

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 3, 2023
THEME: "Where Art Thou?"

CALL TO ADAM

Sunday Read Genesis 3:1-9

"And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" It would be good for all of us to personalize this question, which God asked Adam. We know that is God's desire from His teaching in II Timothy 3:16-17: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* Because of their catering to physical desire at the expense of their spiritual well-being, Adam and Eve hid from God and the enjoyment of His company. They were embarrassed and realized that they had neglected God's clear instruction. God, however, still wanted to enjoy communion and fellowship with Adam and Eve and sought them out. This shows us that God wants to have a relationship with us despite our shortcomings. Yes, He was disappointed with Adam and Eve, but He did not give up on them. From the events that followed, God showed He would make a way for man to be forgiven and made presentable again to God to have that close relationship. He replaced their fig leaf coverings with coats of skin. That was telling, in that blood had to be shed for forgiveness of sin to have renewed fellowship with God. This is the first revelation of God's plan of redemption to have a restored relationship with sinful humanity: the shedding of blood. That plan was culminated when Jesus came to earth to be the Lamb of God, as John the Baptist announced in John 1:29: *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

Monday Read I Corinthians 6:19-20

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Jesus had mentioned that the Holy Spirit would come to earth to guide believers when He returned to heaven. We read this comment in John 16:13: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables believers to fulfill the assignment given to them by our Lord in 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."* The Holy Spirit is the power source for Christians to be the light for God and witness for Christ where He has placed them. That is the charge Jesus gave to His people in Acts 1:8: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

FRIENDS OF JESUS

Tuesday Read John 15:12-16

"Ye are my friends...have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." Friendships are very helpful and add a rich meaning to our lives. We have all benefitted from our companionship with true friends. Imagine being a friend of the Savior of the world and coming King of kings! That is what Jesus considers those who have made that decision to receive Him personally as Savior! He chooses us. He controlled the circumstances in our lives to enable us to hear the gospel so we could know how to become a true child

of God in a personal relationship. Now we can work for Him by being fruitful and being His witnesses to the unsaved.

CONSTANT COMPANY

WednesdayRead Hebrews 13:1-5

"For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." When an individual receives Jesus as personal Savior, he or she has a friend for life and the assurance of a home in heaven. That is the promise of our Savior. That is what we are told in Romans 6:23: *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* This gives the believer an incentive to live a life that is pleasing to God. To be aware of the presence of Jesus in our daily lives will have an influence on the decisions we make, because we would not want to be doing something with which He did not agree. Having given us the gift of eternal life, it surely should be our desire to do all we can out of a deep appreciation for what He has done. Think of the price He paid for that gift! Never could we repay, but we can give all we have to give Him pleasure.

HARMONY WITH GOD

ThursdayRead 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 ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." In order to have the power of God to be a witness for Christ, believers must work together in harmony with the Holy Spirit. That is the key in our personal relationships with others! Being kind and having a forgiving spirit are essentials! Jesus overcame evil by doing good. According to Romans 12:21, that is God's expectation for His people: *"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."*

The devil promotes animosity; the Holy Spirit promotes amiability. For a believer to live in harmony and unity with the indwelling Holy Spirit is to have a victorious life for God's glory!

HONORING GOD

FridayRead II Timothy 2:19-21

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." In doing His work on earth today, God uses people empowered by the Holy Spirit. That means the people who have been born again by having received Christ as personal Savior. These people now have spiritual life with the Holy Spirit within! All believers are advised in today's Bible reading to be honorable and available to the Holy Spirit to do the work of God. That means to help in the building of the Church. That work is the edification of believers and the evangelization of the lost. That work is detailed in I Corinthians 3:6: *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."* Sharing a Biblical truth is what God calls the planting and watering of seeds. The seeds planted in the minds of others opens the door for the Holy Spirit to do the convincing. By planting the seeds for the Holy Spirit to do His work is called this in I Corinthians 3:9: *"For we are laborers together with God."*

FRIENDS OF CHRIST

Saturday Read John 15:13-17

"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." It is a high privilege and a great honor to be called a servant of

God and a co-laborer with Christ. But Jesus wants His followers to know that while we are laborers together with Him in doing God's work, He considers us His friends! Being co-workers with others brings a lot of special memories and meaningful relationships. When the relationship leads into a friendship, it is far more precious. That means we want to experience the joy of fellowship beyond the business. We want to enjoy each other in ways more than doing the work. Jesus wants to make the most of the relationship on a personal level, spending time together in things in our private lives. He wants to get to know our family members on a personal level, and He wants us to know more and more of His family, the other children of God on a wider level. As friends of Christ, He wants to be involved in our personal lives!