



Taking Faith Home

May 6, 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. Confess the Eighth Commandment: *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean?* - We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

III. PSALM OF THE WEEK: : Psalm 98

IV. PRAYER OF THE WEEK: Lord God, in these private words to You, I raise up my weakness before You regarding lies and gossip. Make me more careful when talking about my friends and neighbors. Good reputations are so precious, and so fragile, Lord, that I ask You to help me keep a good one for myself, and help my neighbor do the same. Reputations are so very hard to restore when damaged. Keep me from stealing my neighbor's good name. Give me the courage to defend others when I see them under attack. Help me do this in response to Your love for me, and out of a growing love for my neighbor. In and through Jesus I pray. Amen.

V. DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sunday-Act 10:1-8

Monday-Acts 10:9-23

Tuesday-Acts 10:24-33

Wednesday-Acts 10:34-48

Thursday-I John 4:1-11

Friday-John 15:1-8

Saturday-John 15:9-17

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 God's blessings on our associate pastor call committee: Jeff Elser (chair), Tom Moore (co-chair), Gregg Davis, Laura Manke, Mr. Lunak, John Mueller, and Pastor Decker.

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

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:

MARCH --- Nancy Wagner Zimborski (*alumna of St. Paul's School*)

APRIL --- Pastor Paul Garchow; Erric Moen (*friend of Paul & Vicki Fetting*)

MAY --- Deb Husen (*mother of Jason Steinke*); Clayton Ames (*friend of Norm & Jean Winchell/John & Doreen Bergman*)

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 (Sands) McKillips, 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.*