

# THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Opening Story: *A Soldier and his girlfriend*

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the point of this story? \_\_\_\_\_

## John 15:4-5

*"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

Becoming a Christian is not all there is to Christianity, ***it is only the beginning!*** We should be growing closer to God every day and to do this we *must* spend time with God.

## I. Why should we spend regular time with God?

A. Because God has everything we \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2 Peter 1:2-4

*Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

Through knowing Him, God has given us everything we need for living a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

The more we get to know God by spending \_\_\_\_\_ with Him and His word, the more \_\_\_\_\_ we will have in life and godliness.

B. Because God is our \_\_\_\_\_ and He wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ who He is.

### John 15:4-5

*Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Jesus is making a point of letting His followers know that their relationship to Him was not that of a \_\_\_\_\_ but of a \_\_\_\_\_.

If we believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior then this applies to us as well!

That's right, Jesus Christ is a friend of \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus Christ is not only your friend but He desires to make known to you what He has heard from His Father. What has He heard from His Father? It is all written down right here in the Bible. Jesus wants you to understand His Word the Bible.

## C. Because God has something just for you \_\_\_\_\_!

### Lamentations 3:22-23

*Because of the Lord's lovingkindnesses, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ toward us last forever but did you notice that they also are new every morning. Do you understand what is being said right here? God has something just for you everyday, but if we do not make time for Him through our personal devotions then we will be \_\_\_\_\_ a part of God for that day that we can never get back.

## II. Biblical examples of personal devotions.

### A. The example of Jesus Christ.

**Mark 1:35** *"And in the early morning while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there."*

What can we learn from this example?

He arose—Jesus took the \_\_\_\_\_ to have personal devotions.

He arose early while it was still dark—Jesus sacrificed \_\_\_\_\_ to have personal devotions.

He departed to a lonely place—Jesus got away from things that would \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

**Luke 22:39** *"And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mt. of Olives; and His disciples followed Him."*

Notice the phrase "as was His custom", Jesus made it a \_\_\_\_\_ to have personal devotions. Now I know what you are thinking, "Do I have to start getting up at 3 in the morning everyday to have my personal devotions like Jesus did?" Well take a look at this next verse.

**Matt. 14:23** *"And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone."*

So we see that Jesus did not always get up super early to have His personal devotions, isn't that a relief to all you late night party animals and all you non-morning people. What we do need to understand from

Jesus' example is that His time alone with God was a \_\_\_\_\_ and He even though His life was very busy, He would still take time for personal devotions, no matter what time of the day it was. (See also David's devotions in Psalm 63:1 and 92:1-2 and Moses in Exodus 33:7-11).

What is the point? The \_\_\_\_\_ of day that you have your personal devotions is not important. Are you having your personal devotions each day is what is important! Is there a time each day that you personally and earnestly \_\_\_\_\_ after God? That's what real Christianity is all about.

The purpose of personal devotions is this—to have a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ meeting with God! Really connecting with God is what it is all about. If we aren't seeking to do that in our devotions then we are simply performing a religious ritual that is meaningless. So, how is your devotional life? (Read John 15:4,5 again)

Below, mark where your devotional life is at right now:

|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
Non-existent                      Luke-warm                      Okay                      Going Good                      Sizzlin'

**How can you make it better?**