

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 5th

Daily Devotional #5

As I read Armando's devotional again (Daily Devotional #2) and the morning prayer he quotes, I was, once again, deeply moved by the sincerity and depth of the prayer. I looked to my library and picked up, Devotional Classics, eds. Richard Foster & Bryan Smith and found it in the "Prayer Filled Life" Section. Its author, John Baillie, was born in Scotland in 1886. The prayer "My First Thought" that Armando shared with us is the first of seven morning prayers. For today's devotional, I'd like to share Baillie's sixth morning prayer, an beautifully written prayer of gratitude for "This Your Greatest Gift"...

O GOD, who has proven Your love for all humanity by sending us Jesus Christ our Lord, and has illuminated our human life by the radiance of His presence, I give You thanks for this Your greatest gift.

For my Lord's days upon the earth:
For the record of His deeds of love:
For the words He spoke for my guidance and help:
For His obedience unto death:
For His triumph over death:
For the presence of His Spirit with me now:

I thank you, O GOD.

Grant that the remembrance of the blessed Life that once was lived out on this common earth under these ordinary skies may remain with me in all the tasks and duties of this day.

Let me remember –

His eagerness, not to be ministered unto, but to minister:
His sympathy with suffering of every kind:
His bravery in the face of His own suffering:
His meekness of bearing, so that, when reviled, He reviled not again:
His steadiness of purpose in keeping to His appointed task:
His simplicity:
His self-discipline:
His sincerity of spirit:
His complete reliance upon You, His Father in Heaven.

And in each of these ways give me grace to follow in His footsteps.

Amen.