

Making Your Devotional Life

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I. Introduction.

II. The spiritual life is a daily matter.

- A. There is a need and provision for daily spiritual renewal.
- B. In the desert the children of Israel were supernaturally provided with food called manna.
 - 1. When they tried to collect too much one day the collected food became spoiled.
 - 2. God could have preserved it as He did on the Sabbath, but He did not on regular days.
- C. Christ is our daily provision for spiritual renewal. (2 Corinthians 4:16)

III. The source of spiritual provision.

- A. A picture of the spiritual life. (Jeremiah 17:7-8; John 15:5)
 - 1. The two threats to a tree are heat and drought.
 - 2. But its leaf remained green and it continued to produce fruit.
 - 3. Its secret was that its roots were in contact with the river.
 - 4. This is a picture of the Christian in contact with Jesus Christ on a daily basis.
- B. The taproots of the soul.
 - 1. The mind exercised in meditation in the Word of God. (Psalm 1:2-3)
 - a. Meditation is rumination - a cow chews something up and stores it up for later. The cow ruminates in perfect timing and squeezes the nourishment out of it.
 - b. So too, we extract the life of Christ into us in a similar manner through meditation. We make Christ's life part of our own spiritual bloodstream.
 - c. Christ comes in the volume of the book. The Words Jesus speaks are Spirit and life. (Psalm 40:7; John 6:63)
 - 2. The affections exercised in communion. (Jeremiah 30:31)
 - 3. The will exercised obedience. (Romans 8:2)
 - a. There are two laws at work in us - the law of the Spirit and the law of sin and death.

- b. We are to choose obedience so that our souls are fed. (Psalm 37:3)
- c. The life of Christ pours into us in satisfying the needs of the afflicted. (Isaiah 58:10-11)
- d. God's life shared with us is not restricted to prayer and communion - we live most of our life out in the battle. God provides for this. (Proverbs 11:25)

C. The devotional life.

1. It is not synonymous with quiet time.
2. In the daily quiet time we make contact with the Source of life and carry it away into battle, being reminded to turn to it in need.
3. Suggestions. Think in terms of a place, a period and a plan.
 - a. The period is best if in the morning.
 - b. The place must be a place where one can concentrate.
 - c. The plan needs the following objectives: to renew our soul through meditation in the Word of God, to share Christ's life through communion with Him, to be reminded to make the right choices to keep His life flowing into us.
4. Communion is different than ordinary prayer. There is a difference between prayer, praise, and worship/adoration.
 - a. Prayer is the occupation of the heart with needs.
 - b. Praise is the occupation of the heart with blessings.
 - c. Adoration is the occupation of the heart with God Himself.
5. Our greatest need for sharing the life of Christ is in the battle of life. We carry a part of the fragrance of Christ from the quiet time into the day as a reminder in time of need that we can partake of His fullness.
6. God will keep you and water your soul with His life. (Isaiah 27:3)

Application questions.

1. What are the three taproots of the soul? How do these connect to the mind, affections, and the will?

2. What seems to be the chief purpose in the speaker's mind for spiritual provision? What does this tell us about the necessity and the character of the devotional life?

3. What principles will you take from the speaker's suggestions on quiet time to apply to your life? List some goals you have and set some deadlines for reaching those goals.
