
Our Lives are before
GOD

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Our Lives are Before God

In the New Testament, the Christian life is described by the word “walk”. It is synonymous with “live.” One major thing for Christians to be aware of and sensitive to is that our lives are always before God. Though God is not with us in a physical bodily form, he is always present with us in Spirit. *Psalm 46:1* tells us, *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* When there is an awareness of this fundamental truth, it facilitates a consistent practice in living out one’s faith.

God wants us to be Aware of His Presence

The thought of God watching our lives can be pretty intimidating; however, it is a demonstration of his love, protection, and direction. In addition it is so, we may reverence him in our daily lives. *Psalm 111:10* records, *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

Our lives are always before Him. Not one detail is overlooked Jesus said, *But the very hairs of your head are all*

numbered, Matthew 10:30. Jesus also shares with us, in Matthew 6:25-34, that our God knows about the details of our earthly needs.

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Focus on verses 31-32. Jesus is sharing with us that we should not worry or have anxiety about our basic physical needs. Our Heavenly Father keeps us before him and knows what things we are in need of. God's way of keeping us before him is not by micro-managing us; nevertheless, he is attentive because we are his children. God pays attention to us because he cares about us and wants us to know that we are always before him.

Scripture References

Hebrews 4:13 - *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

***Genesis 2:18-25 & Genesis chapter 3* – Explains how God kept the Man and the Woman before him.**

***Psalms 139:1-2 (Read Psalm 139:1-18)* – He knows our Thoughts.**

O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Psalm 139:17-18 - How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

Psalm 19:4 – He knows our Hearts

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

The Importance of a Devotional Life with God

Our hearts should desire a consistent and daily fellowship with God. It's our time of retreating and connecting with God. These are the quiet moments of our day in which we give attention to our spiritual lives. There are a variety of things that need our attention marital life, family life, work life, etc. This is precisely why a devotional life is necessary and relevant.

So many things are taking place around us on a daily basis. There are so many decisions to make and so many things and people attempting to plug in and connect with us. We have our jobs or careers, children, home lives, etc. It's just too much! We need to unplug from these things momentarily and have

one on one time with the Lord. Even Jesus Christ needed moments of devotion in his earthly life.

Important Components of a Devotional Life with God

1. **Prayer** – Communicating with God and sharing our Hearts with Him. Our greatest moments of vulnerability and pouring out our hearts happen during prayer. This is because God can handle OUR HEARTS AND WHAT'S ON OUR HEARTS. When a Christian neglects prayer, he or she will attempt to release their hearts in destructive or non-productive ways.
 2. **Studying the Bible** – Examining and learning God's Word, which helps us develop the mind of Christ.
 3. **Worship** – Praising and thanking God, kneeling or bowing to speak words of love to Him, and singing or listening to songs (sometimes a slower tempo) that center you on God's goodness.
 4. **Fasting** – There are times when you will sense God's leading you to fast or you may want to make fasting a regular part of your devotional life, for example some people may practice this once per week. It brings discipline to the body and reinforces or strengthens our sanctification. For best results, fasting works best along with the first three practices.
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Devotion with God:

1. Makes us sensitive to what's on His Heart – *Isaiah 55:8-9*
2. Causes us to be Christ centered and more efficient in furthering His cause – *John 4:30-34*
3. Calms our inner beings so we can invite His peace into our hearts – *Philippians 4:6-7*
4. Centers us, putting us in a good place spiritually and emotionally – *Galatians 5:22-23*
5. Provides clarity and focus on our priorities in life for what's really important - *Philippians 4:8*
6. Helps guide us concerning important life decisions – *Proverbs 3:5-6*
7. Makes us better for our interpersonal relationships – *Colossians 3:1-17; Ephesians 4:21-32*
8. Helps us entreat others in the fruit of the Spirit within our homes, workplaces, and daily encounters – *Galatians 5:22-23*

Neglecting Devotional time with God

1. Makes us insensitive to what's on His Heart.
 2. Causes us to become self-centered and lack interest in furthering His cause.
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3. Invites frustration, confusion, and irritation into our minds.
4. Pulls us from a good place spiritually and emotionally.
5. Blinds us so that we temporarily lose focus on our priorities in life.
6. Causes us to reject God's guidance concerning important life decisions.
7. Brings strain and stagnation into our interpersonal relationships.
8. Makes us entreat others out of the flesh as opposed to the fruit of the Spirit.

When we ignore or neglect our devotional time with him, it can have a serious effect on:

A. Our Character – the old man is not a forgotten one. The devotional life of the Christian nurtures and reinforces the new man in all of life's situations. *Colossians chapter 3 and Ephesians 4:22-32*

B. Our Witness – it can hurt our testimony for Jesus in sharing and showing others the hope that is in Him. *James 1:21-25*

C. Our Service – it can dull our sensitivity in serving God and furthering the cause of his son, Jesus Christ in our day.
John 15:1-5

D. Our Life Decisions – it can pull us into self-centered thinking and self-reliance. We follow our own ways and counsels. *Isaiah 55:8-9*

E. Our Relationships – it can interfere with the peace and sensitivity in our relationships. We become less concerned about the needs of those in our lives and more focused on selfish desires. *Galatians 5:22-23* – The Fruit of the Spirit needed for the growth of relationships.

References:

Oxford University Press, New American Oxford Dictionary
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1978, 1984, 2011