

Ideas for Doing Devotions and Developing Intimacy with God

Goals for devotions include:

- To develop an intimate relationship with God – Intimacy is defined as a very close association, contact, or friendship developed through long association; very familiar; suggesting informal warmth or privacy; of a very personal nature.
- To be humbled by the holiness of Jesus
- To be comforted by the love of Jesus
- To be strengthened by the presence of Jesus
- To grow in the knowledge and application of God’s word
- To allow the Holy Spirit to identify sin
- To establish and maintain biblical attitudes and actions in my life

A. Location, Location, Location

Mark 1:35

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, [Jesus] went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

- Time Morning
- Location Private
- Duration 20 min to start – use all 20 min

B. Prayerful Preparation

Matthew 6:6

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

- Ask for calm heart and mind
- Confess dependence
- Ask for filling of Holy Spirit

C. Daily Devotional

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.

- Prime the pump and wake you up
- Hear a voice outside of yourself

D. Bible Reading

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

- Read a chapter or read until the Lord shows – not more than a chapter
 - Read carefully, reverently, intelligently, more than once...
- See handout “Devotions/Bible Study Plans and Ideas”

E. Listening

Proverbs 8:32-34

32“Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. 33Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. 34Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

Spend some time listening quietly. This may be uncomfortable at first. Persevere and God will speak to you. Remember that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in your heart and mind and can minister to you in your thoughts.

- Is there a promise to claim for yourself?
- Is there a sin to confess? – lifestyle, habit, etc
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an example to follow? – either a person (Jesus, James, Paul) or a directive given
- Is there an error to avoid?
- Is there a new thought about God? –about Him and His desire for you or about you

F. Journaling

Proverbs 3:3

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

- A journal is a record of experiences, ideas or reflections that is kept regularly for your private use
 - o Date
 - o Verse(s)
 - o What I learned, was blessed by, encouraged in...
 - o How I will apply

G. Praying with Hands

Luke 11:9

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

- Handout “Hand of Prayer and Devotion”

Bible Study/Devotional helps:

Bible dictionary
Bible encyclopedia
Bible concordance
Bible commentary

- You may not hear from God everyday – there may be dry times – don’t stop
- Change it up – what you are doing, and how you are doing it – yearly or quarterly
- Share what you learn with someone else – God will bring application for you
- You may want to open/close your time with worship music



versesforlife.org
The Media Teaching Ministry
of Calvary Chapel Riverside
calvarychapelriverside.org
616-988-WORD (9673)