

PASTOR'S BLOG MAY 1, 2020 Pause and Pray

FIRST DAY MORNING *Baillie, John. A Diary of Private Prayer*

MORNING GLORY to you, O Lord my King! In love and awe I greet you at the beginning of another day! I give you all my praise and love and loyalty, O Lord most high!

Help me, O Lord God, not to let my thoughts today be wholly occupied by the world's passing show.

In your loving kindness you have given me the power to lift my mind to contemplate the unseen and eternal; help me not to remain content only with what I see and feel, here and now.

Instead grant that each day may do something to strengthen my grasp of the unseen world and my sense of the reality of that world.

And so, as the end of my earthly life draws ever nearer, bind my heart to the holy interests of that unseen world, so that I may not grow to be a part of these fleeting earthly surroundings, but instead grow more and more ready for the life of the world to come.

O Lord, you see and know all things. Give me grace, I pray, to know you so well and to see you so clearly that in knowing you I may know myself as completely as you know me; and in seeing you I may see myself as I really am before you.

Give me today a clear vision of my life in time as it appears in your eternity. Show me my own smallness and your infinite greatness. Show me my own sin and your perfect righteousness.

Show me my own lack of love and your exceeding love.

Yet in your mercy show me also how, small as I am, I can take refuge in your greatness;

how, sinful as I am, I may lean upon your righteousness;

and how, loveless as I am, I may hide myself in your forgiving love.

Help me today to keep my thoughts centered on the life and death of Jesus Christ my Lord, so that I may see all things in the light of the redemption which you have granted to me in his name. Amen.

FIRST DAY EVENING

EVENING O LORD, you are the Lord of the night as you are of the day, and all the stars are obedient to your will.

In this hour of darkness, I too submit my will to yours. O God, set me free— from the stirrings of self will within my heart;

from cowardly avoidance of the things I need to do;

from rebellious reluctance to face necessary suffering;

from discontentment with my place in life;
from jealousy of those whose place in life is easier;
from being dissatisfied with my talents yet hungry for more;
from the pride which sets human knowledge above your wisdom;
from undisciplined thought;
from being unwilling to learn and disinclined to serve.

O God my Father, you are often closest to me when I am farthest from you, and you are near at hand even when I feel that you have abandoned me; mercifully grant that the defeat of my self-centeredness may be the triumph in me of your eternal purpose.

May I grow more sure of your reality and power; May I reach a clearer picture of the meaning of my life on Earth; May I strengthen my hold on eternal life; May I look increasingly to what lies beyond my vision;

May my desires become less unruly and my thoughts more pure;

May my love for other people grow deeper and more tender, and may I be more willing to take their burdens upon myself.

To your care, O God, I commend my soul and the souls of all whom I love and who love me; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.