

DAILY MEDITATIONS:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

ACTS 2:42-47

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they **continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Especially during the pandemic, what does devotion to teaching, continuity, connection, fellowship, and prayer look like for you these days?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

FRANCIS CHAN, LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

"Far too often we are more concerned with how well the sermon was communicated, whether the youth group is relevant enough, or how to make the music better. Honestly, what is it that gets people stirred up for change? Is it disobedience to commands from God, or is it falling short from expectations that we have made up? **The answer to these questions might just show us whether our church exists to please God or please people.**"

Imagine what kind of Church might be pleasing to God today. Describe it in rich detail.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

ROMANS 12:9-12

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Re-read these verses slowly. Notice which phrase jumps off the page to you. Repeat that phrase slowly and talk with God about why that particular phrase is resonating so deeply with you today.

DAILY MEDITATIONS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

FRANCIS CHAN, LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

"We can get so focused on getting people through our doors that we don't think about what goes out....**Are we producing mature disciples who imitate Christ by constantly serving others? Are we developing communities that are so deeply in love with one another that the world marvels? If this is not being produced, why do we exist?"**

All the bolded questions are excellent for reflection today.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 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. 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 people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.** 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."

What does the Church need today to become a mature, embodied representation of Christ?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

JACOBSEN AND SAWATSKY, GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY.

"Christians are called to holy impatience in their efforts to promote peace, righteousness, and justice. Like the prophets of old, we are to seek real change for real people in real time. But just as the Lord's prayer mixes patience with impatience, **we are also called to season our holy impatience with godly patience.** If we fail to do this, we can easily become disappointed with ourselves and others and even God, and that can lead to cynicism and despair."

How might a lack of holy impatience tempered with godly patience lead to disappointment, cynicism and despair? Why should the Church guard against this?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

OPEN DAY

Circle back to a passage that was meaningful this week. Re-engage it again and see if there is anything new to be noticed.