

# REVIVING OUR FAITH

# #1

## EXODUS 33:7-11

REV. PAUL J. BUCKNELL



## 1 *Spiritual Life*

- ➔ Our hope in life
- ➔ Like an infant
- ➔ The struggle of faith
- ➔ My testimony

**Purpose:**

**Revive your spiritual life through improving the quality of your personal devotion times.**



## 2 *Solutions Anyone?*

**Proposal**

**Reasoning**

**Inadequate**

Proposal	Reasoning	Inadequate
• Up earlier	Earlier is always better	Helps but no guarantee
• Longer devotions	The Longer the better	Longer can be more boring
• Focus on theology	Theology is the gateway to God	But theology has buried many
• Wait until older Christian	The older the better	There are 'dead' older Christians
• Better Bible versions	The right Bible makes a difference	Doesn't matter too much
• Need spiritual experience	Need special experience is necessary	Experiences come and go



## 3 *A Living Faith (1 Peter 1:3)*

- ➔ What standards does the Lord have for our spiritual lives?
- ➔ What does personal devotions look like?
- ➔ How do we start and maintain effective personal devotions?



# 4 *Discovering the Power of Exciting Devotions*

7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And it came about, that everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. 9 And it came about, whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses. 10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and worship, each at the entrance of his tent. 11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. (Exodus 33:7-11)



## 1) Moses regularly met with God (7-8)

- Moses on Mt. Sinai
- Getting to know God more
- Realizing how terrible not to have the Lord present.

*"The LORD would speak with Moses."*  
God loves to spend time with His people.

➡ Intimacy demands regular meetings

### A special time

"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, NASB.

## 2) Moses went outside the camp (8)

- A quiet place (Eg. Jonathan Edwards)
- God's holiness

Isaiah 59:2

Genesis 6:3

### A special place

James 4:4

Exodus 33:5

*"Outside the camp, a good distance from the camp"*  
With the Lord and away from the distractions of life.

➡ Intimacy demands separation

## 3) Moses met with God (9-11)

- God was together with Moses (9)
- Our prayers

### A special meeting

""Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.'" Matthew 6:9, 10.


*"Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend"*  
Moses chose to meet the Lord. No law. Just like eating.

➡ His presence means everything

## 4) God spoke with Moses

- I only want God to speak with me.
- Mistaken notions (Isaiah 59:2)
- Our own fathers
- God's word

"The LORD would speak with Moses."  
 God has special things to say to His people.

 God wants to speak to us. Are we listening?



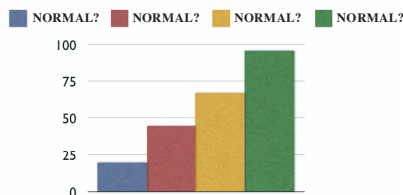
## 5 Comparing Old and New Testaments

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

### A Comparison between Moses and Christians 2 Corinthians (Chapters 3-5)

Moses	3:2,7	Christians
Tablets of stone	3:3	Written on hearts
Old Covenant	3:6	New Covenant (Holy Spirit)
Slowly fade away	3:7-8	More glorious
Need veil	3:14-16	No use for veil

## What is normal for devotions?



- Isaiah meets God (Isaiah 6)?
- Moses meets God on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 20)?
- Moses regularly meets God in tabernacle (Exodus 33)?

## A special word

"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, NASB.

When was the last time you really met with God?  
 What did He say?

## A Heart for Devotions

**Urgent:** I need God to speak to me.

**Faith:** I believe God will speak to me.

"Then he said to Him, "If Thy presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here. "For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Thy sight, I and Thy people? Is it not by Thy going with us, so that we, I and Thy people, may be distinguished from all the *other* people who are upon the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight, and I have known you by name." Exodus 33:15-17, NASB.



## 6 Maintaining our Spiritual Lives



Meeting with God regularly helps us keep everything else in balance.

← What has changed? →



Burdened down with responsibilities. Can't handle it all.



## 7 What doubt forms your wall?

“For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand *outside*. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God, Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Psalms 84:10, NASB.



The very place that we oppose God, becomes the place we are unwilling to trust God. God is very willing to help you, guide you, love you and even give you wisdom.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18, NASB.



## 8 Our Choice

We have a choice of having a few drops or drawing close to the fountain of living water. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!” (James 4:8).



A drop

Or



A flood

O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake Thee will be put to shame. Those who turn away on earth will be written down, Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the LORD. (Jeremiah 17:13).

“Let Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, According as we have hoped in Thee.” Psalms 33:22.

“They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy house; And Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights. For with Thee is the fountain of life; In Thy light we see light.” Psalms 36:8, 9, NASB.



## 9 Seminar Exercise

Have a quiet time with the Lord in His Word

- 1) Hope: Tell Him what you want from this time together.
- 2) Read: Quickly pick a passage and carefully read.
- 3) Listen: Think about what He wants to teach you.
- 4) Identify: Clearly identify and summarize at least one item.

What does it mean to 'hear' Him?  
Did He say anything to you?  
How should it impact your life?  
Will you obey by making the  
required changes?

### **Numbers 20:2-3**

“And there was no water for the congregation; and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD!” Numbers 20:2, 3, NASB.

### **Psalms 119:169-170**

“Let my cry come before Thee, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Thy word. Let my supplication come before Thee; Deliver me according to Thy word.” Psalms 119:169, 170,.

### **Philippians 3:13-14**

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13, 14, NASB.

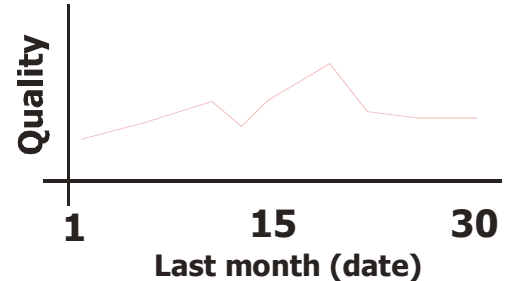


## 10 *Group Reflections*

**The quality of our devotional times is primarily dependent on two factors:**

- (1) Firm belief that God will speak to us each day in our devotional times.**
- (2) In our meeting with God, we will express our needs to Him.**

#1) Reflect on how meaningful one's devotional life has been like since you followed Jesus? Graph the last month down (1 stands for first of month).



#2) Identify what makes for a poor devotional time? Why do you do those things which bring about inferior quiet times? What makes for meaningful devotional times?

#3) What was your relationship with your earthly father like? Did you have significant conversations? How has this shaped or influenced your relationship with your Heavenly Father?

#4) Can one always have good devotional times? If so, how can we always make it good and special.

#5) Share with your group one or two significant things you have learned from one of the Bible passages.

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For more on personal devotions, go to [wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net) (see below):

English: <http://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net/Topics/Devotions/Devotions000.html>