

The Christian's Devotional Life

-How to Be and Remain a Strong Christian-

[10]

** Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin*

- 1.) How important is it for a follower of Jesus to devote time for Bible study and prayer or communion with God? John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto _____, except ye _____ the _____ of the Son of man, and _____ his blood, ye have no _____ in you. 54 Whoso eateth my _____, and drinketh my _____, hath eternal life; and I will _____ him up at the last day. 35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the _____ of life: he that cometh to me shall never _____; and he that believeth on me shall never _____. 51 I am the _____ bread which came down from heaven: if any man _____ of this bread, he shall live for _____: and the bread that I will give is my _____, which I will give for the _____ of the world. **NOTE: With all the parable type word pictures and symbolism that the Bible uses, most people that know anything about the Bible will be careful not to take it literally in certain places. When we unlock the symbols by comparing with other scriptures elsewhere that talk about the same subject, then we can decipher its true meaning.**
- 2.) Obviously in the scripture above Jesus did not mean in a literal sense, so what was really meant by what Jesus said? Jeremiah 15:16 Thy _____ were found, and I did _____ them; and thy _____ was unto me the joy and _____ of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts. Revelation 10:9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little _____. And he said unto me, Take it, and _____ it up; and it shall make thy _____ bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as _____. Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the _____ of His mouth more than my necessary _____. 1Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same _____ meat; 4 And did all _____ the same _____ drink: for they drank of that _____ Rock that followed them: and that Rock was _____. Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall _____ you with _____ and understanding. **NOTE: Often through scripture you will see the physical or literal and you will see the spiritual or religious. All of us are acquainted with the physical or literal food that we eat. In this instance we have word pictures that talk about spiritual food that we take into ourselves when we read the Word of God. Even the pleasure of reading about the fascinating truths of the Bible or the beautiful love of God for us is likened to the pleasurable "tasting" of God's Word. Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do _____ and _____ after righteousness: for they shall be _____. Even as we need physical food to sustain us, so we need spiritual food and communion with God to keep our relationship with Him alive.**
- 3.) Does spending time feeding on God's Word help us to grow? 1Peter 2:2 As newborn

_____, desire the sincere _____ of the word, that ye may _____ thereby: **John 17:17** _____ them through thy _____ : thy _____ is truth. **NOTE: The word "sanctify" basically means to make holy. This is definitely a process of growth. In order for babies and children to be able to grow, they have to eat and drink. So must Christians partake of the spiritual food and drink that God has made available so that they may grow as well.**

4.) How important is it that we meditate on God's Word the Bible? **Joshua 1:8** This _____ of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt _____ therein day and night, that thou mayest _____ to do according to _____ that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good _____.

Psalm 1:2 But his _____ is in the _____ of the LORD; and in his law doth he _____ day and night. **Psalm 119:148** Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might _____ in thy _____. **NOTE: Often just reading or even studying the Bible is not good enough if we don't ponder or think about what we've gone over. Meditating about what we have studied can help us to put the connections together to make more sense of what we read and it is more likely to become a part of the fabric of our spiritual nature. Often this can be done after we have finished our worship and have already started our work day. Depending what type of work we are doing we can sometimes reflect on what we have mentally or spiritually ingested that morning in our private devotional time. *Keep in mind that Christian meditation is in no way to be confused with eastern meditation or yoga or mysticism where the mind is systematically emptied out. This type of meditation is very dangerous and can actually invite demonic forces to enter in and take control of your life. Have nothing to do with these types of meditative practices! Unfortunately this type of meditation is presently infiltrating many churches of different denominations now under an attractive "Christian" guise. Notice the following scripture. Matthew 12:43** When the _____ spirit is gone out of a _____, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. **44** Then he saith, I will _____ into my house from whence I _____ out; and when he is come, he findeth it _____, swept, and garnished. **45** Then goeth he, and _____ with himself seven other _____ more _____ than himself, and they _____ in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is _____ than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked _____. **FURTHER NOTE: What is frightening is that demonic forces are taking over more and more of the populace of our world even throughout professed Christendom. Now is the time to be earnestly praying, studying God's Word and earnestly trying to conform our lives in faithful obedience to His Word.**

5.) In the above (#1) scripture it mentions the "flesh" and the "blood." By comparing with other scriptures, what could we learn spiritually when we partake of His flesh and blood? **Romans 5:9** Much more then, being now _____ by his _____, we shall be _____ from wrath through him. **Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his _____, the _____ of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Revelation 5:9b . . . and hast _____ us to God by thy _____ out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; NOTE: When we accept the blood of Christ on our behalf just like the thief on the cross did, we can have salvation right now regardless of how sinful or bad we have been in the past. We need the blood of Christ for our title to eternal life. When we spend time in God's Word we would do well to contemplate what the shed blood of Jesus has done for us. Without its life-saving power we cannot have or experience the transformation of life and victory over sin in our lives. We should daily apply the blood of Christ over our soul and receive fresh forgiveness of sins. This means death to self. The Apostle Paul said he had to die daily! We can do no less.

Let's look at some other scriptures that refer to the "flesh" and glean more insights.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are _____ through the offering of the _____ of Jesus Christ once for all. **Romans 8:3** For what the _____ could not do, in that it was weak through the _____, God sending his own Son in the _____ of sinful flesh, and for sin, _____ sin in the _____: **4** That the righteousness of the _____ might be _____ in us, who walk not after the _____, but after the _____. **1Peter 4:1** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the _____, arm yourselves _____ with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the _____ hath _____ from sin; **2** That he _____ longer should live the _____ of his time in the _____ to the _____ of men, but to the _____ of God. **NOTE: Thankfully according to the Bible we are not just forgiven as Christians. If we did not have the power to overcome sin and to live changed lives salvation would be weak and limited and we would not have ultimate joy and peace in our lives. Salvation encompasses our complete recovery from sin even in this life. Sin does not need to have rule or dominion over our lives! Romans 6:14** For _____ shall not have _____ over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. **We can gain victory over bad habits, over bad tempers, over addictions, appetite problems, sexual lusts, over defects in our character and anything that is un-Christ-like in our daily lives. Sanctification means victory over sin in the flesh. It would be well for us to study and contemplate the life of Jesus when He was living here in the flesh and see how He lived and become like Him in character. This in the biggest sense is how we partake of His flesh and blood.**

6.) Prayer is very important in the Christian life. How important does the Word of God have to say about prayer? Ephesians 6:18 Praying _____ with all _____ and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and _____ for all saints; **Luke 18:1** And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men _____ always to _____, and not to faint; **Colossians 4:2** _____ in prayer, and watch in the same with _____; **Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in everything by _____ and supplication with thanksgiving let your _____ be made known unto God. **NOTE: Prayer and talking to God is an absolute must! See how far you get in reading the Bible before it starts talking about it. There are too many verses in scripture that we would ever have time for in the scope of this lesson. Prayer is the breath of the soul. We simply couldn't go very long without it. A marriage**

probably wouldn't last very long without some type of meaningful communication. Our relationship with God likewise wouldn't last very long without communicating with Him! With prayer (and song) we give praise to God. With prayer we give thanksgiving. With it we share our concerns and fears. With it we place our desires and supplications to the mighty God of the universe. With it we can pour out our intercessions in behalf of others. Just like this saying goes -"Much prayer – much power! - Little prayer – little power." If you want success in your spiritual life then prayer is a must!

- 7.) It is said that there are over 3,000 promises in God's Word. As followers of Jesus, should we take advantage of these wonderful promises that God has given us? 2Peter 1:4
Whereby are given unto us _____ great and _____: that by these ye might be _____ of the divine _____, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through _____. 2Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these _____, dearly beloved, let us _____ ourselves from all filthiness of the _____ and spirit, _____ holiness in the fear of God. NOTE: When God makes a promise, we can count on Him keeping it. Most promises have conditions attached to them. If we lack faith, or we are neglecting any known duty or we aren't forgiving someone or we are cherishing any sin or harboring any selfishness or bitterness in our hearts –these could hinder the fulfillment of these promises or answers to our prayers. Claiming the promises of God is one of the main ways to experience a vibrant Christian lifestyle. These promises are all in the Bible for a reason. They are powerful when applied to our daily lives!
- 8.) How often does the Word of God say we should have our set prayer time? Psalms 55:17
_____, and _____, and at _____, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel _____ that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he _____ upon his knees _____ times a day, and _____, and gave _____ before his God, as he did aforesaid. NOTE: Another scripture in Paul's writings says to "pray without ceasing." In one sense we should often have some type of silent prayer always going up to God. But the above counsel is saying how it is good to have regular "set" times to pray where we can especially concentrate on focusing our thanksgiving, praises, petitions and concerns to God who hears and answers our prayers. As soon as we get up in the morning we should put God first and spend quality time in prayer and the reading and study of God's Word. Then at the end of the day just before we lay ourselves down for the night we should spend a little time in God's Word and finish with talking with God. Sometime in the middle of the day see if you can find just a few minutes of silent prayer time. See what his will do for your Christian experience!!
- 9.) During these set seasons of prayer how important is it that we can have personal privacy where there will be no distractions or interruptions or curious intrusions? Matthew 6:6
But thou, when thou _____, enter into thy _____, and when thou hast _____ thy door, pray to thy Father which is in _____; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall

_____ thee openly. **Mark 1:35** And in the _____, rising up a great while before _____, he went out, and departed into a _____ place, and there prayed. **NOTE:** *Your private worship time with God should be just that –private. No one else should intrude or be able hear your personal prayers. Ideally it is good to pray out loud if no one is around, but if that is not possible you can send up earnest silent prayers to God. He will still hear you and bless you. Jesus found a solitary place to talk to His heavenly Father. Just do the best that you can with your individual circumstances. The amount of time you spend in prayer and God’s Word is entirely your business and what you decide between you and your God.*

- 10.) Did Jesus give us a model prayer in which we could have a pattern to follow? Matthew 6:9** After this _____ therefore pray ye: Our _____ which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy _____. **10** Thy _____ come. Thy will be done in _____, as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily _____. **12** And forgive us our debts, ___ we _____ our debtors. **13** And lead us not into temptation, but _____ us from _____: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. **NOTE:** *Some might wonder why this prayer is so brief. But keep in mind that this prayer as short as it is contains basic principles that ideally every prayer should contain. Let’s briefly look over these:*
- “Our Father which art in heaven” = We can address the same heavenly Father whom Jesus directed His prayer to. We are His children and we can go confidently to Him in prayer in the name of Jesus.*
- “Hallowed be thy name” = It is important to start our prayers with adoration and thanksgiving to God and acknowledge all He’s done for us. We should always reverence His name and say it respectfully.*
- “Thy kingdom come” = We should have an awareness or consciousness that God’s ultimate goal in this world is to set up His Kingdom of righteousness and everything else is subordinate to this. The tenor of our prayers should keep this in mind.*
- “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” = Desiring God’s will to be done in all things as He sees it from a heavenly perspective, might change the way we ask God for things in our prayers. If we are submitted to His ultimate will and are obedient to Him in all things, this will not only change our Christian experience but will cause us to be living out His will in our lives.*
- “Give us this day our daily bread” = We can humbly present our needs whatever they might be. God knows we have need of the basic necessities of life, but He wants us to ask for them.*
- “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” = And of course we should ask for forgiveness for our wrongs and sins. But we must keep in mind that if we don’t forgive others who have wronged us, then we must not expect God to forgive us. An unforgiving attitude and holding grudges is a sure way to kill our Christian experience.*

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” = Not that God would literally lead us into temptation but we should definitely pray for protection from whatever spiritual danger we might face for the day. If you know you have special weaknesses, talk to the LORD about it. He can help us to be victorious over any temptation.

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen” = We can end our prayer in a spirit of submission as well as a desire to see His Kingdom expand, increase and gain favor with many, and consent our wills to see this happen!

- 11.) Besides prayer and Bible study what other component is important for the Christian’s devotional experience? Proverbs 8:34 Blessed is the man that _____ me, watching daily at my gates, _____ at the posts of my doors. Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if _____ man _____ my voice, and open the door, I will _____ in to him, and will sup with him, and _____ with me. John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep _____ his _____: and he _____ his own sheep by _____, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his _____ sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they _____ his _____. **NOTE: When we are in communication with someone, normally it shouldn’t be one-sided. When we talk to God, we need to have our souls open to hearing Him speak to our hearts. This is communion with God - when we talk to Him and He talks to us. God can speak to us through His written Word or through the still small voice of His Holy Spirit making impressions on the heart.**
- 12.) If we are in tune to hearing God’s still small voice during our devotional time, won’t this help us to hear His voice as He guides us through the day and even through the journey of life? Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall _____ a word behind thee, _____, This is the _____, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the _____ hand, and when ye turn to the _____. Psalm 32:8 I will _____ thee and _____ thee in the way which thou shalt _____. I will _____ thee with mine eye.
- 13.) Will a practicing, living Christian who is daily communing with Christ and partaking of His Word want to keep this experience all to his or herself? Mark 5:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been _____ with the devil prayed him that he might be _____ him. 19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him _____, but saith unto him, Go home to thy _____, and _____ them how great _____ the Lord hath _____ for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. 20 And he departed, and began to _____ in Decapolis how great things _____ had done for him: and all men did _____. **NOTE: When this demon-possessed man was set free by Jesus, naturally he wanted to follow and go with Jesus. But Jesus knew that if he stayed and testified to others of how he was set free by the Savior that this would strengthen his new walk and relationship with God. So we as Christians should take whatever opportunities we have to share God’s love and the truth of His Word with others. No man or woman is an island to**

themselves.

14.) What is the main way that God uses to get the gospel message out so people can be saved? **2Corinthians 5:18, 19** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath _____ to us the _____ of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath _____ unto _____ the word of _____.* **NOTE: God could use angels to do the work and in some unusual situations He may do this, but He knows this is just what we need to be strong Christians and to grow in our experience. We cannot be true Christians if we just sit by and let people go to eternal destruction! If you have little Bible knowledge, share what little you do know and that is all that God expects of you. Another fruitful way of sharing our faith is simply sharing**gospel and truth-filled tracts wherever you go. **These are like little preachers that work for you while you quietly go about your way.**

15.) What does God's Word say about sharing our personal testimony and experience? **Psalm 66:16** *Come and hear, all ye that fear _____, and I will _____ what he hath done for my _____.* **Psalm 71:15** *My _____ shall shew _____ thy righteousness and thy _____ all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.* **Psalm 119:13** *With my _____ have I _____ all the judgments of thy mouth.* **Revelation 12:11** *And they overcame him by the _____ of the Lamb, and by the _____ of their _____; and they loved not their lives unto the death.* **NOTE: According to this last verse in Revelation we are stronger in overcoming when we share our faith with others. Keep in mind that the fruit of the Christian experience will be one of continual unselfish benevolence –always thinking of the good of others and desiring them to be saved!**

16.) What will be the natural outgrowth of the Christian who has given his/her life to Christ? **Acts 4:20** *For we _____ speak the things which we have _____ and _____.* **Matthew 5:14** *Ye are the _____ of the world. A city that is set on an _____ cannot be _____. 15 Neither do men light a _____, and put it _____ a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it _____ light unto _____ that are in the house. 16 _____ your light so _____ before men, that they may see your good _____, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* **NOTE: When we have good news to share or even a warning to give to those whose souls may be in danger, we will not keep it to ourselves. Verse 16 above says, "Let your light so shine" which means we won't be able to hold it because it will shine forth!**

17.) How much does Jesus and the Father desire to have a relationship with you as a forgiven sinner being saved by grace? **John 14:23** *Jesus answered and said unto him, _____ a man love me, he will _____ my words: and my _____ will love him, and _____ will come unto him, and make our _____ with him.* **Revelation 3:20** *Behold, I stand at the door, and _____: if any man hear my _____, and _____ the door, I will come _____ to him, and will _____ with him, and he _____ me.* **NOTE: The conclusion in all of**

this study is that we need that connection with God if we seriously want to maintain a genuine experience with God. Because His character is a character of love, He loves to have an ongoing friendship with us! We have nothing to lose but everything to gain by connecting up with Him. Consider making a commitment today to have those special appointments with Him. May God bless you -as you step out in your daily Christian walk!

Brief Quiz

CIRCLE ONE

- 1.) **True/False** – Spending personal worship time (devotional time) takes up time and is unnecessary for a Christian who has been saved by grace.
- 2.) **True/False** – Spending time reading and studying God’s Word is like feeding ourselves spiritually.
- 3.) **True/False** - Jesus made it a priority to get up early long before day to spend crucial time with His heavenly Father.
- 4.) **True/False** – Christian meditation involves emptying out our mind first so we can let the Holy Spirit come in.
- 5.) **True/False** – We will benefit and be blessed if we allow God to speak to our hearts and minds when we spend time with Him.
- 6.) **True/False** – God’s word mentions 3 set special times a day we can spend in prayer.
- 7.) **True/False** – Seven days without prayer makes one weak.
- 8.) **True/False** - Having to witness to others about our faith isn’t necessary because that is the job of pastors and gospel workers.
- 9.) **True/False** – Not forgiving others can hinder our own sins from being forgiven.

My Response

This study makes it plain that as a follower of Jesus, I need to spend that special time with God each day. By God’s grace I will endeavor to spend that quality time with Him so I can be victorious and consistent in my daily Christian walk and be a faithful witness for Him.

Signed _____

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