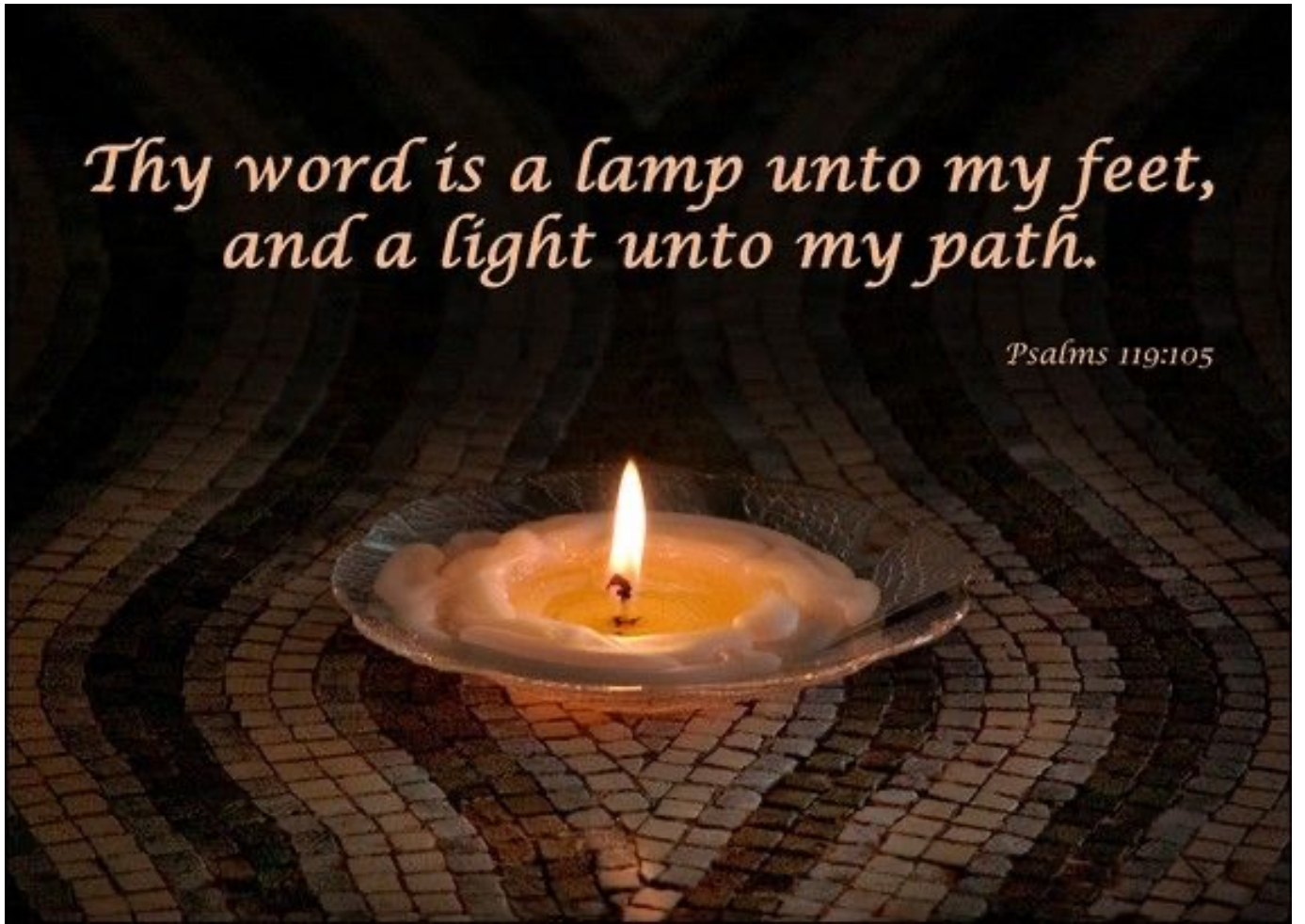


*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.*

Psalms 119:105



AUGUST

Seeking and Seeing God in His Holy Word

Memory Verse

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Seeing and seeking God in His Holy Word includes the actual written WORD and a process of discovery and meditation to find God and His Truths.

Below is one method for meditation....

Opening Prayer

Lord, it was You Who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Teach me today in the power of Your Holy Spirit the truths that You would have me learn. Amen.

Read the Scripture

Question 1 (FACT QUESTION) What is the passage about? What are the facts and key details (who, what, when, where, etc.)?

Reflect on the Scripture

Question 2 (LESSON QUESTION) What do you learn? What does the passage reveal about God? People? Is there a promise, command, and/or warning? What is the main truth? What life lessons are seen?

Respond to the Scripture

Question 3 (APPLICATION QUESTION) How does the passage relate to your life right now? What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with truths of this passage? How should you respond based on what you have learned?

Ending Prayer

Thank God for the truths and applications He has revealed to you. Ask Him for guidance to apply what you have learned today. Write out your personal prayer.

Use the Daily Journal pages to write your insights, etc.

THOUGHTS/QUESTIONS ARE WRITTEN BY THE WRITER FOR THIS MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**USE THE ATTACHED
CHEAT SHEET FOR MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE
TO AID IN YOUR MEDITATION AND/OR TUCK AWAY IN YOUR BIBLE.**

Day 1: Psalm 119: 105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), Read the Scripture (Facts/Details), Reflect on the Scripture (Lessons/ Truths), Respond to the Scripture (Applications), and Pray (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHAT KIND OF LAMP WAS THIS?* The ancient lamp was small and flat with an oil-filled wick. It gave just enough light to see a short distance ahead. Similarly, God's Word gives sufficient light for each step. Quest Study Bible

IS GOD'S WORD PART OF YOUR DECISION MAKING FOR THE NEXT MAJOR DECISION IN YOUR LIFE? IS GOD'S WORD PART OF YOUR DAILY LIFE OR IS IT A THOUGHT WHEN THE NEED ARISES?

Day 2: Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), Read the Scripture (Facts/Details), Reflect on the Scripture (Lessons/ Truths), Respond to the Scripture (Applications), and Pray (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHAT DOES GOD'S SHARP WORD HAVE TO DO WITH REST?* God's Word is more than letters on a page; it is alive with God's Spirit and power. This word of promise *judges* what's in a person's heart: whether a person is resting in God's grace for salvation or whether a person is resting in a false security based on obeying religious laws and doing good works (which results in no rest). Quest Study Bible

DO YOU FEEL A SENSE OF UNREST WHEN YOU ARE NOT KEEPING YOUR MIND, BODY, AND SOUL FOCUSED ON GOD? DO YOU BLAME OTHER THINGS OR PEOPLE FOR THE UNREST? WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT IT? WHERE SHOULD YOU TURN TO GET PEACE?

Day 3: 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *HOW ARE SCRIPTURES GOD-BREATHED?* Scriptures have the breath of God in them; they give life. The Scriptures are unlike ordinary books; they are God’s authoritative Word. God initiated the Bible and inspired its writers. He safeguarded it from error and guided its compilation. The Bible we have is precisely the Word God wants us to have. Quest Study Bible
IS READING GOD’S WORD PART OF YOUR RULE OF LIFE? WHY? WHY NOT? HOW CAN YOU BE INTENTIONAL? ARE YOU IN A REACTIVE OR PROACTIVE MODE WHEN YOU SEEK GOD IN HIS WORD? SHOULD YOU BE BOTH?

Day 4: John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *HOW DOES GOD SANCTIFY THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS?* When Jesus prayed that believers would be sanctified, he was praying that they would be set apart and made righteous by the Word of God. In one sense that has already happened: believers are made righteous the moment they place their faith in Jesus. In another sense, however, they enter the “process” of sanctification, growing in obedience and holiness. Quest Study Bible
HOW HAS READING GOD’S WORD CHANGED YOU INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AND SET YOU APART? WHAT ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS GIVE EVIDENCE TO THIS PROCESS?

Day 5: John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHY IS THIS VERSE SUCH A POPULAR BIBLE VERSE?* This verse appears on bumper stickers, T-shirts and placards at sporting events. Perhaps its popularity comes from the succinct summation it provides of the gospel message. It quickly recaps the story of salvation: God's love for humanity, the Son's coming to Earth to die, and the opportunity we have to respond in faith and receive eternal life. Quest Study Bible

HOW HAS THIS VERSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE? CONSIDER TIMES IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU HAVE CLUNG TO THESE WORDS.

Day 6: John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHAT IS MISSING IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE? IF YOU TAKE A DAILY VITAMIN/ MINERAL SUPPLEMENT OR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR EARTHLY BODY, DO YOU ALSO TAKE A DAILY DOSE OF GOD'S WORD TO FEED YOUR SOUL AND KEEP IT HEALTHY? GIVE EXAMPLES OF HOW YOU HAVE BEEN FED BY GOD'S WORD? WHAT DIFFERENCES HAVE YOU SEEN IN YOUR LIFE?*

Day 7: Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *SOME PEOPLE EAT TOO MUCH FOOD AND SOME DON'T GET ENOUGH TO EAT. BOTH REPRESENT MALNOURISHMENT. WHAT INTENTIONAL PLAN WILL YOU MAKE TO INSURE YOU ARE WELL NOURISHED BY GOD'S WORD SO YOU ARE NOT DEPRIVED AND STARVING SPIRITUALLY? SPIRITUAL FOOD CANNOT BE OVER-CONSUMED AND YOU SHOULD HUNGER FOR IT ALL THE TIME.*

Day 8: John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHY DID JESUS CALL THE HOLY SPIRIT THE ADVOCATE?* The original Greek word for this title was a legal term with a broader meaning than “counsel for the defense.” It meant “one who is called alongside to help.” It conveys the idea of an encourager in the sense of a legal consultant. Just as Jesus encouraged and assisted his disciples, the Holy Spirit would be there for them. We can depend on the Holy Spirit to guide, instruct and encourage us every day in the ways of Jesus. Quest Study Bible

DO YOU INVOKE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR LIFE? HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ALONGSIDE YOU WITHOUT EVEN ASKING? HOW AND WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN TAUGHT AND REMINDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD'S TRUTHS?

Day 9: Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *“DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS”! IN A DISCUSSION WITH SOMEONE, WE MIGHT SAY “DON’T PUT WORDS INTO MY MOUTH”. ARE YOU TEMPTED TO TWEAK GOD’S WORD AND PUT WORDS INTO HIS MOUTH? WHEN? WHAT? HOW? HAVE YOU BEEN REBUKED, CORRECTED, OR PROVEN WRONG? DO YOU FACT CHECK YOURSELF? IS ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE FLAWLESS? ONLY GOD’S WORD MEETS THAT STANDARD.*

Day 10: 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. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *THIS HAS BOTH AN INDIVIDUAL AND A COMMUNITY APPLICATION. ALSO, IT IS A GOOD MODEL FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP. WHAT DO YOU THINK? HOW HAVE YOU BEEN TAUGHT AND ADMONISHED WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY? ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR THIS PROCESS? DO YOU FEEL GOD’S PRESENCE WHEN YOU ARE WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS?*

Day 11: Matthew 7:24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *READ THIS SCRIPTURE SLOWLY. LET THE WORDS AND CONTRAST SINK INTO YOUR BEING. SPEND TIME IN PRAYER, ASKING GOD TO REVEAL TO YOU THE STATUS OF YOUR FOUNDATION. WHAT WOULD THE REPAIR PLAN LOOK LIKE? ASK THE CREATOR TO POINT OUT THE WEAK AREAS AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.*

Day 12: Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHAT DOES SEEK **FIRST** MEAN TO YOU? MORNING? NOON? EVENING? AS MANY TIMES AS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY? GOOD TIMES? HARD TIMES? STRESSFUL TIMES? HOW CAN YOU CREATE A HABIT TO SEEK GOD **FIRST** IN ALL THINGS AND AT ALL TIMES?*

Day 13: Deuteronomy 4:29 But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions WHERE IS YOUR "THERE" IN YOUR LIFE AT THIS MOMENT? HOW WILL YOU GO FORWARD? HOW DOES THIS PROMISE MAKE YOU FEEL AND ENCOURAGE YOU? WHAT DOES SEARCHING WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL MEAN TO YOU? ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE CHANGES? WHAT EXACTLY WILL YOU DO?

Day 14: Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions ON THE SURFACE THIS SEEMS THAT GOD ONLY LOVES THOSE THAT SEEK HIM. BUT WE KNOW THAT GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE AND ALL HIS CREATION HE DEEMED TO BE GOOD. THIS VERSE IS SAYING THAT DILIGENCE IN SEEKING PAYS OFF AND GOD DOES NOT HIDE FROM THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING. TODAY, HOW ARE YOU SEEKING GOD IN YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES? WHAT ARE YOU ASKING GOD? GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF A TIME GOD RESPONDED TO YOUR DILIGENCE.

Day 15: Psalm 119:10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/ Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions WHAT DOES “WITH ALL MY HEART” MEAN TO YOU. DO YOU EVER ASK HIM TO HELP YOU NOT STRAY FROM HIS COMMANDS, ESPECIALLY DURING YOUR DIFFICULT MOMENTS? CAN YOU RECALL A TIME YOU ASKED HIM TO NOT LET YOU STRAY AND HE RESTRAINED YOU AND MAYBE “SAVED” THE DAY?

Day 16: Luke 11:28 He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/ Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions BLESSING COMES FROM HEARING AND OBEDIENCE. IT IS NOT AN EITHER/ OR PROPOSITION. WHAT DOES HEAR MEAN TO YOU? IS IT JUST ABOUT EARS OR IS IT MORE? DO YOU READ SCRIPTURE ALOUD TO PHYSICALLY HEAR GOD’S WORD IN YOUR OWN VOICE? WHAT DO YOU DO AFTER THAT? DO YOU TAKE TO HEART WHAT YOU “HEAR” AND APPLY IT TO SOMETHING SPECIFIC? WHAT ELSE IS INVOLVED? PRAYER? SELF-EXAMINATION? CONFESSION? CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR...MENTAL? PHYSICAL? SPIRITUAL? ARE YOU COMPELLED TO OBEY? DO YOU DESIRE TO BE BLESSED BY YOUR OBEDIENCE OR DO YOU BECOME RESENTFUL? BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF AND GOD.

Day 17: Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHAT CAN WE EXPECT WHEN WE PRAY?* What Jesus is promising here is insight and direction through the work of the Spirit within us. Jesus is not promising that we will receive whatever we might think we need. As the Holy Spirit directs our hearts, we will desire those things that God desires. We can have faith to see those things accomplished as the fulfillment of his promise. Quest Study Bible

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK.....THESE ARE ACTION VERBS. TODAY, WRITE A PRAYER ASKING GOD FOR UNDERSTANDING AND INSIGHT ABOUT SOME SPIRITUAL OR PHYSICAL NEED. SEEK IN SCRIPTURE WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR MATTER. KEEP KNOCKING ON THAT DOOR AND WAITING EXPECTANTLY FOR IT TO OPEN. TRY TO KEEP YOUR AGENDA AND EXPECTATIONS UNDER WRAPS. KEEP A JOURNAL OF YOUR WRITTEN PRAYERS. AT A LATER DATE, REVIEW YOUR PRAYERS TO SEE WHAT GOD’S RESPONSE WAS TO YOUR ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING THAT RESULTED IN A DOOR BEING OPENED.

Day 18: Psalm 9:10 And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD’S NAME? TO ME IT MEANS MORE THAN WHAT WE CALL HIM. IT IS ABOUT HIS CHARACTER. DO YOU READ SCRIPTURE WITH SEEKING TO KNOW GOD’S CHARACTER/ATTRIBUTES MORE CLEARLY? DO SOME RESEARCH TO FIND A LIST OF GOD’S NAMES. THEN, WHEN YOU COME ACROSS THEM IN SCRIPTURE, MAKE YOUR OWN LIST WITH SCRIPTURE REFERENCES. WHAT’S IN YOUR NAME? WHAT DOES YOUR NAME STAND FOR OR MEAN TO THOSE WHO KNOW YOU? ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THAT? DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR NAME AND/OR ADD OR REMOVE A NAME?*

Day 19: Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions WHILE WE ARE WELL INTO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHEN I WRITE THIS, PONDER THE WORDS “RESTORE YOUR FORTUNES AND GATHER YOU FROM ALL NATIONS AND ALL PLACES WHERE I HAVE DRIVEN YOU”. HAVE YOU FELT DRIVEN INTO EXILE DURING THIS PANDEMIC? HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED? DOUBT? ANGER? FRUSTRATION? LONELINESS? PATIENCE? THANKFULNESS? WAS IT A GIFT OF TIME TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT OR ASSIGN A NEW VALUE TO YOUR RELATIONSHIPS? HAVE YOU DISCOVERED WAYS TO BE GATHERED EVEN WHEN SEPARATED? HAS SEEKING GOD DURING THE PANDEMIC BEEN PART OF YOUR ROUTINE? HOW? WHEN? WRITE SOME OF YOUR IMPRESSIONS?

Day 20: Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions THE SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT “HE IS FAITHFUL IN ALL HE DOES”. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN GOD’S WAITING ROOM? WERE YOU WAITING FOR AN ANSWER TO PRAYER, CLARITY ON SOME ISSUE, ETC.? HOW DO YOU BEHAVE IN THE WAITING ROOM? DOUBT? ANGER? PATIENCE? WHAT DO YOU DO IF THE RESPONSE IS NO OR NOT WHAT YOU HOPED? DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL TO ANSWER YOU WITH THE RIGHT ANSWER AND WITH PERFECT TIMING EVEN IF IT IS NOT THE ONE YOU DESIRED OR EXPECTED? HOW DOES YOUR CONFIDENCE OR DOUBT EXPRESS ITSELF? WHAT DOES GOD’S SILENCE MEAN? WRITE A SENTENCE TO DESCRIBE YOUR ATTITUDE OR THE ATTITUDE YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE.

Day 21: Psalm 119:17 Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *DO YOU VIEW YOUR LIFE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBEY GOD? IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS ABOUT YOUR LIFE, HAS OBEDIENCE TO GOD BEEN AT THE TOP OF YOUR BUCKET LIST? DOES IT MOVE UP AND DOWN IN ITS RANK? WILL YOU PRAY THESE WORDS AS A PERSONAL PRAYER FOR YOURSELF, PUTTING YOUR NAME IN PLACE OF THE WORD SERVANT? PONDER THE DISTRACTIONS THAT DIVERT YOU FROM OBEDIENCE BEING YOUR PRIMARY GOAL. DO A SEARCH OF SCRIPTURE FOR VERSES ABOUT OBEDIENCE. WRITE A FEW BELOW.*

Day 22: James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *IN THIS PASSAGE, WE READ SEVERAL COMMANDS AND A PROMISE. PHYSICALLY WASHING HANDS IN 2020 HAS TAKEN ON A GREATER IMPORTANCE. WE KNOW THAT SOAP AND WATER ARE EXCELLENT FOR REMOVING AND PROTECTING US FROM DISEASE. WE ARE TO WASH OUR HANDS FOR AT LEAST TWO MINUTES AND SOME SING SONGS WHILE THEY WASH. THE DOXOLOGY IS MY FAVORITE BECAUSE IT CLEANSSES MY SPIRITUAL MINDSET. A GOOD CONFESSION IS BENEFICIAL TO CLEANSING OUR SOULS. WE CAN COME MUCH CLOSER TO GOD WHEN WE SEEK TO IMPROVE OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH. THEN, WE ARE PROMISED THAT GOD WILL COME NEAR US. WHEN YOU WASH YOUR HANDS, THINK OF THE SPIRITUAL CLEANSING YOU NEED, CONFESS YOUR SINS, AND GIVE HIM PRAISE AND THANKS FOR HIS GRACE AND FORGIVENESS. DOES SEEKING GOD'S HELP TO "SCRUB AWAY" SINS THAT SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD AND RESULT IN A DISCONNECT IMPROVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM? WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS?*

Day 23: Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions HOW WILL YOU KNOW GOD’S THOUGHTS WITHOUT READING SCRIPTURE? WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE YOU FOLLOWING.....THE WORLD’S OR GOD’S? WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION ABOUT MOST EVERYTHING, INCLUDING GOD. SUBSTITUTE THE WORD OPINIONS FOR THE WORD THOUGHTS IN THE ABOVE PASSAGE. READ IT ALOUD. IN WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU NEED TO SEEK GOD’S OPINION AND REJECT MAN’S?

Day 24: John 5:39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions READING SCRIPTURE IS VALUABLE, BUT ONE CANNOT STOP WITH READING WORDS. IT IS SO MUCH MORE AND DIGGING DEEPER IS A MUST IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. I KNOW PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW READING PLANS THAT TAKE YOU THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN A YEAR. I HAVE TRIED THAT AND I FAIL MISERABLY. IT ALL BECOMES A BLUR OF WORDS. IF YOU IDENTIFY WITH THIS, TAKE A SMALLER SECTION OF SCRIPTURE AND LET IT SOAK INTO YOUR BEING. GIVE IT TIME SO TRUTHS CAN BUBBLE UP AND YOU CAN APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE. WRITE OUT YOUR THOUGHTS. THE METHOD AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS AUGUST PRAYER JOURNAL HAS SOME SUGGESTIONS.

Day 25: Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions EVERYTHING ABOUT LIFE IS ALWAYS UNCERTAIN, BUT WE LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. THIS PANDEMIC HAS SHOWN US THAT MANY CIRCUMSTANCES IN OUR LIVES ARE EXTREMELY UNCERTAIN AND WE HAVE TO RELINQUISH OUR CONTROL. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN REFRESHED BY GOD’S WORD IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT? DO YOUR BEHAVIORS AND THOUGHTS GIVE EVIDENCE THAT YOU TRUST GOD AND HIS WORD? ARE YOU ENCOURAGED, COMFORTED, AND STRENGTHENED BY GOD’S WORD DURING STRESSFUL AND CHALLENGING TIMES? WRITE OUT SOME THOUGHTS.

Day 26: Joshua 1:7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions THIS WAS WRITTEN LONG BEFORE JESUS’ BIRTH, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION, BUT HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR US TODAY IN 2020. HOW WOULD YOU APPLY THESE VERSES TO YOUR LIFE TODAY? THE ISRAELITES WERE ON THE BRINK OF ENTERING THE LAND GOD PROMISED THEM AFTER THEY HAD WANDERED FOR 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS. DURING A GOOD AMOUNT OF 2020, WE MIGHT HAVE FELT WE WERE EXILED OR IN THE WILDERNESS. WRITE OUT YOUR THOUGHTS AND GIVE THANKS FOR GOD’S PROMISE AND PROVISION. MAKE A LIST OF THE PROVISIONS GOD HAS SUPPLIED DURING THE PAST MONTHS. LIST SMALL AND LARGE PROVISIONS.

Day 27: Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions AS HUMANS WE ARE TAUGHT AT AN EARLY AGE TO SET GOALS, PUT IN MOTION STEPS TO ACHIEVE A GOAL, AND EVENTUALLY WE WILL ARRIVE AT THE GOAL. THE MORE LIFE WE HAVE LIVED, THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE WE HAVE HOPES WE WILL ACHIEVE, EXPERIENCE TEACHES US THAT THINGS DO NOT ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED. LIVING WITH THE MINDSET THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT CAN BE PURE FOLLY. WE HAVE TO RELINQUISH OUR CONTROL OVER MATTERS AND LET GO AND LET GOD. BUT THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE NOT FOLLY NOR WILL THEY PASS AWAY. HOW CAN YOU REMIND YOURSELF OFTEN THAT GOD'S WORDS WILL **NEVER** PASS AWAY? HOW WILL YOU REMAIN IN A POSITION OF SURRENDER TO THE ONE WHO MADE YOU AND EVERYTHING ELSE ON EARTH AND IN THE HEAVENS? MAKE A LIST OF THREE WAYS YOU CAN DO THIS.

Day 28: Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. **5** May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give **you** the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, **6** so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions SHOULD WE READ THE OLD TESTAMENT AS THOUGH IT WAS WRITTEN FOR US? There is a difference between something that was written for us and something written to teach us. The Old Testament was originally written for Israel as a record of her history, laws and worship. It was also written to record God's prophetic commentary on Israel's present and future. But as the spiritual children of Abraham (Romans 4:16), we can profit immeasurably from the spiritual lessons found in the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 10:6,11). Quest Study Bible
HUMANITY IS DIVIDED ON MANY LEVELS. IF WE WERE TO USE SCRIPTURE TO UNIFY US, IT WOULD TOTALLY CHANGE ALL LIVES. USE VERSES 5-6 FOR A PERSONAL PRAYER, CHANGING THE PRONOUN YOU TO ME. ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOU TO CHANGES OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD.

Day 29: Psalm 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
(Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *HOW DO WE HIDE GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS?* By studying God's Word, memorizing his promises and meditating on them to gain insight and to understand their meaning. When we know God's Word well, it becomes part of us—shaping our thinking, our values and our behavior. *YOU PROBABLY HAVE VARIOUS SAVINGS ACCOUNTS SET UP IN YOUR FINANCIAL BUDGET. DO YOU HAVE A SAVINGS PLAN FOR GOD'S WORD? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN? THE PSALMIST GIVE US A SOLID REASON TO DO THIS.....NOT SIN AGAINST GOD! KEEP A JOURNAL OF TRUTHS YOU HAVE LEARNED.*

Day 30: James 1:25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Thoughts/Questions *MANY THINGS WE HEAR GO IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER. GOD'S WORD SHOULD NOT BE ONE OF THOSE THINGS. I WAS NOT RAISED IN A TRADITION THAT MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE OR WAS TRAINED TO QUOTE BOOK, CHAPTER, AND VERSE. WE TAKE FOR GRANTED HAVING THE WRITTEN WORD AT OUR FINGER TIPS FROM MANY SOURCES. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THOSE SOURCES VANISHED? MAKE AN EFFORT TO HAVE BETTER RECALL. JAMES GIVES US A CLUE.....JUST DO WHAT IT SAYS! PRACTICE AND LIVE IT! WHAT WILL YOU PRACTICE TODAY? YOU ARE PROMISED TO BE BLESSED.*

Day 31: Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Circle Key Words)

Pray (Insight and Guidance), **Read the Scripture** (Facts/Details), **Reflect on the Scripture** (Lessons/Truths), **Respond to the Scripture** (Applications), and **Pray** (Ask God for Help to Commit)

Commentary/Questions EVERYDAY "DRESS UP" IN YOUR SPIRITUAL BEST. "APPLY" YOUR SONSCREEN TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS WORLD AND ITS HARMFUL RAYS OF DARKNESS. SEEK GOD IN HIS WORD OFTEN, RELY ON WHAT HAS BEEN STORED IN YOUR HEART, SHARE THOSE TRUTHS WITH OTHERS, TURN TRUTHS INTO BEHAVIORS, ETC. DON'T FORGET TO.....BE ALERT AND OF SOBER MIND. YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR. 1 PETER 5:9 PONDER THESE VERSES AND WRITE A RESPONSE.

THANK YOU FOR WALKING THIS JOURNEY DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST!

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:18-23

