

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their heart March 2026

The Importance of Devotions

by Steve Huston



“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple...More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.” (Ps. 19:7, 10)

One of my favorite times of day is my quiet time with God each morning. In the stillness of the day, I prayerfully come to God seeking with expectation to be fed by His Word. I’m not looking for a message outline or a devotion to write, although these may present themselves; I just want to be in my Saviour’s presence, like Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet. It’s an important time for me to become more “*rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith...abounding therein with thanksgiv-*

ing” (Col. 2:7). We all need continuous grounding in the faith; it comes by the Hand of God, but we come ready and willing to trust, obey, and grow. Where would we be without the Word; it counsels us, warns us, quickens us, protects us, encourages and arms us... Thank You, Lord, for Your Word.

Though there are many benefits from being daily in the Word (devotions) and the Word being in me daily (meditation), one of the greatest blessings is supernatural discernment. By that, I simply mean that as we are faithfully in the Word, trusting God by applying it to our lives, God keeps His promise, protecting our minds from deception – “to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14). Such discernment is desperately needed in these days of deception and increasing technology, where focus is too often on the novelty of it or making life easier, instead of considering the immediate dangers or the collateral consequences. I’m not saying technol-

ogy is bad; I’m saying it (and all things) must be considered by Biblical standards.

JR Miller penned these words over a century ago, identifying more benefits which come from spending time in the Word: “*A verse of Scripture in the morning may become a blessing for all the day. It may sing in the heart as a sweet song, from morning until evening. It may become a liturgy of prayer. It may be a guide through perplexing tangles, God’s voice whispering cheer, and a comforter breathing peace in sorrow.*” If we would focus on Scripture more, we would more quickly set our affection on things above instead of focusing on the things of the earth. (Col. 3:2)

Part of my devotion time includes diving into devotional books from various ages; learning from these stalwarts of the faith encourages and strengthens me. My Bible and this wisdom from the past help to put me in a right frame of mind which, by

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God's power and grace, leads to right living. The Puritans, specifically, take a portion of Scripture and lovingly exhort me to draw closer to Jesus relationally and to thinking Biblically.

Maybe you struggle with having a daily quiet time; let me share something with you that Samuel Ward wrote long ago: "One might say, 'Though I am not pestered and mastered by any reigning corruption, yet I find myself dull and take no great pleasure in spiritual things. Prayer, meditation, and enjoyment of the Lord's Day is as easy as iron swimming.' But nothing is impossible to faith. Faith can transform these things to be natural for you. David came to delight in God's service. He loved the commandments of God more than gold, and they were sweeter to him than the honeycomb. He rose at midnight to meditate in the things of his God. The natural man may carry out many of these duties,

but not from a heart of faith. Faith makes them go smoothly and makes our yoke light and easy (Isa. 40:31). Faith draws nourishment from the root of Christ. This taught David to fight, and Paul to preach." ([Voices From the Past](#); 2/17) Faith and daily, diligently adding to our faith in Christ leads to great things. (II Pet. 1:3-11)

If we do not feed our own souls by God's means of grace, which includes a devotional time, how can we feed others? Whether it's our family, our friends, or others we meet on the street with needs, we cannot rightly feed them unless we ourselves are fed. As a good under-shepherd, Bill Johnson (founder and president of ADA), is fed through daily devotions and then feeds his staff from them each morning. I must feed myself as well before I can rightly feed my family. We cannot share what we do not have. I look at it as fresh manna gleaned each morning.

Devotional time is not complete without praying to my God, calling out in praise, thanksgiving, and supplication. Such pre-

vious moments may include songs sung from my heart, but it always bolsters me to spend time talking with my God: declaring His greatness, asking for opportunities to share His love, requesting Him to open my eyes to Scripture that I might learn from His Spirit, and for wisdom to apply His Words of life to my own life. In the days we live, my constant prayer is to be kept from deception. Psalm 143:8-11 makes a great foundation for a morning prayer: "Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble."

I encourage all of us to begin each day with the Lord, and to think on Him often, meditating on His Word.



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