

Week 24 Daily Devotional

I. Prayer to enter the Lord's presence:

Be still for a moment. "Lord, I give the day that is now past to you. It is yours. I give the day that is to come to you; help me to see where you are working and to join you there. Speak to me during these moments. I commit them and myself to you."

II. Prayer of Confession:

"Lord, you are faithful to forgive me and cleanse me of my sin when I confess it to you. I confess my sin(s) of _____. Thank you for forgiveness." (1 John 1:9)

III. Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Choose to be thankful, speak out loud of what God has done.

"Thank you, Father, for _____. Fill my heart and my mouth with gratitude throughout this day."

IV. Scripture Reflection

Day 1

Read

Psa. 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. ³ There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Rom. 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Reflect

These are examples of what is sometimes called "General Revelation." This means two things; one it is available to everyone, everywhere and it second it means it is "non-specific" or "general." This means you can know some things "about" God through what he has made but you cannot know the specifics as to how to enter into relationship with God apart from the gospel. The gospel of Jesus is called "special" versus the "general" revelation we have in creation.

Respond

If you are able, go outside and contemplate what you see, hear, smell. Imagine how all over the world, everyone is walking around in and living their lives in, a magnificent piece of art...the created cosmos. Have your eyes become so accustomed to the handiwork of God that you have stopped "seeing" it? Perhaps the details of your day to day life have caused you to focus narrowly on only what is right in front of you now. Ask God to give you a more expansive vision for the world, for your own life.

Day 2

Read

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, ⁵ which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

Reflect

This is the use of what is called phenomenological language. It is describing the rising and setting of the sun in regards to how we see it with our eyes rather than using technical language. This is the equivalent of saying "sunrise" and "sunset" but in a much more interesting way. The rising of the sun is like a bridegroom who has been waiting for his wedding day and now he bursts out into the glorious day ready for the new adventure! The setting of the sun is seen as a champion runner who bursts across the finish line in victory! What a wonderful way to look at the day. It begins with the promise and joy of a new marriage and ends with the victory of winning race.

Respond

This approach to each day cannot be dependent on our own moods, or the current circumstances of our lives. These things change rapidly and do not always "tell the truth" about what is actually real. God's word tells you that "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24. Will you choose to do just that?

Day 3

Read

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Reflect

Law, statutes, precepts, commands are different words describing God's word. Look at what hearing and responding to God's word can do for us. Our souls are revived...what is dying inside us is brought back to life. We are made wise...we don't have to be deceived by chasing what is in the end foolish and empty. Joy can fill our hearts. This doesn't mean we won't feel sad it means in all of life's circumstances we can know joy. When there is no "light in our eyes" we cannot see that is there. God's word allows us to see what is actually there.

Respond

Contemplate the four things this passage says God's word can do. Revive your soul. Make wise the simple. Give joy to the heart. Give light to the eyes. Take the time to consider what these things mean practically for your life today.

Day 4

Read

2Kings 6:16-17 "Don't be afraid, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Reflect

Elisha was being pursued by a murderous king. His servant was terrified as they were surrounded by a vast enemy army. Elisha was settled and unafraid because he "saw" more than their visible circumstances, he "saw" the reality of God all around them.

Respond

You are in a certain "mood" right now, it could be "good" or "bad" it could be "up" or down" or somewhere in the middle. You have specific circumstances in your life, some are likely favorable some unfavorable. These moods and circumstances have a powerful ability to determine our perspective on God, self, and others. We must train our minds to be "see" based on the fixed reality of God not on our moods and circumstances. Training to "see" like all training...takes time, intention, and effort. Do some of this training right now. Reflect on the reality of God in your life, pay careful attention to him versus your mood and circumstances.

Day 5

Read

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. ¹¹ By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Reflect

"Fear of the Lord" is a phrase that means somewhere between "respect" and "terror." It is neither of those things exactly but it has the result of both of those things, namely it inspires action. Respect and terror both lead a person to "do" things. Respect for someone causes you to want what they want because you want to please them. When we are afraid of someone it makes us not want to displease them. We really want to do things they want and avoid what they don't want. Fear of the Lord is very practical in its application. It pushes us in our life choices towards the will and ways of God.

Respond

Go back and carefully note all the benefits and beauty of God's word in today's passage. What are some practical results of his word in your life? You might want to write them down so you can reflect on them.

V. Prayer for others:

Pray specifically for the concerns of your life and the lives of others.

VI. Prayer of commitment:

"Lord God, I commit to love you with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my strength and with all my mind and to love my neighbor as myself. Empower me today to love you and others with everything that I am." (Luke 10:27)

This Month's Scripture Memory:

Matthew 6:25-31

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'