

it -- that is, both "to will" and "to work." Claim this promise in your prayer today.

Saturday, 4/4/09 – Read *Philippians 1:6*

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: When we hear about God's call, what God wants to do through us, it can seem daunting -- too much, too scary. So, think deeply about this one verse which is today's reading ... and notice: (1) we can be confident of the outcome because (2) it is something God is doing through us, and furthermore (3) God has already begun this work, and (4) God will bring it to completion. Our job is to stay in relationship with God and to be open. If we'll just stay in relationship with God, and respond to the little nudgings that God is prompting, then we can live with confidence that God(!) will complete in us the work he's begun.

Sunday, 4/5/09 – Read *Galatians 2:19-20*

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In Galatians 2:19-20 Paul the apostle expresses the intimacy he experienced in his relationship with the living Christ. It seemed to him that Christ himself was living through him. ... For most of us our sense of closeness with God is not that intense. But for many of us there are moments when it does seem that we are open and that God does something good through a word we say or an action we take. Can you remember such a moment? Can you say that, at least in that moment, Christ himself was living in and through you?

My Faith Journal, March 29, 2009

Experiencing Call #9

Servants, Friends, Partners

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Friendship with God

Monday, 3/30/09 – Read John 15:1-11

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: First and foremost, our experience of God's call grows out of relationship. Just think about how it feels when someone you know asks you to do something. How different it is when the request comes from someone you don't know. It's all about relationship. God's call to us feels right only when it is an expression of a living relationship with God. ... In today's reading Jesus describes his relationship to us as wonderfully intimate. He is the trunk and the roots, and we are the branches. We draw our life from our being related to him. What do you think of this metaphor, this mental picture? Does it help you understand your relationship with God?

Tuesday, 3/31/09 – Read John 14:15-17

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In today's reading focus your attention on the last sentence. "Abide" is one of the gospel of John's favorite words. It means to "stay," to hang around. Jesus is telling us that God's Spirit stays with us, lives with us. And more: it is IN us. ... Our relationship with God can be the most intimate relationship of our lives since God promises to be with us all the time and even to be known "within" -- in the intimacy of our own thoughts and feelings. ... Is your relationship with God like that? Would you like it to be?

Wednesday, 4/1/09 – Read John 15:12-17

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Sometimes this idea of Jesus being our friend has become way too sentimental. (Sentimentality is dishonest feeling, feeling that doesn't naturally flow out of real life experience.) ... And yet today's reading again points us toward the intimacy of relationship that the risen and living Jesus, that God, wants to have with us. ... Do you think of your life as a friendship with God -- as a partnership? ... God's call only feels right when we know that it comes from our Divine Friend. Otherwise it seems like an alien demand or obligation. ... How do you experience your relationship with God? Is it a friendship? Is it a partnership?

Thursday, 4/2/09 – Read Philippians 1:8-11

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: How do you know what God wants you to do? How do you "determine what is best" (verse 10)? It begins in relationship -- in communication -- in prayer. As you pray today, pray that love may overflow in you with "knowledge and full insight."

Friday, 4/3/09 – Read Philippians 2:12-13

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today's reading is the promise of relationship with God. God is at work in you! That's the promise. Claim it. Stop and affirm it; say it out loud: "Yes, today, right now, God is at work in me." ... And God will enable you both to want to do God's will for you -- and actually to do