

Developing A Jesus Centered Life

The Believer's Greatest Need

- "There is one thing that the Christian needs more than he needs any other thing. One thing on which all others rest; and on which all others turn. This, then, must be our greatest need: *A true knowledge of God.*" -E.W. Bullinger
- In Ephesians 1:17, Paul's prayer informs us of the believer's greatest need: "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and *revelation in the knowledge of Him*".
- The practical result from getting to know God is revealed in Colossians 1:10-11: "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, *being fruitful in every good work* and *increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened* with all might, according to His glorious power, *for all patience and longsuffering with joy*..."

Getting To Know God

- **When a believer spends special times of quiet moments getting know God several things happen according to Paul:**
 1. You become fruitful in every good work.
 2. You increase in the knowledge of God.
 3. Your strength is increased.
 4. You become patient.
 5. You become longsuffering.
 6. You become filled with Joy.

The Subject Of The Bible Is Jesus And His Redemptive Work

- "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they *which testify of Me.*" ---John 5:39
- "Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the *Law of Moses* and *the Prophets* and the *Psalms concerning Me.*" And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." ---Luke 24:44-45
- **Jesus reveals the Father. The Bible reveals Jesus. The Holy Spirit reveals the teaching of Jesus in the written and spoken Word. This in turn helps us to know the Living Word.**

Revived By The Word Of God

- Psalms 119, gives us a glimpse on the importance of the Word of God's influence upon the life of a believer's spiritual renewal:
 1. "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed **according to Your word**."-vs. 9
 2. "My soul clings to the dust; Revive me **according to Your word**."-vs. 25
 3. "My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me **according to Your word**"-vs.-28
 4. "Uphold me **according to Your word**, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope."-vs.116

How Are You Doing Spiritually

Are you growing spiritually in Jesus?



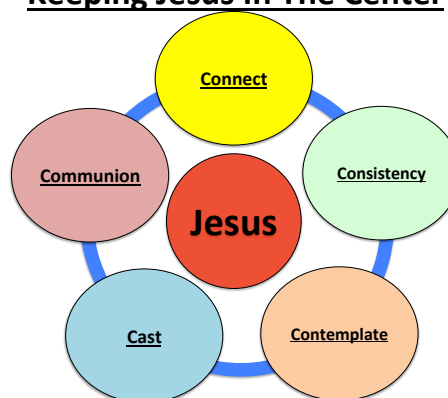
Or are you heading towards this?



Growing In Our Walk

- "but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "-2 Peter 3:18
- "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your **faith grows exceedingly**....."-2 Thessalonians 1:3
- "...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that **you may grow** thereby"-1 Peter 2:2

Keeping Jesus In The Center



Connect

- When we connect with the Lord were **spending time alone with Him** and it is His desire to connect with us on a daily basis.
- “And they heard the sound of the LORD God **walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the **presence of the LORD** God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “**Where are you?**”-Genesis 3:8-9
- “My soul, **wait silently** for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.”-Psalm 62:5

Consistency

- The Bible is full with its encouragement of being consistent with our devotional life.
- In Acts 17:11, the Bereans were commended because they, “searched the Scriptures **daily**”.
- In Luke 24:53, the believers after the resurrection “were **continually** in the temple praising and blessing God.”
- Paul encourages believers to: “Rejoice **always**, pray **without ceasing**”-1 Thessalonians 5:16-17
- “Therefore by Him let us **continually** offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”-Hebrews 13:15

Contemplate

- Contemplation is meditating on the precepts of the Lord and consciously being aware of His presence with us!
- “**Meditate** within your heart on your bed, and be still.”-Psalm 4:4
- “I will **meditate** on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways.”-Psalm 119:15
- “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things**.”-Philippians 4:8

Cast

- In our time alone with the Lord cast all of our worries and cares upon the Lord and leave them there for Him.
- “**Cast your burden** on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”-Psalm 55:22
- “....**casting all** your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”-1 Peter 5:7
- “Never let anything push you to your wits’ end, because you will get worried, and worry makes you self-interested and disturbs the nourishment of the life of God. Give thanks to God that He is there, no matter what is happening”-Chambers
- The casting of our worries upon the Lord is the time in our devotions when “....in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”.-Philippians 4:6

Communion

- Communion with the Lord is praying not as a means of getting things from Him but in order that we may get to know Him.
- “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.....For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**”- **Matthew 6:6,8**
- The Lord is our Father Who is overjoyed to spend time communing with us. It is out of these relational moments with the Lord that He reveals Himself to us!

Finding The Time

- Athletes and musicians know they must exercise and practice to improve. Developing skills requires continual repetition: playing a song, throwing pitches, shooting baskets. Athletes run, lift weights, and practice hour after hour in order to grow strong and develop endurance.
- We can always find the time to feed our physical bodies but when it comes to finding the time to feed our spirit we don't seem to find the time. The reason is because it is not natural doing devotions to feed our spirit.
- **The foundation of the devotional life is not what it costs us but what it cost Jesus to enable us to spend time with Him.**