

# The Essential Practice of Daily Devotion!

## WHY?

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2012  
Sunday, August 5 → 8:00 & 10:45 ♦ Monday, August 6 → 7 PM

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, Spending time in Daily Devotion includes:

- † Listening to God – *by thoughtfully reading the Bible.*
- † Talking to God – *with our words and thoughts.*

*Listening and talking* are normal parts of any relationship.

Since our sin ended our relationship with God, He took action to remove our sin through the *sinless life* and *sacrificial death* of Jesus! God also took action by the Holy Spirit working through the Bible to give us the gift of faith to trust in Jesus as our Savior! Through Jesus *our sins are forgiven* and *our relationship with God is restored!* Now, *as a result*, we desire to grow in that relationship through ♦*listening to God through the Bible* and ♦*talking to God through prayer.*

1. **Why is Daily Devotion Necessary?** Daily Devotion is an essential characteristic of every true Christian:
  - a. It feeds our spiritual lives: <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 4:4**  
...“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

- b. It firmly roots us in Christ: <sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 2:6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.
- c. It shows our relationship with Jesus: <sup>NAS</sup> **John 8:31** Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

### What Are Some Daily Devotion Benefits?

- a. Receive a daily message from God – *He speaks to us through His Word!*
- b. Respond to God's message in prayer – *Prayer is simply speaking to God in words and thoughts.* The BEST words and thoughts are those which are in agreement with God's Word; therefore, Jesus said: <sup>NAS</sup> **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."
- c. Recognize God's hand of blessing each week – *by reviewing and re-praying your previous seven days of devotions!*
- d. Grow in your knowledge of the Bible – *you will be blessed!*
- e. Grow in your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior – *resulting in more peace in every circumstance!*

- f. Learn about God's will / plan for your life – *God's children know God's ways are best!*
- g. Be better equipped to live and teach the Bible – *All Christians live the Bible and, in a sense, all are teachers!* Whenever we identify ourselves as Christians, people are *listening* and *watching*; St. Paul explained: <sup>NIV</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:2** “You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.”

### What Are Some Encouraging Passages?

- a. <sup>NAS</sup> **Joshua 1:8** This book of the law [*Genesis – Deuteronomy*] shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.**
  - i. Do YOU desire prosperity and success?
  - ii. Through what steps does God grant those blessings?
    1. Meditate on God's Word day and night.
    2. Be careful to do whatever it says.
    3. God will grant *His version* of prosperity and success!
- b. <sup>NAS</sup> **Psalm 1:1** How blessed is the man who does not **walk** in the counsel of the wicked, Nor **stand** in the path of sinners, Nor **sit** in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup> But **his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and**

**night.** <sup>3</sup> And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

- i. What should we avoid?
- ii. What should we do?
- iii. What will God grant? Blessings, but *not heaven; that is God's gift thru Jesus!*

## What Are Two Lutheran Daily Devotionals?

- a. Portals of Prayer (LCMS – CPH):
  - i. A different writer each month (pastors and laypeople).
  - ii. Each day stands alone.
  - iii. Shorter.
- b. Meditations (WELS – Northwestern):
  - i. A different writer each week (pastors).
  - ii. Each day stands alone.
  - iii. Each week, Sunday – Saturday, works through a section of the Bible.
  - iv. Longer, more in depth.

**Conclusion:** As we eat physical food to nourish our bodies, so we need spiritual food – *the Word of God* – to nourish our souls! If you have a practice of daily devotion, *I praise God!* If you don't, I urge you to use Portals or Meditations now; then come next week to learn more and be forever blessed! And all God's people said: *Amen!*

For Much More: [www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

*Live God's Word; then share it with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!*  
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