

Aldersgate UMC of Butte, MT
March 13, 2022–2nd Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Psalm 27
Pastor Matthias Krier

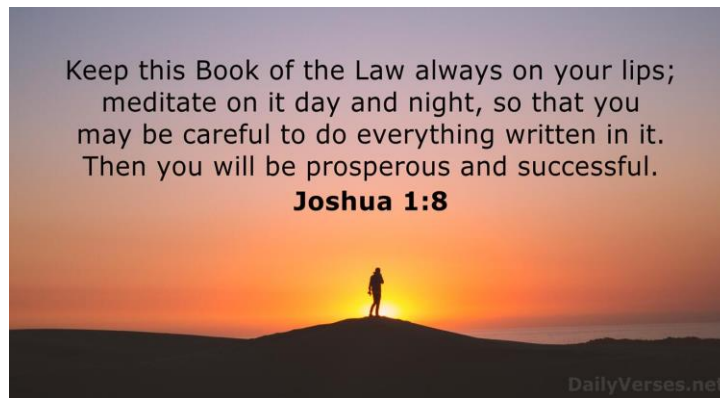
Message

Matthias Krier

“Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet & A Light Unto My Path”

The title of this message is a scripture prayer in and of itself. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

We can go all the way back to the book of Joshua on this thousands of years ago in Joshua 1:8



I have so many scripture prayers that come to me during different times of my journey or when I am acting as pastor somewhere in a hospital or hospice unit in a counseling session or when I am offering spiritual direction to someone.

When folks I am with are feeling fear or I am feeling ferar about what the future may hold in any given situation, I may pray this prayer:

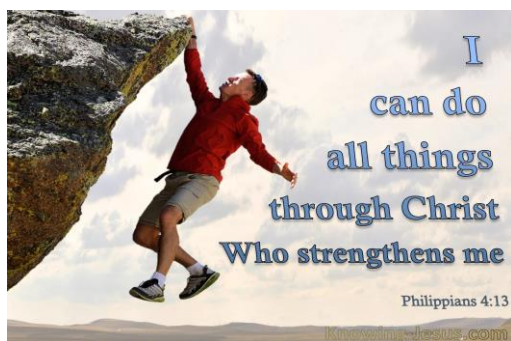


A scripture prayer is simply a scripture that has become more than words on a page. It can become a sacred prayer. Repeat this verse after me: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid."*

There is great power in these words, but they have to become more than words on a page, they have to become a prayer from the heart!

Remember the song by Amy Grant, "It's not a song until it touches your heart"? Well, it is not a scripture prayer, until it touches your heart. And prayers from the heart can be transformative! You know when a scripture becomes a sacred prayer for you.

Another example of an essential scripture prayer is this one from Philippians 4:13:



I cannot tell you how many times I have prayed the scripture prayer: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* If I had a dollar every time I have prayed that prayer, my 401K would be looking so much better these days. And speaking of 401K's, no matter how much we have tucked

away for retirement, it simply doesn't feel like enough. It simply doesn't for many of us. It says on this dollar bill, "In God We Trust".



Really? Is our trust truly in God or is it in the Almighty Dollar? We talk a good talk and this includes myself, but, do we really trust in the Divine when it comes to living our lives or not? Or are we going to worry and fret about whether or not we are going to have enough? Believe me, as I approach retirement, it has crossed my mind again and again and I have to let it go and pray this scripture whenever and wherever I am when I begin to worry and fret that I will live past what I have set aside for retirement.

This is where my next scripture prayer comes to mind:



When we know this trust that no matter what all shall be well as Julian of Norwich wrote in her poem, "All Shall Be Well", we can feel a deep peace that no matter what, "All shall be well." Jesus told his disciples and Jesus tells us: *"Don't pile up your treasures here on earth. They will be destroyed*

by moths and rust and stolen by thieves. Store up riches in heaven where moths and rust are powerless and thieves cannot break in and steal ...”

and here comes the scripture prayer that I have prayed countless times at the end of this passage:



There are so very many scriptures that can become more than words on a page and can indeed become a prayer from the heart and this one is one of them: *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Where is your heart in everyday life?

Many of you know where my heart is which this final scripture prayer has guided me for the last quarter century. Wow! That makes me sound rather old, does it not? This verse is my mission statement as many of you know and will continue to be so until I draw my last breath here on earth. “What does God require of you, but to ...



During this Lenten season, each of us has the opportunity to Let the Light Shine through as we feast on the Bread of Life and the Cup of Love. As the Light shines through us we will not only become whole in our walk with

God, we will radiate this Light, this Love, this Peace ... but remember we need to plug in to the Source of Life in order for our Light to Shine!

When we lose sight of Jesus, may we stop, pause and focus by looking into the face of Christ on a daily basis. Gaze gently on this image by focusing on the 4 dots in the middle of this image for at least 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, close your eyes and keep them closed to see what image emerges. What do you see?



Yes, an image of Jesus emerges and will stay for a few seconds before it disappears. Do this exercise as often as needed to look into the face of Christ and feel the peace, hope, joy and love that comes from gazing on the face of Jesus.

We can indeed let the Light shine through when we pray, “fill my cup, Lord, fill my cup and make me whole”. Let us prepare for the sacrament of Holy Communion in the singing of hymn # 641, “Fill My Cup, Lord.”

Hymn of Preparation # 641 Fill My Cup, Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SNKC2IC3Ko

[Fill My Cup, Lord by Richard Blanchard guitar cover](#)

*United Methodists practice “open communion”
where everyone is welcome to receive. Everyone!*



**"A Saint
is a
person
who
lets
the
LIGHT
SHINE
through!"**

Anastpaul