

CHIEF MINISTRIES

September 2010

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This month I'm going to share with you six daily devotionals that I've written to one day be published in a book of devotions for the prisoner. Here's where I would like some of you to be part of this endeavor. Stir up the gift that is in some of you. Please make submissions of 270 words or less following these as an example of what we're looking for. There's 365 days in a year. If you have more than one, that's ok too, do as many as you feel is necessary. Pray about letting the Lord lead you in your writing, send them to our Spring, Texas address and let's see how God can use an army of warriors to help others seek the Lord on a daily basis! I'm looking forward to many of you being used by God to encourage and uplift those around you!

Ps 42:1,2 As the deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

What are you thirsty for? All of my life I've played some sort of sport or been involved in recreational activity, from State Championships to College Basketball. I've been blessed to have the ability and health to play some type of athletic endeavor. I remember playing after everyone else had gone home or going out running in the hills after a full day of playing. I wanted to be faster, stronger, better. Those things profited me a little, but now I see how learning scripture and hiding it in my heart that I might not sin against Him is the most important thing I can do. I must long for His presence to fill me and surround me so that I can withstand the fiery darts of the enemy. We should hunger and thirst for the living God. When you go to worship, do you long to enter into His presence? That's where living in joy unspeakable overtakes the thought of your surroundings or circumstances. Thirsting for the right thing, the One thing, will certainly make you a winner in this life.

"As pants the deer for cooling streams,
When heated in the chase
So longs my soul, O God, for thee
And thy refreshing grace" Charles Wesley 1707-1788

John 4:23,24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him, God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (ESV)

Did you know the Father is seeking you? I wouldn't necessarily say He needs us, but He does want us to love Him and worship Him. I've long said to know God is to worship Him. Are you at a place in your walk that you long to worship Him? Worship is something we give to something we feel is worthy of praise. Some of us worship our favorite football or basketball team, season after season, or we worship our physique and we "religiously" hit the weights. Or we worship food or music or our families, or the "thug" life or beautiful women. There are so many things that we can love more than God himself. Why is that? Exodus 20:3 says "*You shall have no other God's before me.*" That was and is the first commandment. It seems God knows us and knows what to tell us right off the bat. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Worship the King, Worship the King:
We are in His presence to magnify His name
When we seek His face, glory fills this place:
As we worship the King! Rob Franklin 2000

Psalms 29:2 Give the Lord the glory due His name: Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Psa. 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, Give thanks to Him and praise His name. Psalms 101:1 I will sing of faithful love and justice. I will sing praise to You, Lord. Psalms 103:1 Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name

These verses speak of praising the Lord. Our lives should be a life of praise. Is yours? What we do and how we act should praise the Lord. This praising will indeed lead you to worship. True worship can only be experienced. When you begin to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, there will be something deep within that longs to call out to the Spirit of God, to shower Him with everything you can think of that is good. Such immense thanksgiving, absolute adoration, luxurious love and powerful praise is due to our creator, who is worthy of all praise. Have you ever just stopped everything right where you're at and just begun to tell Him how much you love Him? No matter what you're going through, you can praise your way out of perplexity and worship your way out of worldly understanding. I challenge you to do just that!

Psalms 34:13-14 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit, Turn away from evil and do good, Seek peace and pursue it. (Also read I Peter 2:1-10)

I suppose, we wouldn't be in a lot of the predicaments we find ourselves in if we could follow these two verses. Thus, saving ourselves and others a world of hurt. Peter cites these Psalms in chapter 2, letting us know how the Lord will deliver us out of suffering if we truly have "tasted and seen that the Lord is good". We will move away from the ungodly hypocrisy so prevalent in today's world and will become "living stones" in God's spiritual house. Holy life is distinguished and observed by how you deal with others. Ideal behavior is letting Him be your peace. Choosing to turn away from the bad, whenever it shows itself, is the mark of a true Christian. Practice makes perfect.

"May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to You, O God. You're my rock and my redeemer, You're the reason why I sing, I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes."

Jude 20 But you beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy (undeserved forgiveness) that leads to eternal life

So, how do you build yourselves up in faith? What is your faith? It's the known and received body of truth about Jesus and salvation through Him! *I Timothy 6:12 says; "Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses" II Timothy 4:7 says; I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* Go for the crown! Be the best Christian you can be! Get out of the dungeon of despair! Let the world see your light! You are an overcomer! How is this possible? Only by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, of which our faith is built on. What is your testimony before others? Don't let it be a testi - phony! And pray in the spirit concerning all things, spreading the love of Christ all around you. This will truly help you throughout the day.

Colossians 3:15-16 And let the peace of Christ rule and reign in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

That sounds like worship to me...and praise...and thanksgiving...and prayer. Those are all signs of the Christ centered life. They all go hand-in-hand. So, be persistent in prayer men of God. Ask God to surround you with His presence so that every word and deed you do is like His arm reaching out in love to those around you. His peace is one of the greatest feelings you can carry through any storm. Knowing He's got your back. And when the storm dissipates don't forget to thank Him.

Peace, Peace, wonderful peace
Coming down from the Father above
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray
In fathomless billows of love

Chief

P.S. If we choose to use your devotionals for the publication, we will send you a release form to be sent back. We will send you a self-addressed stamped envelope to do so. All authors will get recognition within the devotional. Please don't worry about grammar mistakes or punctuation. We'll take care of that; just make them legible, please!

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Christ's

Heart

In

Every

Felon