

Daily Reflection on Scripture
Week of August 26
Back to School Blessing



Sunday August 26

Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...

Morning Prayer: God, even with all the challenges of the day before me I am choosing to begin the day by focusing on the grace, the love, the acceptance that You have for me. In this moment I take a breath and go inward to connect to that deep love that You have for me. May I be centered in that love and trust that it will empower me to be more loving to those I am with today. Today's scripture inspires me to lead by loving others. It reminds me of the importance of being with a community of people who love me and whom I love dearly. May my steps today lead me in that direction. My first step is to say thank you for loving me with a love that can hold me all day long. May it be so.

Noontime Text: Smile. Think about God's love for you. Keep smiling. Think of those who need your love. Your love can make them smile as well. Keep smiling, for it is beautiful.

Evening Prayer: God, as I prepare to rest this night, I pause and consider how I have shared Your love and how others shared love with me. It makes me smile. Good night, God.

Monday August 27

Romans 12:4-5 We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other.

Morning Prayer: Good Morning, God! I marvel this morning as I think about my body and all of the various "parts" that make it whole. My body is unique and distinct, and there's no one else exactly like me. Yet the heart of Christ that is within me is within everyone, as we are all made in Your image and likeness. You are the unifying presence that connects us all. As different as we may be based on outward appearances and expressions, we are Your body reflecting and revealing the light of Christ in the world, belonging to each other because we belong to You. May it be so.

Noon Text: Pause. Breathe. Your heart has already pulsed over 50,000 times today. Each pulse is a reminder that you are a vital part of the body of Christ in the world.

Evening Text: God, my body has moved me throughout the day and I have been moved as part of the body of Christ with Your Love as my strength and my core. I rest in gratitude.

Tuesday August 28

Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging.

Morning Prayer: There are times God, when I struggle to recognize that special gift that I received through Your grace. There are other times when I look at someone else and wish that I had that same gift. Today let me both recognize and embrace the gift that You gave me. Help me to devote myself to living into who I am and utilizing the gifts that I have been blessed with to bless others. May it be so.

Noon Text: Pause; take a breath. Consider - how am I using the wonderful gift that I received through the grace of God? How can I devote myself to sharing that gift?

Evening Text: God, I come to rest tonight grateful for the gift of the day and grateful for the opportunity to now rest and reflect, and prepare for tomorrow.

Wednesday August 29

1 Corinthians 12:13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

Morning Prayer: God, as I face this day I am reminded that as members of the human family, we are all one. This scripture reminds me of that, and I want to live each day remembering this important reality and being careful to see all others in this inclusive way. We are one body and one spirit. May I project that reality to everyone I encounter today. Our help, I know I can live more fully into this reality. May it be so.

Noon text: When frustration causes me to see others as different, or less than; gently remind me that we are all one. May I treat everyone as I would want to be treated.

Evening Text: As I relax into evening rest, I am grateful for every human encounter today. I am in awe of the rich diversity of the human family, each unique and precious.

Thursday August 30

Romans 1:12 We can be encouraged by the faithfulness we find in each other, both your faithfulness and mine.

Morning Prayer: God, I know that my faith could be stronger. When I experience difficulties, I sometimes question my belief in You. In those times, I will not only seek Your guidance but also will turn to my brothers and sisters in Christ to strengthen my faith. May it be so.

Noon Text: God, when doubts about my faith enter my mind, I will turn to my brothers and sisters in Christ to gain strength from their faithfulness.

Evening Text: God, I cannot do this on my own. Teach me the healing power of community and the strength comes with being with others.

Friday August 31

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work. If either should fall, one can pick up the other.

Morning Prayer: Good morning, God. As I prepare for this day, I am reminded that greater things can be achieved in community. Sometimes it's difficult to be open with others and join together, but when two or more are working together, we can have a greater impact. So, today, I pray that faith outweighs fear so I can engage with others to work towards a greater goal together. Being together in Your love and grace makes us stronger. May it be so!

Noon Text: I am not alone. I am rooted in the unconditional love of God, and am surrounded by a faith community that will lift me up if I should fall.

Evening Text: God, I am thankful for the people You have placed in my life to love me, help me, guide me, and hold me. I rest tonight knowing I am not alone.

Saturday September 1

I Corinthians 12:27 You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

Morning Prayer: God, what a gift it is to awaken to the reality that I belong to something bigger and greater than the news of the day. I know I can't hide from reality. But I can choose how I deal with reality. Today's scripture inspires me to take my place in the world. What is my place? It is to be compassionate, to forgive, to serve and to live in the light of Your wisdom. Help me to do just that. Whether I do it in small or big ways, the size doesn't matter. What matters is that I choose to take my place and make a difference in the lives of those I am with today. How do I make difference? By choosing to live in the light of Your love that can overcome the darkness of daily news. May it be so.

Noon Text: Remember who you are. You are a part of God's love in the world. You are loved and you are love with skin on. Celebrate who you are! You are Christ's body.

Evening Text: God, thank you for the gift of this night to slow down, reflect on my day, and find rest for my body, mind and soul. I find rest in Your unconditional love.