

WEDNESDAY March 25, 2015	THURSDAY March 26, 2015	FRIDAY March 27, 2015
<p>Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)</p> <p>Holiness. The word conjures up images of dour old church people, buttoned up in black and grey, standing silently ready to machine-gun us with an endless list of things good Christians are not allowed to do. But without holiness, the writer of Hebrews reminds us, none of us will see God. What does this mean? For me, the pursuit of holiness is less about what I'm not doing, and more about what I am doing. Holiness is growing in Christlikeness - becoming more like Jesus with each passing day. And as I begin to look and act like Jesus, I am more naturally inclined to live at peace with those around me, and to offer his goodness, mercy, and love to everyone I meet.</p> <p><i>Lord, help me to be holy as You are holy. Conform me to Your likeness and Your will. Help me to never be content with simply knowing who You are; rather, help me to reflect the reality of who You are becoming in me. May I live a life that is pleasing to you – a life of forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace.</i></p>	<p>The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (Revelations 11:15)</p> <p>You've got to love people who ruin movie endings. "You want to know how it ends??" a friend says breathlessly after seeing the latest blockbuster. But the Bible doesn't even pause to ask us; it just tells us what we may or may not want to know. SPOILER ALERT: Are you ready? Here it is: God wins. Through all of the apocalyptic imagery of a book called Revelation, the end of it all couldn't be clearer: The kingdom of this world will become God's kingdom, and Jesus will reign for ever and ever. The ending is a new beginning. Kind of makes you want to say, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" doesn't it?</p> <p><i>Lord, instead of fear, help me to look forward to the future with a sense of purpose and expectation. I want to share with those around me my excitement over how it all ends. I thank you that every ending is a new beginning. Help me to walk boldly into every new beginning that You have for me.</i></p>	<p>Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save...blessed is he whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth....the LORD who remains faithful forever. (Psalm 146:3-6)</p> <p>As we observe the reporting of world events – wars, terrorism, and economic uncertainties – it becomes clear that many people are placing their ultimate trust in generals, bankers, or in government officials. As problems get worse we wonder if there is really any solution? As followers of Jesus, we are reminded to have a clear perspective. Our ultimate trust is not in the strong, smart or powerful, but in God. He is our hope and as we put our trust in Him, seek His face, and follow His way, we can celebrate His forever faithfulness.</p> <p><i>Loving God, while I am thankful for capable people and leaders, I am even more thankful that our ultimate trust is in You. You are the Maker of heaven and earth, You are God, and You are always faithful. I choose to look to You today and pray for Your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.</i></p>
SATURDAY March 28, 2015	MONDAY March 30, 2015	TUESDAY March 31, 2015
<p>Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)</p> <p>Jesus prays a significant prayer of submission to the will of the Father. Recognizing his own death was imminent, Christ models for us a submission to the will of God when we think we understand what is happening and when we don't. It is too easy for us to try to bargain with God in the midst of difficulty rather than living a life that is bent on submission to the will of God in all things.</p> <p><i>Lord, may I be a person who willingly submits to your will when I understand and in the times when I don't. Help me have the grace to be willing to let your will reign in my life.</i></p>	<p>"My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46b)</p> <p>In this verse we see Christ questioning the Father. Often when going through difficult times it is easy to feel guilt when questioning God. Jesus reminds us that God is God regardless of our questions and fears. God is not threatened by our doubts, fears or despair.</p> <p><i>Lord, help me to feel the freedom to share with you my doubts and fears. May my relationship with you honour your willingness to hear my heart. Thank you Lord!</i></p>	<p>When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54)</p> <p>In the moment of Christ's greatest human weakness, his death, we see the people around him recognizing the reality of him being the Son of God. Likewise, is it possible that in our moments of great weakness our greatest strength could be seen? The strength that comes from being a child of God, The strength that comes from being the recipient of the hope, grace and the goodness of God?</p> <p><i>Lord, help me be a person who sees the gifts that come from being a follower of Christ, even when I feel I am at my weakest point. Thank you, God, for your presence in my life.</i></p>