

Date: _____ Days: ____ Read: _____

Verse: _____

Prayer: _____

Date: _____ Days: ____ Read: _____

Verse: _____

Prayer: _____

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Verse: _____

Prayer: _____

(Continue daily in a steno notebook!)

Encouragement

- † “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” (NIV Isaiah 40:8)
- † “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (NIV 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- † “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (NIV Psalm 119:105)
- † “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (NIV John 17:17)

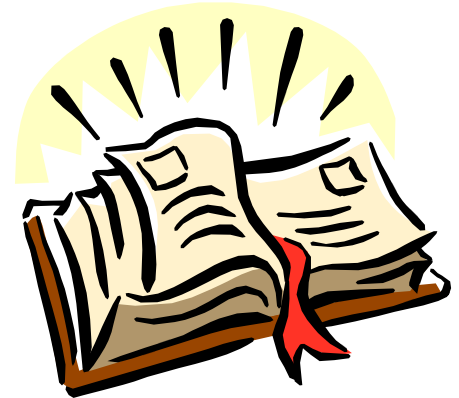
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio, 44134
440-845-2230 • www.blc7500.com

[Last Update: 1-10]

Daily Devotion

How to Get Started!



Introduction

Spending time in daily devotion includes:

- † *Listening to God* – by reading the Bible.
- † *Talking to God* – with words and thoughts.

But you may reason like this: “Why should I? Even now, *without a daily devotion*, God is blessing me in many ways!”

God is good and blesses all people *in this life*. However, our devotion to the Triune God is in response to His *eternal blessings*, which go far beyond the blessings of food, clothes, shelter, spouse, family, job, and friends.

- † We have sinned, *but God still loves us!*
- † We brought death, *but God offers life!*
- † We deserve hell, *but God offers heaven!*
- † We cannot earn, *so God freely gives!*
- † We cannot receive, *so God gives faith!*

The Triune God †made us (*by His almighty power*), †saved us (*by the sacrificial work of His Son*), and †sustains us (*by His undeserved love – according to all of our needs of body and soul*)! Furthermore, He will take us home to heaven to live in His presence, even with the holy angels and all believers in Christ, forevermore!

Though we deserve the worst, *the Triune God has freely given us the best in Christ!* Therefore, *our response is a desire to better know Him and His will for our lives!* God will grant those blessings as we †listen to Him in the Word and †talk to Him in prayer!

Getting Started

- † Start slow, *but grow!* You may begin by committing to only one minute each day. *That is fine!* But after one week, increase to two; then to three; etc!
- † *Get into a habit!* Establish a regular time and place. *Then stick with it!*
- † *Always use your Bible!* It is *necessary* spiritual food (Matthew 4:4)! The *true* followers of Jesus *continue* to make diligent use of the Bible (John 8:31)!
- † Use a helpful resource *along with your Bible!* Here are some suggestions:
 - Portals of Prayer – *a daily devotional booklet published by Concordia Publishing House.*
 - Meditations – *a daily devotional booklet published by Northwestern Publishing House.*

A Beneficial Method

With a Challenge

These are *some* of the benefits:

- † Receive a daily message from God!
- † Respond to God’s message in prayer!
- † Benefit from God’s daily message!
- † Be encouraged to continue each day!
- † See God’s hand of blessing each week!
- † Grow in your knowledge of the Word!
- † Grow in your faith in Jesus Christ!
- † Grow in living for Jesus Christ!

Begin by using the format below (continue in a *steno* notebook, using a half-page each day).

Fill in the blanks in the format:

- † **Date** (today’s).
- † **Days** (consecutive days without missing). Noting the consecutive days will encourage you to listen to God in His Word *every day*.
- † **Read** (what you read today – book, chapter, verses). Read slowly, carefully, thoughtfully – *God will reveal the meaning*. If you have questions: write them down, check another resource, or ask your pastor. The Gospel of John is a good place to start reading – *begin with one chapter or less each day*.
- † **Verse** (write the most significant verse). After writing it, proofread for accuracy.
- † **Prayer** (based on the verse). Write a prayer (Dear Father...) about the meaning of the verse, along with a request to faithfully live out the verse in your daily life.

Now read the verse and pray the prayer.

Once each week: reread what you have written, to see God’s hand of blessing in your daily life!

Challenge: *Continue without missing for 14 days!*

Date: _____ Days: ____ Read: _____

Verse: _____

Prayer: _____

Date: _____ Days: ____ Read: _____

Verse: _____

Prayer: _____