

Day 5

Wednesday April 5

Today's theme ... Stay

The fifth prayer opportunity is to stay or to dwell, remain, abide or linger. This is when we anticipate and consider a way forward from the encounter with God in continued communion with God. For today's reflection on remaining, I've asked Col Harding and others for their thoughts. These are expressed below.

Today's scripture verses

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener...Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.... As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15: 1,4,9-11

Thoughts on staying from Col Harding

Why do we stay attached to a Church?

Surely it is not only the attraction of meeting friends.

If we attend with a congregation on a regular basis, what else brings us together?

We look to future life.

Jesus said "Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

And "Abide in My love".

This is so important that Jesus gave us a commandment.

" These things I command you, that you love one another"

The "one another" reaches the whole world, the sick, the needy, those we do not like, all people of different skin colours.

This you have been commanded to do.

And to help us obey this commandment requires prayer. And prayer without ceasing.

Talking to God will help you stay with Him.

As Lord Tennyson wrote: "Let your voice rise like a fountain Night and Day."

For further reflection, read Colin's poem...

Use the link on the website page for today to read Col's poem on his prayer experience entitled "What is Prayer?"

Some further thoughts on staying/remaining in prayer from another church member ...

"Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus". 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

A favourite Christian singer of the late 1970s/early 80s, Keith Green, wrote the song is "Make My Life a Prayer to You". It goes like this:

*Make my life a prayer to you
I want to do what you want me to
No empty words and no white lies
No token prayers no compromise*

*I want to shine the light you gave
Through your son you sent to save us
From ourselves and our despair
It comforts me to know you're really there*

*Well I want to thank you now
For being patient with me
Oh it's so hard to see
When my eyes are on me
I guess I'll have to trust
And just believe what you say
Oh you're coming again
Coming to take me away*

*I want to die and let you give
Your life to me so I might live
And share the hope you gave me
The love that set me free*

*I want to tell the world out there
You're not some fable or fairy tale
That I've made up inside my head
You're God the Son and You've risen from the dead*

*Make my life a prayer to you
I want to do what you want me to
And share the hope you gave me
The love that set me free.*

So, the idea of “remaining in prayer” is to live the life of thankfulness, sincerity, witness, sacrifice and trust. It’s not just about formal, articulate, wordy prayers. It’s knowing that God is always there to hear us, even when we forget that He is.

Want to delve deeper on the theme of “stay”?

Check out the “Resources” section on the website below and read p.18-20 of the Week of Prayer 2023 series.