

# Devotional Life

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## I. Introduction.

- A. The pastor's trade secret: his relationship to Christ.
- B. The title is "sharing Christ's life for the taproot of the soul." (John 15:5)

## II. The devotional life is like a tree planted by the river. (Jeremiah 17:7,8)

- A. Although the tree faced both heat and drought, it survived.
  - 1. The leaves always stayed green and the tree never missed a fruit-bearing season.
  - 2. The secret was that it was planted by the water and its roots were spread out.
- B. This is the picture of a Christian whose soul is in contact with Jesus drawing life from Him on a daily basis. (John 15:5)
  - 1. There are three parts of the human soul: mind, affections and the will. These are then the power of the soul. Each of these taproots is a channel by which we make contact with Christ.
  - 2. The taproots of the soul:
    - a. The mind that is exercised through meditation on the word of God. (Psalm 1:2,3)
      - 1). This is rumination - a cow chews something up and stores it up for later.
      - 2) The cow ruminates in perfect timing without waste. She squeezes the nourishment out of it.
      - 3) We transfer the life of Christ into us in a similar manner. (Psalm 40:7)
      - 4) Christ comes in the volume of the book. (John 6)
      - 5) Meditation is the process by which the life of Christ is extracted and is brought through the blood stream by the Word of God.
        - a) The conscious mind makes a transfer to the unconscious mind at night and it becomes restless. The purpose of the unconscious mind is for dwelling on God's Word.
        - b) The last thing that a person thinks about during the day should be God's Word. (Proverbs 6:22)

c) The Psalmist had a pattern of prayer. (Psalm 119:64)

d) At midnight, David rose to give thanks to God. (Psalm 119:62)

d) The law of God is the man's meditation all the day. (Psalm 119:97)

b. The affections exercised with communion or prayer. (Jeremiah 31:12; 30:21)

1) God wanted to commune with man. (Exodus 25:22)

2) The tabernacle was a pattern of true fellowship with God (Hebrews 9:24)

3) Communion is the engagement of the heart with God.

a) Time passes fast when we are in communion with God.

b) In communion with God we talk with Him about the things most real to us.

c) Communion is the alternative impact of two personalities that produces a pleasant effect.

d) Time is relative to the enjoyment we have with someone.

c. The will - trusting in the Lord and choosing obedience. (Psalm 37:3)

1) If we want our souls fed we are to do good.

2) There are two laws: the law of the Spirit and the law of sin. (Romans 8:2)

a) Every reversal represents a choice, which we are to make.

b) The Lord allows temptation so that we might grow by obedience.

3) It is essential to focus on the battle most importantly.

4) The life of Christ comes into us as we satisfy the needs of the hungry and the afflicted. (Isaiah 58:11-12)

5) He that waters will be watered. (Proverbs 11:25)

6) We too often miss the signals of service. (Psalm 123:2)

III. Conclusion.

A. God is looking at us and is able and ready to supply the nourishment that our soul needs. (Isaiah 27:3)

B. We can share Christ's life and enable Him to share ours. (John 15:5)

**Application questions.**

1. What are the three taproots of the soul? How do these connect to the mind, affections, and the will?

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2. In what ways do involvement in the Word, prayer, and communion overlap? How are they distinct? What are ways that all three can be incorporated throughout the day?

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3. How should your devotional life look different in light of the message? What aspects of the devotional life do you plan to work on? How?

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