

Celebrate Recovery VII: Reserve a Daily Time with God

November 22nd & 23rd, 2014

Psalm 145:1-2

“Every day I will bless you...”

- ❖ Jesus directs His followers to daily seek His Word and His Will!
Matthew 6:33-34 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”
- ❖ Jesus gives us insight into the purpose of daily reading His Word – that we might know Him!
John 5:39-40 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.”
John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
- ❖ Jesus emphasizes the freedom of those who continue in His word!
John 8:31-32 “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

Eight Principles ...

1. **R**ealize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. ...
2. **E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. **C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
4. **O**penly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
5. **V**oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
6. **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
7. **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. ¹

Principle Seven: **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

❖ Daily time with God includes three areas in this statement:

f To know God

f To know His will for my life

f To learn to walk in the power He supplies by His grace and Holy Spirit

Step Ten: We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

“Daily ask yourself any of these questions ... starting each question with the word ‘today’:

- ♦ “How did I show love to others? Did I act in an unloving way toward anyone?”

1 John 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

- ♦ “Did others see in me the joy of having a personal relationship with the Lord? If not, why not?”
Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- ♦ “... Did anything happen that caused me to lose [my peace]? What was my part in it?”
Colossians 3:15 “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”
- ♦ “Was I patient (forbearing)? What caused me to lose my patience? Do I owe anyone amends?”
1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.”
- ♦ “Would anyone say that I was kind/good? In what ways did I act unkind?”
Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”
- ♦ “How was my faithfulness? Did I keep my word with everyone?”
James 5:12 “But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”
- ♦ “How was my gentleness and self-control? Did I lose my temper, speak a harsh or unkind word to anyone?”
2 Timothy 2:24-25 “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,”

“As we work Step 10 and Principle 7, we begin the journey of applying what we have discovered in the first nine steps. We humbly live daily – in reality, not denial!”²

Step Eleven: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and power to carry that out.

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

❖ Jesus is our example of how to walk with God daily!

John 5:19 “So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.’”

John 15:1-13

John 5:30 “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of Him who sent me.”

John 8:28 “So Jesus said to them, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.’”

❖ Jesus’ Word reveals God’s will in our daily attitude toward Him!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

“This week, the week before we celebrate Thanksgiving, I suggest that your prayers be focused on your gratitude in four areas of your life: toward God, others, your recovery, and your church.”

♦ “First, for what are you thankful to God? ...”

Psalm 107:1-2 “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble”

“What are at least two areas of your life in which you can see God’s work and that you are thankful for this holiday season?”

- ♦ “The next area is to list the individuals whom God has put in your life to walk alongside you on your road of recovery.”
Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”
- ♦ “The third area we can be thankful for is our *recovery*.”
Philippians 1:6 “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
- ♦ “The fourth and final area to be thankful for is your *church*. ... What are two things for which you are thankful to your church?”²
Ephesians 1:15-22

Psalm 68:19
“Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up;
God is our salvation. Selah”

Endnotes:

¹ Baker, John. "Eight Principles Based on the Beatitudes By Pastor Rick Warren." *Growing in Christ While Helping Others*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. 10. Print.

² Baker, John. *Celebrate Recovery: Leader's Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. Print.

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