

30 Days of Prayer

Day 30

Proverbs 3.5-10

- ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
- ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
- ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- ⁸It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.
- ⁹Honor the LORD with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce;
- ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

God of abundance,

You have been teaching me these 30 days that happiness does not come by acquiring more. Remind me daily that I don't need the many things I think I must have, but that what truly brings me pleasure is a loving relationship, a scent that evokes a delightful memory, a song that moves me to tears, the laughter of a child, a moment with you, a story shared with a good friend, the taste of a snowflake, a brilliantly colored sunrise, and the knowledge that none of those things cost money.

I thank you too, Lord, for things I have in which I've invested my time and my money, for which I am tremendously grateful: a cozy bed, a warm coat, a book I can't put down, the taste of melted chocolate on a fresh strawberry, the sound of cheering when my child scores a goal, a sermon that touches my heart, the taste of Holy Communion, the sight of my child receiving his First Communion, a place to grieve when I've lost a loved one, a community of faith that surrounds me when I'm sick, a Bible I can't put down, and a place to call home. Never let me forget what you have given me, how you have blessed me, and how I can, in turn, be a blessing to others. In the name of Christ,

Amen.

Solomon writes in Proverbs insights into happiness: faith, obedience, and generosity. We may believe the path to happiness is acquiring more stuff, or accomplishing more and bigger goals. But Solomon suggests the path to happiness is the opposite: giving away our stuff, and being satisfied with the simple things that can keep us from evil.

As we look toward 2009, let us ask ourselves... Are we happy with our stuff? Are our possessions fulfilling? Or are we still missing something? Perhaps we're missing the freedom that comes with letting go of our stuff. Perhaps happiness really does come through faith, obedience, and generosity. It's worth a try.