

**Being and Doing**

**Monday, 10/12/09 – Read Deuteronomy 8:1-11  
and 1 John 4:10**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: God’s grace comes to us as a gift, a free gratuitous gift. There is nothing to do to earn it. That’s at the heart of the Good News. ... But God’s gift, freely given, inevitably raises some questions for us: don’t you have to do something to receive it? If you do receive God’s grace, isn’t there some response, some doing, that has to follow? ... This week we’ll explore two sides of faithful living: BEING and DOING -- the receptive side and the active side. ... The Hebrew scriptures are clear that we do not earn God’s loving action on our behalf. That comes first, freely given. Our faithfulness is always IN RESPONSE TO what God has already done. ... In your own life, how has God loved you first? Be specific.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday, 10/13/09 – Read 1 Kings 19:1-13a**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: The Hebrew prophet Elijah fled from the threats of Queen Jezebel. His flight carried him to Mount Horeb, another name for Sinai. There he was encountered by the presence of God. But God did not come in the mighty wind or in the earthquake or in the fire. God came in the sound of sheer silence (1 Kings 19:12). ... Often God comes when we finally reach the end of a difficult journey, when we have exhausted ourselves and there is nothing left but the quiet. Sometimes it’s not in our busy-ness or in all our activity that God comes. It is in stopping and being quiet. When have you felt the presence of God in the quiet? Remember a time and jot down you description of it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday, 10/14/09 – Read Ephesians 2:4-10**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Today’s reading may be the single clearest statement of the Christian Gospel (the Good News). We are restored to right relationship with God as a free gift. It’s not earned. There’s nothing to do. ... **AND** God’s hope and expectation is that, having been touched by grace, we will then become graceful people. We will become a blessing to others -- BECAUSE OF what God has done for us in Jesus. ... So, good works are an expression of the experience of God’s love -- never a way of earning that love. ... Does this make sense to you? Can you point to an example where doing good was an expression of your being loved? Write it down.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, 10/15/09 – Read Romans 8:26-30**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: God’s grace is present even in our moments of weakness and confusion. The Spirit is active -- linking the struggles of our souls with the goodness and presence of God. ... Remember a time when you felt especially befuddled, when you weren’t even sure how to pray. The Spirit was actively engaged in your prayer, even though you didn’t have the words. ... Sometimes we need to relax and trust that the Spirit is praying with us and through us and for us. What would it feel like to you to trust that today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, 10/16/09 – Read James 1:17-27**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Today’s reading lays out the paradox of Being and Doing. Every “generous act of giving” ultimately comes from God (verse 17). And at the same time we are encouraged to be “doers of the word” (verse 22). ... A faithful life will have moments of quiet receptivity. **AND** a faithful life

will include action -- response to the grace of God -- actively caring for others. ... Can you hold both sides of the paradox? Which side do you most often neglect?

---

---

---

**Saturday, 10/17/09** – Read **Matthew 14:22-27**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

A Question to Answer: A faithful life is a balanced life -- balanced between DOING and BEING. But almost everything in our lives shoves us toward doing. There is very little encouragement or affirmation for BEING. So most of us have to exercise some discipline to achieve balance. At times we have to CHOOSE BEING over DOING. ... Jesus did this. Jesus went off by himself to pray. When do you go off by yourself to pray, to BE, to sit with God in the stillness? Think about your day and your week. When will you take some time to BE?

---

---

---

**Sunday, 10/18/09** – Read **Mark 9:14-29**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

A Question to Answer: Not taking time simply to BE has consequences. It can affect the quality of our DOING. Jesus' disciples couldn't heal the boy because they hadn't spent enough time in prayer! ... When our lives are simply strings of frantic activities, we are not fully present. We may get the kids delivered to their lessons -- but not be really present to our kids. We may get the food sorted at Second Harvest but not have a moment simply to look into the face of the homeless woman outside Safeway. ... Is there ever a "poverty of BEING" in your life? Does it affect the quality of your DOING? Jot down some examples of times when you were fully present -- and some times when you weren't.

---

---

---

*My Faith Journal*, October 11, 2009

You Asked for It, #6:

### ***Of Cats and Monkeys***

**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

Ephesians 2:8-10

James 1:17-18, 22-25

Mark 9:29

**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.*