

STAYING CONNECTED TO CHRIST

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PEACE
JOY

KINDNESS
PATIENCE

LOVE

GENTLENESS
GOODNESS

FAITHFULNESS
SELF-CONTROL

A 8-DAY DEVOTIONAL TO
HELP YOU STAY IN THE
WORD
AND NOURISH YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH
JESUS CHRIST.

I believe we are spiritual beings having a physical experience. To be our true selves we need to be connect to The Spirit – The Devine. For me this is Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit.

Day 1 The gardener, the vine, the branches and the fruits.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:1-5 (NIV)

Grapevine is a beautiful plant. You need a lot of space to grow grapevines because it grows quite big. Although it is an attractive plant on its own, it has no value unless it bears good fruit. Gardeners will tell you how important it is to keep the vine and branches healthy, so it will grow large plants with luscious fruits. Think about the gardener of a vineyard, how he thoroughly inspects the plants to see if the plant is healthy, if the plant is bearing maximum number of fruits and if the fruits are delicious (good). Jesus is the vine and God is the gardener. We, the branches, must stay attached (in relationship) with the vine to bear the fruit of God; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

John 15:1-7
Galatians 5:22
Matthew 7:16-20
Ephesians 5:9



Day 2

Why do we go through hardships as Christians?

We know the world is broken; troubles will not suddenly disappear when we become Christians. In fact, if you did not have troubles before you were a Christian, you can expect it. Jesus said, "in this world you will have trouble, but know that He has overcome the world," and so will you if you remain in him. However, some hardships are blessings in disguise. Jesus said, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that we will be even more fruitful." For a plant to grow to its full potential, the gardener knows he must cut it back or prune in certain seasons, so that it will grow fuller, bearing more and better fruits at harvest. There are seasons in our lives that God prunes us so the fruits of the spirit can grow in us – spiritual maturity. Pruning is not a pleasant thing when it is being done, it entails cutting and clipping away things that have no use or may affect you negatively, even though it may not be evident to us. It can be painful whenever this happens, if you do not realize what is happening and even when you do know. But as believers, we are called for a purpose to advance the Kingdom of God, "and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." If you are going through hardships, it along with everything else in this world is only temporary. Hold on and know that God loves us, and He is for us. Be confident in this "for we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us," we will overcome.

John 16:33

John 15:2

Romans: 8:28

Romans: 8:37



Day 3

Remain in Christ no matter what

It is imperative we remain in Christ because we will not get to the harvest otherwise. Jesus said "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me". Note that a tree bears fruit multiple times throughout the lifetime of the tree, therefore we should expect the pruning to occur repeatedly as well. Also, Jesus said, if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask anything you want, and it will be granted! That is an amazing promise. So how do we remain in Him when everything around us is falling apart? 1. Keep Gods' commands 2. Read and study His words daily. 3. Take note and remember His promises 4. Pray without ceasing. 5. Be thankful in everything.

We read about the faithfulness of God. Are you convinced that He would do what He says? According to your faith it will be done unto you. Keep seeking the Lord and never give up, despite how you may feel. Keep seeking the Lord and never give up, despite how you may feel.

We will go into each step deeper for the remaining days.

John 15:4-10
Joshua 1:8
Psalm 111:2
Psalm 1: 1-2
Isaiah 43:1-3

Day 4

Love one another

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you. John 13:34

What is a command? The Webster dictionary defines command as to direct authoritatively. God commands direct us to the path of righteousness. The Bible has many commands. Can we obey all of them? Yes, but not on our own we need the Holy Spirit within us to help us. What we need to remember is that the root of every command is LOVE. Recall we are talking about the vine and the branches. The vine, Jesus, is rooted in the love of God. To remain in Christ, we too must understand what He did for us because He loves us. And in knowing how much He loves us, we will love Him also. The way we show our love to Him is by following His command. His command is this "love one another," Jesus said this 4-times in John 15. Loving one another is the main thing we need to do to remain in Him

John 3:16
Ephesians 3:17-18
John 14:15
John 15:10-17
John 13:34-35
1 John 4:7-10
1 Peter 4:8

Day 5 Feed your spirit

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matt 4:4

In the same way we feed our bodies with food for physical strength, we need to feed on the word of God for spiritual strength. Human beings are both physical and spiritual beings, and both entities need to be sustained to reach the fullest expression of oneself. Jesus used this verse when He was tempted by the devil. Not only that, for every temptation, Jesus fought the devil by quoting the word of God (His word). Thank God, His words are available to us. We will be tempted, and we need the word of God (keep His teachings in our heart) to fight and win when the battles that will come.

Matthew 4:4
2 Timothy 2:15
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Psalm 119:11

Day 6 Know and remember His promises

When we read and study the Word of God, we begin to know Him better. What do we know about God? We know He is a good God and that He loves us. We know he is faithful. God is more than just amazing. He does what He say He will do, and we can trust Him. Our problem is waiting until he does it, and this is when our faith may waver. But God is not a man, He is unchangeable and unwavering in His ways and promises. The Bible is filled with promises from God to His people - those who seek, trust and remain in Him. In your reading and studying you will find promises that speak to you personally (for every season of your life), take note, remember them and speak them over your life.

God will never leave nor forsake us, Deut 31:6
He will direct us, Psalm 23, Prov 3-6
He will strengthen us, Psalm 46: 1-3, Psalms 18:2, Psalm 27:1, 28:7, Prov 10:29 Isaiah 40: 29-31, Isaiah 41:10
He promises us good success (success as defined by God), Prov 16:3, 1Kings 2:3, Jerimiah 17:7, Duet 8:18, Psalm 37:4
He promises that we will bear good fruit, John 15
He promises that He will fight for us, Exodus 14:14, Josh 23:10
Isaiah 40:31, Deut 3:22 Psalm 44:5
There is life and death in the power of the tongue, Proverbs 18:21

Day 7

Keep the communication going

There is no better way to remain in Jesus than to talk to Him every day. Praying is the communication between us and God. If you are already in relationship with God, you will already know how to communicate with Him and you will know His voice, "my sheep hear my voice".

Communication with God is a 2-way street. You need to be still at some point during this conversation to hear what God has to say. There is no one perfect way to pray, although Jesus taught us how with the "Lord's Prayer". There are several effective prayers throughout the Old Testament also, and we can always turn to the Psalms. "Pray without ceasing", "praying all kinds of prayer". Pray reminding God of His promises, not that He need to be reminded, but that way there is no question if you are asking for what He wants, because He already promised it. Pray gut wrenching prayers, crying out and with groanings when you are in pain and don't know what to say, "for our Father knows what we need", and "the Holy Spirit intercedes for us". Pray throughout your day. Prayer is nothing fancy just speak to God like an awesome friend, because that is what He is to us. Sometimes all we can get out is Lord help me! And he hears us! Prayer also give God permission to intervene. Yes, He is the all - knowing God and he knows what we need, but "we have not, because we ask not". Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17
John 10: 27
Matthew 6:9-13
Luke 11:2-4
Ephesians 6:18
Matthew 6:8
Romans 8:26-27
James 4:2-3

Day 8

Be thankful in everything

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. When we are going through tough times, it is tempting to think that there is nothing to be thankful for. But we all have something to be thankful for, always. We are all alive. There has never been a better time to acknowledge how grateful we are for life. There are several things that we take for granted, but need to be thankful to God for, because all good gifts come from God. If we have a roof over our heads, a bed to sleep in, water, electricity, food on our table, a job, transportation to take us from point A to B (even if this is a bus), physical freedom and most of us have a Bible. We should be very thankful for the word of God, because how would we know about Him, faith comes by hearing the word of God, how would we know his promises? What is will for us? Are you beginning to see how valuable your Bible is? Apart from the things we take for granted, we can all think of at least one major thing God has done for us, remember and give Him thanks. One way to be thankful all the time is to list the things you are thankful for every day. This is called a gratitude journal; it reminds us to be thankful every day no matter what.

1 Thessalonians 5:18
Ephesians 5:20
1 Chronicles 16:34
Colossians 3:16-17
James 1:17

