

DAILY DEVOTION THURSDAY, JULY 16th

Dear Christian Friends:

- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14 O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.
- 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Psalms 86:11-17

When I sat down to prepare for this devotion, I turned to the scripture passage in my Bible to see the context of the verses, as I usually do. I began with the first verse of the psalm and read with delight, "Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me...you are my God, be gracious to me...for you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you...in the day of my trouble, I call on you for you will answer me." I was resonating with the psalmist's words, appreciating the deep trust and confidence expressed. What great poetry! This would be a joyful devotion!!

And then I came to Verse 11: "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name." An *undivided* heart. That stopped me in my tracks and slapped me into next Wednesday.

Is your heart "undivided"? With little reflection I had to admit to myself that mine is...some of the time, if not most of the time. When it comes to praise and thanksgiving for God's protection, love, and grace, I am very well intended. I enjoy worship, Bible study, prayer...but do I engage in those things with my WHOLE heart? Am I singularly focused on God's presence, love and truth? Or do I let my heart wander after other thoughts, problems, my 'to do' list, distractions, etc., instead of giving my undivided concentration to God and what God might be saying to me in the moment? I'll answer that question after I turn off the tea kettle and check my phone.

Gracious Lord, teach me your way that I may walk in your truth. Give me an undivided heart that I may focus my thoughts on praise and thanks for your mercy, grace, steadfast love and faithfulness. For you alone are worthy of such honor, and we are blessed with your strength and salvation. In the name of Christ, Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wutmEjdbedE>

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