

Prayer Guide – Week 2

“Living the Word”

Monday 9/26/11 – Read 1 John 1:5-10

Working intimately in the counseling profession for 8 years has taught me that there is often disunity between what a person says and what a person does. It is easy for an individual in a troubled marriage to say he wants to work out the issues, but it is something entirely different to actually do it. A person may verbally reflect love of family, but physically show hatred and anger towards family. 1 John 1:6 reminds us that “if we claim to have fellowship with him (God) yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.” If you claim to love God, but regularly act in ways that are completely against His will, what are you really showing to the world? Walking in the light is not a call to live perfectly, because we have all sinned; if not Jesus would have never needed to be crucified on the cross. It is, however, a call to live as consistently as possible with God’s word, repenting when we sin against Him. True repentance requires effort to make a change. Is there anything you need to repent of today? Take it to God now so you can walk more fully in the light.

Personal reflection and prayer:

Saturday 10/1/11 – Read 2 John: 6-11 & 3 John: 9-11

I remember the first days of school when all the teachers worked hard to make you understand the rules, and made sure you also understood the punishment that went along with them. As the year progressed though, some of those same teachers began to take on a different persona. That very thing happened with one substitute in particular, Mrs. Brown. When I was a junior in high school I realized that as long as I completed my assignments, listened to what she said, and was respectful to her, I could talk to her about college basketball as soon as the work was done! It was the neatest experience, and she was great to us – as long as we did what we were supposed to do. Don’t expect to talk basketball with her if you were not done with your in class work – it wouldn’t happen! As Christians, I think we sometimes think we have reached a place in our faith where we can begin to slack off some. We maybe think that because we have been Christians for 10, 20, or 30 years, the rules don’t necessarily apply to us the same as they do for the younger Christians. Let me warn you that you must be very careful about pride! Falling victim to pride will lead to destruction and thinking that you know better than God. Like Diotrefes, your sin will be revealed! Pray that God would give you a humble spirit, willing to serve and follow Him above everything else.

Personal reflection and prayer:
