

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Pray as though everything depended on God.

Work as though everything depended on you. —Saint Augustine

Frances Green was an 83-year-old California lady living on Social Security. Although living at the poverty line, she had sent one dollar a year to the Republican National Committee (RNC).

Then one day Frances got an RNC fund-raising letter in the mail inviting her to the White House to meet President Reagan. She didn't notice the little RSVP card that any response should be accompanied by a generous donation. *She thought she'd been invited because they appreciated her dollar-a-year support!*

She spent some of what little money she had to book train tickets for a cross-country ride in coach for her meeting with the president. But when she got to the White House gate, her name was not on the guest list. She was understandably heartbroken.

But a Ford Motor Company executive was nearby. He talked to the guard. He spoke with a White House presidential aide. And he said to Frances Green, "Come back here tomorrow at 9 a.m."

The next day was anything but calm at the White House. A lot was going on. But Frances Green showed up at nine o'clock, full of expectation and enthusiasm. She was met by the car company official, who gave her a wonderful tour of the White House. As they were going by the Oval Office, President Reagan glanced out and saw Frances Green. He gestured her into his office.

As she entered, he rose from his desk and called out, "Frances! Those lousy computers, they messed up again! If I'd known you were coming I would have come out there to get you myself." He then invited her to sit down, and they talked leisurely about California, her town, her life and family.

The president of the United States gave Frances Green a lot of time that day — more time than he had. He knew this woman had nothing to give him, but she needed something he could give her.

And so the Ford executive and the president took time to be kind and compassionate.

In the same manner, God of all creation — there is no higher-ranking authority — will do the same for you. God beckons you to have a meeting, a conversation, a chat — to come into his presence with rejoicing.

—Timothy Merrill, based on online reports of this story

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for inviting me into your presence and for reminding me that your door is always open. Amen.


Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Job 1-4
Monday: Job 5-7
Tuesday: Job 8-10
Wednesday: Job 11-13
Thursday: Job 14-17
Friday: Job 18-20
Saturday: Psalms 7-9

Verse to Remember

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
 I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult
 in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

—Psalm 9:1-2

WORD BOXES

The book of Acts tells the story of some of the apostle Paul’s journeys. Use the grid on the right to fill in the empty boxes on the left, which — when filled out correctly — will reveal the name of one of the cities Paul visited. Remember, only one of the letters derived from either the top or the bottom clue is the correct one. We’ve done one box for you.

C2	B5	B1	D3	B4	C5	E3
			I			
A2	E4	B2	E5	A1	C1	B4

	A	B	C	D	E
1	G	R	T	J	E
2	P	K	C	B	W
3	Y	X	F	I	H
4	U	N	Z	A	O
5	M	D	S	V	L

Answer: (spelled backward):
 HTNIROC

Write a Personal Psalm!

In our **Daily Bible Readings**, we have just started to read the psalms. Have you ever tried to write a psalm? Sometimes, the author of the psalms wrote using an acrostic beginning with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Here’s what you could do: Think of a word to use as the acrostic pattern — God, for example. Then write three statements expressing praise. Each sentence begins with one of the letters of the word “God.” See the example to the right.

Now you try it. Consider using words for your acrostic pattern such as: praise, goodness, thanks, prayer, etc. Write it on a sheet of paper. Share your work with someone.

Psalm of Praise

Glory to you, O God,
*because you give me
 comfort in my trials;*
Over all the years of my
*life, you have always
 been there for me.*
Do again today as you
have in the past!

