

Daily Devotional, June 10, 2021 Guide me to Guide Others

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” II Corinthians 5:17-18 (NIV)

There are so many life events which lead to a new normal: graduating from high school or college, the first day on a new job or the loss of a job, the arrival of a child, a change in health, the beginning of a new relationship, the loss of a loved one, and the list goes on and on.

Every time I think back on my own life, I remember these milestone events which have led to new opportunities, new ways of thinking, new perspectives on the world and new ways to understand my faith in Christ. I am forever grateful for the way that God has led me into and through these experiences. At the time, many of these events caused me to feel the burden of the unknown, with worry and anxiety dominating my reasoning. But in hindsight, I have seen the hand of God at work in my life bringing new hope, new joy, and new life.

Our world has changed a great deal over these past 15 months or so. We are not living life in the same way that we had become accustomed to. Life has changed, but that is just an opportunity for us to connect to God, to follow closer. Our faith teaches us that change happens, but in that change, God calls us to ministry. There is a fear that comes with leaving the normal behind, but there is a greater joy that comes when we join Jesus in ministry. We become those who share love and hope and bring comfort in the midst of trying times. We become those who share peace and joy in an uncertain, changing world.

Sometimes it is hard to accept the change that is always occurring around us. When we recognize that new things are happening, we want to cling to the familiar. Yet when we try something new, we can experience life in ways that we have not yet imagined. Today, I encourage you to ask God for the courage and strength to face the events in your life with a sense of optimism as you discover the ways that God is leading you. Ask God for wisdom and discernment as you walk through your daily challenges, yet, knowing that God will be with you every step of the way, guiding you as you guide others to the salvation that we know and share in Christ alone. When the “new” comes, give God thanks for the ways that you are blessed, and in turn, bless others – both in good times and hard times – as a beloved child of God.

Prayer: Almighty God, courage is a virtue that I am ashamed to say I often lack. So often I know the right thing to do, yet out of my cowardice and faithlessness, it goes left undone. Father, forgive me for this sin of unbelief. Give me courage in these difficult times, that I may be an ambassador for You and my Lord Jesus, that I might tell others of Your faithfulness to me in my life. Lead me to lead others to You. Hear my prayer today, Lord. Amen.