

**Monday, 25 December 2017 Merry Christmas** 1 Timothy

4:1-5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will **depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons**, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods **that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth**. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

It is possible to lose my faith through willful sin; through the deliberate denial of God, the Almighty as LORD and Master; by placing another being in the place that is rightfully His?

Lose my salvation? No! But certainly, my sinful behavior can steal the joy of my salvation. Then it is time to join with King David and cry, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." Psalms 51:10-12

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**Tuesday, 26 December 2017** 1 Timothy 4:7-9

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. **The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.**

This is a priority setting Scripture. My Godly training, i.e. Spiritual disciplines, must take first place in my life. I cannot expect the Spirit to lead and teach me when I put Him somewhere on my roundtuit list.

I need to take special heed of those instances where Paul emphasizes a teaching with the phrase, a trustworthy saying.

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**Wednesday, 27 December 2017** 1 Timothy 4:10

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

The Lord is not willing that any should perish, (2 Peter 3:9) but it is up to me to accept the gift freely offered and to demonstrate the effectiveness of that gift through every aspect of my life. This does require effort on my part, sometimes well described as toiling and striving. The old man does not die willingly. But my hope is set on the living God, the Savior of all people.

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**Thursday, 28 December 2017** 1 Timothy 4:12-13

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

I'm definitely past the youth designation but not past the point where I am directed to set an example in my speech, my conduct, in love and purity. It is even more incumbent upon me to serve others both as an example of one aging with grace and a life being lived in His service.

Forgive me, Lord, for my failures and continue to mold me in Your image.

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**Friday, 29 December 2017** 1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

My ministry starts in my own home and flows out in concentric circles from there. Oh, how I wish that I had known as a young father. This is a passage which when taken at face value, indicates the material needs of anyone dependent upon me. But it goes far deeper.

I was and still, am called to provide spiritual leadership for my family.

Failing here, I have denied the faith, and am worse than an unbeliever. Forgive me, Lord, for my failure.

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**Saturday, 30 December 2017** 1 Timothy 6:2

*Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.*

The privilege and blessing of a believing master carry a double responsibility. First, I am called to serve all believers as Christ serves the Church. This is demonstrated by the love, respect, and service that is due to every member of the Body of Christ. Secondly, I am to praise the Lord that He has given me a fellow believer to serve. I must, make every effort to assist him in operating his business in a Godly manner. Therefore, all my actions must honor and glorify the LORD, God, the Almighty and not bring disrespect when I represent my boss before the world.

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**Lord's Day, 31 December 2017** Psalm 119:88

*In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.*

In Your steadfast love, I do have life. Life, through You and for You, there is no other source, no other purpose. Guide me into a life that totally glorifies You in all things by keeping Your testimonies in all things.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*December 25-31, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:15-17**

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

*LORD, God the Almighty, we come to You in thanksgiving for this congregation and the many ways that You are using us to bring the message of Your Kingdom to saints throughout our community. Continue, LORD, to increase the working of Your Holy Spirit within us so that we can know You better and bring revelation to those ones You have given us to serve.*

**Creational Theology hint for the week—A Prayer for an Orange**

Lord, I thank you for the gift of an orange. A small gift that can be held in the hand, easily savored and uniquely refreshing. Will that orange aroma be part of the incense that fills the throne room as the saints gather to praise and worship You? Not just the aroma, but the texture, the color, the taste, the nourishment all are a small part of the infinite variety that is You.

It never occurred to me before until I started to contemplate an orange. We, your redeemed saints, will have an endless litany, Your creation, to base our praises upon. Amen

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