

**Monday, October 30 - Read 1 Timothy 1:15.** CMD:Critical Moment Decision. This is the moment when you are confronted with a huge decision. It is the moment you are faced with a choice and what you decide can change everything. How we choose to act can make all the difference. It can change the course of our lives. You have probably had your fair share of critical moment decisions. Some were good and some poor. Today, you will have to make another choice. Read 1 John 1:9. Throughout scripture, God says, "I am faithful, I am forgiving." Confessing out sins is the most authentic thing we can do. Basically, if we get real with God, God will accept us and forgive us. Will you do that today? Be completely honest and open with God. Choose to show him your real self and find acceptance in the real Jesus. Simply think of the ways you have fallen short in the past. Think of the things you are struggling with right now. Think of the temptations you haven't shared with anyone. Share it all. Confess to God all that you are not and all that you are. Then thank him for being the forgiver of all things. Thank God for the fact that you are already drawing nearer to him as you are more authentic to him.

**Tuesday, October 31 - Read Colossians 2:13-14.** It is only when we are fully honest that we can be fully accepted. When we live behind masks and half truths we will always doubt our acceptance. This is why we tend to question the love of those who don't know every detail of our lives. Even our closest relationships are in questions if they don't know the deepest, darkest parts of our hearts. Although they tell us they love us, in the back of our minds we say, they only say that because they don't know who I really am, or if they knew what I have done or the things I think, they would not love me anymore. This is why we try so hard to hide those things from everyone. It's also why we look for acceptance and worth in other things, or why we see the approval of others, which causes us to project a false view of ourselves. When we are truly and brutally honest with our sins and the condition of our hearts, and are still accepted, only then can we believe we are truly accepted. The fact is God knows everything about us and he still loves us. **Read Psalm 139:1-6.**

**Wednesday, November 1 - Read Psalm 121:5-6.** Many of us have heard "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This is usually said to Christians about how we treat those who don't know Christ and are not disciples. Most, if not all of us, have a defense wall around our hearts. And it's not until we know someone genuinely cares for us, that we started lowering our defenses. It is when we know we are cared for, that we can start to reveal our hearts. This is true in most things including living and being authentic. It is only when we truly know that God cares for us that we trust him with our hearts. It's only when we start to understand God's care for us that we start to reveal to him our real selves. **Read Matthew 6:25-34.** Jesus tells us that God knows every one of his creation. And he knows everything about us. He knows every little detail. And he supplies our needs and cares for us even more than his other creation.

**Thursday, November 2 - Read John 8:31-32.** In 1865 Congress decided the inhumane practice of slavery would be abolished. Soon thereafter, slaves all over the south were freed. Most of those freed never had experienced freedom - they had been born into slavery. For the freed, it was a reality that they could not have even dreamed of. History tells us that soon after they had achieved their freedom, many of the freed returned to their plantation and asked for their old positions back. The stories tell of ex-slave after ex-slave giving up their freedom once again to their previous slave owner. Although these men and women had been granted freedom, they returned because slavery is all they had ever known. **Read Galatians 5:1.** We too have been set free from our slavery. The Bible tells us we were once slaves to sin, but we have been freed by Christ. For many of us, we end up going back to being slaves to sin because it is all we have ever known. We must fight every day not to fall back into that kind of living. In many cases, what we are slaves to is our need to present false images of ourselves. We must remember that our freedom lies in the fact that God has accepted us, with all of our faults and failures. The only way to keep from going back to that type of living is to walk closely with God. **Read Galatians 5:16-25. Read Psalm 1.** So, how will you walk?

**Friday, November 3 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."** This is our God. Have you come to the end of yourself yet? What one thing can you start doing today to move toward the end of you? Pray the Lord's prayer today, but pause and think of these questions after each phrase: **"Our Father in heaven,** *(How close to you need God to be right now?)* **hallowed by your name,** *(Where do you need him to be honored in your life?)* **your kingdom come,** *(Where do you need God to rule in your life?)* **your will be done,** *(In what area do you need God's control right now?)* **on earth as it is in heaven.** *(Where do you need encouragement right now?)* **Give us today our daily bread.** *(How do you need God's provision right now?)* **And forgive us our debts,** *(In what area do you need God's grace right now?)* **as we also have forgiven our debtors.** *(Where do you need God's strength right now?)* **And lead us not into temptation,** *(Where do you need God's guidance right now?)* **but deliver us from the evil one."** *(What do you need God to rescue you from right now?)*