



Taking Faith Home January 14, 2018

My Dear Fellow Christians, The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10:17: ***Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*** If you have a sincere desire to grow in your faith and be strong in your faith then this promise of God is for you. When you read the Bible passages assigned below, be assured that God Himself is speaking to you. When you take to heart what God is saying to you, be further assured that the faith given to you in your Baptism is being nourished and strengthened. And so when you take this devotion outline and put it into practice, be assured that you are really:

TAKING FAITH HOME!

May God richly bless you! *Pastor Dan Decker*

The following is offered as a daily discipline for your reading, study, prayer, and praise.

I. Begin with: *In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

II. Baptism, Part 1 *What is Baptism?--Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word. Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in Matthew 28:19: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

III. PSALM OF THE WEEK: Psalm 62

IV. PRAYER OF THE WEEK: Heavenly Father, what a wonderful gift You have given to me through Baptism. Before I could ever think of asking You to adopt me, you already did in my Baptism. Before I could begin to be Your good person, You took me in through Baptism. Before I even knew my own name, You knew it and called me Your own. I cannot thank You enough, Heavenly Father, for wanting me as Your own, Thank You through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

V. DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sunday-Jonah 3:1-5

Monday-Jonah 3:6-10

Tuesday-1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Wednesday-Mark 1:1-3

Thursday-Mark 1:4-8

Friday-Mark 1:9-13

Saturday-Mark 1:14-20

VI. DAILY PRAYERS (Please try to focus your prayers on the theme of each day):

Sunday: Pray for St. Paul's members to experience the joy of Jesus' resurrection and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.

Monday: Pray in thanksgiving for your Baptism, for your coworkers and the unemployed.

Tuesday: Pray that God's Word would guide your daily decisions, for those who have fallen away from the Church, and for all unbelievers.

Wednesday: Pray for those who serve in our government, for your family and friends, and for those who are in adult and junior confirmation classes.

Thursday: Pray in thanksgiving for the privilege of receiving the Lord's Supper.

Friday: Pray for all Christians who are experiencing persecution because of the Faith and for all who experience mental and physical pain.

Saturday: Pray that the Holy Spirit would draw His people to His House.

VII. SPECIAL PETITIONS FOR THIS WEEK: Pray for God's blessings on our Associate Pastor Call Committee.

Our members, who are ill: Dorothy Johnson; Donna Louison; Frank Splinter; Payden Belk; Presley Belk

Friends/Family of our members, who are ill: *These names will remain on the list for three months.* Please remember all who are ill, especially:

JANUARY --- Pastor Paul Garchow, Erric Moen (*friend of Paul & Vicki Fetting*)

Military and families: (Capital Letters = Active Military): ZACH BOUTELLE; Dan Caldwell; RYAN CLAUER; MASON CRAWLEY (*son-in-law of Cynthia LeStarge*); MAKENZIE DE WAR; SETH HAFFERY; Kyle Hendrikson; Emily (Oscarson) Keator; Stephen Lenaas; CHAZ and KALON MAGNUSON (*sons of Cynthia LeStarge*); TYLER MOREHEAD; JONATHAN PALSMA (*son of Cynthia LeStarge*); Kathy Seifarth, AMBER SORNSON; KEITH SPOON. *Please note that some military members cannot be listed for security reasons.*

Missionaries: Shauen & Krista Trump serving in Africa; Kip & Ivy Hoech serving in Kyrgyzstan; Pastor John Reinke serving the Deaf; James & Christel Neuendorf and Jamielynn Tinkey serving in the Dominican Republic. *Please note that some missionaries cannot be listed for security reasons.*