Use this daily Transformation Journal to learn how to study the Bible for yourself. Pray before you begin and ask God to bless you with insight and discernment as you ponder and respond to the questions, which are tools for your spiritual growth.

Joel 2:23-28

O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for
your vindication, he has poured down
for you abundant rain, the early and
the later rain, as before. The thresh-
ing-floors shall be full of grain, the
vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the
swarming locust has eaten, the hop-
per, the destroyer, and the cutter, my
great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be
satisfied, and praise the name of the
Lord your God, who has dealt
wondrously with you. And my people
shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst
of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am
your God and there is no other. And
my people shall never again be put to
shame.

Then afterwards I will pour out my
spirit on all flesh; your sons and your
daughters shall prophesy, your old
men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall
see visions.

Sermon Notes

Suggested Reading:
Unlearning Church by Mike Slaughter

Monday, July 12

The Christian life is rooted in the wonderful grace of God, but that is just the first step. God has much more for you than making you alive again through Christ. You were created to live a full life of purpose, doing the good work God has prepared for you to do. The Bible, God's word, is filled with promises of how God desires to supernaturally provide resources to you through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:1-10

- List some of the powerful promises of God offered to you in this passage.
- What kind of purposeful work is God placing in your heart to accomplish?

Tuesday, July 13

Sometimes you may feel discouraged and wonder if God actually desires to help you grow and succeed in faithfulness. Good news: God's love for you is far greater than you can understand or even imagine! And in that love you can have confident assurance that God is not only capable but also eager to help you live your life in all the fullness God intended. No matter what your past struggles or downfalls, God's word offers hope and promises for renewal and strength.

2 Corinthians 1:18-12 and
2 Peter 1:3-4

- According to 2 Corinthians 1, how do you know that you have and can live in the promises of God? What has God provided you to live out this godly life (2 Peter 1:3)?
- In what areas of your life do you trust God, and in what areas do you

Wednesday, July 14

In order to continue living out the godly life of purpose and promise, you must always be on guard against temptation and sin. Since compromise and sin easily entangle followers of Jesus and can keep you from walking the path God has marked out for you, work to remain diligent in fighting against them. In today's reading, believers are not only warned about falling into temptation but also told how to stand up against the evil wars against them.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and Hebrews 2:14-18

- From these passages, list the different ways God helps believers overcome temptation and evil.
- What are some of your weaknesses in terms of temptation and compromise? How can you do better at protecting yourself from these?

Thursday, July 15

Life is definitely at times. It becomes very easy at those difficult moments to forget all about the promises of God and stop living out the faithful life you are called to live, empowered by God's promises. Where is God when things go wrong and life turns hard? In the readings today, you will get a better picture not only of God's amazing concern for you, but also how you are to respond in the tough moments of life.

Psalms 30 and 34:17-20

- In Psalm 30, what did David (the author) do when he found himself in the valleys of life? What was God's faithful response to David?
- Do you spend more or less time seeking God when challenges come? What promise of God from these passages do you need to stand on in the midst of trouble?

Friday, July 16

At times, guilt and shame from wrong things you've done may drive you away from the God who loves you. You can try to clean up your act on your own, and thus continue to fail. Instead, ask God's forgiveness and be filled again with the Spirit's power for supernatural living. Be assured that just as earthly parents seek to love and guide their children no matter what, God will also never let you go—you are a beloved child and an heir to the Kingdom.

John 10:22-30 and Hebrews 13:5-6

- What comfort do you receive in knowing that nothing can ever snatch you away from the hand of Jesus Christ?
- Is going directly to God in times of failure and sin easy or difficult for you to do?

Saturday, July 17

Walking the life of God's promises and purpose does not mean that you will never face trials. In fact, Jesus' disciple Peter wrote that everyone who wants to lead a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Remember always that you have not only a God who promises protection but also a God who truly cares for all your anxieties. God's goal is not to save you from suffering but to make you strong so that through all things you may continue to love and serve others in need.

1 Peter 5:6-11 and Psalm 91:1-16

- What are God's promises to you in 1 Peter 5:6-11? What does God promise in Psalm 91:14-16 when it comes to being in trouble?
- What cares do you need to give to God today?