

Dover

Daily

**DEVOTIONALS**

Growing  
Together in  
God's Word!

## Dover Daily Devotions

### Monday: Trust in God's Timing

*"Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself. Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!" - Psalm 80:17-18, ESV*

#### Devotional:

As we celebrate Christmas, Psalm 80:17-18 ESV becomes particularly poignant. It reminds us of the anticipation and hope encapsulated in the Advent season, awaiting the divine intervention symbolized by Christ's birth. This scripture reflects our need for God's guiding hand, especially during a season that commemorates the ultimate gift of love and salvation.

This passage also calls us to reflect on our faith journey in the light of Christmas. It's a time to renew our commitment to God, inspired by the birth of Jesus, who is our strength and savior. The plea for God's presence in our lives gains a deeper meaning as we celebrate the arrival of Emmanuel - God with us.

In the midst of our festive preparations and celebrations, this scripture invites us to embrace the true spirit of Christmas - surrendering to God's plan and timing. It encourages us to find joy and peace in the knowledge of God's incarnation in Christ, trusting that He guides and sustains us, not just during this season but throughout our lives.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. How can we practice patience and trust in God's timing in our daily lives?
2. What are some personal experiences where you felt God's guiding hand during uncertain times?
3. How can the message of Psalm 80:17-18 help us in moments of doubt or fear?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your guidance and the assurance of Your divine timing. Help us to trust in Your plan, especially in moments of uncertainty. May we find strength and patience as we wait on Your perfect timing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Tuesday: The Shepherd's Care

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." - John 10:11-16 ESV:*

## Devotional:

In the context of Christmas, John 10:11-16 resonates deeply as it reflects on Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and His sacrificial love, a theme central to the Christmas story. The birth of Jesus at Christmas marks the beginning of this profound journey of love and sacrifice.

The image of Jesus as the shepherd at Christmas time brings to mind the shepherds who were among the first to witness His birth, symbolizing His role as the one who would lead and care for all. As we celebrate His birth, we're reminded of His mission to guide us through life's complexities and challenges. This passage also reminds us of the inclusivity of Jesus' message. The birth of Christ was a gift to all humanity, echoing the part where Jesus speaks of other sheep not of this fold. The Christmas story is a universal invitation to experience His love and salvation.

During Christmas, as we reflect on Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we're invited to deepen our understanding of His love, care, and guidance. It's a time to renew our commitment to listening to His voice and following His path. Embracing the spirit of Christmas, we find comfort and joy in the knowledge that Jesus, our Shepherd, came to earth for us. His birth is a beacon of hope, guiding us towards love, peace, and eternal life.

## Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Help us to hear Your voice clearly and to follow Your guidance with trust and faith. Protect us and guide us in all our ways. Amen.

# Wednesday: The Gift of Salvation

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." - Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV*

## Devotional:

Isaiah 9:6-7, written centuries before the birth of Jesus, is a profound prophecy that vividly anticipates the coming Messiah. This passage not only predicts His birth but also describes His divine nature and the expansive scope of His reign. The child who is born, the son who is given, symbolizes the incarnation of God Himself, bridging the gap between humanity and divinity.

The various titles attributed to Jesus encapsulate the multifaceted nature of His character and mission. "Wonderful Counselor" reflects His wisdom and guidance, offering us a path to truth and understanding. "Mighty God" underscores His divine power and authority, assuring us of His ability to accomplish His sovereign will. "Everlasting Father" conveys a sense of eternal care and paternal love, emphasizing His enduring presence and unchanging nature. "Prince of Peace" heralds the harmony and reconciliation He brings, not just between individuals but between humanity and God.

This scripture is a call to reflect deeply on the nature of Jesus and the implications of His birth. The prophecy speaks to the heart of the Christian faith, underscoring the belief in Jesus as God incarnate, born to bring salvation to the world. It's an invitation to explore the depths of His character and to embrace the transformative power of His presence in our lives. In recognizing Jesus as both fully divine and fully human, we find the central mystery of the Christian faith, one that offers hope, peace, and redemption.

In celebrating the birth of Jesus, we are celebrating the fulfillment of this prophecy and the manifestation of God's love for humanity. As we meditate on these verses, let us open our hearts to the profound truth they convey and allow them to shape our understanding of Jesus and our relationship with Him.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What do the titles of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6-7 mean for you personally?
3. How can we share the message of Jesus' birth and salvation with others now and in the coming year?

## Prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Help us to understand more deeply the significance of His birth and the salvation He brings. May our hearts be filled with gratitude and joy for this incredible gift. Amen.

## Thursday: Joy in Christ

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:4-7, ESV*

## Devotional:

This season reminds us of the ultimate joy found in Christ, born as our Savior. As we celebrate His birth, we're called to rejoice in the Lord, reflecting the profound joy that Jesus' coming into the world brings.

The Christmas story is a testament to God's providential care, reassuring us in moments of anxiety. As we reflect on Mary and Joseph's journey, their trust in God amidst uncertainty, we're encouraged to bring our concerns to God in prayer. This act mirrors the peace and hope that the birth of Christ brought to the world.

This festive season, let's cultivate a spirit of joy and gratitude, inspired by the birth of Jesus. Christmas is a powerful reminder of God's love and faithfulness. Through prayer and thanksgiving, we connect with the essence of Christmas - the peace of Christ that guards our hearts, much like the peace that descended on the night of Jesus' birth.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What practical steps can you take to rejoice in the Lord always?
2. How does prayer help in reducing anxiety and increasing our trust in God?
3. In what ways has the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, been evident in your life?

## Prayer:

Lord, teach us to find joy in You at all times. Help us to bring our worries to You in prayer and to trust in Your care. May Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

# Friday: Hope in Christ's Return

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." - Titus 2:11-14 ESV

## Devotional:

Titus 2:11-14 not only speaks to the grace of God in a general sense but resonates profoundly during the Christmas season. As we celebrate Christ's birth, we are reminded of the incredible gift of grace that arrived in the humble form of a baby in a manger. This grace brings salvation to all, embodying the true spirit of Christmas.

The passage connects the birth of Jesus with His eventual return, encompassing the entire Christian narrative within the Christmas story. It highlights how the birth of Christ was the beginning of a journey towards redemption and purification, a journey that continues in our lives today. The qualities of self-control, uprightness, and godliness mentioned in the passage are not just virtues to aspire to; they are responses to the transformative impact of Christ's birth and life.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's embrace it as a time to reflect on how Christ's coming to Earth has changed us and the world. It's a season to recommit ourselves to living in a way that honors the gift of salvation, eagerly doing good works and spreading love, just as Christ did. Christmas is not just a remembrance of a historical event; it's a celebration of ongoing grace that influences every aspect of our lives.

This Christmas, as we engage in traditions, exchange gifts, and enjoy fellowship, let us also remember the deeper meaning of this season. The birth of Jesus marked the beginning of a new hope and a new way of life for humanity. Let's carry this message of hope, love, and transformation into our daily lives, living as a testament to the grace we've received.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does the hope of Christ's return influence your daily life and decisions?
2. In what ways can you demonstrate godliness, righteousness, and self-control in your life?
3. How can you actively engage in good works as a reflection of the grace you have received?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the hope we have in Christ's return. Help us to live lives that reflect Your grace and love. Guide us to be zealous for good works as we await the blessed hope of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Saturday: Faith and Perseverance

*"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." - James 1:2-4 ESV*

## Devotional:

James 1:2-4 reminds us to find joy in challenges, seeing them as opportunities to strengthen our faith. This Christmas, as we celebrate Christ's birth, let's reflect on how His coming into the world was a response to humanity's trials and the ultimate test of faith.

The Christmas story itself is filled with trials and perseverance: Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, the search for a place to stay, and the humble birth of Jesus in a manger. These challenges were part of God's plan to bring salvation to the world. In the same way, our trials can be transformative, helping us to grow in faith and character, as we follow Christ's example of steadfastness.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's embrace its true spirit by acknowledging our own trials and relying on God's strength to overcome them. This season, let the story of Jesus' birth inspire us to persevere in faith, embracing trials with joy, and trusting that God is molding us into His image, just as He did through the events surrounding the first Christmas.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How can you find joy in trials, knowing they are developing perseverance in you?
2. What are some specific ways you have seen your faith grow through challenges?
3. How can we support each other in the church as we face various trials?

## Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to face trials with joy and faith, knowing that they are developing perseverance in us. Strengthen our faith and help us grow in spiritual maturity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

