

Charlotte Barton



No More
Chains:
Life-Changing
Devotions &
Prayers

52 devotions & prayers that
will encourage & set you free

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Amplified Bible Version.

No More Chains: Life-Changing Devotions & Prayers

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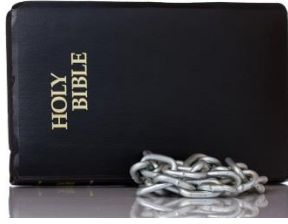
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Introduction

This devotional book is set up to provide you with a devotion for each week of the year. At the end of each devotion are questions that will cause you to search your heart and life. You will also find a prayer following each devotion that you can come in agreement with that relates to it. For further Bible study, six scriptures, or portions of scriptures, are listed. I pray that as you use this book you will open your heart to allow God to do a deep work within your life. God's Word is alive and powerful and goes forth to save, restore, heal, encourage, change lives, break chains and bondage, deliver, and set free!

Satan tries constantly to distract us from praying and reading and studying the Bible. He will use our job, work, school, family responsibilities, hobbies, recreation, and even sickness to cause us to pull away from our much-needed time alone with the Lord. God says in His Word that, *man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4 NKJ). Food is a vital necessity for our physical body. But God let us know that our spiritual food is just as important. Actually, spiritual food is more important because these bodies will eventually pass away, but our spirit will live forever. We will make either heaven or hell our eternal home. I want to strive to feed my spiritual soul to make heaven my home!

So, as you set yourself to read this devotional book, study the Word of God regarding it, and seek God in prayer, be prepared to press through the distractions that your enemy, Satan, will throw at you because he will try to prevent you from doing so. He knows that it will change your life, and you will be a threat to his evil kingdom. For through the course of reading this book, you will be changed and set free, going forth to do mighty exploits for the Kingdom of God. As you seek God, pray, and study the Word of God relating to it, God will begin to do a major work in your life.



Devotional 1

Arise: It's Time to Fix Your Vessel!

Jeremiah 18:2

Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words. (Amplified version)

Devotion:

Notice the first word is “arise” in this verse. Arise from your depression. Arise from your place of complacency. Arise from your state of apathy. Arise despite the heavy weight you may feel upon your shoulders. Arise out of the rut of disobedience of God’s voice and His Word. Satan will try to hinder you from going to the Potter (God) and from submitting yourself into the Potter’s hands. Satan will use all kinds of distractions and problems to keep you from finding time to go to the Potter in prayer. He will try to make you feel that you can make it without the Potter, that you can fix your own cracks in your vessel. That is a lie. Without God making, molding, and fixing you, you will make things worse. It is a choice. God will not make you come to Him or make you submit. You must come to a point in your life where you say “Enough is enough! I have got to get to the Potter, my Healer, my Deliverer, my Father. I WILL arise and allow the Potter to fix my broken vessel and speak a Word to my broken spirit.”

Want to hear the voice of God speak to your spirit? Sometimes our vessel needs some remolding, reshaping, and patching done so that our spirit can be in tune with His voice. We tend to let circumstances or sin in life crowd out the voice of God. Go to the potter's house. Go to the God who can mend your cracked vessel, who can make and mold you into what you should be. When you obey His beckoning call, spend time in His presence, and let Him create or fix your vessel the way He needs it to be fixed so your spirit is in tune with His, you will hear His voice speak clearly to your spirit, ministering to the needs in your life.

God really stirred something else up within my spirit concerning this scripture. The part "I will CAUSE you to hear My words" stood out strongly. I don't feel that the scripture means that he *forces* us to listen. God just has a special way of getting our attention when He needs to. The way He does this is unique for each of us. The way He gets my attention may be different than the way He may get your attention. There are "potter's house" times in our lives, and it is in those times that God will, one way or another, CAUSE us to listen to Him. During these times He is creating something good within our lives. So, we should not run away, but surrender completely and willingly allow Him to make and mold us into what He desires. Then, we will come out of the molding, fixing, and firing process as beautiful vessels ready to be used of God for His glory!

Questions to Ponder:

1. What area of my life (my vessel) needs mending?
2. Is there an answer or a Word from God that I need?
3. Have I risen? Am I moving toward the presence of the Potter or am I still stuck in my own complacency, stubbornness, or self-will or am I under the weight of life's circumstances?
4. Have I truly repented of any sin that needs repented of and have I completely submitted to the Potter to make, mold, and fix my vessel according to His will?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I thank You for loving me just the way I am as I come to You, broken vessel and all. I repent and am sorry for the times that I chose to try to fix my vessel myself. Often, I have tried to change things in myself through my own power and have tried to take care of situations in my life through my own efforts and abilities. I realize I cannot fix this vessel. I realize it is through Your power and through Your mighty hands that my vessel is truly fixed. I declare that by faith I will arise and allow You to fix this broken vessel, this brokenness in my life, this broken situation in my life. Even if it means that You start all over and create a totally different vessel than what I expected would result, I submit myself into Your hands. Thank You for getting my attention. I turn my focus to You and tune my ears to hear Your voice as You call to me, guide me, and mend me.

Amen and amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Jeremiah 18:4

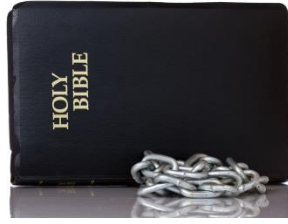
2 Timothy 2:21

Proverbs 25:4

Isaiah 60:1

Matthew 25:1-4

I Kings 19:11-13



Devotional 2

What Does God Need to Shake in Your Life?

Isaiah 6:1-7

¹IN THE year that King Uzziah died, [in a vision] I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the skirts of His train filled the [most holy part of the] temple.

²Above Him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two [each] covered his [own] face, and with two [each] covered his feet, and with two [each] flew.

³And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!

⁶Then flew one of the seraphim [heavenly beings] to me, having a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs from off the altar;

⁷And with it he touched my mouth and said, Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity and guilt are taken away, and your sin is completely atoned for and forgiven.

Devotion:

What a Holy God we serve! He is seated on his throne, high above every name. He is high above every problem you could name. He is high above every demonic spirit that attacks or attempts to attack you. He is high above every sickness that is named.

We are His temple, the temple of the Holy Spirit. He desires to fill the temple with His Awesome presence. Unfortunately, we often crowd out His presence with other stuff in our lives. Notice in verse one that it says, "In the year that king Uzziah died...". King Uzziah represents the corruptible, leprous, dying king. Relate this spiritually. When the corruptible (sin), leprous dying part of us (the spiritual deadness, sinful way of living) dies, THEN the skirts of His train, or garment, representing His Glory, His glorious presence can fill our temple. He does not want to fill one little corner of your heart. He wants to fill you completely, full of His glory.

When God's presence fills, He will shake the very foundations of the doorposts, the thresholds in our life. A door that was opened to wrong things will be shaken to repentance, causing that door to close in our life. Whatever needs to be shaken in our life, God's presence and glory will shake its very foundation.

One thing that can shut down the presence of God in our lives quicker than anything is our mouth. Isaiah said in verse five, "*Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips...*" Isaiah knew how easy it was to let your tongue slip and say things that are not Christian-like or speak words of doubt and complain. But anything that is in our heart or life that is not right or pleasing to God usually will surface or be evident through the mouth. Isaiah had a repentant and willing heart to go speak God's Word. So,

through the representation of the coal, he was cleansed. Through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus we are cleansed, allowing our temple to welcome the Holy presence of God in our life and allowing us to go forth to speak His Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

When we come into His presence, we are humbled as we feel unworthy in His presence. But just as the coal from the alter cleansed Isaiah's lips, the blood of Jesus from His sacrifice on the cross cleanses us, our iniquity and guilt are taken away, and our sin is completely atoned for and forgiven. Only in His righteousness may we approach His presence.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Has the "King Uzziah" died in my life?
2. What does God need to shake in my life?
3. Have I truly repented and received Christ's forgiveness and atonement for my sin, boldly approaching His presence as I am covered in His righteousness?
4. Am I a willing Vessel to be sent as a witness to others in my daily life or even in a special calling of ministry on my life?

Prayer:

Dear God Almighty,

You are high and lifted above all. Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of Your glory! Whatever corruptible sin, spiritually leprous dying part of me, any spiritual deadness hidden within my life, I repent. I speak to every corruptible, leprous thing in my life to die and be broken off from me, in the name of Jesus Christ! Shake anything in my life that is against your Word or Your will and crumble its very foundation. Shake loose sin, guilt, addictions, strongholds, anger, pride, habits of gossiping, and anything else that would prevent Your Holy presence from filling this

temple. For You are my sure foundation on which my life is built. Forgive me, Lord, of all my sins. I receive Your atonement for my sin. I choose to allow Your Words, Words of Life, not death, to come from my lips. I approach Your Throne of Grace, Your holy presence as I am covered in the righteousness of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill me completely with Your Holy presence. Here I am, Lord, send me. Whoever needs to hear about Your Gospel, allow my path to cross their path and give me opportunity to speak Your Words to them.

Thank You for Your presence in my life. I love and honor You, Heavenly Father.

Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

John 12:46-48

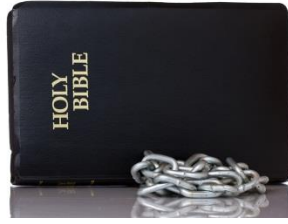
Psalm 19:14

Revelations 4:6-8

2 King 15:1-5

Revelations 15:8

Ezekiel 44:4



Devotional 3

Has Life Silenced Your Praise?

Psalm 95

1 O COME, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

3 For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights and strength of the hills are His also.

5 The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

6 O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker [in reverent praise and supplication].

7 For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice,

8Harden not your hearts as at Meribah and as at Massah in the day of temptation in the wilderness,

9When your fathers tried My patience and tested Me, proved Me, and saw My work [of judgment].

10Forty years long was I grieved and disgusted with that generation, and I said, It is a people that do err in their hearts, and they do not approve, acknowledge, or regard My ways.

11Wherefore I swore in My wrath that they would not enter My rest [the land of promise].

Devotion:

Often through the trials of life our praise song tends to become silenced. If we are not careful the noise of our daily life and our problems will drown out the joyful noise that should be lifted to God. God has all things in His hands, your deep, low places in your life, as well as the heights, the mountain top times in your life. He deserves all praise and glory despite how we feel or what we are going through, just because of who He is. He is the King of kings, Lord of lords, and above all gods. The noise that surrounds us can hinder us from hearing the voice of our Shepherd, the voice of our Lord. As we express a joyful noise from our heart, He will guide and lead us through those tough times, as well as through the good times.

We are not to get to a point that our heart has hardened like those God spoke of in the wilderness. Even in our wilderness times, we are to express our praises and faith to Him. Doing so will bring you victoriously through your wilderness as you stay focused on God.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Is a joyful noise, a heartfelt praise going forth to God daily or has things in life silenced my praise?
2. Am I remaining focused on God during the wilderness time in my life and trusting God completely?
3. Am I listening to the voice of my Shepherd, Jesus?

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty,

I come into Your presence in awe of Your greatness. Despite the circumstances and trials that surround me in my life, I make a joyful noise from my heart, offered up to You in honor of who You are. You are the True and Living God, far above all gods. Any self-idolatry in my life, anything I have put before You, that has pushed You out of focus in my life, I renounce and ask for Your forgiveness. I do not want to be as the people during the forty years in the wilderness, in whom You were disgusted with because their actions and attitudes were not completely in obedience with You. I desire to obey You in all areas of my life.

God, here I am, take complete control. I submit my whole life to You. I bow down and worship Your great name. You are my Maker. You are my great God and great King above all gods. You are my great Shepherd who leads me with Your great and mighty hand. I hear Your voice calling and drawing me into Your presence. I am here Lord, Jesus. I kneel at Your precious, nail scarred feet. I give You my heart. I give You my life to honor You.

You are my Shelter in time of storm when the waves around me seem to overwhelm me. You are my Guide when the way is not clear about which path to take. You are my steady support as I walk on the rough and rocky road that has holes which could cause me to stumble. You are my Rope Who I hang on to as I climb the steep mountain in my life. You are

my Protector as the enemy of my soul comes to attack and tries to harm me. You are my Everything I need. I worship and love You loving Father.

Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Hebrews 3:7-14

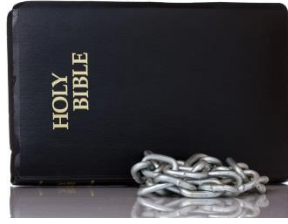
Exodus 17:1-7

Deuteronomy 6:17-19

Psalms 98:3-5

Hebrews 4:3-12

Numbers 20:1-13



Devotional 4

Following the Path of the Father

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Devotion:

Saying that we trust God with our lips and trusting God with all our heart are two different things. Trusting God with all our heart means we fully trust Him, fully trust that He will take care of us and our circumstances, fully trusting He knows the path we should take.

Here is an example that comes to mind that has important spiritual significance:

A young daughter is walking with her father on a path through dark, spooky-looking, and potentially dangerous woods. Although the young girl had never walked that path before, the father had traveled through the woods many times before and knew where all the paths led to. The little girl knew that her father knew the right path that would lead safely out of the woods. She knew her father was a very strong man and

would protect her if she stayed near him. Therefore, she held tightly onto his hand as she fully trusted her life in her loving father's hands. She had no doubt in her father at all. Even when it was too dark to see the way, her father knew the path well and kept her walking in the right direction. As she expected her father brought her safely through the dark woods.

For God to direct our paths, we not only need to trust the Lord with all our heart, but also lean not on our own understanding. The way we think it should be done or the pathway we think we should take is not always the right way or God's desired way. Seek God's understanding in the matter. Lean on God's understanding through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The last point I would like to make is that God wants us to acknowledge Him in all our ways, not just in one or two areas of our lives. Choosing to take one path or to stay on one certain path that God has directed you to get off, or to not even take it to begin with, can significantly alter other paths that you need to take during your life. Taking other roads to get you back to the one you should be on is often a rough journey and takes extra time.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you fully and completely trusting your life or circumstance in your life in the hands of God?
2. Are you leaning on God's understanding or on what you think is best (which is not always God's best choice) or what you want?
3. Have you submitted all areas of your life to God? Have you acknowledged Him in *all* your ways?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Forgive me for not fully trusting You. Forgive me for leaning on my own decisions, abilities, or understanding and not on Your understanding in this circumstance or area of my life. Forgive me for not acknowledging You in ALL areas of my life. As I submit my whole life to You, I acknowledge that You are in control of every area of my life. You know the right path to take. I trust that You will lead me and are leading me down the correct path that You know is best. As I draw close to You, holding tightly Your mighty hand, You will keep me safe from all harm. As I trust and lean on You, I stand on Your Word that You are walking me through this dark-wooded time of my life. Thank You, God, for directing me, although I may not always see the way ahead of me. I praise You for giving me understanding according to Your will. I thank You for Your protective hand upon my life as I walk with You.

Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Hebrews 2:13

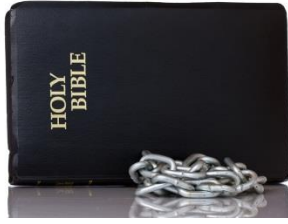
Nahum 1:7

Proverbs 29:25

Psalms 62:8

Psalms 20:7

II Samuel 22:29-33



Devotional 5

Calling Forth Jeremiah's

Jeremiah 1:5-10

⁵Before I formed you in the womb I knew [and] approved of you [as My chosen instrument], and before you were born I separated and set you apart, consecrating you; [and] I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am only a youth.

⁷But the Lord said to me, Say not, I am only a youth; for you shall go to all to whom I shall send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸Be not afraid of them [their faces], for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.

⁹Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, I have this day appointed you to the oversight of the nations and of the kingdoms to root out and pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

Devotion:

God is calling for present day Jeremiah's to take a stand and bring in an end-time harvest for the Kingdom of God. You may say, "I am not called of God to be a prophet or prophetess." Oh, but you are, in a sense. If you are a Christian, then the Word of God that is in you is supposed to be spoken out. God also said in Ezekiel 37:4 to speak or to prophesy to those dry bones, and they shall live and hear the Word of the Lord. There is a whole heap of dry bones of unbelievers who are spiritually dead. It is our responsibility and duty to speak God's Word to them for life to come into their bones. There are many strongholds that hold the unsaved in bondage. Strongholds that also keep them blinded from the Gospel. But God is calling forth a generation that will stand against the kingdom of darkness, a generation that will take authority over the enemy and pull down and destroy their strongholds. Jeremiah 1:10 says,

"See, I have this day appointed you to the oversight of the nations and of the kingdoms to root out and pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Now look at Ephesians 1:19-22,

"¹⁹And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

²⁰Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places],

²¹Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be

conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come.

²²And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church]"

Now, look at II Corinthians 10:4-5,

⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds,

⁵[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)

Through the work on the cross and through the resurrection of Jesus, all power and authority was given to Jesus. He is far above all principalities and power and might and dominion. The Word of God shows that since His Spirit resides within us, He has given us the same authority over the enemy. He is the Head of the Church. We are the Body of Christ. We are His temple, His vessels. For God has called us forth to take authority over principalities (nations and kingdoms), to pull down, to overthrow, and to destroy strongholds that hold our family members, friends, strangers, and yes, every so-called Churchgoer in bondage.

The enemy holds people with bondage, strongholds, addictions, confusion, spiritual blindness and much more, to try to prevent them from hearing, accepting the Word of God and salvation. Satan does not want the Word to go Forth out of you. He will cause fear, insecurity, and doubt in your spiritual authority.

But God said that before you were born, before you were even shaped in your mother's womb, He knew you. He knew the specific time you would be created and born "for such a time as this." He knew what Word He predestined for you to speak and who it would be spoken to that would set them free and win them into the Kingdom of God. Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "*Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel...*" You are called to speak, witness, prophecy to those He has placed in "your world" or to those He has called you to go reach. There are many ways to do this. Do it the way God has shown you and through the avenue, or open door, He has given you.

Do not fear, for He is with you. Do not worry or be insecure about speaking God's Word, for He will give you the Words to speak (Jer. 1:7, 9). Also, age does not matter. The young child, as well as elderly, is called to be Jeremiah's of harvest.

If we do not obey God's call to speak His Word, the blood of other's salvation could be on our hands, on Judgment Day.

So, modern-day Jeremiah's stand up boldly and proclaim the Word of God. Go after the harvest He has placed in "your world" to reach. Take your authority and pull down, destroy, and overthrow the enemy's strongholds and principalities, and build up the Kingdom of God as you bring in the harvest. Plant seeds of God's Word in the lives of others. For God is watching over each seed planted. He is watching over His Word to perform it (Jer. 1:12).

Questions to Ponder:

1. To what people in "your world" is God calling you to be a Jeremiah?
2. In what way(s) has Satan tried to keep you from speaking the Word of God to others?

3. In What way has God shown you to spread the Gospel or to speak His Word? On the job? Passing out tract? Through writing? Through music? Through a creative entrepreneur idea? There are many ways to be a Jeremiah. Seek God in the matter and choose to do His will concerning it.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Forgive me for not previously rising to be the Jeremiah that You needed me to be. I now submit to what You need me to do for Your Kingdom. As I submit and go forth in what You are calling me to do, I realize that I cannot do it on my own. It is only with Your help, strength, wisdom, direction, and anointing that I can speak Your Word to others. I will not allow fear to stop me. For You are with me, and You will give me the words to speak.

Let my path cross the paths of others who You need me to share the Gospel and love of Jesus with. I walk in obedience to You in the specific calling You have on my life, for I know everyone has purpose to fulfill that You predestined before we were born. Regarding the harvest that You are calling me to harvest for Your Kingdom, I stand my ground and my authority You gave me through the name of Jesus Christ and through Your mighty power and come against the powers of the enemy that would try to hinder my harvest from being saved and set free. Tear down the strongholds in their life that would cause them from hearing the truth of Your Word. Open their ears to hear Your Word. Go before me now and prepare their hearts and minds to receive Your Word.

I thank You ahead of time for the souls that You will save and the lives that You will set free and deliver. I thank You for the doors You are opening to minister the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus to. I am in Your hands, as I boldly go forth as a Jeremiah for Your Kingdom. Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Isaiah 6:8

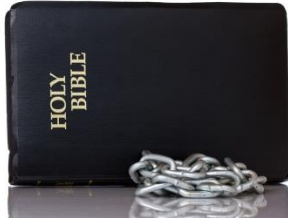
Luke 4:18

I Corinthians 1:17-18

Matthew 9:37-38

I Corinthians 2:4

Mark 13:11



Devotional 6

The High Tower

Psalm 9:9

The Lord also will be a refuge and a high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble (high cost, destitution, and desperation).

Devotion:

Do you feel oppression weighing upon you from every side? Are you at a place of destitution or desperation? Cry out to the Lord for strength, peace, help, freedom, deliverance, or healing. Whatever you need He is that refuge you need. He is your High Tower.

Think about a “high tower.” It is a tower high above all things that surround it. God is a high tower that is above all the cares of the world or distractions and problems that surround you. He is above all powers and principalities and has all authority over the enemy.

A high tower is also high enough to see any approaching enemy. Or in the case of a high tower that watches for fires in

a forest, any sign of fire or even a hint of smoke from a small fire can be seen. In either case, a call, signal, or command is sounded or given out to dispatch a highly trained group to fight or counter the attack or fire.

God is our High Tower Who sees all approaching enemy in your life. He sees any fires that the devil tries to start in your life. God can detect even the smallest hint of smoke arising in your life even before you realize any fire is trying to occur. You may not see a fire starting if you are down in the middle of the forest, surrounded by the distractions of life. But praise God, just at the right time, at His command He dispatches a heavenly trained host of angels to intervene on your behalf. But you must trust the High Tower that He knows all and sees all and is in control.

Also, He is calling you to climb up (in the Spirit) and sit in the high tower, in the presence of the “Commander.” He is calling you to move up to a higher level in Him. He is calling you up to the Secret Place as you get alone in His presence. As you are in His presence, seated with Him in Heavenly places, you also have dominion over the enemy that you see attacking. You are above; the enemy is “below,” under your feet. Although God is right there with you, ready to dispatch the trained “forces” to enact on your behalf, He says for *you* to speak, taking your authority He has given you, taking initiative against the enemy, and He will move into action and quench the fire(s) in your life.

So, make it your decision today to run into the arms of our loving God, our Refuge, our High Tower, and our Stronghold to help you through your difficult times in your life. Do not hesitate to climb up, press in, to His presence.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Is there a situation or problem in your life that you desperately need God to intervene and take care of or get you through?
2. Have you fully trusted our High Tower, God, to take care of the “fire” in your life?
3. Have you taken your place in the “high tower” with the Commander, using your authority over the enemy, as He dispatches, sends out, a host of angels to do battle on your behalf; as He quenches the fire before you; as He stays with you through it all until the victory is won?

Prayer:

Mighty God,

I thank You that You are my High Tower, my Refuge, my Deliverer. I am blessed to have a Living God Whom I can run safely to. I understand that there are times You will deliver me from or quench the “fires” in my life, causing the troubles and trials to cease, but then other times you choose to help, to protect, to sustain me as I go *through* the difficult times in my life. But either way You choose, You will bring victory in my life and to my situation.

In times when I see the attack of the enemy and even in times when I am unaware of the attack, You are in control and know how to take care of the situation. For in Your hands all power and authority lie. You are omnipotent.

You are drawing me closer into Your presence, to sit and worship You at Your feet, as You are high and seated upon Your mighty throne. As I pray and worship You, I humbly enter into Your throne room. I approach Your throne covered

in the righteousness of Your Son, Jesus Christ. I give You glory and honor for who You are.

I take Your authority that You have given to me, and I speak to that situation in my life, that area that Satan, my enemy, has tried to come against me with. I command it, in the name of Jesus, to break, to cease, and to fall at the feet of Jesus! God, I ask that You dispatch a host of angels to do battle on my behalf now. I claim Your victory in Jesus' name!

If I am to walk through a time of difficulty or to walk through this "time of fire," You *will* be with me, You *will* protect me, You *will* bring me through victoriously for Your glory. Help me to hold firmly to Your hand as You may be burning away the "unwanted debris" in my life in the process, as this may be a "firing process" as You, the Potter, is creating a vessel that will be pleasing to You to be used for Your glory. In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 18:2

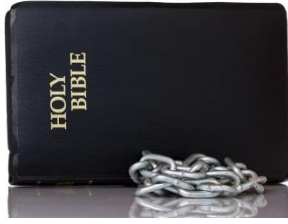
Psalm 59:17

Isaiah 64:8

Jeremiah 18:2-4

2 Kings 6:15-17

Daniel 3:21-25



Devotional 7

The God of Hope

Romans 15:13

May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope.

Devotion:

As you see in the verse 12 below, God is speaking of Jesus being our hope.

And further Isaiah says, There shall be a Sprout from the Root of Jesse, He Who rises to rule over the Gentiles; in Him shall the Gentiles hope.

So, when looking at the next verse (vs. 13) we see that as we look to Jesus as our Hope of Salvation, His peace and joy fills us. As we walk in faith in relationship with Jesus the power of His Holy Spirit will surround us, and fill us up, and overflow us with hope. But an important word in that verse is “believing”. We must *believe* that by His power we will

abound and overflow with hope. That means we must press through what the flesh feels like doing (or not doing) and speak, act, and live words of faith and belief. Stand on God's Word and claim His promise of joy, peace, and hope.

In the Amplified Bible it says, "...through the experience of your faith..." We must go through "experiences" for our faith to be exercised and strengthened. In your physical body, you only gain strength as you exercise the muscles. Exercise takes discipline. We must discipline our minds to think and speak words of faith. Our natural, flesh-ways tend to want to speak or act negatively. Our words are powerful. The Bible says that "Death and life are in the tongue..." (Proverbs 18:21). Faith and hope rise within your spirit as you meditate on and speak the promises of God's Word. As you do so, hope, joy, and peace will overflow you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Decide now to turn your focus to Jesus, your Hope, and watch as strength rises within your spirit.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you feel like all hope has been crushed in your life? Or do you sometimes let your guard down which allows thoughts of hopelessness to invade your mind?
2. Are you thinking or speaking positive words of faith and hope, or are you thinking or speaking negative words of doubt and hopelessness?
3. Will you allow the God of your hope to fill you with joy and peace in believing through faith, even amid your time of difficulty, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing with hope?

Prayer:

Precious Father,

I repent of the negative thoughts, words, or actions that I have allowed to come forth. I am sorry. I refuse to let Satan have a foothold causing my flesh or emotions to control me. The flesh may be weak, but I am made strong in You, in Jesus' name. I now turn my focus to You and Your promises, as words of hope and faith come forth from me. For You are my hope. I have joy and peace that flows from You. Hope bubbles up within my spirit. As I go through "experiences" in my life, my faith is strengthened as I turn to You, my Hope. I thank You that You are my ever-present Hope that never leaves me nor forsakes me.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 27:14

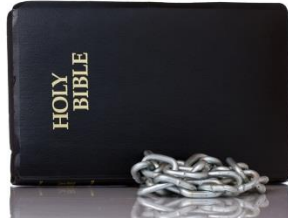
Psalm 38:15

Psalm 42:11

Isaiah 26:3

Jeremiah 17:7

Romans 8:25



Devotional 8

Stay Focused in Battle

2 Chronicles 20:12

O our God, will You not exercise judgment upon them? For we have no might to stand against this great company that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.

Devotion:

We cannot fight against Satan and his demonic spirits out of our own power. “We wrestle not against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12). Our problems in the physical realm are spiritual manifestations in the flesh. In other words, our problems stem from, or originate from, the spiritual realm (attacks from the enemy), but we see or experience the results in the flesh. Therefore, it is not by (our) might or by (our) power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit within us that we fight.

Although the battles in life you face are not against flesh and blood, you have a choice in the flesh, with your mind and will, to make a decision to allow God to do *His* work in the situation, or battle, in your life, or to allow your independent,

“I can take care of this myself my way” mentality, to control the outcome of the problem that you face. You *choose* to allow the power of the Holy Spirit within you to fight your battles. God will not force Himself upon you. He knows you are a creation that was given a will of choice. You have a choice to say “no” to sin; you have a choice to say “yes” to allow God and the power of His Spirit to fight your battles and to defeat the enemy coming against you.

When you do not know what to do in your situation, or doctors do not seem to know what to do for you, keep your eyes completely upon Him. There may be problems surrounding you, you may be up against a great problem. Do not let all the distractions in your life pull you away from focusing on God. Satan will try to cause you to look at all the negative or bad things in the situation(s) and around you. He will try to cause people around you to speak negatively. You may not be able to stop them, but you can choose not to dwell on those things; you can choose not to allow the negative to take root within your spirit.

The flesh will naturally want to embrace the negative and the “no hope” frame of mind. But keep your eyes upon God. For God is your Hope and Deliverer. Focus on the One Who has all power and authority in His hands, for He knows exactly what to do.

When you submit your will to Him (let His will be done), when you totally focus your mind, your eyes, your spirit, on Him, when you take your hands off the problem or situation, *then* God, our Help in time of need, will go forth in battle on your behalf, and will be with you every step of the way. You will come forth victoriously on the other side of the battlefield.

One of the best ways to literally focus your eyes on God and will therefore also focus your mind and spirit on Him, is to read and dwell on the Word of God as much as possible. If you cannot take your Bible into your workplace on the job or even when you are around the house or out running errands or shopping, etc., on a piece of paper write, print, or copy a few scriptures you want to focus on and claim, fold it up and place it in your pocket or purse. Get it out and read it every chance you get. Even go to restroom for a few minutes for privacy to get alone with God.

So, when the devil comes at you with hopeless, negative thoughts, quickly say “no devil, you are a liar! *This* is what my God says about my problem or situation....” And read or quote a scripture. The Bible says, “*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). Therefore, Child of God, stand firmly on God’s Word, keeping your eyes on our mighty God, and watch as God brings you through victoriously, in the Name of Jesus!

Questions to Ponder:

1. What do you find yourself mainly focusing on?
2. Have you realized that you, your carnal man, are not able to stand against the enemy, but you can only win victoriously if you allow the power of God to do His work and work in and through your life?
3. Have you totally submitted to God and His will? Have you taken your hands off the problem or situation to allow God full control?

Prayer:

Abba Father,

Just as a child calls out to his or her earthly father when he or she is hurting or when in a situation that he or she does not know what to do, or how to solve the problem, I call out to You, my Heavenly Father, in my time of difficulty. You see what I am going through and dealing with. But I also see a God, Who is high and lifted up on His throne, far above all powers of darkness, and in Whom all power belongs. You, my God, are my source of help in my time of need.

Forgive me for not focusing on You like I should. I am sorry for giving in to or dwelling on any negative thoughts. I now turn away from what my flesh wants to dwell on, and I turn my complete focus to You, God. I submit to You, God, and to Your will for my life! I resist the devil as I submit and focus on You! Therefore, the devil *must* flee from me, in the Name of Jesus!

I admit and confess that I cannot do this on my own, I cannot win this battle on my own. I will not fight this battle within my own power. For it is not a battle against flesh and blood but is a battle against the powers of the enemy. I do not have the strength to fight this myself anyways. I turn to you, God, as the power of Your Holy Spirit fight on my behalf.

By faith I see the battle won. I thank You for the victory and for bringing me through and guiding me safely through it all. I give You all the honor and praise that is due Your Great Name!

Amen and Amen!

Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Deuteronomy 1:30

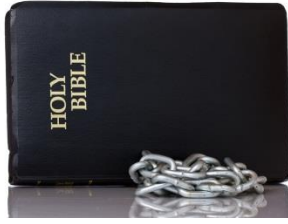
1 Samuel 12:16

Psalms 25:15

Proverbs 3:7

Colossians 1:9-11

Romans 4:20



Devotional 9

Is Your Vessel a Mess?

Jeremiah 18:3-4

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he was working at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he was making from clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he made it over, reworking it into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make it.

Devotion:

You may feel or have felt that your life is a mess. You may have made some bad choices in your past and you are reaping the consequences of them. Maybe you have been told as a child or even as a teenager that you are stupid, and you will never “amount to anything.” Maybe as an adult someone, possibly even your spouse, has told you that you are worthless.

But remember that “so-called mess” (spoiled; marred) is in the palm of the Potter's hand, our Heavenly Father. Just when you thought there was no hope for yourself, you find yourself in the palm of His hands.

When a potter reworks a vessel, he takes the clay and squishes it all together, mashing it back into a lump. The

process may be difficult and may take a good deal of time, but the result will be worth it. A new, unmarred vessel will be ready for use.

When God looked at you, He may have seen a Vessel that was marred, cracked, and unusable in the current condition. But He took you in His strong hands and began recreating a new Vessel. During the process you have probably felt pressure, pain, repentance, and drastic change taking place within you. The trials and difficulties you have faced in life were used to test and strengthen your faith, as well as for a testimony to others for the glory of God. The reworking of your Vessel may not be easy. Depending on how willing the clay (you) is to submit to the will of the Potter, will determine how long the process will take. Submit your will and your life into God's hands to allow Him to create a beautiful Vessel for His glory.

When you are amid the Potter remolding you, it may be difficult for you to see the *good* that He is making out of you or *what* He is making out of you. But He is creating you into what *He* desires. He is smoothing out the rough edges. He is fixing the cracks and healing the heart breaks in your life. He will not quit until He sees that you are what He intended you to be. You are made to glorify Him through your life. You are made to be a Vessel that is to be used to minister to others through your daily life for the glory of God.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you feel, or have been told, that you are a hopeless mess, or your life is a mess?
2. What areas in your life do you sense that God is remaking or remolding you, bringing areas to the surface that need to be changed?

3. Have you totally submitted to the will of the Potter, our Heavenly Father, allowing Him to create the Vessel He desires that is beautiful and acceptable for His use and glory?

Prayer:

Father God,

I thank you, God, that You did not just “throw me away” when I seemed like a hopeless mess and unusable, that You did not turn Your back on me. But You took me into Your mighty hands to create something out what seemed nothing.

I am feeling the pressures of the remolding and changing of the pottery process. I know you are doing a deep work within me, and You are fixing and mending various areas of my life and even healing past hurts. So, I submit myself and my will into Your hands. Have Your way and Your will in my life and in creating in me what You desire for Your glory.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Proverbs 25:4

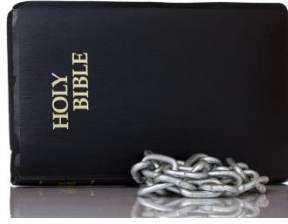
Romans 9:21

2 Timothy 2:21-22

Philippians 2:13-16

Matthew 5

Psalm 51:10



Devotional 10

In the Potter's Hands

Jeremiah 18:5-6

5Then the word of the Lord came to me: 6“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” says the Lord. “Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.”

Devotion:

As you go through life you may find yourself feeling alone at times. Even with people surrounding you who love you, during the deep work that God is doing within you, creating a Vessel pleasing to him, you may feel out of reach. But you are not alone. You, Child of God, are safely in the Potter's hands. You are in the hands of Almighty God. When you feel all alone in the pottery process, remember Whose strong hands that are gently holding, molding, mending, and protecting you. This is God's promise to you today that He will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6 says,

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.” (NKJ)

Hebrews 13:5 says,

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (NKJ)

Firmly stand by His Word and rest peacefully with that promise in your heart and spirit. You are not alone. I love that Footprints in the Sand poem. Just when you thought you were alone because you saw only one set of footprints, you realize that the one set of footprints were not yours, but they were your Heavenly Father's. He is carrying you through.

As you are in the palm of the Potter's hands, He is in control of your life. There is no need to worry because He sees the potential in your life; He sees the anointed Vessel He is creating; He sees how beautiful it is after the storm; He sees the wonderful end results; He sees the spiritual growth that is taking place; He knows your future.

Jeremiah 18:5 says, "...can I not do with you...." Can He not create in you what He desires or sees best? Can He not create something out of nothing, as you may see yourself as? Did He not speak this world into existence? Did He not create you, an amazing living being, out of the dust of the earth? He is God! Nothing is too hard or impossible for Him!

But you have the free-will choice, though, to either let Him work with your life as you *stay* in His hands, or you can choose to go your own way and not remain in His hands or not cooperate or submit to the pottery-process in your life. Which is your choice today?

Questions to Ponder:

1. In what way do you feel, or have you felt, alone (Be honest and open with God)?

2. How do you see yourself as you are in the palm of the Potter's hand?
3. Do you choose to stay in the palm of His hands as He creates a new Vessel in you that He can use for His Glory for the Kingdom of God?
4. Do you choose to stay in the palm of His hands so He can change your life and situations in your life? (God desires those changes and miracles in your life to be living testimonies unto Him that will minister to and change the lives of others around you).

Prayer:

Omnipotent Father,

You are the Almighty God Whose power and authority is above all other. I am grateful that I serve a living God Who truly knows me. You know the pain I have felt, the trials I have been through, the mistakes I have made, the sins I have committed, and the cracks and damage that I have done, or allowed to happen to my Vessel.

But I am also grateful that You know and already see what You plan for me to become. You see deep within me something that can be of great use to You. I place myself in Your hands to be molded and made into Your image and what You desire of me and my life.

The process may not be easy, but You gently hold me safely in Your mighty hands through it all. I am not alone, for You are with me. By faith I say, "I will come through the Pottery-process as a new Vessel, stronger than before and more pleasing to the Father for His glory and use for the Kingdom of God!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 139:13

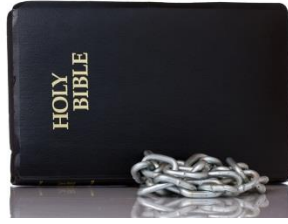
Jeremiah 1:5

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:29

Acts 14:22

Psalm 95



Devotional 11

Acknowledge God's Awesome Works

Psalm 64:9

And all men shall [reverently] fear and be in awe; and they will declare the work of God, for they will wisely consider and acknowledge that it is His doing.

Devotion:

God says that “*all men shall fear and be in awe; and they will declare the work of God...*” It is God’s desire that all will acknowledge Him in this life, but if not, they will declare God’s greatness on Judgment Day as they fall before His throne in reverent fear and in awe.

One thing I feel that has changed in this generation that has led to less reverence to God and His works is the loose, contemporary, straddle-the-fence lifestyle, and rising disrespect for authority. It has become a self-centered generation and less focused on our Creator. Man may have changed through time, but God is still God and is to be acknowledged in fear and in awe. His awesomeness is all around us. We just need to take the time to notice it.

As you look around, it is hard *not* to see God's work. We often think of the *great* works that God does as such things as miraculous healings, supernatural interventions and deliverances, and unexplainable spiritual experiences. But God's awesome works are woven into our daily lives and often go unnoticed or not credited to God. Daily strength and health, safety, transportation, food and drink for our bodies, clothes to wear, financial provision, freedom to worship God (although our freedoms seem to be on the "down-slide" lately), beautiful nature, breath-taking rainbow after a rain, and the list could go on and on.

Oh, that we should always be mindful of all the mighty deeds and works of our Awesome God. Even the little things in life, that some would classify as coincidence, are awesome works of God. For example, God allowing someone, perhaps even a nice stranger, with an umbrella to be in the parking lot just at the right time and God inspires them to walk with you, to keep the pouring down rain off of you, or someone offers to watch your shopping cart while you pull your car up close to the store doorway to prevent the groceries from getting soaked.

God cares and works in little ways and big ways. God may allow your car to break down on a safe street, rather than a busy highway or dangerous area. He may cause something unexpected to happen at home to cause you to take longer to get out of the house, but come to find out, He was protecting you from being involved in a car accident. All those things have happened to me, and I thank God for and acknowledge His mighty works and for His uncompromising, infinite love He shows through my daily life. Stop and take the time to consider all the works that God does and acknowledge His mighty hand at work in your life and all around you.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have I allowed life to distract me from acknowledging God's marvelous works in my life or around me?
2. What things come to mind that I acknowledge are God's work that I would like to thank Him for and express reverence and awe before Him.
3. How can I let others around me know the awesomeness of God's works in my daily life and around me? (As you boldly, but lovingly, express that, others will begin to see and acknowledge God at work in their own life and around them.)

Prayer:

My God and Creator,

When I stop to meditate on You, I am awe-struck at Your Greatness! You are an amazing, awesome God! I often get caught up in my daily life and busy schedule and fail to acknowledge Your hand at work in every area of my life, as well as Your creative handiwork in your creation. I am sorry for failing to acknowledge Your great works like I should.

Help me to always be mindful of ALL your work, acknowledge that it is YOU at work and not just coincidence. Help me to stop to appreciate the "little things" in life, yet they are not little because Your love is great and those "little things" were done with great love straight from Your heart and love for me. Give me opportunities to share with others and to express my gratefulness of the mighty works You do in our everyday lives. Help me to lovingly encourage others to acknowledge Your hand at work all around us.

I stand before you in reverence and awe of Your mighty works in my life and around me. It is all You, and it is Your doing. I give You all the praise and honor You deserve!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 40:5

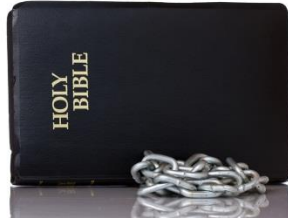
Psalm 75:1

Isaiah 33:13

Matthew 10:32

Hebrews 13:15

Romans 1:20



Devotional 12

Taking My Authority

Ephesians 1:19-22

¹⁹And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

²⁰ Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places],

²¹Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come.

²²And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church]

Colossians 2:15

[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].

Devotion:

We may sometimes tend to go through life with a defeated attitude, just letting the devil use us for a punching bag or as a dumping ground for him to dump all his garbage on us. We may say, “Well, troubles and sickness are just part of life because we are human.” Yes and no, would be my answer. Yes, we live in a physical body and in a physical, carnal world. Yes, God never said we would never experience trials, troubles, or sickness. But no, we are not intended to be powerless or weak dumping grounds for Satan and his minions. We may choose to be powerless, weak, dumping grounds if we want. But if we believe in Jesus Christ and in what He did for us on the cross, then, oh, what exceeding and great power of Jesus that is in us!

Through the power of Jesus Christ by the work on the cross, we have power and authority over Satan. God said that He put all things (principalities, powers, dominion, and every name) under the feet of Jesus. He said that Jesus is the Head of the Church. He is the Head of the Body of the Christ. We are His body, His temple. So, when God said that all things are under the feet of Jesus, that means all things are under *our* feet.

I love how Scripture says that God disarmed the principalities and powers that come against us, making a bold display and public example of them through the cross! Deception is a major strategy of Satan and his demonic spirits.

They deceive people into thinking they have power and authority over us. They deceive people into thinking certain sins are okay to participate in. But these scriptures show us what authority we have. Not only do we have authority by our ability to make the right choices, but we also have the authority of Jesus Christ living within us.

It is time we take our stand and come against the enemy in the name of Jesus. When various problems or sickness arise in our life, recognize that it is an attack from the enemy. We are not a punching bag or a dumping ground. We are Children of God and the Body of Christ, walking in His power and authority!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you truly believe in Jesus and in the work done on the cross?
2. Are you walking in the power of God that He gave you through Christ's work on the cross?
3. What area(s) of your life do you need to stop being a punching bag or dumping ground to Satan and his demonic spirits?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

I am so thankful that all power and authority was given to You. And because we are Your Body, the Church, Satan is under my feet. You already disarmed the principalities and powers when You died on the cross and arose from the dead. Your Spirit lives with in me, the same Spirit that raised Lazarus from the dead, healed the blind, and made the lame to walk again.

I refuse to allow the devil to use me any longer as a dumping ground with all his garbage he tries to throw at me! I refuse to allow the devil to deceive me any longer into thinking that my problem, sickness, or situation is never going to change or that there is no way out of my crisis.

Thank You Jesus, that You have already triumphed victoriously over Satan! He is a defeated foe! And I stand firm on Your Word and take Your authority You have given me, as Your Child.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Hebrews 2:14-15

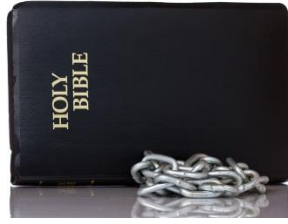
Mark 16:17-18

Romans 16:20

Matthew 18:18-19

Isaiah 54:17

John 14:13-14



Devotional 13

Is Your River Flowing Out?

John 7:38

He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water.

Devotion:

Many people *know* who Jesus is. They may even go to church often. But do they *believe* in Jesus and all He is? Do they cleave to, trust in, and rely on Him? When you cleave to something, you hold on to it and do not let go. You trust that what you are holding onto, you trust that it will not fail you. As you cleave to Him, trust in and rely on Him, God will release from deep within you springs and rivers of Living Water. He will release the Holy Spirit to flow out of you.

As a river or spring flows, it does not flow *back* to its original starting point. It flows *out*. God does not have the Holy Spirit fill you up to flow out and then back for you to keep for yourself. His Living Water is to flow out to bless and minister to others. It is to flow out to touch and bring life to whatever it touches (Ezekiel 47).

When you cleave to a person, you are in close relationship to him or her, you are “attached” to them. In the Bible it says that we leave our mother and father to cleave to our mate (Gen. 2:24). When we believe in Jesus Christ, we forsake all other worldly, or sinful, things, and cleave to, or “attach” our whole self to Him. When we draw close to Him, believing in Him wholeheartedly, the Holy Spirit stirs within us a stream and then a river to the extent that it cannot be contained, but must flow out.

Be careful not to dam up the Holy Spirit’s river that is flowing or needs to flow out. Our fleshly tendencies and distractions of life can easily dam up the flow if we are not careful. Our words, actions, negative thoughts, state of our heart, wrong relationships, and even certain situations we find ourselves in can seriously hinder and stop the flow of the stream or river from within us. Prayerfully, consider this and repent of anything that has been a dam in your life. Let the Holy Spirit shine His “revealing flashlight” on any area needing to be dealt with.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are there any areas in your life in which you have not fully cleaved to God in? Areas you have not completely trusted God in? Any areas you have not totally relied on God for? Take time to repent and submit to God.
2. Is the River (the Holy Spirit) within you flowing out or is it stagnant, not moving forward? Is something in your life damming or hindering it from flowing out?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

How I need the River of Your Holy Spirit to flow from deep within me. I do not just want a stream. But I desire a river, Your River, to flow out of me.

If there is anything in my life, in my spirit, in my heart that is hindering Your Spirit from flowing through me, I ask that You reveal it to me. I repent of anything that dams the flow of Your River. Forgive me, Lord. Let Your River flow out of me to touch others. Let Your Living Water bring life to those spiritually dead around me in the name of Jesus.

Thank you for Your Spirit that brings life to me and to others around me.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 46:4

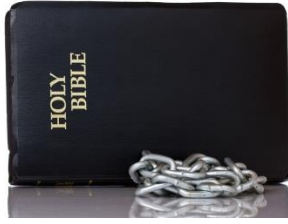
Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 9:10

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

John 4:10

Psalm 18:30



Devotional 14

Light Comes in the Morning

Isaiah 50:10

Who is among you who [reverently] fears the Lord, who obeys the voice of His Servant, yet who walks in darkness and deep trouble and has no shining splendor [in his heart]? Let him rely on, trust in, and be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean upon and be supported by his God.

Devotion:

This is a Word spoken to the Christian, who fears the Lord and obeys His voice. Although we are a Christian, we are still human, and we sometimes walk through times of darkness and deep trouble. As we walk through this life, we may find ourselves going through hardships. It can seem difficult to find any light shining in the situation. But God says to rely on, trust in, and be confident in Him, in His name. There is power and authority in the name of Jesus which He gave to us to use. Through the work on the cross God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, all authority over Satan and the demonic spirits, all authority over sickness, all authority over every oppressive spirit.

This scripture says to “lean upon and be supported” by God. When you lean against something, the weight or pressure is lifted off you and on to what you are leaning on. When something is supported, it is propped up and stabilized in place. In your time of darkness, you may feel such a weight upon you pressing you on every side.

But Jesus is walking beside you, waiting for you to lean on Him, to trust that He is working it all out. He is the Light in your darkness that will help you find your way when you cannot see the way on your own. He wants to lift the weight off you. He desires to support you, to lift you up. You can remain stable in Him as you confidently rely on Him.

Going through times of darkness or times when you feel alone, isolated or that your prayers hit the ceiling or never even make it to the ceiling, are normal. We are human, living in a carnal world. This does not mean God has left you or you have done something wrong. But of course, as a Christian, we should always allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of any areas we need to repent of. These are times of testing.

Remember that the light of the morning always comes after the darkness of the night. Although He does not *cause* these dark times to occur in your life, rest assured, He will use them for your good and for His glory as you come through victoriously in Him. For God is your Victor; He is your Strength; He is your Help in time of need. Trust Him today and watch Him work on your behalf. For victory is yours today in Jesus’ name!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you going through a time of darkness or difficulty in your life? Openly to God, make your petition(s) known to Him of the area(s) you need Him to intervene in.

2. Are you trusting God completely, leaning on Him?
3. Are you allowing your faith to be strengthened as you persevere and press through your trial?

Prayer:

Mighty God,

First and foremost, I give You glory and honor, for You are truly the mighty God. You are holy and all power and authority is in Your hands.

You are the all-knowing, omniscient God. You know my need before I even ask. But I make my request known to You. For You said in Your Word to make our petitions known to You. I bring it to You by faith and place it in Your victorious hands. I trust You as I look to You, my Light during darkness. Lift me up, strengthen, and encourage me as I lean on You. For You are my support. In You I stand firm and stable. I cannot stand on my own. I rely completely on You. You are my source of help in my time of need. I am not alone, for You walk beside me as my support, guiding me through it all.

I take authority in the name of Your Son, Jesus, over Satan and any demonic spirit that is attacking or causing opposition in my situation. I bind them in Jesus' name and loose the power of the Holy Spirit to work on my behalf. I stand firm on Your Word, God. You are my Deliverer. You are my Strength. You are my Way-Maker. You are my Light in the darkness. I am an overcomer in Christ Jesus.

I thank You, God, for the victory! I ask this all in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Proverbs 3:5-6

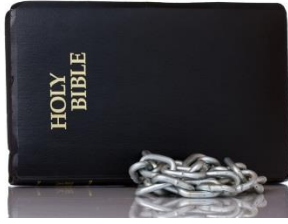
Psalm 18:2

1 Corinthians 16:13

Acts 16:16-26

Ephesians 1:19-22

Matthew 11:28-30



Devotional 15

Representing My Father

Colossians 3:12

Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper].

Devotion:

What is seen on the outside by other people around you or by who you encounter? Your *clothes* are seen by others. You always want to present yourselves appropriately and in decency. As children of God, we are to clothe ourselves with true Christian character in all areas.

Some years back I was in a lumber store in my hometown. A lady who worked there asked me, "Are you Kenny Thomas' daughter?"

I answered, "Yes, how did you know?"

“You present yourself just like your dad,” she responded.

That was meant as a compliment. I always tried to be aware of what I did, what I said, how I acted, how I presented myself, especially when I was out in public because I knew it was important to represent my Father and family well. I never wanted people to say about me, “Oh my! I cannot believe that Charlotte would act like that or say that! She is the daughter of Kenny Thomas, a good, honest, Christian man, who taught his daughters morally right and in the ways of God.”

We are representatives of our Heavenly Father. We are to present ourselves in such a way that His character is evident in our lives. We should live our lives in a way that others, even those who do not know us, would say, “You must be a Child of the Almighty God. You present yourself like your Father.”

We are God’s Chosen Ones. We are His children. We should be expressing His traits. Are you exhibiting a tender heart, pity and mercy for people, especially for the unsaved? Are you showing kind feelings toward those who hurt or offend you? Do you have a lowly opinion of yourself, eliminating pride? Are you expressing gentle ways to those who are rough to you? Are you having patience when your child is testing his or her limits or patience in waiting for an answer from God to come to pass? Are you enduring through whatever comes your way, keeping a good attitude?

We are specially chosen by God Almighty. We should clothe ourselves and behave like it, not just occasionally, or when we feel like it, but at all times, consistently.

We are God’s Vessels. Think about a vessel in the natural world that you would provide someone a drink out of. We do not want to use a dirty water vessel to give someone a

drink from. The dirt, germs, bacteria, etc. could harm their body, making them sick if a dirty, contaminated vessel was used.

Our lives are living Vessels, living testimonies, living sermons that are being “preached” daily into the lives of others. We need to always seek to present our Vessels as clean Vessels for the glory of God to be a blessing and encouragement to others to provide others the true, pure, unadulterated Word of God and the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through our everyday lives.

We should clothe ourselves as God would desire. Our words, thoughts, and actions should be as God’s Chosen Ones, clean Vessels that reflect the glory of our Heavenly Father.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What type of “clothes” have you been putting on and displaying?
2. If your Heavenly Father appeared before your very eyes at any time, would He find you representing Him according to *His desire* and according to *His Word*?
3. Are you providing Living Water to others through a clean Vessel?

Prayer:

My Father,

I humbly come before You, knowing You are a Holy God! I come before You, not in my own righteousness that is like filthy rags in Your sight, but I come before You covered in the Righteousness of Your Son, Jesus Christ. I ask You to forgive me of all my sin. I am sorry for the times that I have not represented You as Your Child like I should. I want people

to know that I am a Child of the King by the way I present myself and exhibit Your character, Your actions, and Your words through me. Help me to present my body purified and holy before You. Help me to clothe myself in behavior that is evident in tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feelings, not prideful, gentle, patient, and endurance with a good attitude through whatever comes my way.

I am Your Vessel, Father, to be used for Your glory. Holy Spirit, convict me of any sin that would “contaminate” my Vessel. Cleanse and purify me through the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ as His precious blood was shed on the cross for me. I desire to have a clean Vessel that Your Living Water can flow from and through to others to bring Life to their souls. I ask this all in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

James 1:21

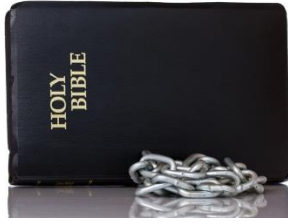
Deuteronomy 7:6

Romans 13:14

1 Peter 2:9

Galatians 5:22-26

Romans 12:1



Devotional 16

The Weapon of Prayer and Fasting

2 Chronicles 20:3

Then Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself [determinedly, as his vital need] to seek the Lord; he proclaimed a fast in all Judah.

Devotion:

How much do we truly fear and honor God? How determined are we to seek His face, to seek His presence, to seek His will above all else in our lives? Are we determined enough to push the plate aside and fast and pray for a breakthrough in our life, in our country, in our ministry, in our church, or in the lives of our friends or family members?

Notice that the scripture says, “he set himself to seek the Lord.” When you seek the Lord, you pray. Seeking God is praying. Prayer and fasting are both spiritual weapons that are powerful against the enemy!

Look at Ephesians 6:18,

Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty.

To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

Directly after Paul listed the spiritual armor (verses 11-17), he said, "Pray at all times..."

It is not an accident that this command comes immediately after the list of armor. The Greek text has no punctuation in it. So, in reading verses 17 and 18 without punctuation, it shows that this spiritual warfare strategy of prayer is part of the armor and weapons!

Now, Jehoshaphat "feared", he knew that God was calling him to a fast. He knew how vitally important it was to obey. God was stirring him to "pull out" another powerful spiritual warfare weapon to connect with prayer. He knew that in history (the Bible) showed that fasting worked. Fasting is still just as powerful today.

Something that we tend to read over quickly and to not give much thought to is God's command to sacrifice or to give up something for a specific amount of time, such as a meal. This allows us to focus our mind and spirit more on God as we are seeking Him concerning something. It is also part of the warfare strategy and very important.

Mark 9:29 says, *"And He replied to them, This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting."*

Acts 13:2-3 says, *"²While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate now for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. ³Then after fasting and praying, they put their hands on them and sent them away."*

As seen above, the two spiritual warfare strategies of prayer and fasting are seen consistently together throughout the Old and New Testaments. The Bible shows the importance of them both together.

But you know what? Jehoshaphat had to “set himself...” Pushing past the fleshly desires and passive nature of the carnal man is something you must set yourself to do. You must let your spirit man rule over the flesh. Satan will not want you to pray and fast. He will do all in his power to distract, hinder, or prevent you from doing so.

So, set yourself to pray and fast, be determined to obey God. Break free from that feeling of apathy today that Satan wants to keep weighing you down with. Break free from the feeling of not caring about fighting the enemy, thinking it’s not that important, thinking you don’t have time, etc. Seek the Lord as your most vital need and watch Him intervene with victory.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you ever fasted? If so, how often do you fast? Do you obey God and fast when He draws you to do so?
2. What answered prayers have resulted from your past times of prayer and fasting?
3. What area of your life, or the lives of others, do you need God to intervene in and bring healing, deliverance, or change to?
4. Are you determined to see a breakthrough? Then, are you ready to “set” yourself to prayer and fasting that will bring deliverance to your life or to the lives of others and defeat to the enemy?

Prayer:

Mighty God,

I am sorry for failing to pray *and* fast like I should. I see that Your Word says that I, as a Christian, should set myself to prayer and fasting more in my life. Lord, You know the need or situation in my life that I desperately need You to bring victory to. I also know that there is a real enemy, Satan, who fights against me. But You are the Victorious One! As You call me to fasting, I will set myself to pray and fast in obedience and faith.

I thank You ahead of time, by faith, for the breakthrough, in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 35:13

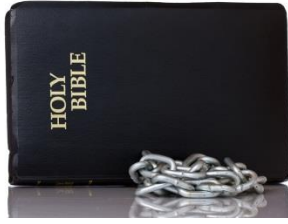
Daniel 9:3

Isaiah 56:7

Jeremiah 29:12

James 5:15

Psalm 6:9



Devotional 17

Which Way Do I Go?

Psalm 32:8

I [the Lord] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Devotion:

If you are in a situation, at a crossroads in your life, or at a place of decision, do not lean on your own understanding, but turn to God for the answer. If you put your trust in Him, God will not only guide you and instruct you (give you directions), but He will also counsel you, or teach you, in the way you should go. But sometimes you need to be moving forward before God will tell you which way to go. When traveling, you may look at a map while on the trip to see where to turn next to get to your destination. So, you, as a willing Vessel to move forward in faith, are important.

Teaching involves the other person listening and learning a lesson. When we find ourselves in situations, problems, places of decisions, there is always a lesson that can and should be learned in the process. Distractions can really cause hindrances in learning. In school it is easy to get

distracted and not focus on what the teacher is saying. A student must choose to tune his or her ears to the teacher's voice and to block out all other distractions.

While in "life's classroom" there will be many distractions that Satan will try to place in your life to keep you from hearing the voice of our Lord. You must *choose* to focus on Him and His voice. Listen closely to the still, small voice of your Teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ, as He gently and lovingly teaches you a vital lesson and instructs you in the way to go and how to do it. Isaiah 48:17 shows that our Lord is our Teacher:

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way that you should go.

Also, a good teacher never leaves his or her students unattended. The teacher is very aware of what each student is doing. Our Teacher, our Lord and Savior, is a Teacher who will never leave you, nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6; Hebrews 13:5), and who has His eye upon you (1 Peter 3:12). He knows all things that are going on; He is omniscient. Therefore, you can confidently, trust Him as He counsels and directs you. Listen closely as He speaks deep within your spirit.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you in a situation, at a crossroads in your life, or at a place of decision that you need God to give you direction concerning?
2. Have you allowed distractions to hinder you from hearing the voice of God speak deep within your spirit?
3. Are you truly open and ready to hear what our God has to teach you, or are you truly open to going forth in obedience where He directs?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I thank you God, that my life is in Your hands. You know where I have been, and You know where I am going. There is peace that surrounds me knowing that You are in complete control of my life.

You see the counseling and direction that I need from You. I am at a point in my life and situation that I do not know what direction to go in. Teach me Your ways, oh God, and give me the instruction that You desire for me to learn. I choose to focus on You, reading Your Word and spending more time with You in prayer. I refuse to let the distractions of life hinder me from hearing Your still, small voice. Help me to tune my ears to You, and to recognize Your voice when You speak.

I move forward in faith that You are directing me in the way that I should go. As I read life's map, the Word of God, You will teach, counsel, and direct me according to Your will and plan for my life.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Proverbs 3:5

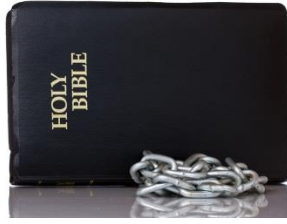
Psalm 5:3

Psalm 16:7

Proverbs 16:9

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Thessalonians 3:5



Devotional 18

Open the Faucet and Let It Flow!

Ephesians 6:19

And [pray] also for me, that [freedom of] utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news (the Gospel)

Devotion:

We are often hesitant or even refrain from speaking the Gospel or a Word from the Lord because we think we do not know what to say, or we fear ridicule or rejection. So, we hold back a Word from God that would have blessed someone, changed their life forever, or even saved their spiritual or physical life.

The water faucet that is in your home, you know is there. You know there is water ready to be released. But the water will not flow out until the faucet is opened. Some people are very conservative about turning a faucet on. They let just a trickle flow out, while others turn the faucet wide open and let the water gush out to get the job done thoroughly and sufficiently.

The Word of God is there within you. You know it's there. You know there is Living Water, a Life-Giving Word, ready to be released. But it will not flow out of you unless you open your mouth and speak it out. Do not let timidity and fear hinder it from flowing forth mightily. *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear (timidity, cowardice, intimidation), but of power and of love and of a sound mind (calm, well-balanced mind, discipline, self-control)”* (2 Timothy 1:7). There is an anointed Word from the Holy Spirit waiting to be released from you. So, boldly release the Word of God from within you so that the Holy Spirit is at liberty to do a thorough and sufficient work in someone's life. Out of obedience, open your mouth and speak the first word and the Holy Spirit will do the rest and give you the Words to speak.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you allowed fear or timidity to hinder God's Word from flowing from your mouth?
2. Have you shut your “faucet” off, restricting the flow of God's Living Water, a Life-Giving Word that is intended to change someone's life?
3. Are you ready to walk in obedience and open your mouth for the Holy Spirit to speak through?

Prayer:

My Father,

I know there is a Word deep within me, ready to flow out. I am sorry for holding back. I come against the spirit of fear that has held me in bondage. As I open my mouth in obedience, I trust that Your Holy Spirit will flow through me, giving the word(s) that need to be spoken with boldness to bring life to someone or a situation. I no longer want a trickle to flow, but a gush of Your anointing, a gush of Your Living

Water, a gush of Your Living and powerful Word to come forth from out of me! I open the “faucet” wide now, in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Isaiah 59:21

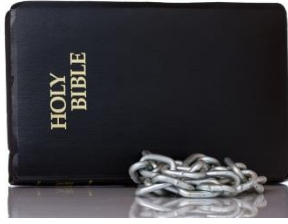
Psalm 40:9

Psalm 40:10

Isaiah 61:1

Jeremiah 20:9

Jeremiah 1:8-9



Devotional 19

You are God!

Psalm 95

¹O COME, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

²Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

³For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights and strength of the hills are His also.

⁵The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker [in reverent praise and supplication].

⁷For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice,

⁸Harden not your hearts as at Meribah and as at Massah in the day of temptation in the wilderness,

⁹When your fathers tried My patience and tested Me, proved Me, and saw My work [of judgment].

¹⁰Forty years long was I grieved and disgusted with that generation, and I said, It is a people that do err in their hearts, and they do not approve, acknowledge, or regard My ways.

¹¹Wherefore I swore in My wrath that they would not enter My rest [the land of promise].

Devotion:

This portion of Scripture pretty much speaks for itself. It has a powerful meaning! But when the Holy Spirit showed me this, something began to rise within me. It was like I could feel the heart of God breaking and crying out, “I am God! Do you not see that I am longing to hear you worship and honor me! Do you not see that I want to touch your life! I work on your behalf and do great things for you, but you fail to acknowledge Me and draw near to Me!” Then I began to hear the following come forth out of me as a heart’s cry from God (based on Psalm 96):

“Sing to Me a new song! My people, sing to Me! Bless My great name! I show you daily my salvation, intervening on your behalf; do you not see? Declare My glory, Child of God, My marvelous works are all around you! For I am Great and greatly to be praised; Reverently fear and worship Me above all gods, above all doubt, above all pride, above all lusts of the flesh. Honor and majesty are before Me and I give you strength and spiritual beauty as you enter My Sanctuary, My presence. Ascribe to Me, My Child, know and understand where your strength originates from: Me, the Lord Your God! All glory and strength flows from Me. Give the glory that is due My name; acknowledge My working hand in your life and

around you. Bring an offering of true worship, complete humbled worship, into My courts, into My presence. Not worship out of ritual or religious traditions, but straight from your heart. For I am a Holy God, a God that loves you with an everlasting love and I yearn to overshadow you as you sit in My presence. I am drawing you to Me! I am calling you into My presence!”

Questions to Ponder:

1. Where are you in your worship? Are you worshipping from afar or are you pressing into God’s presence?
2. How often do you acknowledge God’s Greatness and hand involved in your life and around you?
3. Is there any repentance that is rising from within you? For when you begin to draw near to God’s presence you are humbled, and sin must be shaken off and removed.

Prayer:

My God, My God!

I fall before you, humbled as I reverently fear and worship You! All honor and glory are due Your Great Name! You are high and lifted above all names! As I press in and enter Your presence, I become aware and convicted of certain sins or areas of neglect in my life. I repent, Father; forgive me; cleanse me; sanctify me in Jesus’ name!

I acknowledge Your Greatness. I acknowledge Your working hand in my everyday life and all around me. Help me to not fail to give You continual praise and honor. I ascribe all glory, strength, mighty works flow from You, and You only, God. I worship You from my heart and from deep within my spirit! I bless You with all that is in me! I honor You! I give You all the Glory! You are God! You are *my* God! I will sing a

new song, for You desire to do a *new work* in me. A fresh, *new* song has been birthed, as it goes forth to You! I bless Your Holy Name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Hebrews 3:7-11

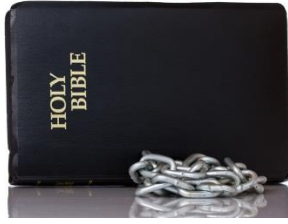
Deuteronomy 6:5

Revelation 14:7

Psalms 66:16

Ecclesiastes 3:14

1 Chronicles 16:11



Devotional 20

Are You Catching Fish with Your Fruit?

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise captures human lives [for God, as a fisher of men—he gathers and receives them for eternity].

Devotion:

When we bear good fruit, we are a tree of life, giving to others food (fruit) for their soul. No one wants to eat bad fruit. In comparison to physical fruit, it is important that we grow in our relationship with God so that the Fruit of the Spirit grow and mature as we stay on the Vine (Jesus) as we soak in the Light of Jesus and His Word, we receive vital nutrients for our soul and spirit. For with our fruit we capture, like fish, (into the Kingdom of God) the lives of others.

The fruit of our lives is the bait that catches the attention of the fish (unbelievers or people needing ministered to). The Holy Spirit draws them into the net (arms of Jesus), and they are caught for eternity.

But we need to be careful that our fruit is not bad, causing others to be turned away. We need to exhibit and

express Christ-like characteristics that will draw them to want what we have, which is Jesus living within us. It is shown that who you spend time with mostly you tend to take on their behavior and characteristics. We become Christ-like by spending time in His presence. Water and feed ourselves daily by partaking of the Word of God and prayer to help our fruit to stay fresh and not get stale or rotten and to allow our roots to be strong in Him.

Also, we should keep watch for any predator (enemy/Satan) who may try to steal our fruit. He constantly looks for the slightest crack to sneak in through to steal what God has planted within you. He never stops trying to place temptations in your pathway to cause you to fail and sin or to be drawn away from spending time with God. The Bible says in John 10:10,

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

That is why God's Word says to watch and pray.

Keep awake and watch and pray [constantly], that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Mark 14:38)

So, be a tree producing life-giving fruit that will bring souls into the Kingdom of God. Fish are watching and observing you. Are you catching "fish" with your fruit? There is a harvest waiting for you to gather, and there is no time to waste.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What type of fruit have you been producing? How well are you representing Christ?
2. Are you taking on Christ's characteristics for others to be drawn to or encouraged by?
3. What area of your life do you know that you need to improve in to produce more of Christ-like fruit?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Forgive me for any bad fruit that I have produced or forgive me for not producing fruit that would be pleasing to you and benefit the Kingdom of God. I desire to get into Your Word more and spend more time with You in Your presence, for I want to produce life-giving fruit. I want to allow Your Holy Spirit to draw people to Christ as they see Him and His characteristics in me. I want my life to be an encouragement to others, not to discourage or tear people down.

Help me and teach me through Your Word how to produce good fruit. Help me to continually watch and pray to beware of the enemy's tactics to steal my fruit or to harm it. I ask this all in Jesus' name.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Galatians 5:22-23

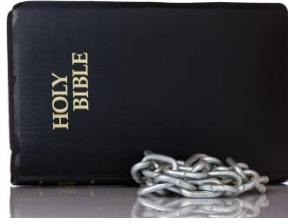
James 3:18

Ephesians 5:9

Hebrews 13:5

Psalms 1:3

2 Corinthians 13:5



Devotional 21

It's Restoration Time

Zechariah 4:6

Then he said to me, This [addition of the bowl to the candlestick, causing it to yield a ceaseless supply of oil from the olive trees] is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit [of Whom the oil is a symbol], says the Lord of hosts.

Devotion:

What God wants to do in your life has nothing to do with your own talents and abilities or whatever you could do within your own power. Yes, He will use your God-given talents and abilities to fulfill His will and plan for your life, but God wants to do a “God thing” in your life that is orchestrated by HIS Spirit, HIS power, and HIS will! But you must let go and let Him be God!

In this portion of Scripture, you find that this was a Word given to Joshua and Zerubbabel by God to encourage them in their work in restoring the temple and the nation of Judah after the Babylonian captivity. God makes it clear that the true source of power was not human might, nor human power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit and His anointing.

There are two things I saw through this. First, you may have allowed yourself, your temple, to be taken captive by the enemy through sin. Maybe you allowed your mind to be taken captive by a spirit of confusion (Babylon means “confusion”). Are you trying to restore your temple by your own might and power? Restoration will not be manifested that way. You will only gain frustration. After repenting, allow the blood of Jesus to cleanse you of all sin. Then, allow your spirit-man to arise within you as you cry out for restoration. As you totally submit to God, the power and anointing of His Holy Spirit will bring healing and restoration to your life and spirit.

Next, if you are a minister of the Gospel or a Pastor, you may have found yourself discouraged as you are trying to bring restoration to the temple, to the people you minister to. The day-to-day stress weighs heavily and can even cause you to feel like you want to give up or even quit sometimes. God is encouraging you today. Stop trying through your *own* power to bring restoration to these people who may be or may have been in spiritual Babylonian captivity. You are right. *You* cannot do it. You cannot do it through your own might or ability. But the Word of God says, “by My Spirit, by My anointing, you will release My restoration into the situation to the church, to the people I have brought you to, to minister to. You will bring My restoration into that broken-down place in your home.” God desires restoration and healing to come into your body.

Though hindrances seem to try to distract you or cause opposition to God’s work (vs. 8-10) He is doing in and through you, God’s will is that you finish what He purposed and designed for you to do for the benefit of the Kingdom of God and for His glory. If things are not moving as fast as you would like, be at peace and do not despise or regret the days of small things (vs. 10). *God is at work.*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What needs to be restored in your life, in someone else's life, or in your ministry?
2. Have you tried to restore it and take things into your own hands, only to find out that God desires you to restore it through *His* might and power?
3. What distractions has Satan tried to use to hinder the restoration process? Recognize them, be on guard, and fight against them while you continue to do God's work.

Prayer:

Mighty God,

You see the brokenness that is before me. You know the pain that I feel. You know the frustrations and discouragements that I am facing. Bring healing and restoration to my mind, soul, and body. Bring restoration to my situation. I cannot do this on my own! I have been trying to bring forth restoration, but with my hands. Only You can bring complete restoration. Not by my might or power or ability, but by Your Spirit!

I know that all my talents and abilities are to be used for Your glory, but all my talents, abilities, and skills will not bring the restoration that is needed. I turn to You completely as my Source of help and deliverance. Through Your anointing and through Your Spirit the restoration will be completed. Give me wisdom and understanding as I fulfill Your will and plan. By faith I thank You for restoration in Jesus' name.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Nehemiah 4:17

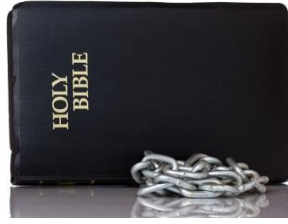
Ezekiel 37:14

Matthew 10:20

Ephesians 2:22

Isaiah 58:8

Job 42:2



Devotional 22

My Refuge and My Fortress

Psalm 91:1-4

¹HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].

²I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!

³For [then] He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴[Then] He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler.

Devotion:

Notice in Verses three and four that God says what He will do, after we do what is stated in verses one and two. The key word “then” in verses three and four illustrates a cause-and-effect situation.

Cause:

What causes God to move into action and respond? When we dwell in His presence, stable, fixed, and rooted in His Word and in prayer He moves into action and responds. For when we are in a “secret place” or in an intimate relationship with someone, our communication lines are always open between us. Our communication with the Almighty in the secret place stirs or compels Him to respond.

Another cause is what we speak. Verse two says, “I will say of the Lord...” We defeat the enemy by the Word of our testimony (Rev. 12:11). The Word of God is alive and powerful. We can choose to speak negative words or words of worry or confusion, such as “I don’t know what I’m going to do! How am I going to pay my bill? I don’t understand! I’m afraid...” Or we can speak words of faith. We can speak the Word of God into our situation, such as, “In man’s eyes my situation looks hopeless, but I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust! I may not know how. I may not know when, but I know my God will come through for me because He is my way out; He is my Salvation in my situation!”

Effects:

For *then* when we do our part, He will deliver us from the traps that the enemy has set and from anything that the enemy meant to harm us (verse 3). As we turn to Him as the “I Am”, for whatever our situation is, He will cover, or protect us, with His feathers, His protective covering. And while we are there we continue to trust and find refuge in Him.

The end of verse four indicates the importance of putting on and using the spiritual warfare equipment of the Belt of Truth and the Shield of Faith. Knowing He is faithful,

and His Word is Truth causes faith to arise within us. Our shield and buckler are in place and ready to help protect from the attack of the enemy, as we dwell in the secret place of the Most High.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you dwelling in the Secret Place of the Most High; spending time in His presence; Drawing closer in your relationship with Him?
2. Are you speaking words of faith over your situation?
3. Do you have the Shield of Faith and the Belt of Truth in place?

Prayer:

Dear God,

I run to You! I run into Your presence. I choose to seek You with all my heart. Lord, hear my heart's cry! You are the Great I Am. You are everything I need. In man's eyes my situation may look hopeless, but I will say of You, Lord, YOU are my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on You I lean and rely, and in You I confidently trust! I may not know how. I may not know when, but I know You will come through for me because You are my way out; You are my Salvation in my situation! As I stand firm on Your Word, I keep the Shield of Faith and the Belt of Truth in place. You are my protective covering as I walk through this and come through victorious in You, in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 31:1-4

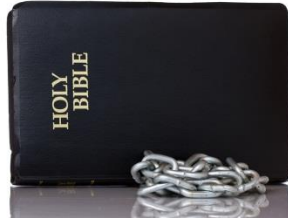
Deuteronomy 33:27

2 Samuel 22:2-3

Psalm 62:8

Daniel 6:27

Psalm 18:2



Devotional 23

Victory Rides a Song Sang Out of Faith!

Psalm 40:1-3

¹I WAITED patiently and expectantly for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up out of a horrible pit [a pit of tumult and of destruction], out of the miry clay (froth and slime), and set my feet upon a rock, steadying my steps and establishing my goings.

³And He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many shall see and fear (revere and worship) and put their trust and confident reliance in the Lord.

Devotion:

As you may have currently found yourself in a deep pit in your life, this portion of Scripture is a statement of faith as you stand on and claim His mighty Word. What the enemy meant as destruction in your life, many will see the hand of God at work in your life as He brings you through victoriously.

But in the “fast-food, hurry up, can’t wait” generation that we have become, we want it *now*, right when we want it.

A time of waiting can be a very hard place to be or stay. But tremendous results happen as you wait, and let God be God and bring the results in *His* timing.

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible (*Finis Jennings Dake, 2005. P1041*), lists seven blessings of waiting on God:

1. *He turned toward me (v 1)*
2. *He did hear me*
3. *He brought me up out of the pit (v 2)*
4. *Out of the miry clay*
5. *He set my feet upon a rock*
6. *He established my ways*
7. *He put a new song in my mouth (v 3)*

Be patient and let God complete what He started. Your impatience and giving up too quickly can greatly hinder or affect the great miracle or deliverance that is just about within your grasp. Hang on! Just stand still and stand on God's powerful and living Word. *His* timing is much better than *our* timing. Just like the song I have sang many times, "He's never too early, He's never too late, but He's always on time!"

While you are waiting, begin to let a new song of praise come forth in faith. Notice that in verse three that it says that all will see God's work manifested in your life, therefore turning to the Lord with trust and confidence, *following* a new song of praise coming forth from faith. Even when you do not feel it.... sing! Even when things look hopeless in man's eyes.... sing! Even when you have no strength.... sing! Even when darkness surrounds you.... sing! Even when your feet are

stuck in the miry clay of troubles.... sing! Victory rides on a song sang out of faith during a time of waiting!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you found yourself in a time of waiting?
2. Do you feel like you are stuck in a pit of deep miry clay in which you cannot move and feel like you are sinking?
3. Is there a song of faith rising up within you? Sing or speak it out!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I give You praise for saving my soul, for raising me up out of that pit of spiritual destruction. I thank You that my feet are no longer stuck in the miry clay, but they are firmly established upon You, my Rock.

When I feel weak You steady my steps so that I am surer of each step I take with You. You know where I have been, where I am at, and where I am going. You establish every step I make, and You open every door in my life that has opened, is now open, or will open. Though I face difficulties and storms, as the enemy tries to come against me to distract me from my relationship with You or from my work for You, I will remain established in You.

I sing a new song of praise and honor to You. My lips speak praises, not fear. My lips sing a song of worship, not of confusion. My spirit sees by faith what You are doing. I fear, honor, and worship You, Mighty God. I place my life, my needs, my problems in Your hands for I confidently trust in You that You are in complete control.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 25:5

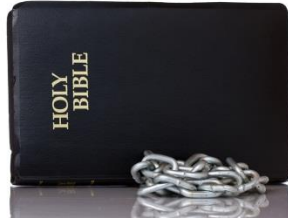
Genesis 49:18

Psalm 27:14

Job 33:28

Psalm 107:20

Psalm 77:6



Devotional 24

Emptied Vessel to Be Filled for Battle

Judges 7:16

And he divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put into the hands of all of them trumpets and empty pitchers, with torches inside the pitchers.

Devotion:

The lamps that these men used were torches that would smolder in an empty jar or pitcher and burst into flame when taken out and waved.

We must be empty vessels in the hands of God. We must be empty of our selfish will or desires, empty of our past hurts, empty of the cares of the world, empty of doubt. When we become “empty” for God, He can then place within us, His vessels, the fire of His Holy Spirit and the Light of the Gospel that will come forth from us, bursting into a fiery weapon against the enemy, impacting the Kingdom of God.

God has also placed in our hands a trumpet, an instrument or weapon to be used against the enemy. He has

given us authority in the name of Jesus over Satan and his demonic spirits. Luke 10:19 says,

Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

So, God has not only given us weapons of war, but has also given us authority over the enemy through the spoken Word of God. A trumpet makes a sound. Your mouth also makes a sound as you speak, sing, or shout. Confidently and boldly, sound forth God's Word through your mouth, a symbolic trumpet! Sound His praises and words of faith! As we *sound* our *trumpet*, our declaration of attack and our confidence in our Commanding Officer, the Omnipotent God, we let the enemy know, by faith, that our God has already given us the victory in the Name of Jesus.

Therefore, make sure your vessel is empty of anything that goes against the Word of God and get ready to wave and sound your mighty weapons in the enemies' face as you defeat him by the power of God!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Is your vessel empty of anything that goes against the Word of God or His will?
2. Are you taking the authority of Jesus Christ that God has already given you to defeat the enemy who has targeted you?
3. Are you sounding forth from your mouth, confidently and boldly, God's Word, words of faith, His praises, and a declaration of attack and victory? Or are negative words or words of doubt coming forth from your lips, or

even keeping silent, not taking your authority in Jesus Christ?

Prayer:

God,

I see the enemy that is before me. But I also see, by faith, a host of angels ready to do battle that have been dispatched to fight on my behalf. I also know that I serve an Omnipotent, all-powerful God. I serve a Victorious God who knows no defeat. I serve a Delivering God Who never fails. I serve a Living God Who is the Great I Am.

I repent and ask Your forgiveness, God, of anything in my life that is against Your Word and against Your will. Remove it in Jesus' name. Fill me with Your Spirit, Your love, Your anointing, and Your fire of the Holy Spirit.

According to Luke 10:19, I take the authority in Jesus Christ that You gave me to come against and defeat the enemy with. For You are my Victor in battle. I speak forth Your Living Word! I sing praises unto You! I declare shouts of victory! For I look not at my circumstances with physical eyes, but I look through eyes of faith as I stand firmly on Your Word! As the attacks come at me, You fight my battle as I lean on and trust in You. You are the Victorious One! I give You all the Glory and Honor that is due Your name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Matthew 18:18, 19

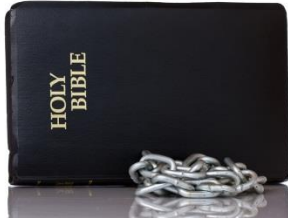
Psalm 24:8

Psalm 27:3

Matthew 17:20

2 Chronicles 20:9, 12, 15

2 Timothy 2:21



Devotional 25

Need a Heart Transplant?

Ezekiel 36:26

A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Devotion:

As a born-again Believer in Jesus Christ, God has given us a new heart. We have been given a heart that no longer seeks worldly things and a heart that is free from the bondage of sin. Our heart should no longer be hardened to the will of God or to His voice but should be a soft heart in which the Holy Spirit can penetrate allowing His presence to saturate us. This new heart constantly pumps His blood and Living Water throughout our whole spiritual being. Without the Living Water of His Spirit flowing through us, we would be very dry spiritually.

Stones do not have life flowing through them. A person with a stony heart does not have the life of Jesus flowing through them. A stone does not have water as one of its components. It is dry and hard. But water is a very important

“ingredient” of flesh. Without water, flesh would become dry. So, when God places a heart of flesh within us, He places within us a heart that is saturated with and should continue to be saturated with the Living Water of the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever heard the phrase: “He or she is a dried up, so-called Christian?” In other words, he or she, who is supposed to be a Christian, has become dry in spirit due to lack of Living Water continually flowing within.

When you do not drink enough water, your skin will become dry and you could get other symptoms of dehydration. When we do not daily take in the Living Water of the Word of God and soak in His presence in prayer, we become dry or even hardened.

So, maybe it is time for a “heart check.” Or maybe it is time to allow God to do “open heart surgery” or even do a “heart transplant” within you. Seek God daily and keep your heart flowing with His Living Water directly to your heart of flesh.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What is the condition of your spiritual heart? Do you need “open heart surgery” or a heart transplant?
2. Need more Living Water to prevent dryness or hardness? Are you “drinking enough Living Water” each day?
3. Can others around you see the dryness or hardness?

Prayer:

My Savior Jesus,

Search me, oh God! Search my heart. I see the condition of my heart. Remove a heart of stone and give me a

heart of flesh that is easily molded into Your image and desire and is full of Your love. You are my Living Water that I need so desperately. I cannot live without You. I will seek You daily, drink of Your Living Word, and soak in Your presence in prayer. Saturate me! Saturate my heart with Your fresh, life-giving Water and Your precious blood. I receive Your heart of flesh, in Your name, Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Ezekiel 11:19

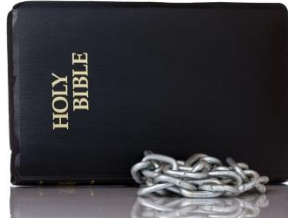
Ezekiel 18:31

1 Chronicles 28:9

Psalms 139:23

Romans 8:27

John 7:38



Devotional 26

Repairing the House

2 Chronicles 24:13

So the workmen labored, and the work of repairing went forward in their hands; and they set up the house of God according to its design and strengthened it.

Devotion:

The enemy constantly tries to tear down, tear apart, and destroy the House of God, ministries, our relationship with God, etc. As long as there is breath within us and we are laboring for the Kingdom of God, we will have opposition from Satan.

But God has placed within our hands what is needed to repair what is broken down in the Kingdom of God. The power of the Holy Spirit works within us and intercedes on our behalf as we go forth in His power and might to do His will. God has given us spiritual gifts, ministry gifts, workers, talents and skills. All the Body working together with all the “tools” He has made available to be utilized in unity, the work will go forth and many can be won into the Kingdom of God and countless lives changed for the glory of God. As His anointing flows through us, we will go forth in what we, the Church and

Body of Christ, was designed, purposed, and ordained to do according to the will of God and His predestined plan.

He has also placed within our hands what is needed to build up our *own* “house”, the Temple of the Holy Spirit within us. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross for our Salvation. He made available His Holy Spirit to dwell within us to teach, encourage, and empower. He provided His Living Word through Scripture that we can study and apply to our daily lives.

Labor in the Kingdom of God is not always easy. It can be exhausting and challenging. But God will not place upon us something that is too difficult for us to do, and He is our Strength. He gives us the ability to fulfill exactly what He desires us to do and what He has called us to do. He has strengthened us by His might and power, but it is up to us to accept, to claim, and to turn to Him for our only true Source of strength and help.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What is God calling you to repair or has called you to repair or “labor” for in the House of God or the Kingdom of God?
2. Does your own spiritual house need repaired? Is there an area that is broken down?
3. Do you feel tired or exhausted at times as you are working for the Kingdom of God?
4. Have you called out to God for Him to give and restore the strength needed to continue what He has called you to do?

Prayer:

Father,

I see how the enemy constantly bombards me with opposition as I press forward in working for You! I see how he tries to tear down or hinder. But You are my Help and Victory! I will go forth in Your might and strength. When I think I cannot take one more step forward, You lift me up with Your strong hand and give me the strength to carry on.

You have given me the tools to complete Your work. With Your anointing, and various spiritual gifts, ministry gifts, skills, and abilities that You have given to the Body, as we work together in unity, rebuilding and restoration will be done, lives will be touched and ministered to, and souls will be won into the Kingdom of God all for Your glory!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Isaiah 58:12

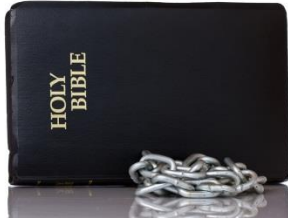
1 Chronicles 22:15

1 Corinthians 3:9

1 Corinthians 1:5-8

Matthew 9:37, 38

2 Timothy 2:15



Devotional 27

Fire Shut Up in My Bones

Jeremiah 20:9

If I say, I will not make mention of [the Lord] or speak any more in His name, in my mind and heart it is as if there were a burning fire shut up in my bones. And I am weary of enduring and holding it in; I cannot [contain it any longer].

Devotion:

God has placed within us a burning fire of desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. There is a lost and dying world that remains in bondage of sin and lost unless they accept Jesus Christ. There is a harvest waiting for us. There should be a burning desire within each of us to tell others about the truth of God's Word, about His forgiveness, His love and mercy, and about His healing and delivering power.

There is a life-changing Word stirring within you, increasing, rising, ready to explode out. We are not to keep it in or keep it to ourselves. The fire of the Holy Spirit that God places within us cannot be contained. Just like heat expands inside something, and can even explode as it exceeds its

capacity, the fire of God increases and expands within our spirits and “overflow”, or outflow, takes place.

Do you not feel that burning desire to share Jesus and the Word of God with others? If that desire is not there, fan the flames, stir up the fire of the Holy Spirit within you through prayer, seeking His face, and reading His Word, the Bible.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you a Christian? Have you accepted Jesus Christ into your life and received His Holy Spirit to dwell within you? If yes, then there should be a desire or urgency within you to let others know about the goodness of God. (If needed, see sinner’s prayer at end of book)
2. Do you have a burning desire within you to share the Word of God with others? If yes, then let it out to minister to others! If no, then seek God to give you the desire and fire within you that will spread to others.

Prayer:

God,

I feel this turning and urgency within my soul, Your fire shut up within me! I am tired of holding it in! I have *got* to release it and let it out. I bind the spirit of fear that hinders me from speaking forth Your Word, and I release Your Holy Ghost boldness within me to spread the Gospel!

I desire to fan the flames even more by studying Your Word, praying, and seeking You more. Move within and through me by Your Spirit and Your anointing for the benefit of Your Kingdom. There are lives that I am meant to be a blessing to and minister Your Word to in some way. Send me

forth, Lord. Guide and direct me and place the words within me that You want me to speak. And I will give You all the glory and praise for all the lives You change and set free, in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Isaiah 6:8

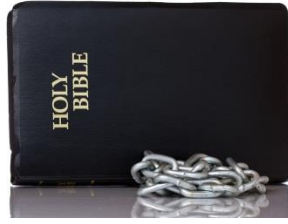
2 Timothy 4:1, 2

1 Corinthians 1:5

1 Corinthians 1:17

Psalm 45:1

Mark 16:15



Devotional 28

Distractions of the Enemy

Psalm 55:3

[And I am distracted] at the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression and threats of the wicked; for they would cast trouble upon me, and in wrath they persecute me.

Devotion:

Satan, our enemy, oppresses us from all possible angles he can through life and family problems, situations, and circumstances, through stress and busy schedules, through sickness and diseases, etc. He threatens us, whether we realize it or not, with these things to distract us from our relationship with God, from obeying our calling or His plan, from fulfilling our purpose, and from focusing on our ministry.

As the Scripture shows, David came to realize what was going on. He became aware of who he was fighting and exposed the enemy. He brought to the forefront who and what the cause of the problem was.... Satan and his demonic spirits. When the military goes to battle, they know who their enemy is. They have exposed who they are fighting. We are expected to do the same. We, too, need to expose the enemy who threatens, oppresses, and distracts us. We need to realize who

is causing the distractions in our life. When the enemy is exposed, he can be dealt with.

David became aware of Satan's strategies and tactics that he used to come against David with. Again, with the military, before going into battle they have learned the strategies and tactics that their enemy may use to come against them with so that they can counter their attacks or threats. You see, one military force will also try to use distractions to draw attention away from where they are getting ready to attack. Sometimes Satan may distract us in one area of our lives, while he sneaks in without us realizing, and attacks in another area while we were caught off guard. So, study the Word of God, pray, be on guard against Satan, and allow the Holy Spirit to equip you spiritually as you battle in your daily life.

Just like David did, come to realize the attacks of the enemy are oppressing around you. When the enemy is exposed, he can be dealt with. Decide today to not let Satan distract you with his "noise" and threats. Stand upon God's Word and take your authority in Jesus' name! For you are victorious in Christ Jesus and our God is mighty in battle!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you allowed the enemy to distract you from your relationship with God, from obeying your calling or His plan, from fulfilling your purpose, and from focusing on your ministry?
2. Do you feel oppression and threats of the enemy all around you?
3. Have you exposed the enemy and are you aware of his strategies and tactics?
4. Are you studying God's Word and praying faithfully to allow the Holy Spirit to teach you how to stand strong

in battle and how to fight against the enemy and to strengthen your spiritual armor?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I feel the weight of life's oppression pressing upon me all around. I sense the threats and distractions targeting me. I am sorry for allowing the enemy to distract me from my relationship with You, from drawing closer to You, from obeying Your calling on my life and Your plan for my life, from fulfilling Your purpose, and from focusing on the ministry that You have given me.

Many times, I recognize my enemy and see his strategies and tactics. Other times I do not recognize his strategies and tactics. Please help me to be more aware of the enemy that attacks me. Teach me by Your Holy Spirit how to stand strong in battle and how to fight against the enemy and how to strengthen my spiritual armor. You, Lord, are victorious in battle. In Jesus' name, I shake off the distractions of the enemy, and I press forward as I stand on Your Word and authority!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

2 Chronicles 20:15

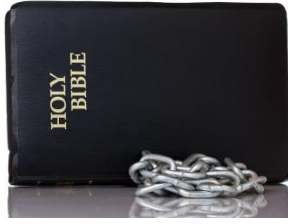
Mark 4:19

Isaiah 54:14

1 Corinthians 7:34

Isaiah 58:9

Hebrews 12:2



Devotional 29

Stand in Your Place

Judges 7:21

They stood every man in his place round about the camp, and all the [Midianite] army ran--they cried out and fled.

Devotion:

There is a constant spiritual battle (spiritual warfare) going on in the Heavens, and you are involved whether you accept it or not. You may be a passive warrior or an active warrior, but you are in the middle of it. If you live in a body of flesh, the enemy wars against you. Are you backing down or standing your ground against the enemy's camp? This portion of Scripture shows an offensive stance in battle. They did not wait for the enemy to attack them; they pursued their enemy. They "stood" in their place. Gideon's army knew God was on their side. They allowed God to show them and direct them in how to fight the battle. It was done God's way, not man's way.

In looking back in verse nineteen, you see that the attack took place during the "middle watch" of the night. It was in the middle of the night, in the darkest time of the night. The middle of your darkest "night," that you go through,

brings opportunity for your greatest victory through God's power.

Every Child of God has a specific place in the Kingdom of God that He has been called to stand in and to fulfill that purpose. It took EVERY man, not a few or most, but EVERY man to complete the "plan of action" in battle. One man retreating or not taking his place could make the army vulnerable to defeat by the enemy. That is why unity in the Body of Christ is crucial when going forth in completing what our Commander has called us to do. When the enemy sees members of God's army standing in unity and recognizes their authority in God to come against the opposing army, the enemy will cry out and run in fear as they realize they are defeated.

So, follow God's direction and battle plan and submit to God's will concerning the battle at hand. Firmly stand upon God's Word. Do not back down or give up. Go forward in the authority of Jesus Christ and with the power of God and watch the enemy flee and the victory won!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you feel like you are in the darkest point of your "nighttime" of your battle?
2. Are you standing firm on God's Word against the enemy or are you running in fear?
3. Are you standing in the place that God has called you to?
4. Are you in unity with the Body of Christ to go forth to fulfill God's plan in the Kingdom of God?

Prayer:

My God, Mighty in Battle,

I come to You in confidence that You are the Great I Am. You are my Victory in battle. You are my Deliverer. You are my Protector. Though the enemy may look overwhelming, nothing is too hard for You. Though it may seem to be at the darkest time in my “night,” the greatest victory through You is at hand.

I stand my ground against the enemy. I stand firmly on Your Word; I will not run in fear, for You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Through Your power and anointing, I will go forth and do Your will and fulfill Your purpose that You have destined for me to do. Help me to always work in unity with the Body of Christ for the benefit of Your Kingdom.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

James 4:7

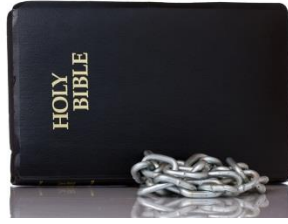
Psalm 66:3

Psalm 18:37-43

Ephesians 6:13

Exodus 14:13

Psalm 133:1



Devotional 30

Being Fruitful for the Father

Isaiah 45:19

I have not spoken in secret, in a corner of the land of darkness; I did not call the descendants of Jacob [to a fruitless service], saying, Seek Me for nothing [but I promised them a just reward]. I, the Lord, speak righteousness (the truth--trustworthy, straightforward correspondence between deeds and words); I declare things that are right.

Devotion:

God does not hide His Word or His promises, but He gives to all who seek Him. God says in Matthew 6:33,

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

God desires us to seek Him but expects us to show our love for Him by blessing the Kingdom of God. Think about a child who seeks the attention of their father. They seek “benefits” from their father. Some only “seek their father” when they want something. But they do not offer to help or

work for him. When you truly love someone, you will have a desire to do whatever you can to help them, as well as tell others what a wonderful father you have.

We, too, should have a strong desire to work for our God and to tell others of how awesome our Father is. Our service for Him should be fruitful. We, all Christians, are descendants of Jacob. He did not call us to live a life of fruitless service to Him. He did not call us to do nothing for the Kingdom of God. But He calls each of us to live our life in such a way that we bear good fruit so that our life is a living witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to His love, mercy, grace, and power extended to each of us.

God's promises are ours. His Word says it. But we do not seek His *promises*. We seek *Him*. The promises of His true, unchanging Word are attached to our seeking Him. It is a package deal or agreement. If God says it, then He will do it because He is a God who does not lie. What He says is right, the truth, trustworthy, and straight-forward.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you been seeking our Father, or have you been seeking His benefits and promises?
2. Do you willingly strive to work for and help further the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
3. Are you sharing with others how awesome our Heavenly Father is?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

You are an awesome Father who knows what is best for His Children. You take care of us and protect us. You know what is best for us. Your promises within the Bible are there

for our benefit. I know I can claim those promises for my life, but I do not seek *them*. I seek *You*, God.

Because You are everything to me, and I love You, my heart's desire is to worship, to work, and to live for You. I choose to fulfill and complete whatever Your will is for my life and for Your Kingdom. The work I set forth to do in Your name may not always be easy, it may be challenging and even tiring, but I can do all things through You because You strengthen and empower me to do Your work. I pray that what I "produce" for Your glory is fruitful for Your Kingdom and ministers to the lives of many.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

2 Chronicles 15:2

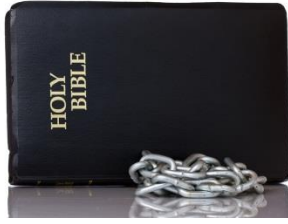
Psalm 9:10

Psalm 27:4

Isaiah 58:2

John 5:30

Philippians 1:22



Devotional 31

A Healthy Body of Christ

Hebrews 12:11-15

¹¹For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness--in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God].

¹²So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees,

¹³And cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

¹⁴Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.

¹⁵Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it--

Devotion:

Discipline is not enjoyable, but it is necessary. We pay the consequences of our actions. We learn from our mistakes though. When God disciplines us and "gets us in line" according to His Word and His Will for our lives, we yield fruit of righteousness. So, spiritually speaking, hold your head up and don't be a "weak knee" moping around in a pity party. Raise your drooping hands to heaven with faith going forth in your praises acknowledging that God is doing a tremendous work within you.

This can also be directed to the Body of Christ, or the Church. It is "unpleasant" when the Church is dealt with by God. God will discipline the Church so that She will be fruitful.

He does not desire His Church to slack in their duties, to have droopy hands, and to be "weak-kneed." He needs a Church functioning in spiritual health and maturity, all in unity together for the benefit of the Kingdom of God and to reap a harvest of souls.

If a human body does not function correctly or work together with the whole body, its immune system becomes jeopardized and susceptible to being overcome with sickness. Therefore, a person would not be able to do the things he needed to do or was supposed to do.

When the Church is not at peace with one another, or not working together in unity, the spiritual immune system, its spiritual walls of protection, is jeopardized and susceptible to being overcome by the enemy. This would, therefore, hinder the Church from doing what She is supposed to do according to God's plan. The Church needs to be spiritually strong enough to always lift those who are weak, who fail, or stumble in the Church. Unity with brothers and sisters in Christ is a necessity for a fully functioning Body that will truly benefit the Kingdom.

So, we need to be watching, being aware of the attacks of the enemy that would try to sneak in and cause the Body to work in disunity. Build up and encourage your brother and sister in Christ and work in unity, and the Body will accomplish mighty things for the Kingdom of God.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you a weak-kneed Christian, moping around in your pity party? Or are you a disciplined Christian, striving for maturity, working in unity with the Body of Christ?
2. If anyone stumbles in the Body of Christ, do you lift them up and encourage them?
3. Are you striving to strengthen your own spiritual maturity?

Prayer:

Father God,

I thank You that You love us enough that You discipline us when we are not functioning correctly in the Body. Discipline is not easy but is needed. I am sorry for the times I fail You, even allowing my “spiritual body” to become “sick”

due to my lack of spiritual “nutrition” when I slack in reading Your Word and spending the time I should in prayer with You.

I desire to draw nearer to You. As I spend time in Your Word and prayer, fill me with Your Spirit, change what needs changing, and create in me what You desire me to be. Strengthen me spiritually so I can be what You need me to be in the Body of Christ to encourage and lift others. Help me to always work in unity with my other brothers and sisters in Christ for the benefit of Your Kingdom.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Isaiah 35:3

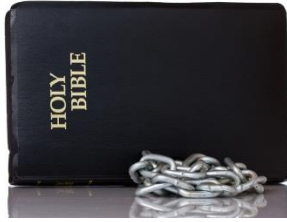
Deuteronomy 8:5

Psalms 94:12

Ephesians 2:14

2 Corinthians 13:11

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Devotional 32

To Know Him

Exodus 33:13-15

¹³Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight. And [Lord, do] consider that this nation is Your people.

¹⁴And the Lord said, My Presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

¹⁵And Moses said to the Lord, If Your Presence does not go with me, do not carry us up from here!

Devotion:

How do you find favor with your earthly father? You find favor by obeying and showing respect and spending quality time with him because you love him.

The same is with our Heavenly Father. We find favor with Him by showing respect, giving Him honor, and obeying

His Word and His plan because we love Him. We get to know Him more, understand His ways and strengthen our relationship with Him by spending more time with Him.

When we are in the presence of our earthly father or have been hugging him, his scent stays on us and we continue to smell his fragrance. When we have been with our Heavenly Father, His presence or sweet fragrance will go with us, and others will know that we have been in His presence. Our spirit, character, words, and actions will reflect our Father's presence or sweet fragrance. I sure don't want to go anywhere, or even live my life without His presence. I refuse to walk anywhere without His presence accompanying me or without His sweet fragrance saturating my whole being!

In Scripture when the Bible speaks of a man coming to know a woman, that conveys a very intimate meaning, marriage, and sexual relations with her. When a woman draws near to her husband and spends time with him in conversation, she really gets to know him. She is eager to express her love for him, and in return he blesses and shows his love to her.

Are you getting the picture with connecting this with the Bride of Christ, the Church, to God? As we draw near to God and sit in His presence, we begin to really know Him and His ways. Just as a husband wants to be in the presence of his wife, and the wife with the husband, God has a strong desire for us to be with Him and in His presence.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you know God by only a *statement* of your acknowledgement of being a Christian, or do you *truly know* God in an intimate, close relationship?

2. Are you in God's presence enough that His "scent," or His characteristics, anointing, and glory remain evident upon you? Is His sweet presence reflected through you?

Prayer:

Father God,

I do not want to live without You. I do not want to go anywhere or any further without You. My desire is to know You more deeply and more intimately. I want to truly know You, to know Your ways, to recognize Your voice more clearly. I want Your sweet fragrance to saturate me. Overtake me with Your anointing and presence. I am Yours, Lord, to be used for Your glory.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Acts 22:14

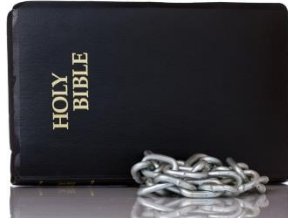
Philippians 3:8-10

Hebrews 3:10

Ephesians 5:2

Psalm 16:11; Psalm 25:4

Psalm 27:8



Devotional 33

The Lord's Vineyard

Matthew 21:33

Listen to another parable: There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a hedge around it and dug a wine vat in it and built a watchtower. Then he let it out [for rent] to tenants and went into another country.

Devotion:

Our Master, Jesus Christ, has planted a vineyard. Isaiah 5:1 state that a vineyard is God's chosen people. You don't just plant a vineyard anywhere. It must be planted in a place where the ground is fertile for the vineyard to be fruitful and produce as it was intended. Jesus has planted us, the Believers in Christ, His Church, right where He wants us so we will be fruitful for the Kingdom of God. He has a divine plan for each of us. He desires us to produce good fruit for His vineyard and let the power of His Holy Spirit flow through us.

God puts a hedge of protection around us. We cover our family and church in prayer through faith. Through prayer, we put a hedge of protection, body, soul, and spirit, around them, and cover them in the blood of Jesus. God does

the protecting, but our prayer of faith releases God to move on our behalf.

God also has placed a vat full of the Holy Spirit among us. A vat of wine represents the Holy Spirit. He has made available to you a New Wine. He desires you to partake of the fresh anointing of His Holy Spirit. For the new thing He is doing in your life, you need the in-filling, and freshness of the power of His Holy Spirit.

Jesus has built a watch tower of spiritual warfare. He has given us His Word to know how to use that watch tower to watch for any approaching enemy that would attempt to steal from or destroy the vineyard. He tells us in His Word to watch and pray. Our enemy, Satan, seeks to devour, and we must always be aware of our enemy. Also, God is our High Tower. He is our Watch Tower who watches over us to protect us, and we can run to for safety.

This life we live now is temporary. It is like a rental home. It is not our permanent home. Heaven is our eternal home. Jesus went on up into Heaven with His Father as he prepares our future home. But while we are here on earth, we work for God, take care of His Kingdom, gather the harvest, and prepare for our move and journey to our heavenly home.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you producing fruit where God planted you?
2. Are you faithfully praying for God's protection over your family and church?
3. Are you on guard against our enemy and running to our High Tower, or Watch Tower?
4. Are you partaking of the New Wine of the Holy Spirit, as He is doing a new thing in your life?

Prayer:

Master and Savior,

Help me to be fruitful where You have planted me. Let the power of Your Holy Spirit, Your New Wine, flow through me. I seek to walk in Your divine plan for my life.

You are my Protector. By faith, I ask You to encircle me, my family, and church. Place a hedge of Your protection around us. Cover us in Your blood, Jesus. As I keep a constant prayer in my spirit, help me to be aware of my enemy, Satan, and his attacks. I run to You, my High Tower, my Watch Tower.

As I go forth and do Your work on earth, let Your New Wine, the power of Your Holy Spirit and Your fresh anointing, fill me and flow through me as I minister and share Your Word with others.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 107:37

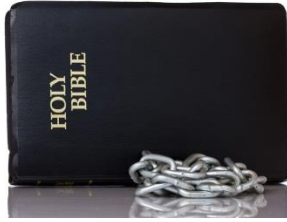
Proverbs 24:30

Ezekiel 28:26

Matthew 20:1-16

1 Corinthians 3:9

Psalm 9:9



Devotional 34

Praise from the Heart!

Psalm 66:8

Bless our God, O peoples, give Him grateful thanks and make the voice of His praise be heard.

Devotion:

The Webster Dictionary gives the definition of "grateful" as:

Pleasing; gratifying (giving pleasure, affording satisfaction); feeling or expressing gratitude (an emotion of the heart)

So, we bless our God and give Him thanks that are not just from our lips but are from the deep emotions of our heart. It is thanks and praises that are pleasing to our Heavenly Father and gives Him pleasure and satisfaction knowing that His child honors Him with honest, heart-felt thanks.

Sometimes when we go through difficult storms in life, Satan tries to keep us from wanting to or feeling like praising God. But we must "crucify" the flesh and speak forth His praise that He deserves regardless of how we feel. Notice it

says "make". His praises are something WE make our voice speak. *God* will not make us. We are a people of choice. But the tremendous love for God will come forth through our thanks and praises to Him.

Speaking thanks and praises to God is a spiritual warfare weapon that is used to defeat the enemy. Our praises and thanks to God show our faith and trust in His Word and promises. Praises and thanksgiving spoken out of faith will cause doubt to take the back seat. So, let it be heard not just by God, the Great I Am, but also by the enemy to cause his defeat.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you offering God thanks and praises only from your lips or from deep within your heart and spirit that truly bless Him?
2. Despite the difficult storm you may be facing in your life, are you speaking forth or singing His praises and thanks?
3. Are praises and thanks unto God in the forefront of your mind and spirit or are thoughts of doubt and worry consuming most of your thoughts?

Prayer:

Father God,

I give You honor and lift Your mighty name. I give You all the praise and honor due Your great name. I bless You from my heart. As I speak forth Words of faith from deep within me, all doubt must flee. Though it looks as if I am in the middle of a raging storm in my life, You are in control, You are my Victor and Deliverer, You are the Great I Am. You know no defeat. I place my life in Your precious hands. I give

You the praise and glory for what You have done, for what You are doing, and for what You are going to do, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Leviticus 22:29

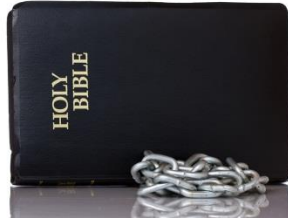
Psalm 30:12

2 Chronicles 20:21-22

2 Samuel 22:27

Psalm 34:1

Psalm 144:1



Devotional 35

I Called, You Answered

Psalm 138:3

In the day when I called, You answered me; and You strengthened me with strength (might and inflexibility to temptation) in my inner self.

Devotion:

Maybe you have had a stressful or busy week, and you are exhausted and spiritually, physically, or mentally tired and weak. Maybe you are in the middle of a major crisis in your life. Maybe you are dealing with sickness or disease in your body or in the body of someone dear to you. Maybe you need strength to stand strong against temptation of sin.

Regardless of the situation, God is the Great I Am, and nothing is too hard for Him. So, call out to God today for strength and restoration in your body, spirit, or mind. He is your strength in your physical body Who will lift you up; His Holy Spirit within you will give you strength to stand firmly against sin; He is the God Who heals and restores; He is a “water –walking” Jesus Who walks right on top of your storm of life.

But He cannot answer you if you do not first call or cry out to Him. When someone answers you, you first must have called out to them or asked them something. God will answer you when you call to Him.

Although He will answer you, you must remember that you may not always like His answer or *when* He answers. Sometimes we ask out of our selfish or flesh-self. Or what we *think* we need is not necessarily what we need. Sometimes the answer may be “no” from our Heavenly Father. Just like a young child who does not get his way, we may tend to get upset when we do not get our answer or right when we want it. God knows what is best and what will work together according to His will and plan for your life. But regardless of the answer, it will be in your best interest.

So, call out to God, continue to seek Him. He will answer You according to His will for your life. Claim His strength, healing, deliverance, and peace during the storm in the name of Jesus.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you need strength to carry on or to stand firmly against sin, healing in your body, deliverance, or peace in your storm?
2. Have you called out to God?
3. Are you willing to receive the answer *God* desires for you and *when* He desires for you to receive the answer?

Prayer:

My Father,

I thank You that You know what is best for me. You know what Your divine plan and will is for my life. I submit my whole life into Your hands. You know my heart, and You

know my needs and requests, but I make them known to You..... (Call out to God with your specific need(s) now).....Whether You answer me now or the answer will come later at some point, I will continue to make this/these request(s) known to You. Let Your will be done according to Your plan for my life. And I give You all the glory, honor, and praise in the name of Jesus!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 91:15

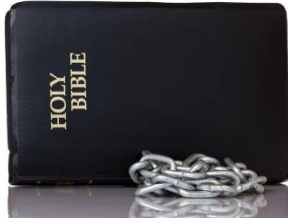
Isaiah 65:24

Job 6:11

Psalm 18:2

Psalm 73:26

Matthew 14:25-27



Devotional 36

No Fear in His Presence

Psalm 91:5-7

⁵You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day,

⁶Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday.

⁷A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

Devotion:

Verses one through four lay the foundation for this portion of Scripture. Verse one says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no foe can withstand]." Consistently spending time studying the Bible, praying, and seeking and soaking in the presence of God (Shadow of the Almighty), helps you to be stable and fixed in Him as your relationship grows stronger. Just as a tree becomes stronger as it grows and becomes more rooted and

grounded in good nourishing soil as it soaks in the presence of the sun, the same is spiritually.

When a young child follows close behind in the shadow of his father the child does not fear anything. He completely trusts his father and knows his father is in control and will not let any harm happen to him. If someone tried to hurt the child, the father would fight off or push the attacker away.

It is comforting to know that if we stay in the shadow of the Almighty, we do not need to be afraid of the attacks of Satan and his fiery darts (arrows) of problems and difficulties he may try to throw at us. As we put our complete trust in our Heavenly Father, we will see that He is in control, and He will protect and take care of us. When Satan and his demonic minions try to attack, God will cause the enemy to fall at our side.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you feel fear or terror within your spirit or life concerning what you are facing or concerning the fact that you do not know how it will turn out?
2. Are you remaining in the shadow of your Heavenly Father (spending time studying the Bible, praying, and seeking and soaking in the presence of God), or are you slipping away from His presence sometimes?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I thank You that my life is in Your mighty hands. As I stay in Your presence, the attacks of my enemy fall at Your

feet. You are my Protector and Deliverer. I put my complete trust in You. As You hold out Your loving, yet strong, arms I run into Your embrace. Hold me tight, Lord, and never let go! I do not want to let go of You. I desire to spend more time in prayer and in studying Your Word as I draw nearer to You. I submit my life to You and trust that You are in control. I love You and bless You mighty name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 31:20

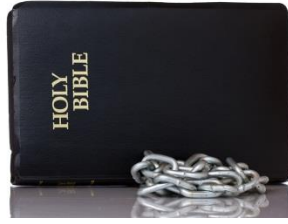
Psalm 84:4

Psalm 88:2

Isaiah 64:1, 2

Acts 2:28

James 4:10



Devotional 37

Where is Your Tent?

Psalm 91:9-11

⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place,

¹⁰There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.

¹¹For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].

Devotion:

In verse ten "tent" represents your home or dwelling place. As you and your family make God your place of refuge and dwell in His presence and as you walk in obedience and in relationship with Him, you can stand on the promise of His Word that He will protect you from the evil of the enemy. God will also protect from plagues (diseases) and disasters that the enemy would attempt to use to destroy you, as you trust Him as your Deliverer and Healer.

When reading this portion of Scripture, I had the image of a tent on a campground. It is like you have set up your dwelling place on His grounds, His place. His refuge includes

personal bodyguards and all your provision needed free of charge. It is the perfect campground. But as with any campgrounds, there are rules you must follow and obey, or you may not remain safe. When you do not obey the “grounds master’s rules” you open yourself up for possible harm or straying from the camp and its protection that is set in place for you.

Notice the beginning and ending of this portion of scripture. Verse 9 says, “*Because you have made the Lord your refuge*” and verse 11 says, “*preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].*” So, we must make the effort and decide to make the Lord our Refuge and as we continue in obeying His Word and calling on our life and fulfilling His service, He will preserve and protect us. We will remain in His place of refuge while we commit and devote our lives to Him.

Follow God in obedience and service to His plan for your life, and He will post angels around you to oversee defending you from the enemy and preserve you in everything you do for Him.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you and your family making God your place of refuge? Are you dwelling in His presence, seeking Him, and spending time with Him daily?
2. Are you walking in obedience to His Word and to His plan for you and His call on your life?

Prayer:

Mighty God,

You are my refuge. You are the Most High God, and You are my dwelling place. As I submit my life to You and walk in obedience to You and Your Word, by faith, according

to Your promise, no evil will befall me, nor any plague or sickness, or calamity or disaster will come near my tent. For You give Your angels charge over me to go with me, protect, defend, preserve, and keep me as I go forth in service and obedience in devoting my life and ministry to You and ministering Your Gospel. Help me, Father, to be more devoted to You, staying in Your presence and drawing nearer to You.

Though the enemy may come at me to try to attack with evil (temptations of sin), calamity (disasters and storms of life), and plague (sickness), You are my refuge. I place my complete trust in You.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

2 Samuel 22:3

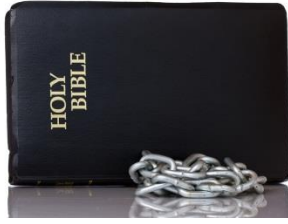
Psalm 27:1, 5

Job 22:23

Proverbs 14:11

1 Timothy 5:21

Psalm 141:3



Devotional 38

It is Well!

2 Kings 4:26

Run to meet her and say, Is it well with you? Well with your husband? Well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

Devotion:

In this portion of scripture, you see more than just one powerful story. I would encourage you to read the whole chapter. It is the story of a Shunammite woman. This rich and influential woman would cook for Elisha when he would come to town to minister or when he was passing by. She always insisted on him stopping by to eat. She recognized the anointing of God on his life and saw how God used him mightily. She had a strong desire to bless the Man of God. She told her husband she wanted to make a small chamber, like a bedroom, upstairs for him to have a place to stay during his ministry time when in the area. So, they made him a room.

Well, due to her and her husband's generosity in blessing Elisha, along with Gahazi (Elisha's servant), Elisha

wanted to bless them. So, he blessed her through a “bundle of joy”

prophetic Word from God. At the same time that next year, she gave birth to a son. She was supposed to be unable to bear children, but God gave her a miracle.

Sometime later when the young boy was older, he died. The Shunammite mother knew she had to get to the Man of God to pray for her son to live again. She, along with a servant, went to find Elisha. Elisha and Gahazi saw her coming toward them, and Gahazi ran to meet her and asked how she, her husband, and son were. Her response was “It is well.” To me, this was an amazing faith statement! Her son was dead at home, and she said, “It is well!” What she was saying by that was this: “Though my son *seems* to be dead according to what we see with our eyes, he *will* live again. God blessed me with a son. He will not take away my blessing.” There was no negative, pity-party statement or complaint that came out of her mouth. She already saw the result by faith and latched onto it in her spirit. She ran to the Man of God out of faith. She knew she had to seek him, run to his presence, and call out to him through her faith in God.

This portion of scripture has been such an encouragement in my life. I believe it will be an encouragement and faith builder for you too. When you are going through storms of life and during situations that look hopeless, and people ask you how you are doing (whether it is just a general conversation gesture or it is a sincere question), you can respond like I do now, by saying, “It is well, in Jesus’ Name!”

Though your situation looks “dead” it is well.
Though the doctors may give you a negative report.... it is well.
Though you do not know where the money is going to come

from to pay your bills....it is well. Though your boss or coworkers may be causing you a lot of trouble....it is well. Though your work may be threatening to have to lay you off work....it is well. Though it looks like your child is lost in sin and running from God....it is well. Though it looks like your loved one is spiritually dead....it is well.

Run to the presence of God. Run as hard and as fast as you can and don't look back at the negative and don't look at the distractions that are around you. Focus totally on the Son of God who you have got to get to. As He sees you running to Him, God will run to meet you! The Omnipotent God is running toward you as you press forward to seek Him. For the resurrection power for whatever situation you face, resides within His hands, and He has the power to speak life into your circumstance. Begin to praise God *now*, even before you see the blessing come to life. Proclaim, "It is well, in Jesus' name!"

Questions to Ponder:

1. What looks "dead" in your life? What situation seems hopeless in man's eyes?
2. What kind of words are coming out of your mouth or being meditated on in your mind? Negative, fearful, worry-type words? Or words of faith, trust, and praise for what God is going to do?
3. How hard are you running to the presence of God and seeking Him?
4. As you are running to God, are you looking behind at the negative circumstance and the distractions that surround you or are you staying focused totally on God as you are running to God and staying in His presence?

Prayer:

Mighty God,

I thank you for the many blessings You have given me. You are awesome and nothing is too hard or impossible for You.

You see the circumstance that lies before me. You see that in man's eyes the situation looks "dead," or hopeless. But by faith I say, "it is well!" I put my trust in You!

Though the enemy would try to cause me to look behind me and at the distractions that surround me, I will not dwell on any negative or fearful thoughts that the enemy may throw at me. I focus on You, God. I am running to You with everything within me. I have got to get to You! I seek You with all my heart. I choose to stay in Your presence. For in Your presence is fullness of joy, peace, provision, and protection.

I put on the Helmet of Salvation that will protect my mind. I stand firm upon what Your Word says, for Your Word will not return void or incomplete! According to Your Word and with the authority of Your Son, Jesus Christ, I speak life into my situation. Your resurrection power is now flowing. I see the result now, by faith, and I claim it and hold on to it in the name of Jesus! I praise you now for the answer in whatever form You choose to bring it, and I proclaim, "It is well, in Jesus' name"!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 118:17

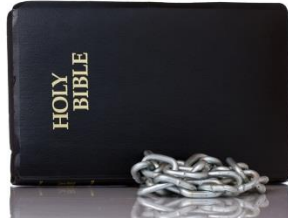
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Job 12:10

Psalm 16:11

Luke 8:40-56

Luke 1:37



Devotional 39

A Fellow Workman under Cultivation

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God; you are God's garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building.

Devotion:

God is not up in heaven on His throne working alone. But God says we are fellow workman, or co-workers, with and for Him. Together we promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His mighty works. Without the work of His Holy Spirit in and through our lives, we could not minister, witness, or complete God's plan for our lives. He works right alongside us; He labors together with us in the harvest field.

Each Christian is represented as God's garden and vineyard. It is up to you whether you produce good fruit or whether you produce bad fruit. We, the garden or vineyard, are under constant cultivation. A garden or vineyard must be continuously maintained for good fruit production.

The same is with buildings. If a building is not maintained, it will break down. As with any building or house,

things will eventually go wrong and break. The owner of the house fixes and repairs the damage.

God never stops cultivating, fixing, repairing, or maintaining our lives. These temples, or vessels, we live in are under constant construction of our Owner, our Heavenly Father. Decide today to be a garden, vineyard, or building that is determined to allow God to prepare, to cultivate, to prune, and to maintain your life according to His plan, so that you live a pleasing and fruitful life for the glory of God.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you a garden, vineyard, or building that allows God to constantly maintain, cultivate, repair, and fix?
2. Are you working as a fellow workman, a co-worker, with and for God to share and minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to benefit the Kingdom of God?

Prayer:

God,

I thank you that You love me enough that You do not give up on me. This vessel of Yours, Your temple that Your Spirit dwells in, is in constant need of cultivating, maintaining, and fixing. I am a work in progress. I am sorry if I have in any way hindered You or not allowed You to fix or to correct areas of my life. Change me, make me, mold me into Your image and into what You desire and need me to be for Your plan for my life and for Your glory.

I am Your garden and vineyard ready and willing to produce good fruit for Your Kingdom. I am Your building and temple that houses Your Holy Spirit that flows out to minister to the lives of others. I am Your coworker and joint promoter of Your Living Word. I submit my life and will to You to be

used for Your glory. Help me to obey You in all I do for You and for Your Kingdom.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

2 Timothy 2:15, 21

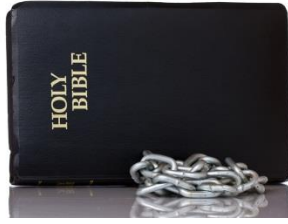
1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19, 20

Psalm 1:1-3

Romans 12:1, 2

Matthew 9:37, 38

Mark 16:20



Devotional 40

Don't Lose Heart, Your Harvest is Coming!

Galatians 6:9, 10

⁹And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.

¹⁰So then, as occasion and opportunity open up to us, let us do good [morally] to all people [not only being useful or profitable to them, but also doing what is for their spiritual good and advantage]. Be mindful to be a blessing, especially to those of the household of faith [those who belong to God's family with you, the believers].

Devotion:

God has a divine plan for your life. For He knows the thoughts and plans that He has for you. His plans are for your welfare and benefit. Knowing this, He gives you hope to hold onto because the result will be for your good and for His glory. For as you go forth in working for and living for God according to His plan for you, He will strengthen you and will not put more on you than you can bear.

He knows just the right time to bring the answer to your prayer or need. He knows the right time for you to receive your harvest. Do not give up on the brink of your breakthrough or miracle. Do not give up if you are physically, mentally, and emotionally tired and weary as you are trying to do what is right in God's sight according to His plan for your life. Keep pressing on and moving forward with God and in what He has called you to do. At the right time and the appointed season, you will reap the harvest from seeds you have sown. He will bring the answer to your prayer or your need just at the right time.

As you go forth in God's strength, He will give opportunities to minister and bless others. He will open doors for you to speak God's Word, to encourage someone in some way, to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to pray for someone, etc. God gives you strength for you to be able to continue to do good for others. When we become Christians, we become disciples of Jesus, who are sent out to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His delivering and healing power to others. Our salvation is not meant to be for only our benefit. We are always to be ready to minister to and to encourage others and to make every effort to win as many into the Kingdom of God as God gives us opportunity in. So, "gear up," Child of God, in the strength, courage, and boldness of the Holy Spirit, go forth and reap your harvest!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you at times felt weary as you press through your day, trying to gain strength to carry on? (Your real strength comes from God, not from what you try to gain on your own.)
2. Have the following thoughts ever crossed your mind: "What's the use, it doesn't look like I will reap my

harvest; I can't see my answer in sight; I am tired of trying.”? (These are all thoughts from Satan. Bind and cast these types of thoughts away, in the name of Jesus!)

3. Are you willing to obey in the times God brings opportunity to be a blessing, to minister His Word, to be an encouragement, and to do good to others in every possible way God opens the door for us? You have a harvest waiting and ready! Go reap!

Prayer:

Jesus,

I thank You for loving me enough to suffer and die on the cross. I thank You for saving my soul. I do not want to keep my salvation to myself, but I want to share it with others. But Satan tries to cause life to weigh heavy upon me and try to cause me to weaken in body and spirit. I know he does not want Your Word and Gospel to go forth. I know he wants to prevent me from blessing and doing good to others.

But I know in Whom my strength comes from though! Lift me up, Lord, in Your strength. Help me to be ready and willing to obey You when You open doors to encourage, to bless, to minister to others. Give me opportunities to witness to others to bring souls into the Kingdom of God for You. Give me the boldness, courage, and strength to go forth and do Your work and will in my life all for Your glory! For I know there is a harvest that I will reap in Your divine timing. I will not give up! I will not faint in spirit! I will not lose courage! I will rise in Your strength, courage, and boldness, Lord, and go forth in Your name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Jeremiah 29:11

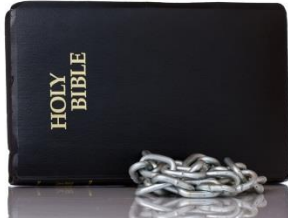
Romans 8:26

Revelation 2:3

James 5:7

James 3:18

Hebrews 12:11



Devotional 41

Walls are Coming Down

Joshua 6:1, 2

¹NOW JERICHO [a fenced town with high walls] was tightly closed because of the Israelites; no one went out or came in.

²And the Lord said to Joshua, See, I have given Jericho, its king and mighty men of valor, into your hands.

Devotion:

Jericho was known as a strong city with high protective walls surrounding it. It seemed unlikely of its destruction. I believe Jericho knew that the Israelites served a God who had powerfully intervened many times on behalf of the Israelites. They were waiting for the attack from Israel. So, Jericho tightly closed the wall entrances.

It does not matter to God how big or tight the enemies' walls seem that you are coming up against. We may encounter walls, or situations, in our lives that look impossible to break or overcome. But it does not matter to God how big or how mighty man (people) perceives the walls of the enemy to be. The battle is not yours; it belongs to the Lord.

As you read on in the chapter you notice that they did not fight by conventional means. God won the battle in such a way that it left only Him to get the glory, not man. They did not break the walls down by man's hands, but by obedience in walking around the city for seven days and seven times on the seventh day and then giving a shout unto God. Then the walls came tumbling down. God does not always fight battles the way we think He should. He desires for your victory to come by ways that bring glory to God and give Him all the credit for the victory. Walk with Him in obedience and sound forth praises from your mouth. Shouts and words of praise, thanks, and faith will tear down walls in your life.

I like what God says in verse two, "*And the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have given Jericho, its king and mighty men of valor, into your hands.'*" I can imagine God saying to you, "See! Hey! Pay attention to what I'm saying, Read My lips! The victory is already done for you! Quit looking at the tall wall the enemy has put up and the so-called mighty enemy that seems to be standing against you! Look through My eyes with faith. Look with your spiritual eyes and just praise Me!

Questions to Ponder:

1. What walls from the enemy are in your life that you need God to break down?
2. Are you walking in obedience to God during the battle for the walls to come down according to God's plan to give Him all the glory?
3. Are you looking with eyes of faith and giving shouts and words of praise to God for the victory, instead of grumbling, complaining, and speaking words of doubt?

Prayer:

Almighty God,

Halleluiah! Glory to God! I give You praise for the victory, for You are the Victorious God! You are mighty in battle! There is none like You! As I look with eyes of faith, by the power of Your Spirit, I see the walls in my life coming down! They are crumbling now in Jesus' name! Though, according to man's perspective, the walls look impossible to destroy. But the battle is not mine. The battle is Yours. Help me to walk in obedience during the battle. I do not want to hinder, in any way, Your will from being done. Have Your way. The victory will come in Your timing according to Your divine plan. I ask it all in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

1 Samuel 17:47

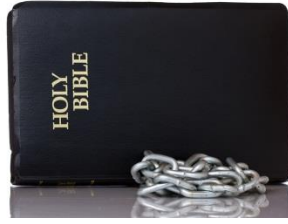
2 Chronicles 20:17-22

Proverbs 21:31

1 Corinthians 15:57

Romans 8:37

Psalms 27:6



Devotional 42

Blow the Trumpet of Victory

Joshua 6:4

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns; and on the seventh day you shall march around the enclosure seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

Devotion:

God instructed the priests to blow trumpets. This was not in their normal priestly job description category. Sometimes God may call us or direct us to complete a task or ministry that is not our normal area of ministry function for the Kingdom of God. Notice they did not grumble or complain. They went forth in obedience. God expects us to do the same and obey Him in whatever He calls us forth to do, even if it is not a permanent thing you would be doing. We are to be ready in season and out of season to obey God.

Also, notice what the trumpets were created from: rams' horns. Rams were used in sacrifices offered unto to God. Praises unto to God are considered sacrifices unto Him. We are to offer up a sacrifice of praise as an avenue or path for

the victory to travel on. Songs and words of praise bring confusion to the enemy and bring forth victory on our behalf. The portion of scripture of 2 Chronicles 20:21, 22 where the singers were sent out first on the front lines of battle caused the enemy to be caught off guard, confused, fearful, and turned on themselves, defeating themselves. The battle was won through their obedience of praises sung unto God.

When in Joshua 6:4 did they blow the trumpets? They trumpeted forth praises on the seventh day, the seventh time around. The number seven represents *completion* (Gen. 2:2). Praises went forth on the seventh time around Jericho, and the victory was complete. Let praises be shouted declaring by faith that the victory has been won! It is complete in Jesus' name!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you ready and willing to obey God if He asks you to fulfill a job duty that may not be something you normally do, even if it gets you out of your comfort zone?
2. Are you giving a sacrifice of praise spoken through faith to bring forth victory, proclaiming it is done and completed in the name of Jesus?

Prayer:

God,

I am sorry for any times I may have complained or grumbled as I performed a job or completed a task that You set before me to do, that was out of my comfort zone or something I did not want to do. I am sorry for actions of disobedience.

Help me, Father, to walk in obedience and fulfill any task you lay before me that will bring You honor and glory. Help me to be ready, always. As I go forth, I will make sounds of praise. I give You a sacrifice of praise! I glorify Your Great Name! I stand upon Your Word, Your promises. I claim the victory in the name of Jesus and proclaim by faith that the battle and victory are complete in Your name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Numbers 10:9

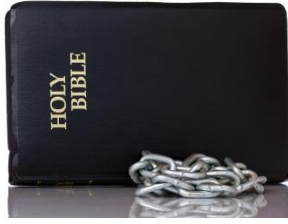
Judges 7:18-20

1 Peter 2:9

Hebrews 13:15

Jeremiah 33:11

2 Timothy 4:1, 2



Devotional 43

A Wall of Fire Round About

Zechariah 2:1-5

¹AND I lifted up my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand.

²Then said I, Where are you going? And he said to me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its breadth and what is its length.

³And behold, the angel who talked with me went forth and another angel went out to meet him,

⁴And he said to the second angel, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited and dwell as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it.

⁵For I, says the Lord, will be to her a wall of fire round about, and I will be the glory in the midst of her.

Devotion:

God is measuring the Body of Christ, bringing restoration and enlargement. Dake's Bible reference states that "measuring" in this scripture represents "restoration and

enlargement" of Jerusalem, God's people. God is restoring that which has been broken down or attempted to be torn down by the enemy. Healing is being restored.

Restoration of a piece of furniture is difficult, time consuming, and painful work. The old layers must come off first with hours of sanding and scraping. Then, smoothing the roughness and chipped edges, treating the raw wood, and applying primer and stain or final coating to cover it, which usually takes more than one coating to cover up the blemishes completely, all of which involves much sacrifice of time and effort. Restoration within us happens the same way. God removes our old layers (putting off the old man/nature/fleshy desires), smooth's our rough edges, and fills us with His Spirit, and covers us with the Blood of Jesus.

God is enlarging us, His Church, in such a way that He wants there to be no "walls" (vs. 4), no boundaries or limits on Him, but total dependence upon God. God does not want us to rely on "mans" walls of protection or means of reliance. He has given us, His Church, the provision needed (vs. 4). He has given us the power of His Holy Spirit. But the power of the Holy Spirit and the anointing is not to be kept within the walls of the church, kept to us, or to be limited by our thoughts or restraints, but to be released by faith to go "outside the walls" or "outside the box."

God is to be our "wall of fire round about" us (vs. 5). He is to "be the glory in the midst" of us. In Biblical time a fire was placed surrounding the camped army to protect and allow the approaching enemy to be visibly seen. God is our Protector, and His fire, His Holy Spirit is exposing and revealing the approaching enemy and is being dealt with.

So, call out to God to be a wall of fire about you. Let the fire of God do its intended work in and through your life.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What area(s) is in your life is God trying to “measure”? What does He need to restore or enlarge?
2. Are you willing to go through the restoration process to allow God to truly change and restore? What needs to be removed in the process?
3. Have you limited God in any area of your life?

Prayer:

Lord,

I lift my eyes to You and see that You have a measuring line in Your hands. You desire to restore areas of my life, enlarge my faith to allow You to work fully in my life. Send forth Your angels to go before me and prepare the way as I step forward in faith to do Your will in my life.

You are my Wall of Fire about me. You are the only Provision that I will ever need. You are my Restorer. Your fire within me is enlarging, increasing, stirring, ready for release to minister to others around me. Fan the flames, Lord. You are my all-Consuming God; You consume anything in my life that needs to be consumed and removed. Restore me. Take me through the process of creating and changing me into what You desire me to be. Let Your fire burn in and through me, and at the same time be a Wall of Protection around me. I give You all the glory, for You deserve all the glory and praise.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 97:3

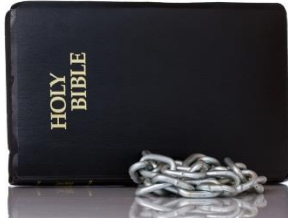
Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29

Daniel 3:25-27

2 Timothy 1:6

Isaiah 58:12

James 5:16



Devotional 44

Money Problems

Hebrews 13:5

Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

Devotion:

God said in Joshua 1:5 " ...As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you." I like in Hebrews 13:5 how God repeats and emphasizes "I will not, I will not, I will not"! You can be absolutely sure that He will not desert you in your situation, or at any time. He has a hold of you tightly. He won't even relax His grip on you.

God is holding you tightly, but if *you* are holding onto things of this world, reaching for earthly possessions, pulling yourself into a need of more money to pay for your

comfortable lifestyle or for what you *think* you need, He cannot bring total deliverance. God knows exactly what you need and when you need it. God does not mean He will give what you *want*, but what you *need*. So, God says "be free from" a fleshly mindset of worry, greed, avarice, lust, and craving of money for whatever reason you try to justify yourself with. Free yourself, shake off, and cut the chains of bondage through the name of Jesus.

The process involves self-action because God said "(You) let your character or moral disposition be free from..." It is something God will not *force* you to do. It is a choice to control your thinking, character, and actions. You can do as you please, or you can allow God to help You as you make the effort.

The dictionary definition of *disposition* is "*one's usual mood or attitude; a tendency or inclination to behave in a certain way.*" Your character, mood, attitude, and behavior are all formed and initiated in the mind. With the help of the Holy Spirit, You must make a conscious effort and decision to break from any fleshly mindsets or desires of the world and what it offers. Just like a song I once wrote says, "Just let go and let Him be God," and let Him provide for you how He knows best.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you been consumed with worry, greed, avarice, lust, and craving of money for what you want or think you need?
2. Is your character or moral disposition free from love of money?
3. Have you considered what God could do in your finances if you chose His way regarding your money

and if you used your money wisely with the guidance of His Holy Spirit and wisdom?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I am sorry, and I repent of my love of money or for being consumed with acquiring money. I have allowed today's lifestyle to cause me to desire things I want or think I need. I have gotten into financial situations that cause me to focus on money to pay for everything I have, need, or in debt for. I acknowledge that this craving for money is a trick of the enemy and a bondage that Satan uses against me.

I call out to You, Father, for help and deliverance. I now make the choice to break the love of money in my life. Break any bondage and hold that Satan may have had on me concerning money and finances. I put my trust in You. I believe You know exactly what I need, when I need it. Teach me how to manage my money and give me wisdom from You, that I need to make good choices in my finances for Your glory.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

1 Timothy 6:10

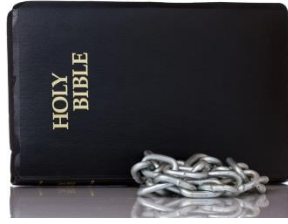
Deuteronomy 31:6

2 Timothy 3:2

Romans 13:8

Philippians 4:19

Proverbs 2:3-5



Devotional 45

He Calls You Friend

John 15:14-15

¹⁴You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do.

¹⁵I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.]

Devotion:

That is awesome to know that if we continuously walk in relationship with Jesus and obey Him, He calls us His friends. Think of your close personal friends. If you keep a close relationship with them, communicate with them, and show your love for them, the friendship will remain strong. The same is with Jesus. If we strive to stay in close relationship with Him, communicate with Him through prayer

and studying the Bible, and show Him our love for Him, our friendship will remain strong with Jesus.

What do friends do? They tell each other everything. They share their deepest secrets. They know each other's dreams and plans. They know each other's heartaches and pains. They know their strong areas, and they know their weak points, but still love each other through it all. They help their friends during difficult times. They are an encouragement to each other. A true friend will not break their trust.

Jesus desires to be your friend, and desires to call you His friend. Like the old song says, "What a friend we have in Jesus." But the song also goes on to say "*Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer!*" We often do without that close friendship with Jesus; we often do without His peace and carry unnecessary pain and difficulty because we do not utilize our communication bond with our Friend, Jesus. Through His Words spoken in the Bible, He has already revealed the answer you need. Seek Him in prayer and meditation on His Word, the Holy Bible, obey Him in all areas of your life, and nurture and strengthen your friendship with Jesus today.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you seeking Jesus through prayer and study of His Word and obeying Him in all areas of your life?
2. Are you truly striving to strengthen your relationship and friendship with Jesus?
3. Have you forfeited peace that is made available by Jesus through your friendship and relationship with Him? Have you failed to carry everything to your Friend in

prayer, therefore bearing needless pain? (Your Friend is waiting with open arms.)

Prayer:

My Dearest Friend, Jesus,

I am sorry for the times I have not obeyed You. I am sorry for the times I have slacked in my relationship with You. Forgive me, I pray, Lord. For I love You and desire to strengthen my relationship and friendship with You.

You are my Friend in Whom I can confide, trust, and lean on. You are my Friend in Whom I can tell my deepest concerns, thoughts, and secrets to. You are my Friend Who loves me even through my weak points and through my rough times in my life.

I thank You that You are a Friend Who sticks closer than a brother. I thank You, that as I call out to You, You give me real peace and heal my pain. I thank You for loving me, and I love You!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Proverbs 18:24

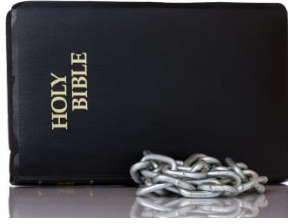
James 4:4

James 2:23

Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:8

Isaiah 58:2

Hebrews 10:22



Devotional 46

You are Chosen

John 15:16

You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you.

Devotion:

Jesus chose you. You did not choose Him. You made a decision to accept Him into your life and to do His will AFTER He had already chosen you and drawn you by the power of His Holy Spirit. He not only chose you, but also appointed you. He ordained, chose, and appointed you for a purpose. He knew you before you were even born. He knew you and you were on His mind on the cross at Calvary. He chose to suffer and give up His life just for you. But thank God, He rose again and sits at the right hand of God interceding on your behalf. He loves you and desires to bless you.

Two of the dictionary definitions I read really illustrated the meaning of "ordained". First, it means *to arrange or determine beforehand; predestine*. Second, it means *to order by means of superior authority*. Through the work done on the cross, Jesus has given us authority over Satan and his minions. He has appointed you, ordained you, given you authority to go forth in His victory and bear life-giving fruit in the Kingdom of God. He has called you to be firmly planted in Him, for you to produce fruit that will bring life to others. But you must remain planted, abide with Him in faith, and stand your ground through your authority in Jesus' name against the enemy, then whatever you ask in His name (according to His will), He will give it to you. If it does not line up with His will for Your life, He may not give what you ask for. God knows what is best for us, which is why we are to pray according to His will and that His will be done.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you truly accepted Jesus into your life? He has already chosen you. He is waiting on you to accept him. (If needed, there is a sinner's prayer at the end of this book)
2. Are you seeking God to show you how you can bear good fruit for the Kingdom of God that will change lives for His glory?
3. Are you asking according to God's will in what you are praying about and asking God for?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You that You chose and appointed me for a purpose. You know the calling, ministry, job, and path I am to take to fulfill my destiny. You have known from the beginning of time what Your divine plan was for my life. I submit to Your will and plan for my life. Have Your way and Your will.

As I pray and ask You for this need in my life (tell God what your need is), I ask it according to Your will. You know what is best. I stand on Your Word according to what my need is, and I claim Your promise.

Help me to remain firmly planted and rooted like You desire me to be grounded in Your Word. For then Your good fruit can be produced in me to bless and bring life to others. Help me to continue to produce fruit and not waver when the wind of the enemy blows all around me. I put my trust in You as I remain strong by Your power.

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2

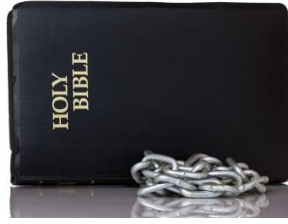
2 Chronicles 29:11

Isaiah 43:10

Jeremiah 1:5

Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 1:4

Colossians 3:12



Devotional 47

Training Manual for Warfare

Psalm 144:1

BLESSED BE the Lord, my Rock and my keen and firm Strength, Who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight—

Devotion:

God has provided us an instructional book and a training manual for teaching us to war against the enemy in the spiritual realm. That instructional book and training manual is the Bible. Through it we gain wisdom and understanding in how He wants the battle fought and in how we should stand our ground against Satan.

He has also given us the best instructor, the Holy Spirit. He teaches us in all things regarding the Word of God. It is important to know the tactics and strategies of our enemy. The Holy Spirit will teach us through God's Word how to counter and be on guard against Satan's tactics and strategies. We must learn to be on guard and fight the enemy at the same time.

What do we use to fight our enemy with? In spiritual warfare, what do the hands and fingers use to fight with? The hands and fingers hold the Sword of the Spirit and the Shield of Faith. The Shield of Faith will counter the attacks of the enemy and protect us from darts, or arrows of attack, while the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, destroys our enemy.

Praise God that by the power of His Holy Spirit, He teaches us through His Word (the Sword of the Spirit) how to sharpen and use that sword and to use the shield to protect in the battle. Just like any soldier, he must be trained in how to use his weapons, or he will put his life in danger and can be defeated. They continually practice, train, and stay in shape to be the best soldier they can be. A soldier must get strong and remain strong to withstand his enemy.

We, too, should practice, learn the Word of God, train to be the Christian He has called us to be, and stay in shape spiritually by praying, reading and studying the Bible, and exercising our faith. Without strength in battle, we would be weak and not be able to stand our ground against our enemy. Jesus is our Rock on which we stand. He is the source of our strength. So, get in His Word and study and read, as well as seek God in prayer, to gain His strength.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Are you utilizing the instructional book and a training manual, the Bible, to be victorious in battle through Jesus?
2. Are you exercising your faith and gaining strength through spending time alone in the presence of God? Are you sharpening the Sword of the Spirit?
3. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you through God's Word how to counter and be on guard against Satan's tactics and strategies?

Prayer:

My God,

I come to You as my source of victory in battle. Without you I cannot stand against the enemy that is before me. I turn to You as my source of everything I need. You are my Rock on which I stand firmly. You are my Strength in which I go forth in and do mighty exploits for the Kingdom of God and for Your glory.

I ask that You teach me by the power of Your Holy Spirit how to fight against Satan and his minions. Help me to learn and know the strategies and tactics of my enemy. Help me to stay on guard against attacks. I stand on Your Word. I hold the Sword of the Spirit, Your Word, in my hand. I will not let it depart from me. I hold up the Shield of Faith to protect from the darts of the enemy. I exercise my faith as I continually put my trust in You, Lord. I praise You for the victory, for You are Victorious in battle, in Whom no foe can withstand!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Psalm 91:4; Ephesians 6:16, 17; Hebrews 4:12

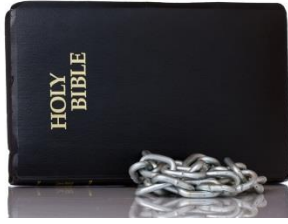
Luke 12:12; John 14:26

1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 16:13

John 13:13

Isaiah 58:8

Psalm 18:34



Devotional 48

Lord, You are My Vital Necessity!

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

¹²Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear and heed you.

¹³Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

¹⁴I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will release you from captivity and gather you from all the nations and all the places to which I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive.

Amos 5 :4

For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel: Seek Me [inquire for and of Me and require Me as you require food] and you shall live!

Devotion:

God has a divine plan for your life. He has predestined you to do a work that only you were created to fulfill to bless and minister to others through your life. His plans are not of evil, troubles, or turmoil. He desires for you to live in peace as you walk the path God has prepared for you. He is your hope to the very end of your life until you make Heaven your home. Our hope is in Him, as He is our everything, for He is the Great I Am. All hope and trust are in Him.

He desires you to call upon Him and get alone with Him in prayer. Seek Him, for He will not turn a deaf ear, but He will hear and heed your heart's cry. Seek Him with all your heart and with everything within you, and you will find Him. Search Him in prayer. Search Him in studying the Bible. Soak in His presence and let Him speak to you. He desires that you find Him, His presence, His touch, His healing, His deliverance. As you get in His presence and seek Him, He will set you free from whatever holds you captive, or in bondage, whether it is physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, financially. He will bring deliverance to you and draw you in close to Him.

Think about the bodies we live in. We cannot live without food. Food is a vital necessity for survival. Our bodies require it. Most people make sure they eat three meals each day and snacks in between. Seeking God is even more important than physical food. The Word of God is our spiritual food. Matthew 4:4 says, "But He replied, It has been written, Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

When you seek after something, you do not stop until you find it or get it. You do not let anything stop you. It is the

same spiritually. We should seek Him with all our heart. When we seek Him with all our heart as a vital necessity, we will find Him and live a life abundantly in Him. Notice in II chronicles 15:2 it says, "...the Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek him [inquiring for and of Him, craving Him as your soul's first necessity], He will be found by you; but if you [become indifferent and] forsake Him, He will forsake you." We are not to forsake our relationship with Him! If we forsake Him, we will be cut off from the promise of finding Him and will be spiritually dead, for in Him only is there true life! So, Child of God, seek Him with everything within you and watch what God does in your life. Great things are in store for you!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you considered *God's* thoughts and plans for your life?
2. What have you been seeking with all your heart? God...or food, money, things, fun, work, fame, popularity, human relationships, etc.?
3. How much have you been seeking God's food, the Bread of Life, His Word that brings forth life?
4. How much have you been seeking God in prayer?

Prayer:

My God, my God,

I am sorry for not praying, seeking you, and reading Your Word like I should. Forgive me, Lord. I cannot live without You, Your Word, and Your presence. I set my heart to seek You now with all my heart and everything within me! I need you as my most vital necessity!

I humble myself and fall before You. You are the Great I Am and everything I need. You are my Peace and Hope. Without You, I have no peace or hope. Without You I have nothing. You hear my heart's cry, Lord! Hear me! Surround me! Protect me! Heal me! Set me free and deliver me! Draw me into Your presence. I have got to have more of Your presence in my life. I am running to You, seeking You, jumping into Your mighty arms of love. I soak in Your Holy presence. As I am in Your presence change me, mold me, and make me into what You desire me to be so that I may fulfill Your plan and purpose for my life that You have predestined. Guide me as I desire to obey You and walk according to Your will. I put my trust in You. My hope is in You for everything in my life. I thank You for that hope and peace that can only be found in You!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5

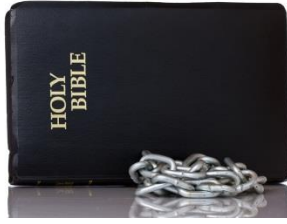
Deuteronomy 4:29

1 Chronicles 16:10, 11

Psalm 52:7

Proverbs 18:1

Hebrews 11:6



Devotional 49

You are My Healer!

I Peter 2:24

He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

Devotion:

It seems that we accept salvation easier than we do healing. I believe this scripture speaks not only of spiritual healing, but also of physical healing. We believe Jesus heals, but we tend to make healing a bigger "chore". We plead, cry out to God, and practically beg for healing. I can just picture God scratching His head and saying, "What more can I do? I've already sent my Son to pay the price, not only for their sins, but also for their healing. They are already healed! And through the victory on the cross they have been given authority in My Son's name, Jesus, over the enemy!"

Sickness is a spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:10-12) that Satan tries to oppress and afflict us with. But God has given us, through the name of Jesus Christ, all power and authority over Satan and his minions. Although often, sickness disease, and health problems seem to result from unhealthy decisions

or from hereditary tendencies, Satan still uses that as a loophole to cause oppression of sickness that can't seem to be "shaken off." Look at what Luke 13:10-12 says:

¹⁰Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

¹¹And there was a woman there who for eighteen years had had an infirmity caused by a spirit (a demon of sickness). She was bent completely forward and utterly unable to straighten herself up or to look upward.

¹²And when Jesus saw her, He called [her to Him] and said to her, Woman, you are released from your infirmity!

Notice in Luke 13:12, Jesus did not stomp, shout, or whatever. He simply spoke with authority, "...*Woman, you are released from your infirmity!*" Jesus knew He was God's Son, and Satan and demonic spirits must submit and bow at His mighty name. The same is with us. We are God's Children. Jesus is the Head of the Church. We are His Body, the Body of Christ. All power and authority were placed in Jesus' hands and the enemy was put under His feet. Through the work on the cross, the same power and authority in the name of Jesus was placed in our hands and the enemy is under our feet! Sickness is defeated and must bow in the name of Jesus!

It is up to us to have faith, to stand on His Word, and remind Satan he is under our feet. You are healed in the name of Jesus! The body must obey and line up with the Word of God. Healing does not always happen instantly. Though symptoms may hang on, remind the devil that he is a defeated foe and a liar, and daily remind him of God's healing in your

body by reading and speaking scriptures about healing, faith, and God's promises.

Although God is a God of miracles, sometimes God uses other avenues to bring forth healing, such as with surgery, various treatments, natural medicine, homeopathy, or simply a change in medication. A change in medication is what I needed one time. For over ten years I dealt with severe arthritis in my right shoulder. I would literally cry just to raise my arm. It was so inflamed that the collar bone and shoulder would almost completely lock up. For all those years, I was unable to sleep on my right at night (which was my favorite side to sleep on). I had prayed, fasted, pleaded with God, and was prayed for too many times to count. I could not understand why I could not receive my healing!

For about a year, I was feeling led to try a natural thyroid medication (Armour Thyroid) instead of the Synthroid medication I had been taking for over twenty years. I was trying to do more natural health regiments. I finally discussed it with my doctor and changed to it. Within a couple of weeks most ALL pain and stiffness had disappeared and within another couple weeks I had absolutely NO pain or stiffness! I was able to lift my arm without pain and sleep on my right side again and have ever since!

So, just be mindful of God regarding our medications. God could possibly resolve a health issue just by directing you to switch a medication. That is not always the case, but something to pray about and consider. So, all that time I was pleading with God for healing, He was ready to manifest His healing. He just needed me to be obedient so He could release the healing. No matter what avenue that is taken regarding our healing manifesting, God is the one who gets ALL the glory!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Is there an infirmity in your body or in someone you love that you need healing in or deliverance from?
2. Do you truly believe that Jesus has already paid the price for your healing and that you are already healed?
3. Have you taken your authority in Jesus' name that He has given you!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price on the cross for my sins. I thank You that You not only paid for my spiritual healing, but You also paid the price for my physical healing. By the authority in the name of Jesus, I command the sickness, or bondage in my life, to go. You spirit of Infirmity, you must bow at the name of Jesus. Lord, I receive Your healing now and claim it. I will stand firmly by faith in Your Word and Your promises and will continue until the healing is manifested in my body. The physical must line up with the Living Word of God. I praise You now for the healing in my body, whether it is an instantaneous or a progressive healing. I thank You for deliverance in Jesus' name! You are my Healer!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Ephesians 1:19-22

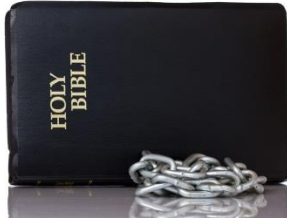
Mark 5:34

Mark 16:17-18

Isaiah 53:5

Luke 10:17-19

Luke 9:42



Devotional 50

His Blessings and Promises are Yours

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴The Lord bless you and watch, guard, and keep you;

²⁵The Lord make His face to shine upon and enlighten you and be gracious (kind, merciful, and giving favor) to you;

²⁶The Lord lift up His [approving] countenance upon you and give you peace (tranquility of heart and life continually).

Devotion:

This is a portion of scripture spoken over the children of Israel. As Children of God in relationship with Jesus, we also are to claim this portion of scripture and speak it over ourselves and our family. God's Word includes MANY promises that He expects us and desires us to claim.

There is a six-fold blessing extended to us, His Children, through this portion of Scripture.... 1) Bless you (v 24), 2) Keep you, 3) Make His face to shine upon you (v 25), 4) Be gracious to you, 5) Lift up His countenance upon you (v 26), 6) Give you peace.

It is wonderful to know that we serve a God Who loves us that much! He blesses us, watches us, lifts His countenance upon us, and gives us peace that passes all understanding. According to Numbers 6:24-26, God is the Blessor of His Children; He is our Preserver; He is our Provider; He is the Lover of his Children; He is our Caretaker; He is our Peace Giver.

As you look at each scripture and study specific words in each one and how they relate to us is very exciting. Notice that *Lord* is spoken three times. Dake's Bible reference explains that "*the repetition of Jehovah three times suggests the Divine Trinity, Jehovah the Father, Jehovah the Son, and Jehovah the Holy Ghost, and corresponds with the apostolic benediction*" (Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, p. 268, ref. h).

The dictionary definition of *countenance* is "*the look on a person's face that shows one's nature or feelings.*" In looking at the definition of *countenance*, you could say (vs. 26) "The Lord lift up His *eyes* upon you with an approving expression that shows His true nature and feelings toward you and upon you." Also, "Upon you" means to place on you. So, God places His approval and eyes on you, and covers and surrounds you.

Also, the dictionary definition of *enlighten* (v 25) is "*Give someone spiritual knowledge or insight.*" The light of His glory illuminates from Him. His power and anointing show forth from His face. So, in putting that all together, His power, glory, and anointing shines forth from Him upon you, covering you, touching you, and flowing forth from you! Just as the sun shines upon the moon, the moon reflects the sun's light. The sun's rays penetrate the moon, but the moon does not keep the light to itself. It shines for all to see and to

benefit from. The Light of the Son, Jesus Christ, shines and penetrates your being and spirit. You do not keep His power, glory, and anointing to yourself. Yes, you benefit from His Light, receive His healing, touch, encouragement, peace, giftings, etc., but you let it shine forth and go forth to minister and touch the lives of others for the benefit of the Kingdom of God!

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you accepted *all* His promises, not just a few?
2. Have you received the Light of Jesus that enlightens you, as His power, glory, and anointing touches, heals, encourages, and ministers to your life?
3. Are you keeping the Light, power, glory, and anointing that shines from the face of Jesus to yourself, or are you letting it shine forth and go forth to minister and touch the lives of others that He has placed in your path or called you to minister to?

Prayer:

Jehovah God,

I thank you, Lord, for Your many promises and blessings that You make available and shower me with. I thank you for watching, guarding, and keeping me as I go forth in my daily life and as I go forth to do to Your work. I thank you for Your Light that shines upon me and enlightens me with Your power, glory, and anointing. I receive Your touch in the areas of my life that it is needed. I receive your healing touch in my body, mind, and spirit. I am blessed to have a Heavenly Father that keeps His loving eye upon His Children. You look at me with eyes of love and mercy, as You give me the look of encouragement and tell me that I can make it, that I can go forth in what You have set me forth to do for Your

glory. Thank you for encouraging, giving me continual peace, and lifting me up with Your power and might. You are kind and merciful to me. I accept Your favor upon my life giving You all the glory and honor. I love You, Lord, and praise Your great and mighty name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Exodus 23:20

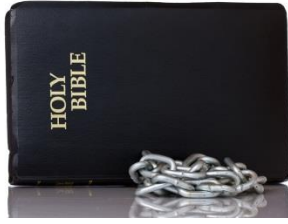
Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalms 101:6

Malachi 4:2

Isaiah 60:1

Matthew 5:16



Devotional 51

You are Favored of God

Luke 1:28-30

²⁸And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women!

²⁹But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.

³⁰And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God.

Devotion:

This sounds just like what we today might do. For example, God sends His Word to you and says, "Child of God, God sees that you have a pure heart to serve and work for Him. You are a willing vessel. You are favored because His hand is upon you, and He is with you as you go forth in what He has called you to do."

Immediately, you may let the spirit of confusion, doubt, and even a spirit of condemnation from past sins and insecurity whisper in your ear causing you to try to analyze, rationalize, and revolve, turn it around in your mind to the extent that you turn away from the Word that God spoke into your life. Take heed and do not listen to the voice of the enemy. Recognize the work of Satan against God's Word in your life, and do like Mary, accept God's Word, and obey.

Recognize the attack of Satan through the spirit of fear upon your life. He wants you to be afraid to witness to those you encounter. He wants you to be afraid to obey God's plan for your life and God's calling on your life. He wants you to “put God in a box,” limiting the mighty things God wants to do in your life and through your life. Bind the spirit of fear, the spirit of intimidation, the spirit of doubt, in the name of Jesus and release a spirit of boldness for the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit to work in and through your life. God wants us to not be afraid or hinder His will in our lives, but to trust Him completely.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What Word has God spoken to you? What has God called you forth to do? What is the desire or urgency that is stirring deep within your spirit?
2. Have you allowed confusion, doubt, fear, or condemnation to cause you to not step forward in what God has called you to do? Have you allowed hindrances to get in your way?
3. Have you fully submitted your life to God and committed to be a willing vessel for His glory?
4. Have you taken your authority in Jesus against the opposition from Satan that would hinder you in any

way from obeying God's Word that He has spoken in Your life?

Prayer:

Lord God,

I am sorry for doubting Your Word that You have spoken in my life. I am sorry for letting confusion, fear, intimidation, or condemnation overwhelm me. I completely submit my life to You. I am Your vessel to be used for Your glory for Your Kingdom's sake. I refuse to let Satan hinder me from going forth in Your calling on my life. My past sin and insecurities and fears are in the past. I look forward in what You have set before me. I look forward to the path You have placed me on in life. I accept Your favor upon my life. For through Your favor, doors are opened, and ministries are birthed. Guide and protect me as I obey Your Word and carry forth Your Word that will bring eternal life, healing, deliverance, and restoration to others. I give You the praise and glory, in Jesus' name!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Galatians 1:15

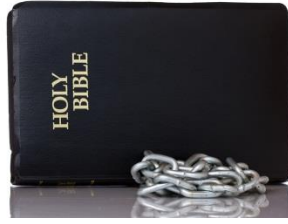
2 Corinthians 4:1

Romans 1:5

2 Timothy 1:7

Deuteronomy 28:3, 6

Psalm 62:5



Devotional 52

Are You Pregnant?

Luke 1:31

And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

Devotion:

God knew from the beginning that He would send His Son to become flesh for our salvation. He knew He would cause Mary, a willing vessel, to become pregnant with the Word and give birth to a Life-giving Ministry. God knew from the beginning the name of the ministry that would be birthed through her would be Jesus Christ, Immanuel.

God has known from the beginning of time that He has a predestined pregnancy planned for you. Maybe it is a spiritual gifting or talent that will be used for the glory of God; maybe it is a job God desires you to be a witness at; maybe it is a ministry God has called you to do. Whatever it may be, God has a spiritual pregnancy planned for every Child of God. He has a predestined plan for each of us. Unfortunately, some pregnancies are aborted. It could be aborted due to fear, doubt, sin, disobedience, etc.

God is causing the seed of His Word to grow within you, and if you will let it grow within you, at a predestined planned time, you will give birth to a life-giving ministry, in whatever form or fashion God created it to be. Nurture the spiritual baby within you through study of the Word of God, hearing the spoken Word of God, prayer, soaking in His presence, and letting the Holy Spirit teach you in all things. It may not come out looking like what you expected it to look like, but just like real babies, they always change as they grow and mature. It will come forth just as God desired and planned. And it will be a blessing to the lives of many.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you sense a spiritual pregnancy growing within you?
2. In what area(s) do you need to be aware of to prevent “aborting” the spiritual pregnancy.... fear, doubt, sin, disobedience, etc.?
3. Are you nurturing the spiritual pregnancy within you to enable it to grow and mature so that it will be birthed and go forth to bless many lives?

Prayer:

Father,

I know You have a predestined pregnancy growing within me. I am a willing vessel to be used for Your glory. I am sorry for any sin in my life, any fear, doubt, or disobedience that would hinder Your ministry from being birthed within me. Let Your Word grow within me as I study Your Word, seek You in prayer, as I stay in Your presence. I may not know exactly what the birth will look like, but it will be exactly like You desire. Have Your way in my life. Let not *my* will be done, but let *Your* will be done. Birth Your ministry, birth Your gifting and talent, birth Your opened door

for the job. Bring it forth in Your timing in the predestined season appointed that will reap a harvest for Your glory!

Amen and Amen!

Other Related Scriptures to Study for the Week:

Ecclesiastes 11:5

1 Peter 2:9

Romans 12:1, 2

Matthew 6:6

Revelation 3:8

Galatians 4:27

Prayer to Accept Jesus Christ into Your Life

Dear Jesus,

I know I am a sinner. I believe You suffered and died on the cross for me. Your blood was shed for me. I ask that You forgive and cleanse me of all my sins. I renounce and turn from any sin in my life. I accept You, Jesus, into my life as my Savior, and I ask that You be Lord of my life. Take control of every area of my life. I choose to follow and serve You. I dedicate my life totally to You to live for You. Let Your will be done in my life. I thank You, Lord, for being my Savior.

Amen and Amen!

About the Author

Charlotte Barton is an author, ordained minister, chaplain, and Bible teacher, as well as a spiritual warfare and certified health and nutritional life coach. With a wealth of experience in these areas, she has inspired many men and women to live purposeful, victorious lives.

Charlotte draws from her extensive background in coaching, pastoral care, worship leading, and jail ministry to coordinate and minister at impactful Spiritual Warfare Conferences and Natural Health Seminars. Her life-changing books, *No More Chains of Anxiety, Worry, Stress, or Depression*, and *No More Chains: Life-Changing Devotions & Prayers*, have impacted many lives. Charlotte's talent also extends to illustrating, and she has used it to create a children's book titled, *Mimi's Lullaby*.

As the founder of Victory Battle Plan, LLC, Charlotte is committed to helping Christians walk in victory in health one **S.T.E.P.** at a time God's way to **S**trengthen spiritually, **T**arget goals, **E**xperience breakthrough, and **P**rogress to holistic healing. With a deep passion to see lives transformed, healed, and set free for the glory of God, her guidance and teaching has helped countless individuals to achieve their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual goals.

For those seeking transformation and victory, Charlotte offers resources and guidance on her website, www.victorybattleplan.com.

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