

Daily Advent prayers – Week Two

Day 8 (9 Dec)

“Your word is a lamp for my feet.”

Psalm 119:105a

Reflect

Have you ever had a power-cut in your house? Have you been scrambling around hunting for a torch? Moving so slowly, banging into stuff and losing all sense of space. Without light everything has a tinge of confusion and fear about it. God has given His word to us so that we can see what is around us. We are not going to fall flat on our faces or be frightened to move because we have a lamp that is for our feet. Is God saying something specific from His word into your life? Are you acting upon it? How seriously are you taking that word?

Prayer

Lord, I thank you that you don't leave me in confusion. I don't need to be paralysed with fear, unable to move my feet forward. Thank you that you have given your word as a lamp to my feet so that I can see what is around me. Help me to pay attention to the light. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 9 (10 Dec)

“A light on my path.”

Psalm 119:105b

Reflect

It was almost dark. I was staying in a lodge in part of a hotel complex. I was running late and knew people were waiting for me. I ran out of the hotel heading for the lodge and didn't see a large black wooden flower pot in the middle of the path. I ran right into it and did a fairly amazing somersault right over, landing with no dignity. The pain on my shins and ankle was bad. Fortunately, there was nobody about to see this piece of impromptu entertainment. I got up quickly and moved on. God's word is a light to our paths. There are no unseen dangers, no pot holes or flower pots to fall over. I can step out with a confident stride because God lights my way.

When I use His word and store it in my life, no danger is hidden.

Prayer

Lord God, give me confidence to move forward. Let me stride into the future you have for me with boldness. Let your word direct my steps, God, so that I am aware of every danger and navigate around it. And Lord, if ever I fall I thank you that you are there to pick me up.

Day 10 (11 Dec)

“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the lamb is its lamp.”

Revelation 21:23

Reflect

Darkness is often a picture of sin, fear and confusion. A lack of light is a lack of life and joy. In this text we get a vision of the new Jerusalem, a place where there will be no tears, mourning, pain or sorrow. It is lit up by the glory of God as people, unrestricted, worship the lamb. It is the time free from fear and hopelessness. It is the full light of God's character and it is our destiny. No matter what we have gone through. No matter the depths of sorrow or heights of joy. There is nothing to compare with being bathed in unrestricted light, to see Jesus as he truly is.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, be my everything. In trial and success, in tears, in laughter, be my everything, and remind me always of the joy that is mine through your amazing sacrificial love. Amen.

Day 11 (12 Dec)

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Matthew 5:14

Reflect

It is amazing that Jesus calls himself the light of the world but also calls us lights in the world. Can you imagine a large fire on bonfire

night, glowing in your back garden. Red and orange with sparks crackling. Then taking a dry stick and putting the end into the heat, so it soon starts glowing – a torch from the fire. We are light because we are close to the light. It is the light that makes us lights. Brightness depends on proximity. The closer we are to the light, the greater our capacity to shine. How bright a light are you?

Prayer

Draw me closer to you God. Help me to reflect your light in places of darkness. If I am not bright, help me, through your Holy Spirit, to wait upon you and know your presence. Amen.

Day 12 (13 Dec)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Reflect

The light of Jesus was seen in many ways but one of the main ones was through what he did. He didn't just talk about the love of God, he demonstrated it, day after day. Our lives are to be demonstrations of the love of God. We are to live in such a way that people notice and give praise to God. Are people praising God because of what we are doing? Both as individuals and churches, the challenge is to live out love.

Prayer

Lord, help me not to hide my light. Save me from apathy and the blandness that so easily envelops us. Let me use my energy in ways that bless others and demonstrate your love. May the peoples praise you, O God. Amen.

Day 13 (14 Dec)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light.”

Ephesians 5:8

Reflect

We are children of the light. A radical change has happened. Once we were darkness, then

God in His mercy, through the amazing salvation work of Jesus, changed us to light. Now we are to live as children of the light. What does that look like in your situation? Can you think of examples of living as children of the light?

Prayer

Thank you God for every opportunity that you give me to live for you. Help me to see the opportunities and grant me the boldness to take them. Now in the silence will you reveal one thing I should do today that will please you? Amen.

Day 14 (Dec 15)

“For the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.”

Ephesians 5:9

Reflect

Goodness is not a term that is used much in our society anymore. I don't mean people no longer do good things. Rather, the quality of goodness is not high on society's agenda. Yet a key sign of being a child of the light has to be living as someone who actively does good. I think that means that our hearts want the best for others which then leads to acts of kindness.

Prayer

Lord, make me a person of goodness. Slow to anger and abounding in love. God, in the power of your Spirit, change me and make me more like Jesus. Are there areas of my life that need to be changed by you? I name them before you now. Come, Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

