



Psalm 91:1

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Psalm 86:11 (NIV 1984)

It is very early in the morning. Though my body begs me to go back to sleep, my soul stirs to get up and talk with Jesus. Though I can't physically see Him, I know He is present.

I open my Bible to the book of Psalms and pray the verses I read to start my day. The more I do this, the less I hear the nagging things of this world. A beautiful melody of God's truth rises up and my worries fade in their light. His perspective on what troubles me overshadows my anxiety.

This time alone with God prepares me for what I will need through out the day. He's equipping me to handle what is ahead with His gentle boldness, quiet strength, and loving grace.

In Psalm 81:10, God instructs me, "Open wide your mouth and I will fill it." (NIV 1984) He will give me what to say. What to say in happy moments and in aggravating moments. What to say when I feel insecure and what to say when I am confident. He also reminds me that sometimes it is good to keep my mouth closed and say nothing at all. Psalm 84:1 reminds me that God's dwelling place is lovely. So I ask for Him to dwell in me richly. **I want God to be what radiates about me.** Not my hair. Not my outfit. Not my efforts. But simply Him—shifting a wrong attitude, guarding my words, and whispering constant truths into my heart.

Psalm 86:11 prompts me to ask God to "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart ..." (NIV 1984)

Each of these verses lead my morning prayer: *Lord, may nothing separate me from You today. Teach me how to choose only Your way today so each step will lead me closer to You. Help me walk by the Word and not my feelings.*

Help me to keep my heart pure and undivided. Protect me from my own careless thoughts, words, and actions. And keep me from being distracted by MY wants, MY desires, MY thoughts on how things should be. Help me to embrace what comes my way as an opportunity ...rather than a personal inconvenience.

And finally, help me to rest in the truth of Psalm 86:13, "Great is your love toward me." (NIV 1984). You already see the ways I will fall short and mess up. But right now, I consciously tuck Your whisper of absolute love for me into the deepest part of my heart. I recognize Your love for me is not based on my performance. You love me warts and all. That's amazing. But what's most amazing is that the Savior of the world would desire a few minutes with me this morning. Lord, help me to forever remember what a gift it is to sit with You like this. Amen.

I'm now ready to face today. Armed with truth. Surrounded by love. Filled with gratitude.

Reflect and Respond:

Set aside time today to personally pray through the verses in Psalms listed in this devotion. Personalize them by inserting things particular to you. For example: Psalm 86:11 talks about having an undivided heart. List out those things that divide your heart and pull you away from the closeness you desire with Jesus. Spend some time confessing these and asking for wisdom to know how to better handle them.

Power Verse:

Mark 1:35, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (NIV)

Hillside Highlights

www.hillsidemoncton.org

March 28, 2014

Annual Operations Meeting Biggest Yet!

Over 150 Hillsideers attended our largest ever Annual Ops Meeting this past Tuesday night. By all accounts, it was an amazing evening! The gathering was filled with highly engaging and informative reports of what God is doing in and through our ministry. 2013 was a fantastic year and 2014 is off to an absolutely amazing start on many fronts. Very exciting! Momentum is building as we go to 2 services this summer, keep fuelling our premiere family ministry, and prepare for a major expansion project in 2015. Again, don't miss some of these key highlights to be shared on Sunday.



Dr. John Weiler
Care Pastor

For those who missed it... One of the most exciting announcements of the evening was the news of Hillside's new Care team. The team begins this Monday and comes in the aftermath of Pastor Mark's transition to a new calling in Scotland. Pastor John Weiler has agreed to take on the role of our new Care Pastor and Paulette Price will be serving as our new Director of Care. These part-time appointments by the Board of Elders both strategically fit into our "2020 Vision" helping us to intentionally build an even greater sense of community in the days ahead. The vision? To be the most loving and caring church we can possibly be as a leading Acts 2 church in the region. We don't want to leave anyone behind or falling through the cracks! Pastor John and Paulette will be working with our Deacons Team to help facilitate Care in even greater ways as together our ministry grows and touches even more lives in the future. Best days ahead!



Paulette Price
Director of Care

"This Sunday"

Join us for more soul replenishing worship, welcoming our largest group of "All In" new members, and the third installment of the "Shine" series. Pastor Jerry will be speaking on "Reflecting Him in My Witness". Feeling timid, ill-equipped, or simply complacent about sharing Christ with your unbelieving friends? This message could be a game changer for you! Learn why and how 'friends tell their friends about Jesus'. Plus, hear more exciting ministry highlights in these momentous days.



Have you been impacted by **ALPHA**? Are you passionate about reaching our community? Pastor Dave would like to invite any who are interested in having a conversation about upcoming ALPHA possibilities. **This Sunday (March 30th) @ 9:15 in the HYM Cafe** (bottom floor) join Pastor Dave for a conversation and brainstorming. No commitment required just one hour of your time. If you are unable to make this particular meeting time an email dave@hillsidemoncton.org to let him know you are excited about Alpha would be appreciated. Thank you in advance!



If you're new to Hillside come join us at **Getting Started**, which is the "Connect" class on our new Discipleship Diamond. This class will be held next Sunday, April 6th, from 11:00am – 12:15pm. Hosted by Pastor Dave, this snapshot of Hillside's ministry is a great orientation for newcomers. You will learn more about our exciting ministry, vision, and how to get connected. It also includes a tour of our facilities. If interested, send us an email info@hillsidemoncton.org or sign up on your Connection Card on Sunday.



There will be a Parent/Child Dedication on Palm Sunday, April 13th. If you are interested in receiving more information about participating, please send an email to info@hillsidemoncton.org or sign up on your Connection Card on Sunday.

Parent/Child
DEDICATION
Proverbs 22:6

