

Daily Devotions – Why and How

Why you should have daily devotions:

1. God invites you to listen to Him and learn of Him (Ps. 34:11; Prov. 8:1-10, 32-36 / Mt. 11:28-29).
2. God commands you to “add to your faith” and grow in the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 1:5; 3:18).
3. God wants you to desire His Word (I Peter 2:1-3) and seek Him with your whole heart (Ps. 119:1-2).
4. God commands you to change by renewing your mind (Romans 12:2 / Eph. 4:23 / Col. 3:10).
5. God wants to “sanctify and cleanse” you by His Word (Eph. 5:26-27).
6. God commands you to “put on the whole armor of God” (Eph. 6:10-18).
7. God demands obedience to His Word. Learn It, then you can obey It (John 15:8-11 / James 1:22).
8. God commands you to sing and pray to Him, praise Him, and give thanks to Him (Psalms 95:1-2; 96:1-2; 100; 150:1,6 / I Thess. 5:16-18).
9. God commands you to be prepared to speak His Word to others (Prov. 22:17-21 / I Peter 3:15).
10. Jesus set aside special times for prayer (Mark 1:35; 7:46 / Luke 6:12).

How you should have daily devotions:

- A. Sing to the Lord and give thanks in prayer (Psalm 100:2, 5).
- B. Read in the Bible (at least one chapter per day; three chapters per day = whole Bible in one year).

The following questions will help you benefit more from what you read in the Bible:

1. “What does It say?” -- summarize
 2. “What lessons are taught?” -- analyze
 3. “How does this Scripture apply to me?” or “What does God want me to do?” -- personalize
- C. Memorize & review Scripture—at least one new verse per week & review old ones (Ps. 119:9-11).
 - D. Pray (Psalm 55:16-17 / Jer. 33:3 / Matt. 7:7-8; 21:22 / Mark 11:35; 14:38 / II Thess. 3:1-5, etc.)
 1. For Others (family, friends, people at church, neighbors, co-workers, missionaries, evangelists).
 - a. Spiritual needs – salvation, victory, 100% dedication, witness & testimony, spiritual growth
 - b. Physical needs – health, finances, safety
 2. For Yourself
 - a. Spiritual needs -- understanding of God’s Word, conviction of sin, victory, opportunities & help to witness, compassion, wisdom for decisions, help being a godly family / church member
 - b. Physical needs – health, finances, safety, children

I believe it is important to spend the first part of each day learning God’s Word, praying, and singing to the Lord. *But do not quit doing those things when your special time of devotions is ended!* God wants you to meditate on His Word, pray, sing to Him, and “rejoice in the Lord” all day (Psalm 1:1-2, 34:1-3).

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2).
“Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart” (Psalm 119:2).

What does It say?

Date _____

What lessons are taught?

What does God want me to do? How does It apply to me?

What does It say?

Date _____

What lessons are taught?

What does God want me to do? How does It apply to me?

What does It say?

Date _____

What lessons are taught?

What does God want me to do? How does It apply to me?

Ephesians 6:10-18 – Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **Put on the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil . . . Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

I Peter 2:1-3 – Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, **as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:** if so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

II Peter 3:18 – But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Ephesians 5:25-27 – Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word**, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

John 15:10 – As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

James 1:22 – But be ye **doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Psalms 34:8-11 – O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for *there is* no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*. **Come, ye children, hearken unto me:** I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Proverbs 8:1-11 – Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. **Hear; for I will speak of excellent things;** and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them. They *are* all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. **Receive my instruction**, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. **For wisdom is better than rubies;** and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 8:32-36 – Now therefore **hearken unto me**, O ye children: for blessed *are they that* keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. **Blessed is the man that heareth me**, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Matthew 11:28-29 – Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me;** for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Psalms 95: 1-2 – O come, let us **sing unto the LORD:** let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and **make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.**

Proverbs 22:17-21 – Bow down thine ear, and **hear** the words of the wise, and **apply thine heart** unto my knowledge. **For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee;** they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, **that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth;** that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

Romans 12:1-2 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.