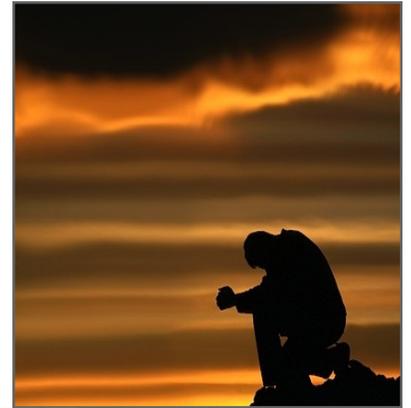
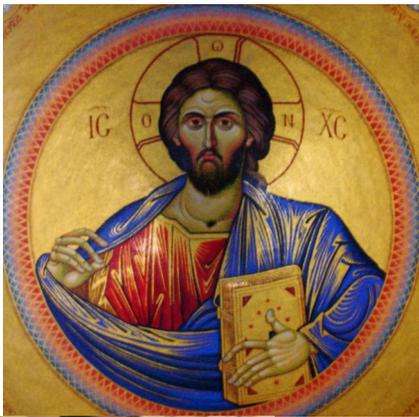


# Family Worship, Family Faith



365 Bible Devotions

For Individuals, Couples, Families or Groups

The Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe

Come, worship the God who lives for all eternity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit: one God, blessed Trinity forever!

**The Word**

Galatians 5:13-26 (*We are to live in the Spirit, allowing Spirit-life to lead our living*)

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.* 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 *By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.* 24 *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* 25 *If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.* 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.



NRSV

**The Reflection**

Do you do any of the activities Paul lists as things the sinful self does? Which ones are most like you? How has God worked in your life to grow the fruit of the Spirit?

**The Prayer**

Holy Trinity, in whom there is no beginning and no end, only the interweaving of holiness and love and truth, forgive us our sin when we ignore the Spirit and gratify our sinful selves. Free us to live according to your Spirit who leads us only into good: to love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. You have made us free in Christ Jesus, help us not to live as slaves to sin.

**The Blessing**

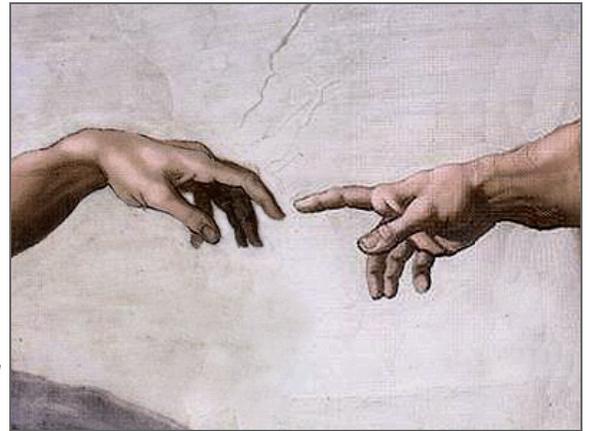
May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who called you from before the beginning of time, keep you in his loving arms until after the end of all things!

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us? Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

### The Word

Ephesians 1:3-11, 15-18, 22-23 (*God chose us in grace*)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in heaven. *4 In Christ, he chose us before the world was made. He chose us in love to be his holy people—people who could stand before him without any fault. 5 And before the world was made, God decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ... 6 And this brings praise to God because of his wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely. He gave us that grace in Christ, the one he loves. 7 In Christ we are made free by his blood sacrifice.*



We have forgiveness of sins *because of God's rich grace. 8 God gave us that grace fully and freely. With full wisdom and understanding, 9 he let us know his secret plan. This was what God wanted, and he planned to do it through Christ. 10 God's goal was to finish his plan when the right time came. He planned that all things in heaven and on earth be joined together with Christ as the head. 11 In Christ we were chosen to be God's people. God had already planned for us to be his people, because that is what he wanted. And he is the one who makes everything agree with what he decides and wants...* 15-16 That is why I always remember you in my prayers and thank God for you. I have done this ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. 17 I always pray to the great and glorious Father, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that he will give you the Spirit, who will let you know truths about God and help you understand them, so that you will know him better. 18 *I pray that God will open your minds to see his truth. Then you will know the hope that he has chosen us to have.* You will know that the blessings God has promised his holy people are rich and glorious... 22 God put everything under Christ's power and made him head over everything for the church. 23 The church is Christ's body. It is filled with him. He makes everything complete in every way.

E-t-R-V

### The Reflection

How does it make you feel that, from before the beginning of time and until after the end of all things, you have been, are and will be a part of God's plan? When you pray, do you more often pray for material, earthly things or, like Paul, spiritual things of faith?

### The Prayer

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken, make us complete in Jesus. Fill us with Jesus as we joyfully submit to his Lordship over our lives. Great God of Heaven, what a gift it is to know that we are a part of your plan. As this truth sinks ever deeper into our soul and spirit, may its wonder be grasped in our hearts and minds and its way be lived through our words and deeds.

### The Blessing

Peace to you and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us? Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

### The Word

Ephesians 2:4-8, 10-11, 13-14, 19-22 (*By grace, Christ breaks down walls of hostility*)

God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, 5 that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved. 6 In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world. 7 He did this to demonstrate for all time to come the extraordinary greatness of his grace in the love he showed us in Christ Jesus. 8 *For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it...* 10 *God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.* 11 You Gentiles by birth...were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to God's chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on God's promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God...



13 But now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the sacrificial death of Christ. 14 *For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them and kept them enemies...* 19 So then, you Gentiles are not foreigners or strangers any longer; you are now fellow citizens with God's people and members of the family of God. 20 You, too, are built upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. 21 He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. 22 In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his Spirit.

TEV

### The Reflection

Is there anything you have ever done that earned your salvation? If you said, "Yes," how can your salvation be a gift from God? If you said, "No," how can you respond to God to show how thankful you are? What good works, that God has planned in advance for you to do, can you now do as a way of saying thank you for your salvation?

### The Prayer

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken, you have revealed your purposes by drawing us into Christ, into his mercy and love, into his gift of life and salvation, into his servant's heart for the world. Through Christ you break down the walls of hostility that divide, so help us to live as people of peace.

### The Blessing

Peace to you and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us? Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

**The Word**

Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16 (*God gives gifts so that we might ALL grow into spiritual maturity*)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all...11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 *to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.* 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.* 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



NIV

**The Reflection**

Which is the most difficult characteristic of a “life worthy of the calling”: complete humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another or unity of the Spirit? When was the last time you spoke the truth in love? Which was more difficult: the truth side or the love side?

**The Prayer**

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken, prepare us for works of service: compassion, justice, truth-speaking in love, love-speaking in attitude and action. We pray your Spirit will grow us stronger in a living knowledge of Jesus' words and will, his commands and his call upon our lives. Grow within us, Great God, the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**The Blessing**

Peace to you and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us? Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

**The Word**

Ephesians 6:10-20 (*God protects us from spiritual warfare*)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.* 12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.* 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREAST-PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit,



which is the word of God. 18 *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

NASU

**The Reflection**

Of the spiritual weapons Paul lists, which do you find most helpful in fighting the devil's evil tricks? How do you use prayer as a weapon of spiritual battle to equip you for living a life "worthy of your calling"?

**The Prayer**

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken, you not only claim us but you equip us to serve your purposes. You give to us through your Word and Spirit what we need to live in this world but not of this world. Help us, therefore, to be constantly reading and praying, listening and observing, that we will hear your Spirit's nudge when we see others' need.

**The Blessing**

Peace to you and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us? Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

**The Word**

Philippians 1:3-6, 20-28 (*God is not finished with us, and he will not let us go*)

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. 4 Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, 5 for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. 6 *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns...* 20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. *And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.* 21 *For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.* 22 *But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ.* So I really don't know which is better. 23 I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.



24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. 25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. 26 And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me. 27 *Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.* Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

NLT

**The Reflection**

How do you show the greatness of Christ in your life here on earth? How do you see your love, knowledge, understanding and purity growing from year to year?

**The Prayer**

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken, you have begun a good work in us. You have set in our hearts the hope of heaven, and you will lead us throughout our lives until we reach our heart's true home. Forgive us when we fail you in anything. Thank you that your mercy sets us right again and gives us joy in our faith.

**The Blessing**

Peace to you and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us? Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

**The Word**

Philippians 2:1-11 (*Christ Jesus is fully human, fully God, fully worthy of our praise*)

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count*



*equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

ESV

**The Reflection**

Describe a time when you showed humility by giving more honor to someone else rather than claim it for yourself? How did that make the other person feel? How did it make you feel?

**The Prayer**

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken, your greatest work is your Son pouring out his own divine glory in order to become our servant. Our wonder is how your love can be so great that Jesus would let go of the powers and pleasures of heaven to be for us our Savior. It is our joy is to give him praise!

**The Blessing**

Peace to you and love with faith from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.