

The Godly Man as a Disciple

The Devotional Life

The devotional life has been called by many names: daily devotions, morning watch, quiet time, time with the Lord. The fact that Christians can usually describe it, however, does not necessarily mean that many of them practice it. Actually, few believers meet daily with the Lord on a consistent basis. Whatever you may call this Christian discipline, it refers to a specific daily time when God speaks to the believer from his Word, the Bible, and the believer responds in prayer. This daily, consistent fellowship is of vital importance if a believer is to grow in the likeness of the Lord.

Daily devotions

1. Why should Christians have daily devotions? The following scriptures give us some reasons. Match the following statements with the appropriate scriptures answering the question, “why daily devotions?”

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|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (...) | Personal joy | 1. I Corinthians 1:9 |
| (...) | Not forget God | 2. II Corinthians 3:18 |
| (...) | Worship | 3. Exodus 34:2-3 |
| (...) | Man's soul need | 4. John 4:24 |
| (...) | To know God | 5. Jeremiah 2:32 |
| (...) | Part of God's call | 6. Psalm 42:1-2 |
| (...) | An invitation to us to be like Christ | 7. Isaiah 43:10 |

2. The scriptures give us many examples of Bible characters who had daily devotions. After the following passages, write down the name of the man, what he did or desired regarding his fellowship with God and in your opinion, why this was true.

Genesis 19:27

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Psalm 63:1-2

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Psalm 27:4

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Exodus 33:14-15

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Mark 1:35

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Philippians 3:10

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Elements in the daily devotional life.

Scriptures

1. How was the king to read the scriptures according to Deuteronomy 17:18-20?
2. Why was he to read it?.....
3. How does this apply to us today?
4. Our identification with Christ is to be on a basis according to Luke 9:23.

Prayer

1. When should we pray? Luke 18:1
2. What does I Thessalonians 5:17 mean?



3. Effective prayer includes several components (“ACTS”). These components are illustrated in the Prayer Hand. Number them below in the order that you feel they should be introduced in your own prayer time.

The Prayer Hand
Maintaining a Balanced Prayer Life

- (...) Adoration - Praise
I Chronicles 29:11-13
- (...) Confession
Proverbs 28:13
- (...) Thanksgiving
I Thessalonians 5:16-18
- (...) Supplication: Intercession
(Prayer for others) *Colossians 4:12*
- (...) Supplication: Petition
(Prayer for myself) *I John 5:14-15*



Results of daily devotions

1. From the following scriptures, search and discover some results of a consistent daily devotional life.

- II Timothy 3:16
- Joshua 1:8

Psalm 139:23,24

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Psalm 119:105

.....

I Peter 2:2,3

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I John 1:7

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Hosea 6:6 (Living)

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Psalm 139:23-24

.....

Psalm 119:105

.....

I Peter 2:2-3

.....

I John 1:7

.....

Hindrances to Daily Devotions

1. From the following scriptures, list some of the hindrances to an effective daily devotional life and what steps you would take to overcome these hindrances.

<i>Hindrance</i>	<i>How I Would Overcome It</i>
Proverbs 6:9
Revelation 3:17
Psalm 127:2
Matthew 6:33
Mark 4:19
I John 2:15,16
Psalm 66:18

Remember, in order to have an effective daily devotional life you need:

1. **Time** when you are at your best.
2. **Place** - quiet spot all alone.
3. **Plan** - some pre-determined approach.
4. **Bible** - a translation you enjoy and don't mind writing in.
5. **Notebook** - to jot down what God says to you.
6. **Prayer List** - to help you remember.
7. **Expectant Heart** - you have an audience with the King.



Assignment

Fill out the following questions, then read the passages listed on the day assigned, and answer the questions for each passage.

By God's Grace, I Will Have a Daily Devotional Life This Week:

Time

Place

Which Translation

Length of Time

Signed:

Monday - Philippians 2:5 thru 10. Make note of the steps which took Jesus to his place of exaltation. How do these steps apply to us today?

Tuesday - Colossians 1:14 thru 20. Substitute the name of Christ for the personal pronoun in the passage. What new insight did you receive from this reading?

Wednesday - John 15:1 thru 17. Who is the vine? Who are the branches? What does it mean to "abide?"

Thursday - Matthew 25:31 thru 46. How does this apply today?

Friday - Hebrews 12:1 thru 6. What do you feel is necessary for us to "finish the race?"

Saturday - Acts 2:14 thru 36. What were the most important facts which Peter covered in this sermon of his?

Sunday - Psalm 145. List the things the Psalmist was praising God for.

Suggestions For Further Study

Tape 1517A - Quiet Time, Stephen Olford

Tape 1404AB - Bible Study, Gordon Adams

Quiet Time - Inter Varsity Press

Manna in the Morning by Stephen Olford, Moody Press

My Heart Christ's Home by Robert B. Munger, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Time Alone With God, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

7 Minutes With God, The Navigators, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Daily Devotional Diary (a reading plan with written reproduction) The Navigators.