

*Your
Daily
Devotional*



I have stored up your word in
my heart, that I might not sin
against you.

- Psalm 119:11

Your Daily Devotional

*“Give ear to my words,
O Lord, consider my
meditation. Give heed
to the voice of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to You I will pray.
My voice You shall
hear in the morning, O
Lord; in the morning I
will direct it to You,
and I will look up.”
Psalm 5:1-3*

Several years ago I received a daily devotional via email each morning called Your Daily Devotional. At the time the credits included a line citing “inspiredfaith.com”. When this is accessed on the internet now it takes you to a new page, “simpletruths.com”.

Many of you may be like me and you receive multiple email devotionals, some of

them coming your way unsolicited. It would not be possible to read all the material that appears in your inbox every morning; you would never get anything else done! However, a period of meditation every day is very helpful and healing. Whether it is morning, noon or evening, or all three, spending time in devotional prayer, reading and meditation is encouraging and uplifting.

In this issue of BC I would like to share some of the devotionals I have received. These devotionals call us to meditate on joy, love and thankfulness. May the Lord heed the voice of our cry when we lift our hearts to him at morning, noon or night.

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www.basicchristianity.net

Love and God

DAILY VERSE

No one has ever seen God, but if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is made perfect in us. 1 John 4:12

DAILY QUOTE

He who is filled with love is filled with God Himself.
Saint Augustine of Hippo

DAILY THOUGHT

Want to know what love looks like? Look at God. Consider His sacrifice, His patience, His comfort, His faithfulness, His generosity. God's creativity in expressing love is so great that it's almost incomprehensible.

Consider how your love stands up next to His. Don't get discouraged. You're not God. At times, your love still falters and fails. But God's love is at work in your life. He's helping you love others in the same wonderful way He so deeply loves you.

Let God's creative compassion inspire you to love others well. Ask for His help in

knowing the best way to express your love so that it meets needs, builds relationships, and warms hearts. Then, take a moment to sit back and enjoy His love for you.

Little actions of love can make a big difference in someone's life!

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your amazing love that teaches me how to love other people. I want to love others the way that You love them. Help me find ways to reach out to them and express my love in the way that people need it the most. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

2/14/2011

If you or someone you know would like to receive BC, send the name and mailing address to:

Basic Christianity

PO Box 3425

Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425

Or

Lsgage129@cs.com

Thankfulness and Contentment

DAILY VERSE

But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.
Psalm 68:3

DAILY QUOTE

You say, "If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied." You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled.

C. H. Spurgeon

DAILY THOUGHT

A man lives in a mansion in a zip code known for wealth, his garage filled with expensive automobiles. And yet he lives in poverty, for he is miserable - a word that shares its origin with the word miser - in his heart and poor in spirit. Never satisfied, nothing seems to make him happy.

Contrast him with the man who works hard every day - including half days on Saturday for the overtime pay - and

barely makes ends meet, despite living in a small, tidy home in a neighborhood that has seen better days, a car that makes funny noises parked out front. But he is wealthy. Life is good. He wishes some business decisions had turned out better, but he has a roof over his head and his family is fed and happy.

How can the man with so much be poor and the man with so little be rich? The difference is simple. One man is grateful for nothing. The other sees blessings everywhere. What is the secret to true wealth, a wealth that can never be taken away on the ups and downs of the stock market and business cycle? Gratitude. Lord, help me to see the wealth around me. Help me find my satisfaction in Your love and provision, not in earthly wealth. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

11/26/2010

Joy and Circumstances

DAILY VERSE:

Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, so that your joy will be the fullest joy." John 16:24

DAILY QUOTE

Life need not be easy to be joyful. Joy is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ.

William Van der Hoven

We often get the wrong impression that our joy depends on our circumstances.

DAILY THOUGHT

We often get the wrong impression that our joy depends on our circumstances. When good things happen to us, we almost inevitably smile, expressing joy in our outward appearance.

But real joy is something that

even troubles and tears can't take away. Psalm 16:11 says that in God's presence we have fullness of joy. So whether life is up or down, whether you're wearing a smile or a frown, God is with you. You can take joy in His presence, knowing that He has a plan for your good days and for your bad days.

God, I know that the fullness of joy is in Your presence, but sometimes that's hard to feel. I pray that You would remind me of Your incredible love in moments when I feel down and out. May my joy not depend on what's happening in my life, but in the fact that You have saved me and filled me with Your Spirit. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

2/8/2011

Joy and Struggles

DAILY VERSE

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

DAILY QUOTE

Christ came to take away our sins, to roll off our curse, to unbind our chains, to open our prison house, to cancel our debt; in a word, to give us the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Is not this joy? Octavius Winslow

DAILY THOUGHT

The perfect picture of joy is found in the life of Jesus. And what an amazing, active, buoyant, effective, fulfilling life He lived. But we don't see the full measure of His joy in the miracle of turning water to wine at a wedding, nor in the feeding the five thousand. It wasn't when He taught a rapt crowd on a sunlit mountainside, nor when He took an exhilarating stroll across a

lake. Amazingly, we don't see Jesus' joy in full bloom until the darkest moment of His life: "for the joy set before Him [He] endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2).

In John 15:11 we read that Jesus spoke to His disciples, "I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." In His final instructions He was teaching those He loved how to have the same joy He had through closeness to God the Father. But it was on the cross that He paid the price that made this joy possible. Even in facing torturous death on the cross, He experienced the joy of knowing He was doing His Father's work, of knowing what His work would mean to us. Next time you struggle with a sense of joy, simply consider Jesus.

Lord, thank You for the cross that saves me and brings me to You, for the joy of knowing You. I love You. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

2/6/2011

Thankfulness and Attitude

DAILY VERSE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

DAILY QUOTE

We should spend as much time in thanking God for His benefits as we do asking Him for them. St. Vincent de Paul

Which comes first - the gift, or the spirit of thanksgiving?

DAILY THOUGHT

Which comes first - the gift, or the spirit of thanksgiving? Common wisdom says that we get the gift first, then we say thank you for receiving it. While that is true, some gifts will never be recognized or received without a spirit of

thanksgiving.

How many people sabotage the blessings in their life because of a crummy attitude? They are dissatisfied and disappointed - and let the world know it - despite a plethora of gifts from God and others all around them.

All of us can be thankful for the many things God has done for us. But there may be deeper levels of spirituality - even more of His nature and goodness - that we can experience through the attitude of gratitude. Have you said thank you to God today?

Lord, thank You for the gifts and blessings You have lavished in my life. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

11/24/2010

Love and Forgiveness

DAILY VERSE

...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:13

DAILY QUOTE

Love is an act of endless forgiveness. Jean Vanier

DAILY THOUGHT

A Hollywood understanding of love has us wrongly believing that love means never having to say you're sorry. This romanticized view of love paints an inaccurate picture of what life and love are all about. In reality, love means endless forgiveness in light of endless apologies.

Just as we come to God asking for forgiveness, so too might one spouse come to the other with an apology. While Hollywood love would brush the problem aside in a flurry of passion and romance, true love looks to the heart of the issue, accepts the apology and truly forgives.

God made the first move of love by forgiving our sins through Christ's death and resurrection. He continues to forgive us in spite of our fallen nature. Therefore, we should follow His lead by loving others with endless forgiveness.

God made the first move of love by forgiving our sins...

Lord, You have shown me forgiveness with no end. Thank You. Please help me to love as You do by offering forgiveness that is endless. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

2/16/2011

Joy in the One We Love

DAILY VERSE

LORD, You have made me happy by what You have done; I will sing for joy about what Your hands have done. Psalm 92:4

DAILY QUOTE

Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. Leon Bloy

DAILY THOUGHT

When a baby sees her mother's face, every part of her body wiggles, jiggles, and smiles with delight. Her source of joy is the one she loves, the one she recognizes - even at an early age - the one who loves her in return.

It is all about getting to know God better...

Growing in your relationship with God is not just an exercise in getting to know the Bible better. It is all about

getting to know God better, up close and personal. He wants to be the source of your joy and delight.

Even when circumstances are anything but happy, true joy is as close as God's loving presence. Spend time talking to Him, finding comfort in His promises and contentment in His love. There is no deeper joy this side of heaven.

Heavenly Father, thank You that my joy is not based on outward circumstances, but on my relationship with You. No matter what happens in my life, I know that I can count on You to bring me true and lasting joy. Amen.

Your Daily Devotional

2/7/2011

Love Is Spelled T-I-M-E

In the faint light of the attic, an old man, tall and stooped, bent his great frame and made his way to a stack of boxes that sat near one of the little half-windows. Brushing aside a wisp of cobwebs, he tilted the top box toward the light and began to carefully lift out one old photograph album after another. Eyes once bright but now dim searched longingly for the source that had drawn him here.

It began with the fond recollection of the love of his life, long gone, and somewhere in these albums was a photo of her he hoped to rediscover. Silent as a mouse, he patiently opened the long buried treasures and soon was lost in a sea of memories. Although his world had not stopped spinning when his wife left it, the past was more alive in his heart than his present aloneness.

Setting aside one of the dusty albums, he pulled from the box what appeared to be a journal from his grown son's childhood. He could not recall ever having seen it be-

fore, or that his son had ever kept a journal. Why did Elizabeth always save the children's old junk? He wondered, shaking his white head.

Opening the yellowed pages, he glanced over a short reading, and his lips curved in an unconscious smile. Even his eyes brightened as he read the words that spoke clear and sweet to his soul. It was the voice of the little boy who had grown up far too fast in this very house, and whose voice had grown fainter and fainter over the years. In the utter silence of the attic, the words of a guileless six-year-old worked their magic and carried the old man back to a time almost totally forgotten.

Entry after entry stirred a sentimental hunger in his heart like the longing a gardener feels in the winter for the fragrance of spring flowers. But it was accompanied by the painful memory that his son's simple recollections of those days were far different from his own. But how different?

Reminded that he had kept a

daily journal of his business activities over the years, he closed his son's journal and turned to leave, having forgotten the cherished photo that originally triggered his search. Hunched over to keep from bumping his head on the rafters, the old man stepped to the wooden stairway and made his descent, then headed down a carpeted stairway that led to the den.

Opening a glass cabinet door, he reached in and pulled out an old business journal. Turning, he sat down at his desk and placed the two journals beside each other. His was leather-bound and engraved neatly with his name in gold, while his son's was tattered and the name Jimmy had been nearly scuffed from its surface. He ran a long skinny finger over the letters, as though he could restore what had been worn away with time and use.

As he opened his journal, the old man's eyes fell upon an inscription that stood out because it was so brief in comparison to other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words:

Wasted the whole day fishing with Jimmy. Didn't catch a thing.

With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took Jimmy's journal and found the boy's entry for the same day, June 4. Large scrawling letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read:

Went fishing with my Dad.
Best day of my life.

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The story you just read is the introduction for *To a Child LOVE is Spelled T-I-M-E*. It was written by Lance Wubbel, a best selling author for inspirational books.

*Your Daily Devotional*

12/14/2010