

GOT A DEVOTIONAL LIFE?

Psalms 99:9

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: It seems that there just isn't enough time to do everything that one wants to do in a 24 hour period of time. Everything is rush and hurry and at the end of the day it seems as if nothing has been accomplished. This applies to one's spiritual life as well. Church members sing the hymn, "Take Time To Be Holy" but not very many actually do and as a result, their spiritual life and service suffers. It is a fact that what a person spends his/her time doing the most will affect his/her entire life and outlook. Therefore it is necessary for every Christian to have some time set apart for Bible study and prayer every day.

I. THE BIBLE HAS GUIDELINES ABOUT DEVOTIONS

1. Don't include devotion time with anything else, give it its own time and space.
"...Be still and know..." (Psalm 46:10)
2. The Lord is not rushed for time as everyone else seems to be, therefore He is not going to be in a hurry to answer one's prayers.
"...Wait on the Lord; be of good courage..." (LPsalm 27:14)
3. Personal experiences in devotion time can be shared with others.
"...I will wait upon the Lord..." (Isaiah 8:17)
4. Learning to be patient and wait for the Lord to hear and answer one's prayers can be very beneficial.
"...But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength..." (Isaiah 40:31)
5. Regular, steady devotions will show that one is concerned about his/her spiritual relationship with the Lord and therefore will be used more by the Lord.
"...Study to show thyself approved..." (2 Timothy 2:15)

II. THE BIBLE HAS A VERY IMPORTANT PLACE IN A PERSON'S LIFE

1. Every believer needs to be very familiar with God's Word.
"...Thy Word have I hid in my heart..." (Psalm 119:11)
2. God's Word has meaning and importance everywhere on earth and in heaven.
"...Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven..." (Psalm 119:89)
3. The Word of God is like a light for the one who spends time in it.
"...Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet..." (Psalm 119:105)
4. God's Word is everlasting and will never change or be replaced.
"...Heaven and earth shall pass away...but...." (Matthew 24:35)

5. As God never changes and will forever be, it is true also of the Lord Jesus Christ.
"...Jesus Christ, the same yesterday..." (Hebrews 13:8-9)

III. PRAYER IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

1. There are countless examples in the Bible about men/women who prayed regularly.
 - David prayed morning, noon and evening. *(Psalm 55:17; 119:47-48)*
 - Daniel prayed three times a day in private. *(Daniel 6:10)*
 - Anna not only prayed every day and night, but also fasted. *(Luke 2:37)*
 - Paul prayed at day and night. *(1 Thessalonians 3:10)*
2. Some even prayed all night long at times.
 - Jacob prayed all night long. *(Genesis 32:24)*
 - Samuel also prayed all night long. *(1 Samuel 15:11)*
 - Of course Jesus often prayed all night long. *(Luke 6:12)*

IV. THE BIBLE GIVES SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO SPENT TIME IN DEVOTION

1. Jacob had a life of devotion to God. *(Genesis 28:16-18)*
2. The parents of Samuel are examples of parents having a devotional life together. *(1 Samuel 1:19)*
3. Hezekiah was a man with a devotional life. *(2 Chronicles 29:20)*
4. David who was a boy shepherd and became king was a man of strong devotion to God.
- (Psalm 57:8; 119:47)
5. Then there is Jesus, the supreme example in being a devotional person. *(Mark 1:35)*

CONCLUSION:

1. There are 24 hours in a day, no matter where one is on this earth and how one manages his/her time can very well determine if there is a devotion time set aside within each day.
2. Every Christian needs to spend time in studying God's Word and in prayer, every day.
3. The Christian who has a devotional life is one who is useable by the Lord and who wants to be used.
4. Christian! How is your devotion life? What can you do to make the time for your Lord?
5. Do YOU really want to spend time in Bible study and talking with the Lord?