



Theme: Authentic Faith in a World of Artificial Intelligence "The Deciding Factor"

We have a great new way for you to get these Meditation Moments each day directly to your phone. Just text "**med moments**" to **970-426-0700** to receive the **daily Meditation Moment** each morning and start your day grounded in faith and peace.

Weekly Memory Verse:

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. –
John 15:12

Meditation Moments for Monday, February 16 – Read **John 15:9-12**. In a politically tense, occupied nation, Jesus lived and taught a tough, persistent love—the Greek word *agape*, which was a sacrificial and self-giving love. This wasn't mere tolerance. It's clear from the actions of Jesus that God doesn't regard sinners with aversion but with a costly love we see in the cross, where Jesus died to save all. Christians believe Jesus showed that God loves you, and that this divine love changes both your life and everyone else's for the better.

 Jesus began verse 9 with ten powerful words: "**As** the Father loved me, I too have loved you." Like the moon reflecting the sun's light, our love for others should reflect God's love for us. In what practical ways do you live out your commitment to love God and others? Can you view self-giving, rather than self-gratification, as key to the love that makes life genuinely worth living?

 Jesus' teaching shaped John Wesley, Methodism's founder, who asked in a sermon: "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without doubt, we may." Is there someone who thinks differently from you, yet whom you're called to "love alike"?

Prayer: *O Lord, help me increasingly to love, not as an outward disguise to hide my anger or pain, but from my heart as your love overflows and bubbles out of me to bless others. Amen.*

Tuesday, February 17 – Read **Romans 14:13-19 and 15:1-7**. [Romans 16:3-5](#) tells us that Paul's letter to Roman Christians went to a set of smaller house churches—gatherings more like today's small groups. These early believers didn't always agree on how best to live their faith. It's okay to differ on the details, Paul said. The central, non-negotiable demand is to “build each other up” in love.

 Paul wrote, “Welcome each other, **in the same way that Christ also welcomed you.**” Does that not set a high, serious standard? Yet consider this: Christ welcomed even a woman caught in adultery and a thief on a cross. Does his model set an unexpectedly low barrier for acceptance? Which challenges you more—the height or the accessibility of Christ's welcoming love?

 Scholar N. T. Wright noted in his commentary on Romans, *Paul for Everyone*, that Paul was saying, “Don't pass judgment on each other—but do use your judgment in not tripping each other up!” In other words, having strong personal convictions is fine; using them to hurt someone who does things differently isn't. How did Paul call on believers, as members of the family of faith, to act toward each other?

Prayer: *Dear God, when I behave in ways that fall short of your dreams for my life, you offer me your grace and accepting love. You call me to treat others the same way you've treated me. Help me to keep living into that calling. Amen.*

Ash Wednesday is this week and begins the season of Lent, the 40 days and 7 Sundays before Easter. Join us at Noon or 6 p.m. at Summit in person or online for a powerful time of worship, self-reflection, and a chance to celebrate the Good News.

Wednesday, February 18 – Read **John 10:7-10 and 14-16**. Jesus chose a bold metaphor when he called himself “the good shepherd.” Shepherds occupied one of the lowest social rungs in his day, yet his words drew deeply from the prophet Ezekiel [34:1-16](#), where God promised to shepherd Israel himself. Jesus came as that “good shepherd”—safely guiding and protecting all who trusted him. He called all “sheep” to join his “flock,” where together they would find “life to the fullest.” In our modern world, we sometimes think “life the fullest” is about being able to know and do more. Jesus saw it differently.

 It's important to remember that sheep can't care for themselves. An isolated sheep is among earth's most vulnerable creatures. A good shepherd works for each sheep's safety and well-being. Unlike actual sheep, humans must choose to trust. What has moved you toward trusting Jesus and people who genuinely follow him? When have Jesus and his people been shepherds for you? In what ways do you most need “shepherding” right now?

 Scholar William Barclay in his commentary on John noted that Jesus' promise of life “to the fullest” means having a superabundance—an overflowing richness of life itself. He wrote, “To be a follower of Jesus, to know who he is and what he means, is to have a superabundance of life.” When has following Jesus left you feeling deeply, fully alive? How can you continue living out the joyous abundance Jesus offers—encouraging others and being encouraged by them?

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, I choose to trust you to be my shepherd. Shelter me, care for me, and guide me to the truly good life — a life shared with your people and enfolded in your love. Amen.*

Thursday, February 19 – Read **Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 18:24, 27:17 and Ecclesiastes 4:7-12**. We currently live in a world that can feel isolated. Loneliness is at an all-time high and even called an epidemic by some medical professionals, partly because of our dependence on technology and our immersion into social media which is not really social if we are honest. From creation's beginning, God said humans aren't meant to live alone. The wisdom writers of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes expanded on this truth, showing how friends sharpen one another and how isolation—even with great wealth—creates a “terrible obsession.” The biblical vision is clear: God calls people together, not as isolated individuals, but as a community.

 The teacher of Ecclesiastes valued friendship's warmth. “Two are better than one,” he wrote, because friends help each other up, keep each other warm, and create strength together.” He added that “a three-ply cord doesn't easily snap”—suggesting three companions are even better than two. In what ways have you found strength in facing life with trusted, supportive friends, rather than all alone? How can you begin to develop some of those kinds of relationships? (To connect with a small group, please email Jake@summitdurango.org and see what Summit might have to offer, or how you can start a group.)

 While parts of your spiritual journey happen alone—just you and God—the Bible consistently calls God's people a “family” in places like [Deuteronomy 26:11](#) and [Romans 12:10](#). That's why Summit offers many ways to build friendships that run deeper than social connections. Worship with others is important because other members of Christ's body can deepen our experience of God's presence. How have members of your faith family deepened your experience?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for keeping your promise not to leave me alone. Teach me how to claim you as my Companion and Comforter and join with others in your family to help each other on our spiritual journeys. Amen.*

Friday, February 20 – Read **Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 and Revelation 21:3-5**. Sometimes our fear of new technology leads to fear of the unknown and leads to us being a bit paralyzed. The most extreme threat has always been, “I will kill you.” Roman officials puzzled over how little that threat terrified Jesus' followers. By dying and rising again, Jesus had set them free from even the fear of death. In 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul boldly asserted a divine victory so sweeping that death would be “swallowed up.” John Wesley quoted Paul and said, “Let this especially fortify us against the fear of death: It is now disarmed, and can do us no hurt.” The Bible ended with Revelation's vision of a splendid world in which “death will be no more.”

 Jesus faced evil and death at their very worst—just read about his trial and crucifixion in any of the four gospels. Jesus defeated evil and death at their very worst — read on to the Easter story in any of those gospels. Early Christians staked their lives on the truth of Jesus' victory over death. How can Jesus'

resurrection give you peace as you await God's eternity, where "death will be no more"?



Every Easter at Summit you hear Pastor Jeff share something like, "Each Easter sermon I've preached and most of the funeral services end in the same way: People ask me, 'Jeff, you seem intelligent. Do you really believe this stuff? That Jesus rose from the dead? That we live after death with God in heaven?' My answer is always the same: 'I not only believe it but I'm counting on it, and so can you.'" Does the idea of death cause you fear and anxiety? How can Jesus' death and resurrection set you free from that fear?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you went where most of us most dread going—the realm of death—and emerged victorious! You offer me the choice to join you in that victory. I accept your offer of a life that lies beyond the power of death. Thanks be to God! Amen,*

Saturday, February 21 – Read **2 Corinthians 4:6-10 and 16-18**. The apostle Paul wrote 2 Corinthians after a painful time when rival teachers had turned many Christians in Corinth against him. In [2 Corinthians 11:23-28](#), he cataloged the many challenges he'd faced in carrying out God's mission. Yet Paul didn't let any of that destroy him. In verse 10 he tells that he saw his struggles as connected to Jesus' death, which seemed the worst defeat of all, yet became victory through resurrection. Sometimes our fear of things like Artificial Intelligence can feel overwhelming, and in those times we are meant to remember as people of faith that Jesus has won the victory over even death and so we don't need to be afraid.



When did you last feel confused, harassed, or knocked down because the world and all its technological advances feel foreign? What resources helped you avoid being crushed, depressed, or knocked out? Have you ever seen—in yourself or someone you know—the truth of Paul's words: "Even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day"?



We too often feel shame about illness or aging, especially when we don't understand new things like AI emerging in our world. We can see our age or limited knowledge as weakness or failure. But Paul faced those realities fearlessly. Scholar William Barclay wrote in his commentary on this text: "It is a notable fact that in all the gospel story Jesus never foretold his death without foretelling his Resurrection... The things that are seen, the things of this world, have their day and cease to be; the things that are unseen, the things of heaven, last forever." How can God's promise of eternity help you live beyond fear about this earthly life's end?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, on the days when life feels dark and nothing seems to go right, help me not to be crushed or destroyed. Remind me always of the words of Frederick Buechner that we often repeat at Summit, "the worst thing is never the last thing." Because of your resurrection, I have eternal hope. Amen.*