

Daily Devotional Materials

- Wednesday -

Devotion

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:10.

Dear Christian, the Holy Spirit has performed a creative act in kindling faith in Christ within you. He infused life into your spiritual death, light into your darkness. In your present condition you are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. You are a new man in Christ Jesus, with whom you are united through faith. You possess new life, a new mind, new powers. Now you must also do new works, must walk in new works, in the works of faith, of the new life, the new mind, the new strength which you have received. The Holy Spirit has before ordained that you should walk in them. When according to His purpose and grace in Christ Jesus He created you anew, He thereby endowed you with the ability and will to do good works. He sanctified you in the faith. And now it is His will that you should lead a sanctified life. *"This is the will of God, even your sanctification."* (1 Thessalonians 4:3.) Remember this! But also remember that faith, once kindled within you, is sustained in you only by the constant and powerful operation of the Holy Ghost within you. *"Ye are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."* (1 Peter 1:5.) And so all new things that are given you together with faith, hence also your sanctification, are sustained in you only by the power of the Holy Ghost constantly operating within you. And He does this by the Gospel, not otherwise. As iron can remain hot only by constant union with fire, so you can remain in faith and sanctification only through constant union with the Holy Ghost. And this union with the Holy Ghost and with His divine power by which He creates and sustains true sanctification within you is established solely through the Gospel. Therefore, Christian, abide by the Gospel, or you can not but die spiritually.

PRAYER. – God, Holy Ghost, I thank Thee that through Thy Gospel Thou hast created me anew in Christ Jesus. I thank Thee that Thou hast given me a new mind and new strength. Help me, Lord, to perform new works – those works which Thou hast before ordained that I should walk in them. And grant me grace to continue steadfastly in the Gospel all my life, and let Thy power abide in me, for without it I can do nothing. Let me depart this life in faith and enter eternal life. Amen.

Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay,
When hell's dread powers assail us;
Cleans us from our sins, we pray,
Nor in our last hour fail us,
Keep us from the Evil One:
Firm in the faith abiding,
In Christ our Savior hiding,
And heartily confiding.
Let us put God's armor on:
With all true Christians running
Our heavenly race, and shunning
The Devil's wiles and cunning,
Amen, Amen, this be done,
So sing we Hallelujah!

Hymn 271, 3. (ELHB)

Bible Readings

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 2:1-22

2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

SECOND READING:

Psalm 51:10-15

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.