your right, it really hasn’t been too bad.” He then told me that most people have been very gracious in their waiting, a few have grumbled, yet the majority were understanding. This young man was just doing the job his boss gave him to do, but it was nice to hear that the majority of people were understanding of this new normal we all have grown accustomed to.

We will need to continue to be understanding, continue to show gratitude, and continue to walk in the light of God’s love as things begin to open up again and we begin to go out into the world once more. May God’s light shine on all of you today, and offer you blessings abounding, that you share with others, through patience and understanding. And may the light of Jesus’ love continue to shine through you.

Prayer: Loving Father, You have loved me when I was unlovable. I am so amazingly grateful that I know You and I can experience Your wonderful presence in my life. Give me this day Your grace in how I live my life today. Give me wisdom and gentleness in how I interact with others. Make me pure, peaceable, and gentle. May I have a mind that is open to reason and shows mercy. In all of today’s tasks, grant me the wisdom and grace to be sincere and meek. Thank You that You pour out Your grace to me, and may I pour out that same amount of grace to others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.