

Beginning Time Alone with God (Youth)

Sunday, Dec 22, 2024

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

Philippians 2:1-2

Paul knows there is comfort from Christ's love and believes that the Philippians, despite their own struggles, do too. Thus, he follows his four ifs with an imperative; he exhorts his readers to make his joy complete.

It is not the fulfillment of Paul's personal joy that is chiefly in view, though. Rather, it is the means of fulfillment. Paul's joy will be fulfilled by unity: unity of mind and spirit, unity of love. I think Paul's vision of unity left room for diverse opinions and personalities. Christian unity does not mean that we all need to look and act in a certain way. Paul tells his readers to "think the same thing" (like-minded) by "thinking the one thing" (of one mind), to preclude selfishness and ensure that it is Jesus who unites believers. If we read a bit farther, we find that the fountainhead of Christian unity is the humility of Christ; in particular, the humility that led Him to the incarnation and ultimately to the cross.

Recently, the world has confronted a common enemy, but it seems that disunity is the result. Perhaps that is all we can expect from the world. But we who follow the lead of Christ should be different. We live in uncertain times, yes; so did the Philippians. The remedy now, as it was then, is to focus on Christ and building His kingdom. If we have a common love, if we think the tender and compassionate thoughts that caused the Son of God to take on the role of a servant, we begin to approach unity.

As an Advent prayer, even as a Christmas gift from our heavenly Father, let us ask to think the thoughts of Jesus. The last few years might have left us isolated and self-centered, so let us respond with humility and serve others. Uncertain times are the perfect times for the Church to shine brightly. Let us be the light of the world that the Bible tells us we are. In this Christmas season, we can be both comforted and, joyous because very little about our task as Christians is about us.

Elodie Emig. "Comfort Through Unity" December 18, Comfort and Joy, Denver Seminary Advent 2022.

MONDAY

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people's needs and lives.

- Focus – on those who need **salvation**.
- **Petition – Talk with God about your** life and needs.
Your Purity before God.

Worship – and give thanks to God for everything (be specific).

Bible Adventure –

- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:15-20**
- Meditate on this passage in the Bible.

Write – Journal what God taught you today.

Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.

TUESDAY

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people’s needs and lives.
- Focus – on the need to grow and become like Jesus.
- Petition – Talk with God about your life and needs.
The Presence of God in your life.

Worship – and give thanks to God for everything (be specific).

Bible Adventure –

- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:21-24**
- Meditate on this passage in the Bible.

Write – Journal what God taught you today.

Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.

WEDNESDAY – Christmas Day

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people’s needs and lives.
- Focus – on those who need healing.
- Petition – Talk with God about your life and needs.
The Passion of God in your life.

Worship – and give thanks to God for everything (be specific).

Bible Adventure

- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:1-7**
- Meditate on this passage in the Bible.

Write – Journal what God taught you today.

Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.

THURSDAY

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people’s needs and lives.

- Focus – on the missionaries all over the world – Monica Padilla Trueman, Colorado Christian Services
 - Petition – Talk with God about your life and needs.
The Power of God in your life.
- Worship – and give thanks to God for everything (be specific).
Bible Adventure
- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:25-350**
 - Meditate on this passage in the Bible.
- Write – Journal what God taught you today.
Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.

FRIDAY

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people’s needs and lives.
- Focus – on giving thanks for Creation.
- Petition – Talk with God about your life and needs.
God’s Freedom in your life.

Worship – and give thanks to God for everything (be specific).

Bible Adventure

- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:36-40**
- Meditate on this passage in the Bible.

Write – Journal what God taught you today.

Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.

SATURDAY

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people’s needs and lives.
- Focus – on life all around you.
- Petition – Talk with God about your life and needs.
God’s Hope in your life.

Worship – and give thanks to God for everything (be specific).

Bible Adventure –

- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:1-20**
- Meditate on this passage in the Bible.

Write – Journal what God taught you today.

Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.

SUNDAY

Quiet – yourself before God (2-4 minutes).

Prayer –

- Confession – Confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and take away all sin from you.
- Intercession – Pray for other people’s needs and lives.

- Focus – Talk with God about church and worship today at WLCF.
- Petition – Ask God to help you worship Him today.

Bible Adventure –

- Read and think and imagine – **Luke 2:21-40**
- Meditate on this passage in the Bible.

Write – Journal what God taught you today.

Close – with prayer. Go with God into your day today.