



Experiencing God through Devotions

- Why is it so hard to have and sustain quality devotion times with the Lord?
- What are good devotional times suppose to be like anyway?

Challenges to Great Devotions

The evil one specializes in fostering dull devotions. His forces are at work destroying your quiet time. Be aware of his tactics and fight back! **Draw lines** to match the following:

- Sin
- Temptation
- Empty
- Tired
- Stressed
- Lazy soul

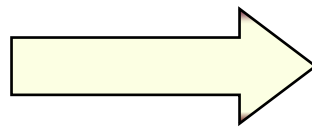


The Key to Great Devotions

We forget that the most important aspect of our lives is not what we do but our relationship with the Lord.

You have heard, "Being is more important than doing." Why is this?

The person seeking God is like the pole vaulter daring to thrust himself up and over the high hanging pole. Either the Christians gives his whole heart to meet God or he chooses to be nominal and lukewarm (Isaiah 59:2).



**INTIMACY IS
THE CURE FOR
SUPERFICIALITY!**



Experiencing God 2 through Devotions

Evaluating our Devotions



Make two marks on the left.

1) Where is your personal devotions at right now? (Draw an X.)

2) Where would you like them to be? (Draw a bulls eye.)

Remember good devotional times comes at a cost.

Improving our Devotions

Good devotions occur when we seek Christ above all things (Colossians 3:1-4).

- ★ He is the treasure that we seek.
- ★ He is our soul's truest joy.
- ★ He is our protector in danger.
- ★ He is our guide through life's maze.
- ★ He is our peace during storms.
- ★ He is our Comforter in times of pain.
- ★ He is our provider on days of need.

A passionate faith overcomes the superficial excuses that we can easily grab hold of.
Are you willing to go beyond into God's presence?

"But He answered and said,
"It is written,

'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

(Matthew 4:4.)



The Pathway to Good Devotions

UP AND OVER

- Learning of His will
- Enjoying His fellowship
- Being careful of superficial devotions
- Asking for wisdom and power to do His will.
- Affirming your desire to do His will
- Confessing bitterness, lusts, waywardness, etc.

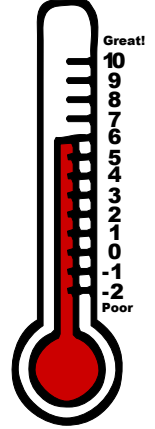
Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14, NASB).

The pole vaulter must run along a straight path, place one end of the pole down and fling himself up high and over the horizontal pole. The Christian in a similar way must give up all to meet God. He can't go part way. If he holds back his commitment from God by not completely repenting, he is basically stating that he does not want to meet God. And he doesn't. God doesn't reveal His glorious self to him. But when we give our whole heart to the Lord, we find that our meeting with God far surpasses any thing we could ever imagine.



Strategic Planning for Devotions

- Where do you want to be in 3 months from now?
- What changes will I need to make in my personal life to reach this spot?
- Do you have any hesitancy in making these changes?
Identify as many of these as you can. Which are valid?



Questions about Devotions

Can a Christian keep growing?

We might never reach the perfect 10 mark just as we can never reach infinity, but we can keep getting closer to the mark we want to obtain.

Will my experience differ as I grow in Christ?

Definitely. I John 2:12-14 portrays the Christian life into three stages; children, young men and fathers. At each stage the trials and provisions take on a different shape.

Can we grow without falling?

If we describe falling as that time where we fall into sin and do not get up right away in the grace of the Lord, then yes. Peter had this goal in mind when he wrote 2 Peter 1:3-10 to encourage God's people. This is the normal life of a Christian.

“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; **for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble**; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.” (2 Peter 1:10,11, NASB).

During our quiet times with God, we regularly review our commitment to love and do His will. There are no substitutes for daily devotions. It is then we examine our hearts and consciously submit our selves to our good Lord.