

DEVOTIONAL STUDY

INTRODUCTION:

What happens to our bodies when we eat food?

The nutrients are absorbed and become part of our body supplying the chemicals that the body needs for growth and health and resisting disease

Tonight we are going to talk about the devotional study.

It is like eating bread.

A devotional study of God's word nourishes our Spirits the way bread nourishes the physical body.

Approaching a devotional study requires a different attitude than other kinds of studies we have talked about.

We need to approach it with an attitude of humility, of wanting to receive a word from the Lord, and desiring to be in his presence as we study the word.

Warning..

Sometimes there are roadblocks that will get in the way of you doing a devotional study.

1. **WEARINESS** – sometimes we are so tired we do not have the alertness or strength to study. We need to make our time with God a divine appointment and keep our time with Him.
2. **DISCOURAGEMENT** – discouragement and depression can kill our interest in doing anything – the response we should give discouragement and depression is to cry out to God for relief and to read the Word.. We need God to restore our peace and comfort to us and give us hope. Otherwise these things can possible grow worse.
3. **PRESSURE AND STRESS** – Work is great, but when it crowds out what is really important in our life like God and Family we are in trouble – we need to be realistic and reassess our priorities.

4. **LAZINESS** – sometimes we don't feel like doing the things we ought to do. What's wrong with that? It can become habitual. We must guard against apathy and laziness?

I. THE VALUE OF DEVOTIONAL STUDY

1. It helps us gain the knowledge of the Word for personnel spiritual reasons.

John 15:7-11

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. [8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

[9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Devotional study is gaining the knowledge of the Word for personnel spiritual reasons.

Gaining knowledge of the word in this sense is not intellectual knowledge or the accumulation of facts.

It is spiritual truth and divine wisdom upon which we can build our lives.

What are some personnel spiritual reasons for studying the word of God devotionally?

1. finding God's will for your life
2. seeking God for provision or protection
3. finding strength and comfort in a time of need
4. wanting to know how to pray effectively
5. desiring to offer God acceptable worship

2. It is beneficial in helping us conduct spiritual warfare

As you apply the word of God to your life, the devil will fight you

What are some of Satan's fiery darts?

- depression,
- discouragement,
- doubt about God's love and care,
- internal conflicts like temptation

Notice that these attacks are in our mind

How do we fight back?

MT 4:1-11

What did Jesus use to combat the enemy?

Ephes. 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

If Jesus, who is the Son of God, needed the sword of the Spirit to overcome the Devil's schemes...How much more do we need it in our battles with the enemy?

3. It enables us to know God's will.

God's will is both general and specific.

His General will is that we communicate with Him daily

Study His Word

Live a Holy life

God also has a specific will for each person

Who you marry

What you do with your finances

What Career or calling you pursue

What Friendships you have

To discern these specific matters we have to come to him humbly

We need to ask him to illumine our path and show us the way

He wants us to make right decisions

Reading his word is foundational to knowing his counsel

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.

The Holy Spirit uses the Word to shed light on our path by quickening the word of God to our inner man

The word becomes for us a godly grid that filters our motives, desires and decisions

Finally

- 4. a devotional study helps deepen our understanding of who Jesus is, what he has done for us, and who we are in Christ.**

II. HOW DO WE DO DEVOTIONAL STUDY?

Before we do anything else we need to ask for God's help

Once we have accomplished that there are five steps we may take for devotional study.

1. Read Daily – have a set time each day
2. Record – write down insights or questions that arise from your reading...If we don't we will forget them. You may even want to file these notes in such a way that you might use them later in teaching or sermon preparation.
3. Search – to get to the riches of God's word you have to dig. The more effort you expend on something the greater it's value
4. Relate – read a passage of scripture in context and relate it to other passages. You would probably use a concordance for this step.
5. Meditate – beyond reading, recording, searching and relating God's word, meditation is the time we spend preparing our hearts to obey His word.

Keep the word of God in your hearts

Memorization

Ask what the passage is saying to you

If God through his word brings to our attention that we are lacking in self-discipline... We must act upon the word and obey

Until we do we will not receive more