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The Importance of Keeping a Consistent Devotional Time

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Luke 21:34-36 “ 34And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Luke 21:34-36 (Amp) “34But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose; 35For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. 36Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.”

The time that we live in today is constantly busy. There are so many things that are trying to get our time and attention. With this busy lifestyle that we live in, sometimes we factor out God, telling Him that there are other things that are more important than Him.

Isaiah 40:28-31 “28Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. 30Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

In this verse, the word “wait” signifies an exchange or to entwine yourself with the things of God. It means to get involved in God’s plan.

In the ministry it is easy for people to get burned out. A small percentage of members of the ministry overwork themselves to the point that they become sick or tired of the ministry that they are doing. They get burned out doing God’s will because they forget to put their main focus on the One that gave them this ministry to do.

We all need to make the decision to put God first place in our lives before everything else. We are all busy. The devil’s plan is to wear out the saints of God so that they will be unable to resist Him. “But those who wait upon the Lord...” An eagle has the power to lock its wings so that even through the storm, it can keep strong and rise above the turbulence.

The Old Testament was based on works alone. Through a lack of understanding, we try to bring this works mentality into the New Testament principles. Works are done out of fear in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament, God wants us to do works out of love. Grace teaches us to walk after God’s law.

Premium Gasoline may cost more than regular gasoline, but it is so much better for your car. Likewise, having a premium walk with God will cost you more, but it will be better for your spirit. You can use cheap “gas” and barely get by, or use the stuff worthwhile and remain strong in every situation.

1 Timothy 4:13-16 “13Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

Some translations bring out that that we should give attendance in public and private. First we need to study God’s word and keep Him first place, then we should pay attention to the gifts and talents that He has given us.

Only ten percent of people in the Body of Christ have a consistent devotional or prayer life.

Luke 6:12-13 “12And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;”

We should spend at least ten to fifteen minutes a day for the Lord as a pattern. Yes, things might come up where you are not able to do this, but as a rule, this time should be set aside for God. Before you ever make an important decision, spend time in prayer. Before Jesus chose his apostles, He spent time with God. These apostles were not perfect, but Jesus know that He was to help them grow up.

Luke 5:16-17 “16And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. 17And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.”

Prayer, especially Praying in Tongues, builds up spirit of a man, similar to how education can build up the mind of a man.

Mark 6:46 “And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.”

Before all of Jesus’ great miracles, He prayed.

James 5:5 (NLT) “You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter.”

James 5:5 (Amp) “[Here] on earth you have abandoned yourselves to soft (prodigal) living and to [the pleasures of] self-indulgence and self-gratification. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.”

An easy lifestyle will neglect the spirit of a man. Just like when we work out physically, we never really want to do it, but afterward, you are always glad that you did.

Practical Application of a 15 Minutes Devotional Time:

1 min: praise and thanksgiving (one might read some praises out of the Bible)

+/- 1 min.: confession to prepare the heart

1 min.: more thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)

2 min.: bring petitions and needs

10 min.: read from the Bible

Whenever you are consistent with your devotional time, then the Word will start to come alive to you. God will start speaking into your life and explaining things to you so that you might understand Him better.

Luke 18:1 “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

Luke 18:1 (Amp) “ALSO [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).”

2 Timothy 1:6 “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.”

2 Timothy 1:6 (Amp) “That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination].”

Whenever we are cooking we stir whatever is on the stove intentionally. Just like that, we should intentionally stir up ourselves spiritually so that we will remain growing in God.