

Devotional Life

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I. Introduction. There is a need and a provision for daily spiritual renewal.

A. This is likened to the manna in the desert God provided after the Exodus.

B. When the Israelites depended on themselves and started saving the manna, it was rotted.

C. Christ said he is this bread of life and his nourishment is a daily event. (II Corinthians 4:13)

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

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. The taproots of the soul:

a. The mind that is exercised through meditation on the word of God. (Psalm 1:3)

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; John 6)

a) He comes in the volume of the book.

b) His words are life.

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

c. The correct choice in the midst of struggle - trusting in the Lord and choosing obedience. (Psalm 37:3)

1) Every reversal represents a choice which we make. (Romans 8:2)

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

3) It is like flying - there is inconsistency in the spiritual walk here.

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

a) It is unreasonable to assume that people in war would forget about the mission.

b) So too it is not time for us to relax. In the battle of life we must choose to 'water' others. (Proverbs 11:25)

2. The provision, which God has shared with us, is not restricted to the time we can spend in prayer and communion - we are meant to experience his provision in the battle of life.

a. In the daily quiet time we take away what we need for the battle.

b. A fire prong is in the fire in the fireplace and the fire becomes within the poker.

c. It is like recharging a rechargeable flashlight. We recharge in quiet time.

III. Characterizing the quiet time.

A. We need to think in terms of a period, a place and a plan.

1. Typically the period is thought of as early morning with some exceptions.

2. The place must be a place where the person can concentrate.

3. The plan is to renew our soul through meditation in the word of God, to share Christ's life by communing with Him and to get out of that time what we need to live obediently during the day.

B. Prayer is the occupation of the heart with needs, praise is the occupation of the heart with blessings, and adoration is the occupation of the heart with God Himself. It is more than presenting requests before God.

1. The greatest need for sharing the life of Christ is in the battle of life, and He has made abundant provision with the choice mechanism: trust in the Lord and choose obedience and satisfy the afflicted.

2. With the mind the soul knows, through the affections the soul feels, and with the will the soul chooses.

3. In our quiet time we try to get some of the fragrance in our soul from our time with God, so that we can take it with us throughout our day as a reminder.

C. The Lord is on the job 24-7 to water our souls. (Isaiah 27:3)

Application questions.

1. What are the three taproots of the soul? Explain these in your own words.

2. The speaker seems to center these taproots on quiet time. Why is it that the end of these taproots is not merely personal time with God? Explain.

3. What are two things in light of this message that you can do to enhance your personal time with God? Keep in mind what some of your goals are on how your life should look outside of that quiet time as a result.
