

Monday, October 2 - "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:8 In the month of October, we will be taking a journey. When we take a trip, we normally have mapped out where we are going, in other words, we know our destination. But for some reason, when it comes to our spiritual journeys, we jump in without a destination in mind. When this happens we do not get the full benefits from the journey. Today, we start moving toward getting to the end of ourselves. In doing this, the hope is that Jesus will become real - to you, to your family and to those you come in contact with each day. Take a moment to pray that God would lead, direct and transform you in these next few weeks. Reflect on the message yesterday. What impact did it have on you?

Tuesday, October 3 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1. Jesus told us in John 14 that He has given us a guide in his Holy Spirit who lives in us. Jesus has also promised that He will never leave us or forsake us. He has told us over and over in the Gospels that He is always with us. Therefore, we know that we are never alone on our journeys. We know God is always with us, guiding and leading us. As great as that sounds, this is often a hinderance to people when it comes to being honest with their brokenness. The reason for this is we often have a misguided view of God. We feel that He is a rule keeper judge who is ready to strike down against us if we do anything wrong. Therefore, this often keeps us from being completely transparent with our brokenness. Read these verser to get a proper view of God and his love for us. John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39; Psalm 103:8; Jeremiah 31:3; Revelation 21:4; Psalm 103:10-12; Romans 5:8.

Wednesday, October 4 - "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18 Another part of our journey is to know where we are. Not that long ago, most of us kept a map in our cars so we could navigate places we had never been before. Now with smartphones and GPS system in our cars, we just type in an address and we are guided along the correct path. But no matter what system we use, we must have a starting point. These tools can't get us to where we want to go without knowing where we are. In our spiritual journeys, we will never get to where we want to go, if we do not know where we are. We have to be honest about our current condition if we want to get to "the end of me." We are all broken. But it is only when we are honest with the state of our brokenness that we truly have a proper understanding of our current condition. Ask God to reveal your brokenness. Spend some time listening for God to show you, but....don't stop there..take time to thank Him for His love, grace, forgiveness, and acceptance.

Thursday, October 5 - "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9. Perspective changes everything. Have you ever seen one of those images that are meant to play "tricks" on your eyes? They'll ask you - what do you see, an old lady, or a rabbit? At first, all you can see is one of the images. But if you change your focus, sometimes you can see the other. Often, we only look at our lives through one perspective: our own. We don't realize that there is another perspective. Today, we are going to look at our lives from God's point of view. You see the problem with our perspective is that it is limited. One way we limit ourselves is we often define ourselves by the things we have done. How does God see us? Read these verses: John 1:12; John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:3-8; Colossians 2:9-10; Philippians 3:20. How does seeing God's view of you change the way you see yourself?

Friday, October 6 - "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." Isaiah 43:25. Colossians 3:3 says "your life is hidden in Christ." Since our lives are hidden in Christ, it means when God looks down on us, he sees Jesus. In theology there is a term called "double imputation." The word imputation means that is has been placed upon you. For instance the Bible says when Jesus did on the cross, he took all of our sins and brokenness upon himself. In other words, when God looked down at Jesus on the cross, He saw Jesus as if He had lived your life. This is imputation. Our sins and lives was imputed on Jesus. Most Christians understand this concept since it is a core belief of Christianity. However, one thing that is often overlooked is that there was another imputation. The Bible teaches as that at the same time our brokenness was place on Jesus, Jesus' righteousness was placed on us. This is how we are hidden in Christ. Read Revelation 1:5. It is because of Jesus' she blood that we are now hidden in Him. Reflect on your brokenness from Wednesday. Let the truth that God has covered all that brokenness resound in your mind.

Saturday, October 7 - "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. "God never wastes a hurt!" That is one of the greatest truths we can hear. As followers of Jesus, our brokenness is never in vain. Read Romans 8:28. God uses everything for good when we are His followers. It brings us hope knowing God uses our pains to continue to mold us into the people we were always meant to be. God also uses our brokenness to help others who are broken. Our verse above teaches us that God comforts us in our pains so that we can comfort others. Dealing with our pain and brokenness is never easy. However, one of the greatest ways God brings us encouragement in our brokenness is to use us to help others we are broken. Who can you encourage today? Write a note, send a text message or email. Let God use you today!