

Lent Devotional

Caldwell Temple AME Zion Church and
Friends

Copyright © 2021 Caldwell Temple

All rights reserved.

ISBN:

ISBN-13:

DEDICATION

We dedicate this devotional to all of the families who have lost loved-ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic. May God encourage and strength you through this devotional.

WEEK 1

FEBRUARY 17 - 23



SUNDAY WILL ALWAYS BE OMITTED

DAY 1

“The Lord will accomplish which concerns me.”

— Psalms 138:8 NASB

Remember

Sis. Lisa Garland

Have you ever had a friend that asked you for something and promised that he or she would deliver something for you in exchange for something they want in return? The deal would be sealed with a pinky promise gesture and that made the agreement official. The person who made the promise knew that they **MUST** deliver, or it would be the last time they could come to you ever, because future bets would be off. Have you every been promised something in a relationship that you did not received? The hurt, disappointment, the feeling of emptiness that you experience from a broken promise is sometimes traumatic and leaves a scar on your outlook of future relationships with people.

Throughout the Bible, God made promises to His people and delivered on them all. David tells us in Psalms that the Lord will accomplish which concerns you. Notice the Psalmist wrote the word “will” not shall or might. He writes with a confidence that only comes from an experience with God. I can write with confidence that we have all been faced with a situation or circumstance where we had to call on God and ask Him to deliver on His promise. Even when you have found yourself saying, “God please help me”, **HE HAS DELIVERED!**

CALDWELL TEMPLE

I challenge you today to remember God's promises and there are many. His promise to never leave or forsake us (*Deuteronomy 31:6*). Promise to provide (*2 Corinthians 9:8*) Promise to answer prayers (*Psalms 102:17*). He promised to send us a Savior and He delivered on His promise with Jesus. There is nothing too hard for God. The journey may be tough, the storm roars loudly at times, but you must remember the promises of God. He's never failed you yet and He never will, REMEMBER!!!!

"Father God, although we go through many dark moments and trying times, help us to remember what it is that you promised us. You are not a man that you should lie. We will always believe that you will come through because you are faithful to your Word, in Jesus' Name, Amen!"

DAY 2

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

— James 1:24-25 KJV

He Didn't Let Us Fall

Bro. Raymond Govan

During the past year, many of us and millions throughout the world have been caught in disaster, tragedy after tragedy. Sickness, death, the loss of employment, funds are running dry and COVID-19 has been on the rise. But despite these unfortunate events in 2020 and even 2021, many of us can testify to the fact that in the midst of the pain and the fires God did not let you fall. You may have been sick, but He didn't let you fall. You may even have been grieving the loss of a loved one or a relationship but He didn't let you fall. You may have even been depressed and contemplated suicide but He didn't let you fall.

The New International Version says that God will keep you from stumbling. We serve a God that not only won't let you fall out, but He will even prevent you from stumbling, from tripping. Falling in sickness, falling in death, falling even in sin. When you are at your worst, even when family or friends standby and watch you fall, God will catch you and protect you from falling.

Another verse that talks about a God who protects His children from falling is **Deuteronomy 33:27** which says "*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee.*" Once again we can be assured that when we are falling we have a God who will allow us to lean on his everlasting arms. The late Rev. Dr.

Charles Booth calls him the God of the Bottom. When we fall He won't let us hit rock bottom because underneath are his everlasting arms.

“God we thank you. Thank you for simply being God. God we recognize that there will be times that we will get weary, we will lose strength. But we thank you for your word that says in Isaiah 40:31 “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew they're strength.” Thank you for you everlasting arms, thank you for catching us when we faint. At the end of the day we will be able to tell everybody that my God did not let me fall. In Jesus name Amen.”

DAY 3

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.”
— Ephesians 4:26-27 KJV

It’s Ok to Be Angry

Sis. Lakisha Hickson

God sometimes allows us to feel anger so we will recognize when we are being mistreated. But even when we experience true injustices in our lives, we must not vent our anger in an improper or ungodly way. We must stand firm against allowing anger to drag us into sin. Ephesians 4:26 tells us, “When angry, do not sin”, Your anger isn't necessarily sinful, but make sure you give it to God to prevent it from producing a sinful reaction.

How can we prevent our anger from producing a sinful reaction?

- 1) Don’t stay angry

This same passage of scripture tells us to don’t let the sun go down on your wrath. In other words, day stay angry all day. Is is not a sin to get angry. However, you will sin if you remain angry.

- 2) Remove constant provocateurs of anger

Matthew 5:29-30 reads ²⁹ *And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

³⁰ *And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

This would also apply to anger. Anything that keeps you angry to the extent that you sin, you must remove it or them. God wants us to cut off the things that keep us angry to the point of provoking us to sin.

3) Accept that you are not in control

If you realize and accept that you are not in control, this will help you from sinful anger. When you think you are in control, that is when you lose control by way of rage, bitterness and sin.

“God, help us to deal with anger in the ways YOU intended, without sinning. We give YOU control over our anger and trust YOU to work all things out for our good. Amen!”

DAY 4

And be ye kind one to another tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as god for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

— Ephesians 4:32 KJV

Moving Past The Pain to Forgive

Sis. Odessa Hickman

Forgiveness is mentioned numerous times throughout the Bible. Scriptures tell us on many different occasions to **Forgive one another.**

- 1) And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you.
- 2) Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
- 3) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- 4) Judge not and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive and ye shall be forgiven.
- 5) Be ye angry and, sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

We disobey God's WORD and step out of His will, but yet He forgives us 70 times 70, which means over and over again and commands us to do the same.

However, the pain, the hurt and the evidence of the situation that hurt us isn't going away. So now since we've held on to the hurt and the unforgiveness, our heart has become hard as stone. But, that voice inside says "*seek my face*". "*I love you.*" "*You belong to me.*" "*I've forgiven you time and time again over and over.*"

But best of all for the very same ones who hung Him on a cross, put a crown of thorns in His head, pierced Him in his side, put nails in His

feet and hands while blood was streaming down, He said *“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”*

Since Jesus forgave us, who are we not to forgive one another?

“Father we thank you for forgiving us our many sins. Heal us from the hurts of others. Help us to think soberly so that we can do unto others in the way that you have done unto us. That way is apt be way of forgiveness. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”

Scriptures references Ephesians 4:26, Matt [6:14-15](#), Mark11:25, 2 Chronicles 7:14

sometimes allows us to feel anger so we will recognize when we are being mistreated. But even when we experience true injustices in our lives, we must not vent our anger in an improper or ungodly way. We must stand firm against allowing anger to drag us into sin.

Ephesians 4:26 tells us, “When angry, do not sin”, Your anger isn't necessarily sinful, but make sure you give it to God to prevent it from producing a sinful reaction.

How can we prevent our anger from producing a sinful reaction?

- 1) Don't stay angry

This same passage of scripture tells us to don't let the sun go down on your wrath. In other words, day stay angry all day. Is is not a sin to get angry. However, you will sin if you remain angry.

- 2) Remove constant provocateurs of anger

Matthew 5:29-30 reads ²⁹ *And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

DAY 5

Faith

Sis. Barbara Bailey-Castro

Faith is not just believing in God -faith is also having confidence in His Word. God saves us by grace through faith and brings us into a personal relationship with Christ; but He also calls us to live a Christlike life through faith in His Word. God calls us to live by faith, believing that He will fulfill His promises.

I have faith. I pray faith. I choose faith. I am faith.

Keeping the faith means trusting God to faithfully keep you.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." - Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

"So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." - Romans 10:17 NKJV

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." - Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV

“Be encouraged. Go with the Lord.”

“If you hold out, God will show out.”

“Lord, I trust you even when I don’t understand.”

“Keep the faith. The faith will keep you. We are survivors.”

- From Pastor Edwrin Sutton’s Teachings

"We've Come This Far By Faith"

We've come this far by faith
Leaning on the Lord
Trusting in His Holy word
He never failed me yet
Oh' Can't Turn Around
We've come this far by faith.

Just the other day, I heard a man say
He did not believe in God's word
But I can truly say, the Lord has made a way
He's never failed me yet.

Oh' Can't Turn Around
We've come this far by faith.

DAY 6

“I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

— Psalms 40:1 KJV

Patience

Bro. Theodore Gleaves

Not long ago I took on a task that I thought I could handle. My niece asked me to discipline her son. He was not doing any school work since November and was on some strange websites. He was out of control. I didn't know that I would be dealing with such a defiant mindset against people of authority. Telling me what he was not going to do. Ignoring me. Humming and singing when I would talk to him. Stare me down, telling me he is not afraid of me. He is 13 yrs old.

I prayed for patience! My flesh wanted to do some very harsh things to this kid. The LORD heard my cry. He strengthen me each day to keep being patient through this troubling time. God gave me the patience to not give up and to try to keep teaching him to do right. Jesus did the same thing with us. He was patient with our behavior towards him. With all of our sin, shortcomings and disobedience, if Christ can be patient with us, surely we can be patient with others. The testimony is, my nephew is just about caught up with all of his work and I God gave me the patience to see him through.

“Dear Lord, help us to be patient. There are some moments and some people that truly work our nerves. However, if we are to be like Christ, we are to be patient. Empower us with patience in Jesus' Name, Amen!”

