

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 26, 2022**

**THEME: "Road to Damascus"**

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

**Sunday .....Read Acts 9:1-8**

*"Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus."* The Christian life is not a walk in the park; it is actually engaging in warfare against the most formidable enemy in the world. Our main mission in life is winning souls to get them off the road leading to eternal destruction in hell and on to the road leading to eternal life in heaven. That means being a shining light for God and sharing the gospel message that Jesus is the Savior of the world. We are working with God the Holy Spirit to get it done. Saul was on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians and bring their mission to a halt. He did not realize that he was working against God, but he soon found out! God, the Ruler of Nature, sent a bright light from heaven that blinded Saul. Jesus also talked to Saul asking him why he was intent on the persecution of Christians, which Jesus took personally. After Jesus identified Himself, Saul asked Jesus what He wanted him to do. Jesus advised him to go into the city and he would get his instructions.

**WORLDLY OPPOSITION**

**Monday .....Read John 16:28-33**

*"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* The Christian, who has become a child of God by faith in Jesus as Savior, is also a soldier in the army of Christ. That is the truth of which we read in II Timothy 2:3: *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."* That spiritual war started in the Garden of Eden where Satan attacked Adam and Eve. God intervened for Adam and Eve, and Satan was defeated. The opposition to the work of God now is working against the building of the Church that we read about in Acts. The threat of the forces of hell was foretold by Jesus in Matthew 16:18, so Christians need not get caught off guard. It is expected, but so is the guarantee of victory. However, as is the case of all wars, there are battles. The beauty is that we have God's promise that we will win. That victory is not because of our personal abilities, but because we have placed our faith in Almighty God. Nothing is too hard for God! Jesus was victorious even over death with His glorious resurrection, so He obviously has power over all things!

**SPIRIT-FILLED PEOPLE**

**Tuesday ..... Read Ephesians 4:30-32**

*"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."* The power Christians need in working together with other believers to serve Christ is provided by the Holy Spirit. That was the promise of Jesus in Acts 1:8: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."* Realizing that, we Christians must be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit as warned in today's Bible reading. We are instructed to control our emotions and avoid negative speaking! The indwelling presence of the Spirit not only provides the power to win spiritual battles, but also gives us love, joy, and peace as mentioned in Galatians 5:22: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith."* It is important to be Spirit-filled!

## VICTORY

**Wednesday ..... Read I John 5:1-4**

*"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* Our first birth was a natural birth and gave us physical life to enjoy the physical world. Our second birth was a spiritual birth and regenerated the dead spirit with which we were born. That birth of the Spirit opened up the spiritual world so we could witness the work of God! The new birth opened the door to our having victory over the forces of evil in this dark world under the control of Satan, the enemy of God. Without realizing it, the people who have never been born again by faith in the Lord Jesus are actually the servants of Satan and sin. That is the teaching of Romans 6:16-17: *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."* The minute a person receives Jesus, that person becomes a member of God's family and a soldier in the army of Christ. The believer now has God's power to resist the forces of evil!

## PRIVATE RESIDENCE

**Thursday ..... Read Acts 9:10-11**

*"And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth."* Having been blinded by that great light from heaven, Saul realized he was working against God. He asked Jesus what he should do. Jesus instructed him to go to a private residence in the city of Damascus, and there he would be told what to do. There was a man in the city praying, possibly about the threats of Saul against Christians. This is a very important detail in this threat against the people of God. One of the great promises in the Bible is Jeremiah 33:3, where God tells us this: *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* As God was working in the life of Saul to bring him to a saving knowledge of Jesus, our Lord was also working in the life of Ananias, a believer, as well as in the life of Judas, whose home He planned to use to bring Saul into His family. How wonderful that God sometimes uses believers' homes to do His eternal work of reaching souls.

## CHILDREN OF LIGHT

**Friday ..... Read Matthew 5:14-16**

*"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* In this teaching, Jesus tells us that we are the light of our world. The world is in spiritual darkness, blinded by the devil to the light of Biblical truth, the truth of God. Satan will do all he can to keep people in the dark, from a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. The tragedy is that people, who are eternal beings, are destined to go to the place of eternal darkness. That is hell, the place that had been prepared for the devil. The devil is trying to keep people in darkness as we read in Ephesians 6:12: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* As children of God's light, we should do all we can to bring others out of the darkness into God's marvelous light!

## WORLDWIDE MISSION

**Saturday ..... Read Matthew 28:18-20**

*"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* The final

command of Jesus to His people was to be His witnesses and make disciples of others. That was the announcement of the angel at His birth, it was news for all people. The penalty of sin is eternal death. Jesus paid that penalty with His death, and conquered death with His resurrection. All His followers, and only His followers, will have victory over death. Tell others!