

Staying Close to God on a Busy Schedule

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I. Introduction.

- A. To say that we can be close to God may not be the most accurate description.
- B. The Christian is seated in heavenly realms that are in dimensions that occupy the same space as we do - it is not a matter of distance. (Psalm 8)
- C. We are on a different “video frequency” than those in the heavenly realm. (2 Kings 6)
- D. God is a God who is near - He is literally in you. (Jeremiah 23:23, Colossians 1:27, Matthew 18:19)
- E. God operates on frequency holiness - sin leaves us on a frequency that is disorderly and cannot see God. It is by God’s mercy that we do not have to see Him as He is. But one day we will operate on the holiness frequency in the resurrection. (Hebrews 12:25, Exodus 33)

II. Sharing the life of Christ assuming a present closeness with God.

- A. We are called to share Christ’s life. (John 15:5)
- B. The Old Testament picture of John 15 is Jeremiah 17:7-8. The devotional life is like a tree planted by the river. (Jeremiah 17:7,8)
 - 1. Although the tree faced both heat and drought, it survived.
 - 2. The leaves always stayed green and the tree never missed a fruit bearing season.
 - 3. The secret was that it was planted by the water and its roots were spread out.
 - 4. The fruit was the overflow of life for what is required for basic survival.
- C. There are three parts of the human soul: mind, affections and the will. These are then the power of the soul. Each of these taproots is a channel by which we make contact with Christ.

III. How to share Christ’s life.

- A. The mind that is exercised through meditation on the word of God. (Psalm 1:2,3)
 - 1. This is rumination - a cow chews something up and stores it up for later. The cow ruminates in perfect timing without waste. She squeezes the nourishment out of it.
 - 2. We transfer the life of Christ into us in a similar manner. Christ comes in the volume of the book. The words of Christ are our spiritual nourishment. (Psalm 40:7, John 6:63)

3. We need to feed on the Word to be healthy Christians, study the Word to be healthy Christians, memorize it to be skillful Christians, and meditate on the Word to be fruitful Christians.

B. The affections exercised with communion or prayer. (Jeremiah 31:12; 30:21)

1. God wanted to commune with man. (Exodus 25:22)

2. The tabernacle was a pattern of true fellowship with God. (Hebrews 9:24)

3. Communion is the alternative impact of two personalities that produces a mutual pleasant effect.

4. There is a mutual impact in prayer. Meeting in prayer is typified through the tabernacle. (Hebrews 9:24)

a. The altar of incense means that in communion with God there is a fragrance of having been with Him.

b. In communion with God we talk with Him about the things most real to us.

5. Prayer is the occupation of the heart with needs, praise is the occupation of the heart with blessings, and worship and adoration is the occupation of the heart with God Himself.

a. Communion must take into consideration the Person and works of God Himself.

b. Time is relative to the enjoyment we have with someone. Time passes fast when we are in communion with God.

C. The will - trusting in the Lord and choosing obedience.

1. If we want our souls fed we are to do good.

2. There are two laws: the law of the Spirit and the law of sin. (Romans 8:2)

a. There are many up and downs in the back and forth shift between the law of the Spirit and the law of sin and death.

b. The Lord allows an opportunity for service or temptation so that we might grow in obedience. (Psalm 37:3)

3. The life of Christ comes into us as we satisfy the needs of the hungry and the afflicted. (Isaiah 58:11-12)

4. He that waters will be watered. (Proverbs 11:25)

5. We need to be out in the battle - God has provided for us there.

6. We too often miss the signals of service. (Psalm 123:2)

III. Conclusion.

A. God is looking at us and is able and ready to supply the nourishment that our soul needs.
(Isaiah 27:3)

B. We can share Christ's life and enable Him to share ours even in the midst of a busy schedule.
(John 15:5)

Application questions.

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

2. In what ways do involvement in the Word, prayer, and obedience overlap? How are they distinct? What are ways that all three can be incorporated throughout the day?

3. How should your devotional life look different in light of the message? What aspects of the devotional life do you plan to work on? How?
