

## DAILY READINGS

Sunday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Monday	1 Timothy 1:1-20; Psalm 144:1-6; Proverbs 30:23-25
Tuesday	1 Timothy 2:1-15; Psalm 144:7-15; Proverbs 30:26-29
Wednesday	1 Timothy 3:1-16; Psalm 145:1-5; Proverbs 30:30-33
Thursday	1 Timothy 4:1-16; Psalm 145:6-13; Proverbs 31:1-3
Friday	1 Timothy 5:1-6:2; Psalm 145:14-21; Proverbs 31:4-6
Saturday	1 Timothy 6:3-21; Psalm 146; Proverbs 31:7-9

## DEVOTIONAL: READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

As Paul wrote the Thessalonians about their future hope after death, he also described the future hope of Jesus' return. He says that they should not worry about when Jesus will come back, but to be ready for Christ's return at any moment, day or night. They should live with that future hope in mind while living in the present, faithfully loving others until He returns.

If we are to be ready at any moment, how do we live those moments? We live them believing that God's Word is true. We live by faith—faith that Jesus will return to rule on this earth and we will live with Him in eternity. Believers in Jesus Christ can hope in the glorious future promised with Him in heaven. But what about now? What about our time here on earth?

We are called to live a life of faithfulness. To be faithful means to be loyal, constant,

and steadfast. It means to be consistent and reliable in your character and beliefs. We know that we are sinners who have made mistakes and turned away from God. We know that God is faithful and has promised us that if we believe Jesus died to forgive us of our sins, He will give us eternal life. We know that if we trust in Him, we have been adopted into His family and can live as children of God, empowered by Holy Spirit.

God has loved and been faithful to us, so we can lovingly live faithful to Him. We accomplish this by obeying His Word because it's true. We pray and spend time with Him. We love others. He has given us a new identity and we can live faithfully in that identity. We have a hope for the future and a mission for the present!

## REFLECTION

What would you say it looks like for a person to live with great faith today? How do you see this in your life? How could you see it in your life? Be specific.

Would you consider yourself a person of faith in God? Why or why not? Ask someone close to you if they see your faith and process together.

Who do you know that has great faith? Take time to encourage them and ask them about that faith.

## DISCUSSION

What single thing would you like to make absolutely certain you do (if at all possible) during your lifetime?

## PRAYER

Jesus, I wait expectantly for Your return as promised in Your Word! You have conquered every enemy opposed to Your rightful reign. Death is no longer master of anyone who hopes in You. But darkness is all around me and there are many searching for some sense of light—for hope and peace.

By Your grace, You bring light into the world. Help me to see You clearly and to see every circumstance in light of Your grace. Keep me awake and clear-thinking. Don't let me be fooled by the voices that offer me cheap counterfeits of Your light. The day is coming when Your kingdom will restore all that was broken by the curse of sin. Please forgive me when I lose sight of that. Keep me watchful for Your return and my heart heavy for those who don't know You as Lord and Friend. Please show me one person this week who I can talk to about the grace I've found in You. I have no greater treasure to offer them.

As Champion over death, Your name has greater worth than any other. May I proclaim it boldly. You stand alone as Lord, and yet You invite me in close. May I treasure Your desire to draw near to me. May my life faithfully and irresistibly express to others the light I've found in You. Amen.